

Which Jesus Is Your Jesus?

The picture of Jesus portrayed in Revelation 1:12-17 is that of a powerful Jesus, with blazing eye and a glow that surrounded his whole body – like that of an angel. He is the commander and chief of the universe – a mighty warrior, as well as a holy and pure judge.

Which Jesus are you following? Pollster George Barna tells us that the lifestyle of many professing Christians today is so much like the world you would be hard pressed to tell the difference. Whether the issue is honesty in the workplace, or integrity in filing taxes, or viewing pornography, or involvement in sexual impurity, little ground separates professing Christians from that of the general public.

Ten Characteristics of Jesus Revealed in Revelation 1:12-16:

- 1. Someone like a _____ ('son of man'). Vs. 13**
 - a. What John saw was not a grotesque creature like that in many contemporary movies, but rather one who had a human appearance. The "Son of Man" is one of the most frequent titles that Jesus used of himself. It is also found in Daniel 7:13.

- 2. Dressed in a _____ (robe) reaching down to his feet. Vs. 13**
 - a. This was typical of the long robes worn by the high priests as they ministered in the Holy Place in the Temple. Jesus is our high priest, representing us before the Father.

- 3. A golden _____ (sash) around his chest. Vs. 13**
 - a. This was a symbol of strength and authority in the ancient world. In Matthew 28:18, Jesus said, "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*"

- 4. His _____ (head) and _____ (hair) were white like wool, as white as snow. Vs. 14**
 - a. This conveys the thought of antiquity. In the vision of Daniel 7:9-13, Jesus is linked with the 'Ancient of Days'.

- 5. His _____ (eyes) were like blazing fire. Vs. 14**
 - a. The original Greek means, "His eyes shot fire". Jesus was angry – in chapter 2, he had words of rebuke for five of the seven churches. Some were living in open sin, seemingly daring Jesus to do something about it.

- 6. His _____ (feet) were like bronze glowing in a furnace. Vs. 15**
 - a. The bronze speaks to us of judgment. Just outside the tabernacle (Exodus 38:1-8) there was a bronze altar where sin was judged.
 - b. If you sin and there are no immediate consequences, don't adopt the wrong conclusion – that Jesus either doesn't know what is going on or doesn't care. He is giving you a chance to come clean, of your own free will. "*Be sure that your sin will find you out.*" Numbers 32:23

- 7. His _____ (voice) was like the sound of rushing waters. Vs. 15**

- a. When we are in the full presence of Jesus, his voice, like a waterfall, will drown out every other sound. Today we can allow the various sounds of the world around us to take precedence over the still, small voice of Jesus. Don't let that happen. Listen to Jesus and live life to the fullest!

8. In his right _____(hand) he held seven stars. Vs. 16

- a. Revelation 1:20 says, *"The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches."*
- b. Matthew 18:10 suggests that every child, and Psalm 91:11 suggests that every person has a guardian angel. Revelation 1 implies that this is true of churches too. Our guardian angel watches over the church and ministers within the church.

9. Out of his _____(mouth) came a sharp, double-edged sword. Vs. 16

- a. Hebrews 4:12 says that the Word of God is *"sharper than any double-edged sword."* The spoken word of Jesus will go forth as a sharp sword against which there will be no defense in the day of judgment.

10. His _____(face) was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. Vs. 16

- a. This reminds us of Matthew 17:2 where Jesus *"was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light."* Jesus Christ was, is, and always will be the awesome, glorious ruler of the universe. John was so moved by the vision, he *"fell at his feet as though dead."* Revelation 1:17

Which Jesus is your Jesus? Do you serve a cream-puff Jesus, the ultimate 'softie', or a 'Santa Claus' Jesus who is like your private genie? Do you see Jesus as your Savior – the one who died on the cross for you – but not as your Lord – the one who reigns over the universe and over your life? Or is your Jesus the true Jesus portrayed in Revelation 1?