

The Glorified Christ

He who has eyes like a flame of fire is watching you. What does He see?

Revelation 1.9–20

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • June 10, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2020

Prelude:

I. **Jesus had promised the apostles that they would be persecuted:**

20 “Remember the word that I said to you,

‘A servant is not greater than his master.’

If they persecuted Me,

they will also persecute you.

If they kept My word,

they will keep yours also.”

– John 15.20

A. Among the many forms of torture John experienced,

B. is they threw him into boiling oil,

1. according to history.

2. He escaped miraculously, but

a) still not wanting him around,

b) they exiled him to an island off the coast of modern Turkey.

(1) The 13 square mile island was Patmos.

(2) Let us see and hear what happened next.

Persuasion:

I. **Revelation 1.9 • On a Tiny Island, John Saw the Greatest Things**

9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

– Revelation 1.9

A. The Romans were beginning a bloody scourge of the church.

- B. What three things did John want us to know that we share with him?
1. the tribulation,
 2. the kingdom, and
 3. the patience of Jesus Christ.

II. Revelation 1.10–11 • Man Cannot Prevent Spirituality

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, 11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

– Revelation 1.10–11

- A. What was John's focus before hearing and seeing Jesus?
- B. Was John with the church or what?
- C. What does the voice of God sound like?
1. It can have human qualities as it did here.
 - a) It can be a whisper as Elijah heard.
 - b) Or it can blare as John heard.
 2. When it blares, it is a rallying call.
 - a) Just as it was for John, and
 - b) just as it will be later, as First Thessalonians 4.16 declares.
- D. The voice in Revelation 1 was behind John.
1. Why behind?
 2. Perhaps to impart this message:
 - a) John could not watch heaven, but
 - b) heaven was watching him.
- E. How did this being identify Himself?

1. He is the Alpha and the Omega.
2. He is the First and the Last.
3. Remember what verse 8 said?

8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

– Revelation 1.8

III. Revelation 1.12–16 • The Glorious Beauty of God

12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

– Revelation 1.12–16

A. What did John see first?

1. Like seeing a majestic mountain range and then noticing details,
 - a) such as the highest peak and
 - b) the largest glaciers.
2. Like seeing the forest first and
 - a) its beauty invites us to admire
 - b) the tallest and most stately trees.
3. We are awestruck by the grandeur of the moment, but
 - a) John did not see
 - (1) a magnificent mountain range or

- (2) a spectacular forest;
- b) he saw the Creator of the mountains;
- c) he saw the Maker of the forests!
 - (1) If we are speechless viewing mountains and forests,
 - (2) how do you think John was viewing the Creator of these things?
 - (a) We will see what happened to him shortly.
- 4. John saw lampstands.
 - a) The tabernacle had a candlestick with seven lamps
 - (1) made of pure gold (Exo 25.31–40), and
 - (2) Solomon’s temple had ten lampstands.
 - b) The candlestick was located in the Holy Place,
 - (1) being the source of light.
- 5. The lampstands surrounded Someone,
 - a) the One with the loud voice,
 - b) showing His supreme importance.
- B. The One who spoke to John,
 - 1. looked like a man, and yet,
 - a) there was a glory about Him
 - b) that John pictured as though this Man was God or something.
 - 2. The Man’s clothing showed Him to be heavenly.
 - a) In heaven no physical work is done
 - (1) because it is a place of rest and
 - (2) the inhabitants can wear long robes down to the foot.
 - b) A belt-like piece was worn around the chest,
 - (1) like angels (Rev 15.6),
 - (2) instead of the waist as on earth.

- (a) The band was golden,
- (b) adding to the splendor and extraordinary nature
 - i) of this heavenly
 - ii) man-like being.

C. Look at His head and His hair.

1. Do you see the blinding radiance of His head and hair,
 - a) which were like white wool and
 - b) blinding as the sun on snow.
2. The brilliance was whiter than white.

D. John was able to see the intensity of the eyes,

1. which looked like a flame of fire.
2. Whoever this is,
 - a) He sees with intensity and fierceness.
 - b) Nothing gets past Him.
 - c) He sees everything.

