

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John,

2 who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

V.9 I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

V.10 *I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet,*

1) "I was in the Spirit"

- a) Literally – He **became** in the Spirit
- b) The believer always carries the Holy Spirit w/ him where ever he goes
- c) But this is different than having the Holy Spirit – this indicates a trance or some kind of opening the veil between spiritual world & physical world

2) "on the Lord's day"

- a) Believers **met on Sunday** after the resurrection – Christ was still in grave on 7th day of week (Sabbath)

Acts 20:7 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul *began* talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.

1 Corinthians 16:2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

3) "I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet"

- a) We can't tell if there **is** a trumpet & Christ's voice calling John
- b) But one thing is clear – when Christ speaks to John he hears him clearly – it is a **clarion call**
- c) God doesn't mumble!

V.11 saying, "Write^(imperative mood) in a book what you see, and send^(imperative mood) it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

V.12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned *I saw seven golden lampstands;*

1) "I saw seven golden lampstands"

- a) These are 7 **individual lampstands** – **not** a menorah
- b) They are defined later

V.13 (NP)

V.13 and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash.

1) "I saw one like a son of man"

a) The expression "**Son of Man**" is used in **Dan.7**

Dan.7:13 "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him.

b) Christ used it when referring to Himself – it is **recorded 83 times**

i) Example:

Mk.13:26 "Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN CLOUDS with great power and glory.

Lk.11:30 "For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation.

c) This speaks of His **humanity**

i) He is the Son of Man

ii) We have the **character** of His manhood in rest of verse

2) "clothed in a robe reaching to the feet"

a) **Garments** used to speak of character of individual

i) You see it in following:

Isa.64:6 For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Ps.104:1 Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great; You are clothed with splendor and majesty,

Zech.3:1 ^(heavenly courtroom) Then he showed me Joshua ^(This Joshua represents people of Judah) the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him.

V.3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments and standing before the angel.

4 He spoke and said to those who were standing before him, saying, "Remove the filthy garments from him." Again He said to him, "**See**, I have taken your iniquity away from you and will clothe you with festal robes."

b) This garments speak of His righteousness & dignity –

i) Example of long robe:

Isa.6:1 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. ^(speaks of His majestic position)

V.14 (NP)

V.14 His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire.

1) "His head and His hair were white like white wool"

a) This immediately identifies Him as the "Ancient of Days"

i) It speaks of His **deity!**

ii) HE is God! – the Ancient of Days – He is eternal!

Dan.7:9 "I kept looking Until thrones were set up, And the Ancient of Days took *His* seat; His vesture *was* like white snow And the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne *was* ablaze with flames, Its wheels *were* a burning fire.

*He is judge of all creation!

*This speaks of Jehovah God

***God is one**

Mk.12:29 Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD;
30 AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.'

b) His **white hair** speaks of His **eternal nature** – self existent

2) "His eyes were like a flame of fire"

a) **Fire** speaks of **judgment**

Lk.3:17 "His winnowing fork is in His hand to thoroughly clear His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into His barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable **fire**."

1 Cor.3:13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the **fire** itself will test the quality of each man's work.

b) **Eyes** of fire speak of His **omniscience**

HEb.4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

Eccl.12:13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this *applies to every person*.

V.14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

Rom.2:16 on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

c) It is amazing how men try to bring God's abilities down to the level of man

i) Israel did that to their demise

Ez.8:12 (NP)

Ez.8:12 Then He said to me, "Son of man, do you see what the elders of the house of Israel are committing in the dark, each man in the room of his carved images? For they say, 'The LORD does not see us; the LORD has forsaken the land.'"

Ez.9:9 Then He said to me, "The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is very, very great, and the land is filled with blood and the city is full of perversion; for they say, 'The LORD has forsaken the land, and the LORD does not see!'"

- ii) Men do their wickedness deeds in the dark – **thinking God doesn't see**

V.15 *His feet were like burnished bronze*, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and *His voice was like the sound of many waters*.

1) "His feet were like burnished bronze"

- a) This speaks of **carrying out** the judgment
- b) Bronze is the metal of judgment

Num.21:5 The people spoke against God and Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this miserable food."

6 The LORD sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.

7 So the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD and you; intercede with the LORD, that He may remove the serpents from us." And Moses interceded for the people.

8 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a standard; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, he will live."

9 And Moses made a **bronze serpent** and set it on the standard; and it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived.

- c) The **altar of burnt offering** – **bronze** is the metal of judgment
 - i) **All the implements** of the outer court were **bronze** – judgment of sin

Ex.27:2 "You shall make its horns on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it, and you shall overlay it with bronze."

