

The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon

"Beholding the Glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ", pt.2

- A. (1:14-15) John writes down what he saw as he sees "one like a Son of Man"
1. MacArthur comments: "John...begins by depicting Christ's work of chastening and purifying His church."
 - a) (1:14a) "His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow"
 - (1) Daniel 7:9 gives a similar description of the Ancient of Days, the Father: "...and the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture was like white snow and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames. His wheels were burning fire." (NASB95)
 - (2) Clearly the implications of John's vision is that Jesus is *coequal, coexistent, and coeternal* with the Father!!
 - (a) Stephen saw the Glory of Christ (Acts 7:56)
 - (b) Paul saw the Glory of Christ (Acts 9:3-6)
 - (c) Now John sees Christ in blazing glory!
 - b) (1:14b) "His eyes were like blazing fire"
 - (1) Most commentators see these as the eyes of the Judge.
 - (a) Nothing escapes His view: **Hebrews 4:13**: "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account."
 - c) (1:15) "His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of rushing waters."
 - (1) Every commentator I referenced all agreed that the description of His feet being like "bronze glowing in a furnace," or "burnished bronze" glowing in a furnace, had to do with His righteous judgment. The question is,
 - (a) Is it His judgment on sinners within the Church? Context would suggest that. Or,

(b) Does the description speak more about His authority to “exercise His holy scrutiny” (MacArthur) everywhere including the Church?

(2) The Voice was like the sound of rushing waters (Loud)

(a) Authoritative and powerful. To be heard and listened to, especially in the Church.

(i) In the Church He should be heard loud and clear through the Scriptures. But is He? If we cast aside the Scripture we have cut ourselves off from the Voice of God!

B. (1:16a) combined with (1:20): “In His right hand He held seven stars

1. 1:20 explains the seven stars: the angels/ messengers/ authorities over the seven churches.

a) But it is Christ that HOLDS them in His right hand, and HAS THEM IN HIS CONTROL.

(1) His Authority over the Church: (Eph.4:15; 5:23; Col. 1:18)

2. Are these God’s “angels”? No. B/C His angels need not repent from sin.

3. These are actual leaders (pastors and elders) in the Church, which are held in the control of our Lord.

a) And, as we will see in the letters to the Churches, these leaders are the ones being addressed in Rev.2-3 and held accountable to Christ Jesus. (**see 1 Peter 5:1-4; James 3:1**)

C. (1:16b,c) “Out of His mouth came a sharp broadsword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.”

1. Remember, the context is “in the midst of the seven [churches].”

a) What is the broadsword coming out of His mouth: **The Word!**

(1) See Hebrews 4:12: “For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any two-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

(a) Christ will judge the enemies within the Church.

There are many people who sow disunity, discord, and all kinds of disruption. Our Lord, through His

Word, will “cut and heal” so that the church will grow up into Christ-likeness.

(2) Satan loves nothing more than to trap believers in various sins, which affect the unity of the church.

(a) 2 Timothy 2:23-26 reminds us to fend off trouble within the church through careful instruction from the Word of God. Verse 26 encourages us: “...and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do His will.”

b) Application: It is the Lord who Saves, Sustains, and Sanctifies His Church through His Word. And yes, Sanctification and discipline go hand in hand! (**consider also 1 Peter 4:17, “judgment begins...”**)

2. “His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance”

a) Behold the radiance of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ!

(1) And you should see by now that His glory is multifaceted and is very personal. (**2 Corinthians 4:6; Eph. 3:21**)

(2) When Revelation describes Him as “in the midst of the seven [churches], I hope you see how intimate His relationship is with His people! (**even includes loving discipline**)

D. (1:17-18) **Reaction:** The Vision of the Living, Glorified and Awesome Lord Jesus.

1. Fear. Even overwhelming terror. “I fell at His feet as though dead.

a) Even one as close to Jesus as John was taught to fear the Lord fresh and anew.

2. Comfort for the one who rightly fears the Lord

a) Reminder: At the Mount of transfiguration in Matthew 17:7, Jesus came to James, John and Peter and placed His hand on them and spoke comforting words: “Get up! Don’t be afraid.”

(1) It is right and pleasing to fear the Lord. “He opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” –1 Peter 5:5b

b) Pay attention to how Jesus comforts: He comforts John by giving him a reminder of who He is:

(1) "Do not be afraid. I Am the First and the Last. I Am the Living One;"

(2) "I was dead and behold I am alive for ever and ever!"

(3) "And I hold the keys of death and Hades."

(a) He who is Alive now holds the keys, unlocks Death and Hades and frees us into eternal life! (Garland)

(4) Application: The comfort of God comes to us when, and only when we behold Christ Jesus in His manifold glory, trusting Him as He has *revealed* Himself in Scripture!

E. (1:19) Back to work: "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now, and what will take place later.

1. What was (Revelation 1)
2. What is (Revelation 2-3)
3. What is to come (Revelation 4-22)

F. (1:20) The mystery of the seven stars and seven lampstands is explained.

G. Review of Revelation 1:9-20

1. When symbols and figures are used in Revelation, an explanation is close at hand. As is the case of 1:12 and 1:20.
2. Application of 1:13: Our Lord is not only our King and Protector, Sovereign and Savior, Prophet and Sanctifier, **but also** our Priest and Sympathizer (Heb.2:18; 4:15)
3. His being "in the midst of the seven [churches] is very personal and intimate; not only for our comfort but for our sanctification, which may not be pleasant all the time.
4. The Comfort of God comes to us only as we humbly behold the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Knowing Him as He is brings comfort to those who love Him.