

04. The Book of Revelation—1:10-15

(6/3/20)

We are currently in chapter 1 in our study of the Book of Revelation—

Revelation 1:9-10a (NKJV)

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...

John was taken into the realm of the Spirit and I believe *transported* in time into the future which allowed him to see the things he would write in this book—as they were actually taking place!

John tells us that all of this happened on “**the Lord’s Day**”—a term that the Christian church used to represent ‘Sunday’ because that was the day Jesus rose from the dead. (Didache 14:1).

One author writes—

“Among pagans, the first day of each month was ‘Emperors Day’; perhaps Christians proclaimed their allegiance to Jesus by honoring the first day of the week as their ‘Lord’s Day’.

*This is not the same term used for ‘**The Day of the Lord**’ in the Old Testament, nor is it the same idea—the book of Revelation will definitely deal with the idea of **The Day of the Lord**, but it does not do so here—the Greek is not the same for ‘**the Lord’s Day**.’”*

Some of you might be thinking to yourself—“*How could all of the events that John sees that make up the Book of Revelation including: the 7-Year Tribulation Period, the 1000-Year Millennial Kingdom and even the start of the Eternal State—all happen in one day—Sunday, the ‘Lord’s Day?’*”

It is because in the realm of the spirit—time is not a factor.

Time is a physical dimension, part of our 4-dimensional physical universe—and as such is subject to mass and velocity (the closer you approach the speed of light the slower time gets).

One scientist said that if you had twin brothers and one of them went on a mission to Alpha *Centauri* (the closest star and planetary system to Earth's Solar System at 4 ½ light-years from earth) traveling there and back at the speed of light—that man would have only aged 28 days by the time he returned—but his twin brother would be nine years older!

I don't think it's possible for us to know exactly what John experienced on the Isle of Patmos that Sunday and exactly what 'mechanism' God used to transport him into the future—but it happened and God used it to give John (and all of us who read this book) a 'balcony seat' to events that, in a very short period of time, are going to take place on the earth in real time!

Revelation 1:10-11 (NKJV)

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"...

The loud voice John hears speaking “**as a trumpet**” is Jesus—the “**Alpha and Omega**”—the “**First and the Last**” (Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet—the “A” to “Z”) signifying that Jesus is the beginning and the end of all things.

In this context, that He began time with the physical creation—and He will end it when He destroys heaven and earth and creates a new heaven and a new earth as we move from time to eternity.

The “**First and the Last**” and the “**Alpha and the Omega**” are clearly titles belonging to the God of Israel (the God of all creation)—Yahweh and only to Yahweh—

Isaiah 44:6 (NKJV)

⁶ "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I *am* the First and I *am* the Last; Besides Me *there is* no God.

Isaiah 48:12 (NKJV)

¹² "Listen to Me, O Jacob, And Israel, My called: I *am* He, I *am* the First, I *am* also the Last.

Revelation 1:17-18 (NKJV)

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.

Revelation 2:8 (NKJV)

⁸ "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

Revelation 22:13 (NKJV)

¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End, the First and the Last."

Those who say that Jesus never claimed to be God don't understand this passage at all.

Revelation 1:11 (NKJV)

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 [modern Turkey]: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."**

The number 7 is the number of completeness—7 days in a week; 7 notes in a scale; 7 colors in a rainbow etc.

Certainly, there were other larger and more important churches than these Jesus could have singled out like the church at Rome or Antioch or Jerusalem—why these?

It's because these 7 speak symbolically to the *complete* Church as a whole throughout the history of the Church Age from Pentecost to the Rapture—as we will clearly see when we study chapters 2 and 3.

Revelation 1:12-16 (NKJV)

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

This vision of Jesus that John saw and recorded in v.10-18 is very important because when Jesus dictates the 7 letters to the 7 churches of Asia Minor in chapters 2 and 3 (which again, represent all churches throughout the Church Age)—He begins each letter with something from this vision of Himself that pertains to something going on in that church—for example:

Revelation 2:1 (NKJV)

¹ "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the **seven stars** in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the **seven golden lampstands**: (1:13, 16)

Revelation 2:8 (NKJV)

⁸ "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the **First and the Last**, who was dead, and came to life: (1:17-18)

Revelation 2:12 (NKJV)

¹² "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the **sharp two-edged sword**: (1:16)

As we look at each of these remember that this vision of Jesus—is not *literal* but *symbolic*.

Artists have tried to paint a picture of Jesus from this passage and it looks grotesque—and that is because it is a vision of the glorified Christ—in *symbolic* form.

Revelation 1:12 (NKJV)

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

John saw **seven golden lampstands** (not 'candlesticks'—KJV), each one having a base, a single vertical stem, and a cup or bowl on top containing oil and a wick—an oil-burning "lamp."

