

## **An Amazing Vision (Part 2)**

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

**Thought for the Day:** When we truly see and understand who the Lord Jesus Christ is and all that He has done for us, we will respond to Him in reverential awe and humble service.

In Revelation 1:9-20, the Apostle John receives An Amazing Vision of the Lord Jesus Christ. As we study the details of this vision, they present a picture of Jesus with which we may not be familiar, and with which we may not be comfortable.

#### **I. The Circumstances of the Vision (1:9-11)**

##### **A. John's Identity (1:9a)**

**9 I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus...**

##### **B. John's Location (1:9b)**

**...was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.**

##### **C. John's Instructions (1:10-11)**

**10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet 11 saying, "Write what you see in a book 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."**

#### **II. The Content of the Vision (1:12-16)**

##### **A. Seven Golden Lampstands (1:12)**

**12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands...**

- The lampstands will be explained in verse 20.

##### **B. One Like a Son of Man (1:13-16)**

- John had seen Jesus transfigured on the mountain (Matthew 17:1-2) but what he saw on the island of Patmos was awesome and fearsome—it was overwhelming!

**13 and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man...**

- There is a Man seated at the right hand of God who serves as our Advocate and Mediator, our High Priest and Intercessor—One who has completely identified with us in our humanity and yet, without sin.
- But He is more than just a Man—He is now the one and only glorified God-Man! (John 17:5)

**...clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.**

- "The *gold sash across his chest* reveals him as the high priest who goes into God's presence to obtain forgiveness of sin for those who have believed in him." (*The Life Application Commentary Series*)
- Jesus is our Great High Priest who enables us to draw near to God. (Heb. 4:14-16)

#### **14 The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow.**

- "This may represent the wisdom of age and the purity of holiness." (*Ryrie, Revelation, p. 24*)
- Jesus is absolutely pure and holy and when we place our faith in Him to be our Savior, His holiness becomes our holiness. (Ephesians 5:25-27)

#### **His eyes were like a flame of fire...**

- His blazing eyes symbolize [His righteousness, as well as His] judgment of all evil. (*The Life Application Commentary Series*)
- "His eyes were piercing in their fiery holiness. The character of each church [and each Christian] is transparent to His eyes. There may also be a connection between this verse and 1 Corinthians 3:13, that is, the fire that shall try human works at the judgment seat of Christ will be the penetrating gaze of our Lord, which will of itself consume works of wood, hay, and straw." (*Ryrie, Revelation, p. 24*) (Matthew 3:11; 1 Corinthians 3:13-15)

#### **15 his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace...**

- "This may picture the trials He experienced in His earthly life that make Him a sympathetic High Priest and an experienced Judge." (*Ryrie, Revelation, p. 24*) (Heb. 2:17-18)

#### **and his voice was like the roar of many waters.**

- "The *voice like rushing waters* (see also 19:6) evokes the image of a huge waterfall roaring over a high cliff. Thus, the voice is powerful and awesome. When this man speaks with authority, nothing else can be heard." (*The Life Application Commentary Series*)
- "...His voice of authority stands out above all the rest and drowns out all who try to talk back or offer excuses to Him." (*Ryrie, Revelation, p. 24*)

#### **16 In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword...**

- This is a symbol of the Word of God (Hebrews 4:12) by which He will judge the world (Revelation 19:11-15, 21).

#### **...and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.**

- As the light of the Sun drives away the darkness and shadows, so shall we be completely exposed before the Lord when He comes. (Hebrews 10:26-31)

1. The Apostle John was well beyond retirement age but still willing and available to be used by the Lord. How about you?
2. Does your mental image of the Lord inspire reverential awe and a sense of being overwhelmed? If not, do you need to get to know Him better?
3. Have you put your trust in Jesus to be your Advocate, Mediator, High Priest and Intercessor before God?
4. Have you realized that we must be perfectly holy to enter into the presence of God? And that only Jesus Christ provides that holiness when we trust in Him to be our Savior?
5. Our life and ministry will be completely exposed and evaluated by the Lord at the Judgment Seat of Christ. What are you doing now that will be judged worthy of eternal reward?