

## **The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Message #2**

### **Revelation 1:9-20**

The word revelation means to disclose. This book is a revealing of Jesus Christ in His glory. The theme of this book is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. In this first chapter John sees a vision of the risen and ascended Jesus.

#### **1. The Introduction to the Vision (9-12)**

##### ***John the Apostle Is the Human Author***

This section begins with the statement “**I John**”. The third time he is mentioned by name. In his Gospel he never mentioned himself by name. This vision is so amazing he adds the demonstrative pronoun.

- **The condition of the apostle**

John was the disciple whom Jesus loved, one of the key three, yet he identifies himself as “**your brother**”. John identified with the churches he was writing to especially in their suffering and persevering faith. He was himself in exile as an enemy of the state. “**Patmos**” is a barren, volcanic island in the Aegean Sea. His crime was the preaching of the Word of God and proclaiming Jesus Christ as the only Lord and Savior. John at this time is in his 90’s.

##### **A Bleak and Barren Island Is the Backdrop for this Amazing Revelation**

- **The commandment to the apostle**

John received this revelation in a vision “**in the Spirit**”. It was given to him on a Sunday “**the Lord’s Day**”. He heard a “**loud voice**” behind him which he described as sounding like “**a trumpet**”. This is the first of many references to a loud sound or voice that will indicate something important is about to happen. The one who speaks is Jesus and He identifies Himself as “**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last**”. This is an exclamation of His Deity.

This is the first of twelve commandments to John to write what he saw in this vision. The scroll was to be copied and sent to the seven designated churches in the Roman province of Asia.

##### **The Book of Revelation Was First Sent and Read in these Seven Churches**

#### **2. The Particulars of the Vision (12-18)**

##### ***A Description of the Risen Christ***

John saw first saw “**seven golden lampstands**” and then described the person he saw “**in the midst**” of them as “**one like the Son of Man**”. Son of man was Jesus’ favorite name for Himself during His earthly ministry. This title emphasizes His humanity and His messianic character. This connects to the vision of **Daniel 7:13**, “**And behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven!**” Jesus identified Himself in this passage at His trial in **Mark 14:61-62**.

- **His priestly garments**

(13) “**clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band**”

This is a picture of Jesus as our High Priest. Robes illustrate royalty and the sash indicates priestly attire. Jesus is our King Priest.

Hebrews 7:25, “**Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.**”

##### **The Risen Jesus Is always Interceding for Us to the Father**

- **His penetrating gaze**

(14) “His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire”

The reference is again to Daniel’s vision Daniel 7:9, “And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool.”

The Ancient of Days in Daniel represents God the Father. John reveals that Jesus is God and possesses the same nature. Jesus said in John 10:30, “I and My Father are One”.

The reference to “His eyes” indicates His penetrating omniscience. This is seen again in reference to His Seconding Coming (19:12).

Jesus knows the true condition of His church.

Hebrews 4:13, “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

### **Jesus Knows All that We Do All of the Time**

- **His sitting in judgment**

(15) “His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace”

Brass symbolizes judgment in scripture. In ancient times kings would sit upon elevated thrones so that those being judged would always be beneath his feet. Jesus is the one who judges sin in the church. Christ desires that His people be pure. He disciplines His sons and daughters.

Hebrews 12:6, “For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.”

### **Divine Discipline Is an Evidence of Divine Love**

- **His voice of authority**

(15) “and His voice as the sound of many waters”

Some have compared to this to the sound of Niagara Falls. Ezekiel had a similar vision.

Ezekiel 43:2, “And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory.”

Jesus speaks majestically and authoritatively. When Jesus speaks to the church His people must listen.

(16) “out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword”

### **Christ Speaks to His Church through the Inspired Scripture**

- **His sovereign control**

(16) “He had in His right hand seven stars”

These stars represent “the angels of the seven churches”. These are either a specific angel assigned to each church or the pastors of each church. The word angel literally means messenger.

Daniel 12:3, “Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.” The stars being in the Lord’s right hand symbolize His control and ownership of the churches.

Colossians 1:17-18, “And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”

### **The Risen Jesus Is the Head of the Church**

- **His awesome glory**

(16) “and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength”

This is a picture of Jesus in His resurrected glory.

John 17:4-5, "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."

Jesus is gloried through His Church.

Ephesians 3:21, "to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

**Jesus Veiled His Glory at His First Coming, His Glory Will Be Unveiled at His Second Coming**

### 3. The Reaction to the Vision (17-22)

#### *A Common Response*

(17) "And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead"

This is the disciple whom Jesus loved, the one who lead his head on Jesus at the Last Supper. John's response was the same as Ezekiel, Daniel, Paul and others who experienced a vision of God. It is the involuntary response of reverence and awe.

#### • **The assurance from Jesus**

(17) But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid;

Jesus calmed John's fears. Literally it means "stop being afraid." We the redeemed reverence our Savior but we need not be afraid of our Savior. This assurance is based upon Who Jesus is.

(17) "I am the First and the Last" "I am" is the covenant name of God.

Exodus 3:14, And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

John 8:58, Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

The "First and the Last" is a title used of God in the Old Testament.

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;

Besides Me there is no God."

(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."

Jesus Christ lives forever in a union of glorified humanity and deity.

We need not fear because He has defeated death and triumphed over it. He alone has the authority over life and death.

Hebrews 2:14-15, "that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

**We No Longer Need to Fear Death Because of Our Resurrected Glorified Savior**

#### • **The command from Jesus**

John is again commanded to write what he sees. This is the only book in the Bible that contains an inspired outline of the book.

"The things which you have seen" – Chapter 1, the vision of Jesus

"The things which are" – Chapters 2 & 3, the seven letters

"The things which will take place after this" – Chapters 4-22

John is then told the mystery of the seven stars and seven lampstands. The word "mystery" refers to truth not revealed in the Old Testament but now revealed in the New Testament.

"The seven lampstands...are the seven churches." Each local church is to be a light to the world. The church is not the source of light; Jesus is the light of the world.

Philippians 2:15-16, “that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life”

**Jesus Christ Indwells and Empowers His Church through the Holy Spirit**