E. His feet shone with pure brilliance,

1. like the finest brass or bronze
2. that has been purified in a furnace.
 - a) When brass is
 - (1) purified,
 - (2) shaped, and
 - (3) polished
 - (a) it is glossy or
 - (b) as Ezekiel 1.7 pictures sparkling.
 - b) Brass is harder than human feet, and
 - (1) with brass

(2) he can stamp and crush (Micah 4.13).

F. John again was drawn to the majesty of the Man's voice.

1. To what did John compare the voice earlier?
2. To what does he compare it to here?

G. Verse 16 magnified the majestic appearance.

1. What is in His right hand?
2. How does John picture the words of Jesus for the third time?
 - a) First, His voice was great like a trumpet.
 - b) Second, His voice was thunderous like many waters.
 - c) Thirdly, John said it was like a sharp two-edged sword.

(1) What is the significance of a two-edged sword?

3. John went back to the head of this Son of Man.

a) We have already seen

(1) the Son of Man's head and hair that were like wool and snow

(2) with eyes like a flame of fire.

b) Now how does John picture the face of Jesus?

IV. Revelation 1.17a • What Did John Do?

17a And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead...

– Revelation 1.17a

A. John had witnessed the ultimate sight.

1. A sight that was similar to the transfiguration
 - a) that he himself had witnessed, but
 - b) he did not consider this routine.
2. A sight that caused an old man,
 - a) who had seen miracles,

- b) church growth,
 - c) persecution, and
 - d) other marvelous things,
 - (1) fall at the feet
 - (2) of this gloriously beautiful being.
- B. The experience was so much for him
- 1. that the life was zapped from John and
 - 2. he fell as one dead.
 - a) When Isaiah saw a similar sight he was undone (Isa 6.5).
 - b) Jeremiah contemplating God felt like a drunken man (Jer 23.9).
 - c) Ezekiel in humble reverence fell down (Eze 1.26–28; 3.23; 43.1–3; 44.4).
 - d) Daniel had trouble finding strength when he witnessed the Glorious Beauty (Dan 10.5–19).

V. Revelation 1.17–18 • Who Was the Man?

17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”

– Revelation 1.17–18

- A. This Son of Man laid His *right* hand upon John,
 - 1. the same hand that held the seven stars.
 - 2. He can hold the stars and He can touch an old man.
- B. How did this Son of Man identify Himself?
- C. To the last living apostle,
 - 1. who knew the horrible persecuting might
 - 2. of the Roman military beast, but

- a) who also knew the loving benevolence of the God of heaven,
- b) Jesus said, “Do not be afraid,”
 - (1) knowing what the apostle needed to hear and
 - (2) the church, too.

VI. Revelation 1.19 • Write the Book, John

19 “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.”

– Revelation 1.19

- A. John was so awestruck with wonder
 - 1. that he might have forgotten to write
 - 2. as he was told to do in verse 11.
- B. Therefore, Jesus told him again to write what He sees.
- C. What three things was John to write?
 - 1. The things which he had seen,
 - a) that is, he was to begin writing immediately,
 - b) including what he had already seen.
 - 2. The things which are,
 - a) that is, John would see things
 - b) as they existed at that time.
 - 3. The things which will take place after this,
 - a) so that there is predictive prophecy
 - b) in the Revelation.

VII. Revelation 1.20 • The Seven Stars and the Seven Lampstands

20 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 which you saw are the seven churches.

– **Revelation 1.20**

A. Who are the angels?

1. The letters will be written to the angels of the churches.
2. At the end of each letter there is an exhortation
 - a) to hear what the Spirit says to the churches,
 - b) showing a close association between the angels and the churches.
 - (1) Angels are messengers.
 - (2) Preachers are messengers.
 - (3) Some people think they are the same.

B. The churches are like stars in a dark universe,

1. giving the light that the dark world needs.
2. If we fail to heed the message to the seven churches, He will remove our status as lights.

Exhortation:

I. Are you ready for the message of the Book of Revelation?

- A. Are you ready for events that we will see?
- B. Are you ready to meet God at His throne?

II. Are you a Christian?