



The Book of Revelation: Week 3

The Appearance of Christ

And John's Commission

Media & Notes at:

www.htchurch.com/revelation

Video also available at:

www.htchurch.tv

Review

- “Revelation” means an unveiling, and God is unveiling for us some things which we would have no way of knowing unless He showed them to us. He’s showing us the future, and He’s also showing us that He controls the future.
- The whole book is about God unveiling the glory of Jesus and His Kingdom.
- God has another goal in delivering this book to His people. He wants to encourage and strengthen His people against persecution.
- Whether it was in the time of John, or today, or in the future, we can be encouraged to know that if we are faithful to Christ we will reign with Him.

Text: Revelation 1:9-20

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.

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

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."

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

13 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.

17 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.

18 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.

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.

Rev. 1:9

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.

- Notice John’s humility – he fully identifies with the persecuted Christians to whom he writes.
- He refers to himself first of all as a brother. So he relates to them on the basis of the fact that we are all related to Christ.

He says that he is not only a brother in Christ, but he is also their companion.

- The word tribulation is *thlipsis*, and it means “pressure.”
- Often, this word is used to describe a 7-year period during which the world is largely under the sway of the Antichrist.
- To be precise, the actual “Great Tribulation” referred to by Jesus and the prophets is only 3.5 years at the most, or half of the 7 years.
- In more general terms, tribulation means pressure and trouble.

He also says he is their companion in the kingdom of Christ. He serves Christ as they do, and he shares the same hope. Paul had laid this truth out in 2 Timothy 2, when he said: *11 This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. 12 If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.*

John also says that he is their companion in patience.

- John is going through it with them and holding on with Christ's strength.
- In the older English, patience meant being strong and steadfast under trials.

John was on Patmos for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. This means that he was imprisoned because he held to the truth of the Word of God, and because he believed in the salvation of Jesus Christ.

Rev. 1:10-11

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

He says that he was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day.

- First, he was in the Spirit.
- Second, John says he was worshiping God on *the Lord's Day*.

He then says that he heard a loud voice like a trumpet. We often see the voice of God coming as something powerful and overwhelming.

John hears the Voice announcing itself as Alpha and Omega, First and Last.

What is Asia? Asia Minor, the peninsula which extends into the Mediterranean. Seven churches are mentioned there, as a picture of spiritual completeness.

Rev. 1:12-15

12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lamp stands, 13 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;

Seven golden lamp stands. We read later on that these represent the seven churches. The Lord is in the midst of His Church!

He looks like the Son of Man. He resembles Jesus but Jesus is now glorified.

His garments speak of His offices. He is the Prophet, the Priest, and King.

- First, he has a garment down to the feet. This speaks of speaks of kingship.
- The golden girdle is like the binding or the sash of a priest.
- His head and hair were white, to show that He is ancient, like the ancient of days.
- His eyes were like a flame of fire. This shows us His absolute holiness.
- His feet are like fine brass. Brass speaks of judgment in the Bible.

Jesus, the Eternal Son, came down and touched the Earth as our Redeemer. Feet also speak of our walk through this life, and the walk of purity which Jesus. And the feet also remind us in the Scripture of the ministry of evangelism. Jesus came bringing the Word.

Rev. 1:16-18

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. 17 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. 18 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.

- The seven stars represents His possession of the churches.
- The Word is pictured as the sword, and it consumes His enemies.
- But notice the tenderness of the Lord.
- He is the Victor in every realm – in Heaven, on Earth, and under the Earth!

Rev. 1:19-20

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.

- John will see three realms
- Jesus explains the symbolism



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