

John's Vision

Revelation 1:9-18

I. Introduction:

A. Context

- *In the prelude & the introduction to Revelation is the following:*
 1. – Unveiling of Jesus
 - a. This book is the Revelation of Jesus Christ meaning it's uncovering of that which was previously veiled or covered. IE: Jesus as the Lord of His eternal kingdom.
 2. – Unveiling of God's plan
 - a. Not only is this book an unveiling of Jesus as Lord, it's also His plan for humanity.
 - b. This book moves from the founding of the church to the close of the church age via the rapture. Then it goes through the tribulation, millennial kingdom, Great White Throne judgment, and ultimately right into eternity.
 3. – A blessing to those who read it
 - a. There's promised blessing to those who read, hear, & obey what's found in the book.

II. John's Vision (Revelation 1:9)

A. Exiled on Patmos

1. John was banished to (imprisoned on) the Island of Patmos for preaching the Gospel.
2. It was under Roman Emperor **Domitian**'s reign that this persecution took place.
3. Domitian is known historically for bringing severe persecution upon the church.
4. John's faithfulness to Jesus under conditions of heavy duress were a testimony to all.
5. Application: May testimony of lifestyle precede verbally sharing Gospel of Jesus Christ

III. Details concerning the vision (Revelation 1:10-11)

A. I was in the Spirit.

1. This means John was lifted out of the realm of time and space. Although his body was still very much on Patmos, his mind and senses were lifted out of his mortal setting.
2. O. T. prophets Ezekiel & Daniel experienced divine visions & revelations from God.
3. The entire Bible is the inspired authoritative Word of God. (**2 Timothy 3:16**)

B. The Lord's Day

1. John states vision took place on Sunday which is significant for it was day of worship for the church. 1st day of the week, Sunday, is the day Jesus was resurrected.
2. From the founding of the church at Pentecost, believers in Jesus Christ have gathered on the first day of the week to celebrate our risen Lord.
3. The Sabbath of the O.T. commemorates a day of rest after God's creation work.
4. Application: Corporate worship & Bible study are invaluable to spiritual growth.

C. Write what you see.

1. Jesus tasked John to record in a book the things he was seeing in the vision. He was also tasked with sharing it with the churches of Asia Minor.
2. Application: We're under the same command from Jesus today. (**Matthew 28:19-20**)
3. We're tasked w/ taking God's message to the whole world. John was faithful witness.

IV. The Messenger (Revelation 1:12-13)

A. One like the Son of Man

1. Jesus used this title with reference to Himself as the Messiah.

2. Jesus appeared to John in this vision to deliver the revelation of what is to come.

B. Description of Jesus

- *Jesus is described as wearing long robe, down to His feet, with gold band around His chest. This picture points to two things concerning our glorified Lord.*

1. – He is our High Priest.

- a. The Greek word used here for the robe is the same word used to describe the robe of the High Priest in the Old Testament.
- b. The gold band around His chest is the same one the High Priest would wear.
- c. Jesus is our High Priest. We have access to God the Father because we're in Jesus.

2. – He is our King.

- a. The long robe & the gold band also indicate our glorified Lord's regal standing.
- b. Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords. Jesus is our Lord and King.

V. The description continues (Revelation 1:14-18)

A. The risen Lord - (*Each of these descriptive elements have meaning.*)

1. – Head and hair white as wool

- a. This speaks of Jesus as the ancient of days. It speaks to His eternal age.
- b. It also speaks to His divine purity and holiness.

2. – Eyes like a flaming fire

- a. Jesus sees and knows all things. Nothing happens in this world outside of His gaze.
- b. Those flaming eyes can be looked into in one of two ways:
(1) As a loving Savior. (2) As a righteous judge.--- Choose wisely!

3. – Feet like fine brass

- a. The bronze altar in the temple was associated with the sin offerings.
- b. The bronze feet here indicate the judgment of Jesus against all sin.
- c. Again, we can deal w/ our sin now by grace through faith in Jesus.
- d. Those who choose to deal with their sin later will face Jesus as the judge.

4. – Voice as the sound of many waters

- a. The word of God can thunder & be overwhelming.
- b. Yet the word of God can be soft as a whisper and understood by even a child.
- c. The word of God can be soothing and comforting like no other.

5. – A sharp two-edged sword

- a. This speaks to the penetrating power of His word. (**Hebrews 4:12**)
- b. If we listen to God's word, it will strip away all our self-deception & lead us to saving faith in Jesus. The word of God cuts to the core & deals w/ the root of sin.

6. – Appearance like the shining sun

- a. This is the appearance of Jesus in His glorified state.
- b. We had a little foretaste in **Matthew 17:2** when Jesus was transfigured on the mountain in front of Peter, James, and John. This is Jesus in all His regal majesty.

B. **John's reaction to Jesus. (Revelation 1:17)**

1. Ezekiel had same response when he saw Jesus in His glory & majesty. (**Ezekiel 1:28**)
2. John was the closest of the apostles to Jesus in His earthly ministry.
3. John had the most intimate relationship w/ Jesus of all the apostles.
4. Yet when John saw Jesus in all His glory, he could not stand in His presence.
5. Every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord. (**Phil. 2:9-11**)
6. Application: If you want to be saved from your sin, now is the time.
7. If you want to be sure of your eternal destiny, today is the day of salvation.