"A GLIMPSE OF CHRIST'S GLORY"

REVELATION 1:9-20

1-23-2022

INTRODUCTION: v. 9 - 10

***We need to see Jesus Christ as He really is!**

1. Christ is the **Center of His Church** (v. 11-13a)

2. Christ is our **High Priest and Judge** (v. 13b)

3. Christ is **Eternal in His Holiness** (v. 14a)

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9. Christ is **Blazing in His Glory** (v. 16c)

10. Christ is **Eternal In His Divine Nature** (v. 17b)

11. Christ is **Complete in His Authority** (v. 18)

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V. 9

"Companion" = co-sharer; fellow partner.

The beloved Apostle John shared in the 1) pressures (tribulation and affliction) and 2) kingdom, and 3) endurance (patience; ability to remain under) that all come to us in ( ) Jesus.

When you received Christ as your personal Savior you also received all things that are "in Christ."

We can all delight in the kingdom which is ours in Him. We are also thankful for the patience (endurance) that is ours in Him. But remember, tribulation (pressures and afflictions) are also in Him.

Phil. 1:29 - "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake."

Rom. 8:17 - "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ, if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

II Cor. 1:5 - "For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ."

Cp. Col. 1:24

John encourages us that we are not alone. John endured opposition for the faith also.

John was sent to the small island called Patmos for (because of -) the Word of God and [even] for the testimony (witness) of Jesus Christ (cp. 1:2).

God's Word and Christ's testimony are synonymous.

V. 10

"I was in the Spirit" - not a reference to being filled with the Spirit; but to John's being brought in ( ) the spiritual realm! (cp. Rev. 4:2).

"On the Lord's Day" = the first day of the week that Christians set apart for church attendance (SEE Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2) - to hear a message from the Word of God and to give their offerings.

On this particular Lord's day, John really got a message! And he had no trouble hearing it! (cp. "great voice" with 1:15 "voice as the sound of many waters")

John was to get a glimpse of Jesus Christ that would no doubt change his viewpoint of Christ for the rest of his life.

EX: inadequate views of Christ prevalent today.

When you think of Jesus Christ, what comes to your mind?

***We need to see Jesus Christ as He really is!**

NOTE: In verses 13-16, the words "like" and "as." John does his best to describe Christ in human terms. No doubt, this picture cannot do full justice to the glorious appearance of Christ.

1. Christ is the **Center of His Church** (v. 11-13a)

   Why were these churches to receive John's letter?

   1) They were close in proximity to the island of Patmos where John was exiled.

   2) They (together) had all of the characteristics that Christ's churches in the last days would have.

   NOTE: The letters went to each individual church (ex. 2:1), but were also for all churches (Note plural - 2:7 "churches").

   V. 12

"Candlesticks" = light holders or lamp stands, which represent local churches.

While the 7 churches are lamp stands ( ), the 7 spirits are the lamps ( ) (Rev. 4:5 - the Holy Spirit).

In other words, while the 7 churches are light holders (nothing more), the Holy Spirit is the light.

The reason why the Holy Spirit is pictured as 7 spirits is because His ministry of giving light was to 7 churches (lamp stands).

The Holy Spirit is the oil and the light. We are mere vessels that hold (contain)_ the light. Let Him glow in your life! Let Him shine!

"Ye are the light of the world..." (Mt. 5:14) However, our light is actually His light (Jn. 8:12) shining in these earthen vessels.

II Cor. 4:6-7 - "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."

Eph. 5:8 - "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light."

"Let your light so shine . . ." (Mt. 5:16).

Our church is to be a lighthouse!

V. 13

"In the midst" = Christ is the center of a church.

Mt. 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them."

In Rev. 5:6 Christ is in the midst of the Elders (believed to be the glorified Church.

2. Christ is our **<u>High Priest and Judge</u>** (v. 13b)

V. 13

"Like unto the Son of man" = lit. "like unto <u>a</u> Son of man" (no defin. article).

John is <u>not</u> saying that he saw someone who looked like Jesus (<u>the</u> Son of man), but that he saw Jesus, who looked like "<u>a</u> son of man."

What is significant about the title "Son of man"?

1) It shows that Jesus took upon himself the like nature of man (Phil. 2:5ff). "The Son of God became the Son of man so that we, the sons of men, might become the sons of God." (Other references to the son of man - Mt. 16:16, 27).

2) It shows the fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy (Dan. 7:13 - "I saw in the night visions, and behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.") (cp. Jesus's statement in Mt. 26:64).

3) The phrase is a reminder of the fact that Jesus one day will be <u>Judge</u>.

"The Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the

Son," and "hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man" (Jn. 5:22, 27).

The world will be judged by [the] "man he hath ordained." (Acts 17:31).

4) The phrase is also a reminder of the fact that Jesus is our high Priest.

Because Jesus became man, now as our high priest, He is "touched with the feelings of our infirmities..." (Heb. 4:15).

And we can go directly to God through Him: I Tim. 2:5 - "For there is one god, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

The clothes described correspond to Aaron the High Priest's robe known for its "glory and beauty" (Ex. 28:2), and Aaron's wide girdle which covered his chest had golden thread in it. Christ's, however, is totally made of gold.

In Rev. 15:5-8, seven angels come out of the Holy of Holies in heaven's tabernacle "clothed in pure and white linen, and having their chests girded with a golden girdle" (v. 6) NOTE: They come out to pour out 7 bowls of God's wrath upon the earth (v. 7). They function as tools in God's judgment.

3. Christ is **Eternal in His Holiness** (v. 14a)

a. "White" indicates age:

Dan. 7:9 - I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment as white as snow, and the hair of His head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire."