Each lampstand represented a church (v. 20)—

Revelation 1:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ **...and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.**

Again, 7 is the number of completeness—so these 7 lampstands are representative of all Christian churches, and symbolize churches as the '*light*' of the world—

Matthew 5:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Philippians 2:14-16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

They are **golden** because gold was the most precious metal signifying that the church is to God—the most beautiful and valuable entity on earth!

Luke 16:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ ...For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

Revelation 1:13 (NKJV)

¹³ **and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man...**

This reminds us of Daniel's vision—

Daniel 7:13 (NKJV)

¹³ "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.

The term "**Son of Man**" is a Messianic phrase indicating that Jesus was born a Son of Adam (*Adam* means 'man' in the Hebrew)—in other words He is a member of the human race.

Why is that important—because the first man (Adam) plunged the human race into sin, slavery and separation from God and it would take a descendant of his ("Son of Man" or the "last Adam"), a flesh and blood human-being to redeem mankind.

Isaiah 53:5-6 (NKJV)

⁵ **But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.** ⁶ **All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**

Those verses succinctly and poignantly sum up the heart and foundation of the gospel—that without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness of sin.

And since sinners can't die for sinners—it would take the innocent dying for the guilty to make atonement for our sins.

And yet, everyone born into this world is a descendant of Adam and therefore born *with* sin on their soul resulting in physical and spiritual death (“*in Adam all die*”—1Cor.15:22).

For someone to die for sinners they would have to be a member of the human race (‘goel’—‘kinsman redeemer’) but sinless meaning they would have to be virgin born. (Explain how sin is passed from the father to the children)

“**and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man” (v.13)** is the fulfillment of the promise Jesus gave to His Church when He promised to always be with us (thru the indwelling Holy Spirit)—

Matthew 28:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ “...I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

Matthew 18:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV)

⁵ Let *your* conduct *be* without covetousness; *be* content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Revelation 1:13 (NKJV)

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 [sash].**

The first thing John noted about this vision of Jesus was that He was clothed in a **robe** that **reached down to His feet**—which is significant because these kinds of robes were worn by kings and prophets.

But the word translated “**robe**” was used most frequently in the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures completed in 270 BC—our Old Testament) to describe the robe worn by the High Priest.

The fact that He was “**girded across His chest with a golden sash**” reinforces that interpretation, since the High Priest in the Old Testament wore such a sash (Ex. 28:4; Lev. 16:4).

Jesus is our Great High Priest who offered Himself as the Lamb of God for our sins and who rose from the dead, ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father where He is now making intercession for us as our Great High Priest.

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ 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.

I think it best to see in this **long robe** Jesus in all of His divine offices: “Prophet, Priest and King/Judge”—they are all designations for Him.

Revelation 1:14a (NKJV)

¹⁴ His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow...

John’s description of Jesus’ head and hair as “**white like white wool and snow**”—is an obvious reference to Daniel 7:9, where similar language describes the Ancient of Days (God the Father)—

Daniel 7:9 (NKJV)

⁹ “I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment *was* white as snow, And the hair of His head *was* like pure wool. His throne *was* a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire;

The fact that Jesus and the Father share the same attributes shouldn’t surprise us since—They (along with the Holy Spirit) are the same God, Members of the Trinity—One God in 3 Persons.

The Greek word translated “**white**” has the connotation of “*bright,*” “*blazing,*” or “*brilliant.*”

In the Old Testament a man's white hair was a badge of honor denoting his being an elder in the community and possessing the wisdom that comes from having lived many years upon the earth.

When it is applied to God it denotes His eternal nature and wisdom—with also the thought of purity.

Revelation 1:14b (NKJV)
...and His eyes like a flame of fire;

The flaming fire in the eyes of Jesus speaks of His—searching, penetrating gaze with regard to the judgment of sin—

Hebrews 4:13 (NKJV)

¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.

Matthew 10:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ "Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

He searches out sin not only in the world—but also in His Church:

Revelation 2:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass...

Judgment begins at the House of God (the Church—1Peter 4:17).

Revelation 1:15a (NKJV)

¹⁵ His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace...

Kings in ancient times sat on elevated thrones, so that those being judged would always be *beneath* the king's feet.

The feet of a king thus came to symbolize his *authority*—but in particular his authority to judge.

We read that Jesus' feet were **“like bronze glowing in a furnace”**—the bronze altar in the temple was related to sacrifice for sin and divine judgment on it.

Revelation 1:15b (NKJV)

15 ...and His voice as the sound of many waters;

The **“sound of many waters” (v.15)** makes me think of Niagara Falls! (Explain)

The idea is that Jesus speaks with power and authority—and must be heard!

And yet so many are *‘dull or hard of hearing’* because of their sin and wicked lifestyles—God is speaking but they are not listening.

That's what judgment is—God shouting to get our attention!

(C.S. Lewis—*“God whispers in our pleasure but shouts in our pain.”*)

Today there is no King in America and so everyone is doing whatever seems right in their own eyes. (Explain)

Close