V.3 (NP)

V.3 "You shall make its pails for removing its ashes, and its shovels and its basins and its forks and its firepans; you shall make all its utensils of bronze.

d) His feet speak of carrying out said judgment

Isa.63:3^(when Christ returns) "I have trodden the wine trough alone, And from the peoples there was no man with Me. I also trod them in My anger And trampled them in My wrath; And their lifeblood is sprinkled on My garments, And I stained all My raiment.

2) "His voice was like the sound of many waters"

a) Speaks of His glory

Ez.43:1(NIV) Then the man brought me to the gate facing east,

2 and I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east. His voice was like the roar of rushing waters, and the land was radiant with his glory.

b) This is **not** a brook quietly trickling by – **Niagara Falls**

V.16 *In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.*

1) "In His right hand He held seven stars"

a) Scripture interprets this for us

b) These are the "angels" of the Church

V.20 "As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

c) The word "angel" means **messenger**

d) In His **right hand** speaks of power & authority

e) That is best understood **with** the symbol of the "sharp two-edged sword"

2) "a sharp two-edged sword"

a) Speaks of the Word of God

Heb.4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

*That is the authority the pastor has

3) "His face was like the sun shining in its strength" (NP)

- 3) "His face was like the sun shining in its strength"
 - a) Thus HE is **robed** in the **majesty & glory** of His **divine authority**
 - b) His glory shines thru – as on Mt. of Transfiguration
Mdt.17:2 And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.
 - c) This is the way the Church will see Him when HE returns for us!
 - i) We will see Him in all His glory
 - ii) I have mixed emotions about that day

V.17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "*Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,*

- 1) "I fell at His feet like a dead man"
 - a) This is John – the one who wrote of himself as "the one whom Jesus loved"
Jn.13:23 There was reclining on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.
Jn.19:26 When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He *said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!"
 - b) If he fell at His feet as though dead – the resurrected Christ must be glorious!
 - c) **Don't think small about who your God is!**
 - d) And don't be afraid – look at the rest of the verse

- 2) "Do not be afraid"
 - a) **If** you are living for Him – you already know of **His majesty** – you don't take His person **lightly**

- 3) "I am the first and the last"
 - a) This is **statement of deity**
 - b) Quote from **Isa.44** declaring Himself God
Isaiah 44:6 "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me.'

V.18 and the living One; and *I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore,* and *I have the keys of death and of Hades.*

- 1) "I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore"
 - a) He is the only One who has defeated death forever
 - b) His **resurrection** secured – the keys to death & hades (NP)

2) "I have the keys of death and of Hades"

- a) Keys represent **authority, control** and **power**
- b) The courts of our land blaspheme God – but hell trembles at the thought of Him
- c) **Hell** and all the **demons** quake in fear of Him

Mt.8:28 When He came to the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, two men who were demon-possessed met Him as they were coming out of the tombs. *They were so extremely violent that no one could pass by that way.*

29 And they cried out, saying, "What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"

Lk.4:33 In the synagogue there was a man possessed by the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice,

34 "Let us alone! What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"

- d) Hades used to be made up of saved & lost souls – HE has the key to both
- e) He is King over the souls of those in hell
 - i) In hell what do you think people will be thinking about the most?
 - (1) The person of Christ!
- f) He is King over the souls of those in heaven
 - i) What do the people of heaven think about the most?
 - (1) The person of Christ
- g) He is King over the people who are alive on earth
- h) He is King over life and death & He walks among the Church today

Phil.2:8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,
10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

V.17 x When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,

V.18 x and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

V.19 (NP)

V.19 "*Therefore* write the things which you **have seen**, and the things **which are**, and the things **which will take place** after these things.

1) "Therefore"

a) OUV – "**Therefore**"

b) Write the things which you **have seen...which are...which will take place**

i) **Is all based on** Christ being

(1) "The first and the last,

(2) "the living One, who was dead and now alive forevermore"

(3) And the One who "holds the keys to death and Hades"

V.20 "As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: *the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches*, and *the seven lampstands are the seven churches*.

1) "the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches"

2) "the seven lampstands are the seven churches"

CONCLUSION:

1) **Before us** is the **symbolically representation** of our Lord as we will see Him when He comes for us

1) This is Jesus Christ **as He is today**

a) The **Pope** carried a staff w/ a crucified figure on it

b) That isn't Christ – it is the Catholic Christ – but not the real One!

2) HE is **King** of Kings

3) He is **in charge** – things are going just as He planned

4) He is **Judge**

5) HE **walks** in the midst of the Church, watching – judging

6) This is **His grand plan** – salvation is **His plan** – it will never change

7) His plans have **not** been **interrupted** from before the foundation of the earth

Heb.13:8 Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and today and forever.