

3. Christ Is Described in All of His Glory

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to understand the book of Revelation so that they can help others learn to understand this book. In our topic today, we will see that John had the opportunity to see Christ in all of His glory as Christ appeared to him and told him to write this book.

John had heard a loud voice behind him. Revelation 1:12-16 says, “Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 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. His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 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.” Instead, we that John turned to see the One who was speaking.

We see that he saw seven golden lampstands when he turned. Revelation 1:20c says, “The seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.” In the middle of the seven golden lampstands he saw One like the Son of Man. Christ used the title “Son of Man” eighty-one times in the Gospels to describe Himself. This title came from Daniel 7:13, which says: “I was watching in the night visions, and behold, *One* like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him.” While Christ was on this earth only the three disciples with Jesus saw Christ in all of His glory on the mountain. Here, we have a description of the glory that Christ now has in heaven.

We see that Jesus had on a robe that went down to His feet. Around His chest, Christ had a golden band (belt or sash) like the Jewish High Priest wore in the Old Testament. This clothing shows that Christ is our Great High Priest. Hebrews 7:25-27 says, “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.” Then, Hebrews 4:14-16 adds, “Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” His appearance to John speaks of His ministry for all Christians.

We also have a description of the rest of His appearance. We read, “His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow.” Isaiah 1:18 says, “‘Come now, and let us reason together,’ says the LORD, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.’” Christ is holy and without sin and so can judge sin. Next, “His eyes like a flame of fire.” Christ is able to see into the hearts and examine the thoughts of the

hearts. “His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace.” Brass was used to cover the altar of burnt offering where sacrifices were offered to cover sin. We will see that Christ is going to examine the churches in the next two chapters and point out the sins that would bring judgment to the churches. Next, we read, “His voice as the sound of many waters.” Christ has been given all authority and He will speak with authority as He judges the sins of the churches.

We see that in His right hand, Christ has seven stars. Revelation 1:20b says, “The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches.” Here, we see that the stars are the messengers of the churches. Next, we see, “out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword.” In Revelation 2:14-16, we read, “But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.” Here, we see the sword will judge false teachers in the church. Then, Revelation 19:15 adds, “Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.” In this verse, we see that Christ will use this sword to judge the nations at His second coming. We also see that the appearance of Christ was so bright that it was like the sun shining in its strength.

Revelation 1:17-18 says, “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. 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.” Here, we see that when John first saw Christ in all of his glory that He fell at the feet of Christ like a person that had died. We see that Christ then laid His right hand on John and spoke to him and told him several things. First, Christ told John not to be afraid. John wrote 1 John 4:18, which says: “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.” This was a message that told John that Christ had come to him in love. He did not need to fear because of the perfect love of Christ for him.

Second, Christ told John, “I am the First and the Last.” This is similar to the title that Christ gave Himself in Revelation 1:8. In that verse Christ called Himself the Alpha and the Omega which are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet in which the New Testament was originally written. Third, Christ went on to speak of His death and resurrection when He said, “I *am* He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen.” The message of the angels to the women who came to the tomb on the third day after the crucifixion was, “He is risen.” Christ is the One who lives. As Christians our faith is based on the fact that Christ died and rose again. 1 Corinthians 15:20-21 says, “But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead.” It is His resurrection that makes it possible for Him to raise us from the dead. We are reminded that He is alive forevermore. That is why we can look forward to eternal life. However, Christ added one more word. When we say “amen”, it means *let it be so*. When Christ says “Amen”, it means, *it is and it shall be so*.

Fourth, Christ said “I have the keys of Hades and of Death.” The word translated “Hades” refers to the place of the dead. The word “Death” refers to the condition of death and especially the death of those who are not followers of the Lord. Ephesians 2:1 says, “And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins.” Physical death speaks of the separation of the body from the soul and spirit. Spiritual death speaks of the separation of man from God. Revelation 20:13-15 says, “The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” This is the judgment of those who are spiritually dead.

Christ then gave John instructions about what he was to do in Revelation 1:19-20, where we read: “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. 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.” Here, we see the outline of the book of Revelation. First, John was to write about the things that he had seen – chapter one. John had just seen Christ in all of His glory in chapter one. Second, John was to write about the things that are. John was to write to the seven churches in Asia and about the things that were happening in the churches – chapters two and three. Third, John was to write about the things that would happen in the future – chapters four through twenty-two.

One of the greatest questions that many people have is, “What is going to happen in the future?” Once the church is taken out of the world we see that there will be a seven-year period known as the tribulation. The main events of the tribulation period are described in Revelation chapters 4 through 19. Then, in Revelation 20:1-9, we have the description of the one-thousand-year period known as the millennium. Revelation 20:10-15 goes on to describe the final judgments that will happen to Satan and all of those who continue to follow him. Finally, Revelation 21:1-22:21 describe eternity when Christ will rule forever and ever. Revelation 21:3-4 says, “And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

Many physical and spiritual children do not have a clear understanding about what is going to happen in the future. The Lord wanted all Christians to be able to explain the main events that are going to happen in the future. As a result, Christ told John to write this message to the seven churches so that those churches and all future Christians could learn to explain what is going to happen in the future. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to understand and explain what will happen in the future.