Christ, being "God the Son", looks like God the Father, the "Ancient of days."

EX: gray hair on a man indicates "glory or honor," one worthy of respect.

It does not symbolize weakness but wisdom.

b. White also indicates "purity or holiness"

Jesus Christ is the spotless Lamb of God without defect.

He is holy, holy, holy (Is. 6:1ff).

4. Christ is **Infinite in His Knowledge** (v. 14b)

Christ identifies Himself to the church of Thyatira (Rev.2:18) as having eyes like fire and says: "I am he which searcheth the reins [minds] and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works" (v. 23).

Heb. 4:13 - "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight, but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."

Cp. Job 26:6 - "Hell is naked before Him."

II Chron. 16:9 - "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth..."

Christ's eyes are as torches (lamps - cp. Rev. 4:5 with 5:6) which are "sent forth into all the earth." (cp. Zech. 4:10).

Nothing we think, say, or do escapes those piercing eyes. Christ knows all! We can fool men, but not Christ!

Jesus says to each of the 7 churches: "I know thy works" (2:2, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15).

5. Christ is **Pure in His Judgment** (v. 15a)

Brass feet = judgment

Burning in a furnace = glowing purity

Christ's enemies will one day be crushed under His feet.

Ps. 58:10 predicts that the Lord will "wash His feet in the blood of the wicked." The imagery is of the brass laver that also had brass feet (Ex. 30:18), where the priests washed their feet.
For other verses describing the Lord's Judgment using the imagery of His feet, SEE Is. 18:7, Ps. 68:23.

Lk. 20:43 - "Till I make thy enemies thy footstool." (cp. Ps. 110:1; Heb. 1:13, 10:13).

6. Christ is **Mighty in His Message** (v. 15b)

The great sound of Christ's words identifies Him with Jehovah God -

Ezek. 43:2 - "And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory."

EX: the powerful noise of Niagara Falls.

Far greater than "Merrill Lynch" - when Jesus speaks, the universe listens!

7. Christ is **Sovereign in His Control** (v. 16a)

"Seven stars" = 7 angels (messengers) of the 7 churches. Whether the angels refer to human messengers pastors) or angelic creatures, the point is the same - Jesus is in control of them!

8. Christ is **Piercing in His Word** (v. 16b)

The verse that immediately comes to mind is Hebrews 4:12 - "For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

However, this sword is a different Gk. word, which points to a destructive, severe sword used in Judgment. This sword will consume multitudes at the Battle of Armageddon - Rev. 19:21 - "And the remnant were slain with the sword of Him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh."

9. Christ is **Blazing in His Glory** (v. 16c)

This blazing brilliance is descriptive of Jehovah God (Ez. 43:2).

"God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all" Jesus is the "light of the world."

The brilliant light of Jesus blinded Saul (Paul - Acts 9:3).

In God's kingdom, we will not need the sun, for the New Jerusalem "had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof" (Rev. 21:23)

No more night, because Jesus will never depart.

10. Christ is **Eternal In His Divine Nature** (v. 17b)

"First and Last" - nothing existed before Christ and nothing will exist after Him. He is the Alpha and Omega," the "beginning and the ending" (1:8, 11).

Jesus is Jehovah, therefore eternal (Is. 44:6 - "Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts: I am the first, and I am the last: and besides me there is no God."

11. Christ is **Complete in His Authority** (v. 18)

Because of Christ's resurrection, He now has full authority.

"Mt. 28:19 - "All power ..."

"Keys" = denote authority, ownership, and control. One who holds the keys has the control over doors (cp. 3:7).

Jesus has control over Hades (the abode of the unbelieving dead) and death (no one dies without his say-so).

CONCLUSION: v. 19

The Outline of the book of Revelation:

"Seen" - chap. 1

"Are" - 7 churches in Rev. 2-3

"Shall be" - chap. 4ff - End Times

V. 19

Because Jesus is who He is, He can outline all future events!

What does the future hold for you? It holds nothing if you do not have Jesus. It holds everything if you do!

If you see Jesus Christ as He really is, you will have a whole new perspective of yourself. You will be humbled before him (SEE v. 17).

NOTE John's reaction -
This is the same John who witnessed the transfiguration.

. . . who is called the "disciple whom Jesus loved" (Jn. 21:7, 20).

. . . who pillowed his head on the bosom of Jesus at the last supper (jn. 13:23).

. . . who outran Peter on the resurrection morning in a race to the sepulchre (jn. 20:4)

. . . who worshipped Jesus after He arose from the dead (Mt. 28:17), and witnessed His ascension into Heaven (Acts 1:9, 10).
When Job saw the Lord Jesus, he cried out, "Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6).

When Joshua saw Christ as the Captain of the Lord's Armies, he fell on his face to the earth, and worshipped (Josh. 6:14).

When Manoah (Samson's father) saw Christ (as the messenger of YAHWEH) he cried out, "We shall surely die, for we have seen God" (Jud. 13:22).

When Isaiah saw the Lord, he cried out, "Woe is me!"

Ezekiel fell on his face before the glory of God's Christ (Ez. 1:28).

Daniel saw a pre-incarnate appearance of the glorified Christ (NOTE: similarity with John's vision) and his strength left him, he turned pale, and fell with his face to the ground (Dan. 10:7-9).

After fishing with no success all night, Peter was met by Jesus, who said, "Let down your nets." The catch was so great that Peter "fell down at Jesus' knees, saying Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord." (Lk. 5:8)

When Saul (Paul) saw and heard Christ from heaven, he fell to the earth trembling with astonishment (Acts 9:4, 6).

. . . No one will ever catch a glimpse of Christ's glory and remain the same.