



Empowering People to Change the World

Vision of the Son of Man

Steve Holt

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Revelation 1:9-20

Vs. 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.

- The island that is called Patmos is a little rocky island in the Mediterranean Sea.
- About 24 miles off the coast of Turkey.
- The Roman Emperor, Domitian has banished or exiled John for preaching the Word and his effective evangelical outreach.
- “companion in the tribulation” which will be an important phrase in our study of Revelation:
 - The Latin is “tribulum” was the part of the sled that drag over the grain on the threshing floor that would separate the wheat from the chaff.
 - Any tribulation in our lives is governed by God.
 - **John 16:33: Jesus said, “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”**
- Domitian really overreached himself.
- God will use our tribulation circumstances—if John had not been pulled forcefully out of his ministry in Ephesus, we would not have the book of Revelation.
- Don’t be too quick to despise your circumstances.
- Be careful in being too quick to judge negatively what God is doing.

- The only way God can slow us down enough to hear His voice and receive His vision for our lives is to take us out of the familiar.

Vs. 10

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,

- The "Lord's day" is speaking of the 1st day of the week, Sunday.
- For some this is a controversy...there is no controversy here.
- Nowhere in the New Testament, after the resurrection of Christ, do we have any special honor given to the Jewish Sabbath, Saturday.
- But we do see the Lord honoring the first day of the week:
 - Jesus stayed in the tomb on the Sabbath, and rose again on the first day of the week, Sunday.
 - All of the gospel accounts of the resurrection of Christ have it occurring on Sunday, the first day of the week.
 - It was on Sunday, the first day of the week that the disciples were assembled in the Upper Room when Jesus first appeared to all of the disciples after His resurrection.
 - This became the designated day of worship and gathering for the church.
 - We find in the Word of God that "on the first day of the week the disciples came together to break bread." (Acts 20)
 - In 1 Corinthians Paul exhorts the church to give tithes and offerings on the first day of the week. (chapter 16)
 - All Christian writers, after the resurrection of Christ, when referring to the "Lord's Day" are speaking of the first day of the week, the day after the Jewish Sabbath, Sunday.

Vs. 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.”

- One of the themes of the book has to be the sovereignty of God.
- There is no greater phrase of God’s sovereignty than, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last.” God will show us in this book his faithfulness in the past and His plans for the future, both of which gives us great hope and strength in the present.
- We are about to see an example of the multiple uses of biblical prophecy: actual churches that really existed, but also representative of all churches of all time, as well as churches in the future.
- Thus, we will interpret these first chapters historically, pastorally, and practically.

Vs. 12

Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

- These were not torches like one would have used at night, nor are they the candlesticks in the Temple.
- These were the seven-branched Menorah.
- Vs. 20...The churches will be represented symbolically as seven golden lampstands, not candles or torches.
 - The church is not the light, Christ is. We are rather the repository of the light, His Light!
 - Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.” (John 8 and 9)
 - We are lampstands of His light on a hill, for Jesus said, “You are the light of the world.” (Matt 5)
 - But we are the bearers of the light of God in a darkening world.

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.

- Here is the Mighty One in the midst of His church! Standing powerfully beside her in the center of the storm. Never leaving nor forsaking her.
- Jesus loves the church.
- Often people despise what God loves! God's plan for the redemption of the world is through the church.
- Jesus revealed his global plan to Peter...
- **Matthew 16:18-19, And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." NKJV**
 - Note that when the church is built on the Rock, Christ, Satan will never be able to snuff her out.
 - The church has been given the keys of the kingdom to bind and loose.
 - I am convinced we don't even know the power that God has invested in the church to push back the enemy.
 - Here is Jesus standing in the center of the churches! He is the Rock! He is the Bishop!
- This is a picture of The Great Bishop, High Priest, and Rock of the Church...Jesus as King, Ruler, and Risen Lord!

- John is speaking of the same picture we see of Christ in Daniel 7.

Daniel 7:9

**"I watched till thrones were put in place,
And the Ancient of Days was seated;
His garment was white as snow,
And the hair of His head was like pure wool.
His throne was a fiery flame,
Its wheels a burning fire;**

- Who is this Ancient of Days? Who is this Son of Man? This is none other than Jesus Christ.
- The clothing represents priestly royalty and spiritual authority.
 - His voice was as the sound of many waters, of many rivers falling in together. He can and will make himself heard to those who are afar off as well as to those who are near...the voice of God will be heard all over the world.
 - He had in his right hand seven stars, that is, the “angelos” or messengers, pastors, of the seven churches, who are under his direction, have all their light and influence from him, and are secured and preserved by him.
 - Out of his mouth went a two-edged sword, the Gladius Sword, a powerful two-edged broad sword...his Word...this is the mouth of God, His Word.
 - **Hebrews 4:12, For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. NKJV**

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.”

- How many of us have asked, “if I could only see God, I would believe” Well...this is the typical response in the Bible! Falls as dead!
- John has the same experience as the Prophet Daniel. (chapter 10)

- Imagine the stunning nature of this visitation by Christ! Since His ascension to heaven, John has not seen Christ again.
- During our times of stress and pain, we often begin to doubt in the dark what we saw in the light...we begin to have fear.

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.

- Christ has the keys of heaven and hades. Through the resurrection, Jesus conquered the last stronghold of satan, death.
 - Hades is a place where our immaterial part of unbelievers are kept until the judgment day.
 - When we, as believers die, we are absent from the body but present with the Lord. Our spirit immediately goes to be with the Lord upon death.
 - But for the unbeliever, their body is here, but their soul and spirit goes to Hades, where there is great suffering and torment.
 - If you are an unbeliever here today, you are a spirit being and you will live eternally in Hades and later, hell.
- **Hebrews 2:14-15:14, Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, 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. NKJV**

Vs. 19

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

- Again the theme and outline of Revelation is repeated...
- “Angels” Angelos-my interpretation is that these are the “messengers,” or “pastors” of the 7 churches.
- It is translated messenger when referring to John the Baptist.
- In Luke 9 it is used of Jesus’ disciples as his messengers.
- It is used in Acts of messengers sent out.
- It must be messengers, the pastors because angels don’t need mail from human beings to find out what is going on.
- These angels are later reprov’d, and we know that the angels of heaven are perfect.
- So, I believe these letters are written to the pastors and leaders.
- And this is a great consolation to me that I am held in His hand!!
- And he holds you in His hand...Big Hands!
- Those hands are carrying the keys of heaven and hades with them right now! Come up and open up your heart to Him...