

An Amazing Vision (Part 4)

Revelation 1:9-20

Thought for the Day: Jesus is absolutely supreme over His creation and He cares deeply for you and me both for time and eternity.

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

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

A. Seven Golden Lampstands (1:12)

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

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 4:12-13) by which He will judge the world (Revelation 19:11-16, 21).
- At the end of time, it is Jesus who will be the Judge of all people, saved and unsaved alike. (John 5:22, 25-29; Matthew 11:27; 13:24-30, 41; 16:27; 25:31-46; 28:18; John 3:35-36; 17:1-2; Acts 10:40-43; 17:30-31; Romans 2:16; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10; 2 Timothy 4:1-3; Revelation 20:11-5)
- Jesus will either be our Savior or our Judge—it's our choice!

...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)

III. The Consequences of the Vision (1:17-20)

A. A Word of Comfort (1:17-18)

17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.

- "In a brief glimpse of unveiled deity shrouded in mysterious symbols that surpassed even John's experience on the Mount of Transfiguration, the beloved disciple quickly learned his place in the universe. Saint John—evangelist, theologian, elder, apostle, and elite member of Christ's inner circle—was instantly reduced to a trembling sinner lying powerless before the King of kings and Lord of lords. In a word, he was terrified." (*Swindoll, Revelation, pp. 26-27*)

But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not..."

- "Yet in the midst of the apostle's heart-stopping terror, the unsurpassable Son of God stooped down, reached out with His nail-pierced hand, and comforted His old friend. Helping the elderly disciple to his feet, He told John not to fear (1:17)." (*Swindoll, Revelation, p. 27*)

... I am the first and the last...

- Jesus is the Alpha and Omega (1:8; 21:6; 22:13), the beginning and the end (21:6).
- These titles clearly indicated that Jesus is God!
- He is the Author and Finisher of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2; Philippians 1:6)

18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore,

- Because Jesus rose from the dead, we too shall rise from the dead. Because He lives forevermore, we shall live forevermore. Death no longer has dominion over Him or us (Romans 6:4-9)

...and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

- Keys signify power, authority and control. Jesus has supreme authority over Death and Hades. (Matthew 28:18; Romans 14:9; Revelation 20:13-15)
- Death signifies the destination of the physical, material body; Hades signifies the destination of the spiritual, immaterial spirit and soul.

B. A Word of Command (1:19-20)

- Verse 19 is recognized as the divinely inspired outline of the book of Revelation.

19 Write therefore the things that you have seen – Chapter 1

...those that are – Chapters 2-3

...and those that are to take place after this – Chapters 4-22

- In verse 20, the Lord provides us with a very important key for the interpretation of this vision and the two chapters that now follow.

20 As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands...

...the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches...

- Jesus is intimately acquainted with the leaders of the churches.

...and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

- Jesus is intimately acquainted with the churches.

Suggested Applications:

1. God's Word reveals the truth, our thoughts and our motives. Do you allow His Word to search your inner being on a regular basis?
2. Jesus will either be our Savior or our Judge. Have you accepted Him as your Savior, or will you have to face Him as your Judge?
3. The clear teaching of the Bible is that Jesus Christ is God. Have you recognized and submitted to Him as your Creator-God?
4. When we trust Jesus as our Savior, His resurrection guarantees our own. Do you see death as the end of all things, or as the doorway to eternal life?