



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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Chapter One

- **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. 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, 11 saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send 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." 12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; 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.**

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- **9:14 His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. 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. 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. 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, 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.**

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- John describes himself as being exiled to hard labor on a rough island named Patmos for preaching the gospel. (Patmos was a penal colony for political prisoners of Rome)
- Domitian was the Caesar at the time, perhaps not the worst of the worst when it comes to persecuting Christians, but bad enough.
- The Roman Emperor was able to limit John's movements in society, but was not able to even begin to limit his impact for Christ. *Christians need not be without restraint, in order to be free!*

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- John describes himself as being “in the Spirit” on the Lord’s day – I wonder what he meant?
- Ezek 3:12 Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me a great thunderous voice: “Blessed is the glory of the Lord from His place!” (he is about to receive his role as the watchman on the wall)
- Acts 11:5 “I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object descending like a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came to me.” (Peter is about to receive the message that the gospel includes the Gentiles)

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- Acts 22:17 “Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I was in a trance 18 and saw Him saying to me, ‘Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me.’” (Paul was about to hear of his new role as evangelist to the Gentiles)
- So when I see John say he was “in the Spirit” and the outcome of that experience was the Revelation, I conclude that John’s (in the Spirit) experience was something more than I experience at times when I worship.
- It would seem that God transforms people in special ways for special revelations of Himself. (Ezekiel, Peter, and Paul)

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- We should also speak to the phrase “on the Lord’s Day” – it could be John referring to Sunday, the first day of the week.
- But it is probably more likely John’s way of saying I will not obey the Emperor by calling the days in which I live the “Emperor’s Day”. His pushback to that decree was to call the time period the “Lord’s Day”.
- It also may have been a reference to the future period of judgment called “the day of the Lord” a.k.a. called the great tribulation.
- There is also a practical element because with the volumes of revelations given to John, a single 24 hour period is unlikely.

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- In verse #13 Jesus is described as being “in the midst of the seven lampstands” – we will see in verse #20 that the lampstands are the seven churches previously identified.
- The fact that He is in the midst of them is not insignificant at all – for Jesus Himself said, “where two or more are gathered in His name that He is present, in the midst of the gathering”. (Math 18:20)
- Eph 1:22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church.

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- **It would be more than fair to say that what goes on in the church matters to Jesus.**
- **That said, He is amazingly patient at times with sin, arrogance, poor stewardship, bad attitudes, and terrible leadership in His pastors, lay leaders, and members of His body.**
- **However, do not mistake patience for indifference – what happens in His body, the church, matters to Him and He will address the issues that offend.**

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- **“The terror of the wicked, is the comfort of the saint” John Walvoord**
- **When we see the attributes of Jesus, (omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, and the like) we immediately go to something akin to “what a glorious God and I am blessed to be a son or daughter of Him”.**
- **For now, the wicked are unimpressed, but the day will come when they will want to hide and be crushed my mountains rather than face Him.**

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- John is asked to write and here is what he sees.
 - A loud voice like the sound of a trumpet.
 - A list of seven real churches at the time.
 - Seven gold lampstands.
 - Someone like the Son of man. (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's furnace, perhaps)
 - His (Jesus') head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow.
 - His feet were like burnished bronze.
 - His voice was like the sound of many waters.
 - In His right hand He held seven stars.
 - His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

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- You have to admit that John's vision of Jesus was one that was never seen before.
- In fact He doesn't even know it is Jesus until we get to verses 17 & 18 where additional facts make it clear who John is engaged with.
- Rev 1:19 Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things. 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.

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- **What the last half of chapter one does disclose is that the “gentle Jesus, meek and mild” sort of demeanor in the gospels, while accurate, was incomplete.**
- **Jesus, the suffering Son of Man in the gospels frightens no one – the Jesus of Revelation One ought to terrify everyone.**
- **When John saw the glorified Jesus – he fell down in such a helpless heap that the only way he knew to describe the feeling was to describe himself as ‘dead’.**

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- **If the people of our culture had any sense at all as to who Jesus really is, you would hear no silly references like “the man upstairs”.**
- **Jesus is perhaps the most mocked religious figure of our time yet He is the only one that should be feared.**
- **People see the baby in the manger, or the mildly uncomfortable figure on the cross and think He is fair game, when nothing could be further from the truth.**

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- **We have an outline for what John is about to write:**
 - Things you have seen. (the vision of Jesus)
 - Things which are. (Chapters 2 & 3 – the seven churches in the 1st century)
 - Things which will be. (Chapters 4 – 22)
- **The mystery of the lampstands and stars are disclosed in verse #20.**
 - The lampstands are the seven churches in Asia. (now Turkey)
 - The stars are the angels (messengers, most likely the pastors) of the seven churches.

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- **Rev 1:18 I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.**
- **In Matthew 16, Jesus gave the ‘keys’ to the kingdom to Peter and the disciples thus allowing them, through the power of the gospel, to open up heaven to all who believed.**
- **Here, in Rev 1:18, Jesus says that He has the ‘keys’ to death and Hades. So what did He mean?**

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- **Heb 2:14** Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.
- It seems clear from the above that Satan once held the power of death – but, he has been utterly defeated and now it is Jesus who holds the keys to death and the grave.
- **Heb 9:25** “It is appointed unto man once to die, and after that the judgment.”

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- **Said another way, no one enters an eternity of any kind without the permission of Jesus and the direction of Jesus.**
- **John 10:9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**
- **The teaching is clear – no one goes to Heaven without confronting Jesus, and no one will go to hell without being confronted by Jesus.**

The background of the slide is a vibrant, high-angle photograph of a sky filled with large, billowing white and light blue clouds. A bright sunburst effect is visible in the upper right quadrant, casting a warm, golden glow across the scene. The overall atmosphere is bright and airy.

Questions / Comments