

Revelation 1:7-20

In the Last Days

John on isle of Patmos composing a final End Times message of the glorified Christ. Father-Son-Angel-John-us. John called the 'beloved disciple' one of 12 apostles who leaned on Jesus chest at Passover meal. Four times he id himself a John in book 1:1,4,9; 22:8. Early church fathers, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria & Tertullian & others recognized the Apostle John as author. W/in the fourth gospel & three letters his letters there are striking parallels between Revelation and these writings such as Jesus, the Word; Lamb; Witness; etc. Important if author is suspect then method & direction of transmission of what is written is also suspect. But it's not, it's a settled issue.

9 I, John, your brother & fellow partaker in the tribulation & kingdom & perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos, because of the word of God & the testimony of Jesus. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, & I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, 11 saying, "Write in a book what you see, & send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus & to Smyrna & to Pergamum & to Thyatira & to Sardis & to Philadelphia & to Laodicea."

*John is one of us 'brother' not untouchable, ivory tower, make you feel small-unimportant kind of leader.....I've had to go thru layers of secretaries, associates, assistances to get to the man-sooo important. **Least is greatest in K of G**....church....**God not respecter of persons**-He has no favorites, we all are His favorite/beloved. **Redpath**.*

Domitian Roman Eperor persecution 95 Ad, John & Christians persevering, bearing up under—trusting God, relaying on strength of Christ. Patmos a penal colony 35 mi SW Ephesus in Aegean sea. Volcanic island little smaller than Niihau. **Ancient Alcatraz**. Domitian set up images of worship as living god.....forced to say '**our lord and god**'

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In this world you shall have tribulation...be of good cheer I have overcome..

Blessed are you when persecuted for righteousness sake, rejoice for so they persecuted God's prophets...All who live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution 2Tim 3:12

He writes to encourage--tho imprisoned on barren isle of Patmos. Some of greatest revelations & times w/ the Lord come out of our bareness--Patmos experience. *Precious possession of a man is perseverance*

Lords day- Sunday or carried beyond normal senses--spiritual time capsule to day of Lord--events before us —*Paul/paradise; Peter/rooftop; Jesus-transfigured* —. Walvoord '*John projected to future day of the Lord*' vision of end of world & coming of Christ & new world

Trumpet -voice alert to action—*write* in book *biblion*--origin of word bible--scroll up to 15 feet long. Alpha/Omega KJV added by translators but not in earliest MMS

7 churches many more in Asia but this is complete picture of church: 1- local conditions, 2-historical conditions 7 church ages 3- contemporary conditions w/in each church age-Commendation & condemnation Apostolic to Apostate

12 And I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; 13 and in the middle of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His breast with a golden girdle. 14 And His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire; 15 and His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been caused to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. 16 And in His right hand He held seven stars; and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

John describes Jesus glorified-standing in midst of churches (*lampstands :20*)

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Son of Man Jesus often referred Himself (81x's in gospels) Imagery **not** literal but draws picture of Jesus. Metaphors & abstract symbols to illustrate & represent an actions or attributes of resurrected, glorified Jesus Christ.

Robe to feet-dignity, modesty & royalty contrast *Is 64:6* our '*filthy rags*'

Jesus garment is light *Ps 104:2* *You are dressed in a robe of light. You stretch out the heaven like a tent curtain.*

Golden girdle/belt/sash-H.P. had a gold thread--spoke of glory, purity *Is 11:5*

Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. Jesus--*all gold*--perfect, flawless righteousness and purity.

Hair white wisdom, maturity, purity--ancient of days *Dan 7:9* "*As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze.* **Prophetic Jesus as judge**

Eyes flame of fire- **purifying judgment** **Mal 3:2** "*But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderers' soap. No hiding when He appears* **Heb 4:13**- *Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Eyes that penetrate, see to the core & reality of things* **Hab 1:13** *Your eyes are too pure to look upon evil, & You cannot tolerate wrongdoing. So why do You tolerate the faithless? Why are You silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?* **Dan 10:6** *His body was like a precious stone, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming fires, his arms and legs like polished bronze, and his voice like the roaring of the sea.*

Feet burnished bronze-strength & stability—bronze metal of judgment, altar of sacrifice, all utensils in outer court, laver for washing, tongs, fire pans—all dealt w/ sin & sacrifice & typify judgment as He walks in midst of churches to evaluate, expose and chasten—**in world to judge**.

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Glowing in furnace-white hot bronze speaks of absolute pureness **Arc weld** can't look at white glow.

Voice many waters—**roar of Niagara falls**--awe inspiring, deafening - *Ps 29:5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. majestic, powerful*--none can answer back, argue or contend, *Lk 12:2,3 The time is coming when everything that is covered up will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. Whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be shouted from the housetops for all to hear! His word is final Ez 43:2 and I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east. His voice was like the roar of many waters, and the earth shone with His glory.* All that is said of Jesus here is said of Jehovah in OT.

Voice/tongue--symbol of God's word, His judicial authority **Jn 12:48** *He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him— the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. Heb 4:12* *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

Glorified Christ is the glory He had w/ the Father' ...in majesty, divine authority, His glory in connection w/ Last days events & how we and world will see Him. Not suffering savior but reigning King of Kings & Lord of Lords

Right hand-place of strength **7 stars** angels/messengers of churches **:20** *Angellos :20* same *Lk 9:52 'He sent messenger **angellos** ahead into Samaria'* *Dan 12:3 'Those w/ insight will shine like stars'* Jesus holds His messengers of the church, called by Him responsible for spiritual condition of church. **'No angel in heaven could be responsible for the state of the earthly church Jn MacArthur**

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Mouth two edged sword Heb 4:12 *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.* ... Ultimate truth-Final authority--that all rhetoric, opinions and controversies & falsehoods will be judged by Gods word 2Cor 1:20 *For all the promises of God in him are yea, & in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*

Face like sun shining 'He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature Heb 1:3 *Mt transfiguration* Mt 17:2 *His face shone like the sun and His garments became white as light..* Paul's conversion Acts 26:13 *'I saw a light from heaven brighter than the sun shining all around me'* Brightness blinded him....speaks of the brilliant glory of Christ.

17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as a dead man. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, 18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. 19 "Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things. 20 "As for 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 are the seven churches.

Seeing Jesus in His glory is to see our own wretchedness. Paul encounter '*wretched man that I am..* Isaiah 6:1 *I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple. 'I am a man of unclean lips & live among a people of unclean lips...Evan Roberts prayed 'bend me, bend me and when God answered the great Welsh revival resulted'*

WW 'what the church needs today is a new awareness of Christ and His glory. We need to see Him high and lifted up...there is a dangerous absence of awe and worship in our assemblies today'

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We need a healthy dose of the fear of the Lord. We've become too casual, developed unholy familiarity, sloppy agape, 'man upstairs' 'big cheese in the sky' 'my god enjoys a martini & 18 holes of golf' **2 Cor 5:16 ...even tho we've known Christ according to the flesh (humanity), yet now we know Him thus no longer**' Thomas '**my Lord and my God**'

Be not afraid—not slavish fear but awe inspiring. 1st & last tells of Jesus eternal Deity, He is the self existing one, He initiates & completes.

Dead and alive—lives continually **Heb 2:14 Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil;** Lk 23:42,43 **this day with me in paradise Because I live you shall live also Jn 14:19**

Jesus robbed Satan of his **power** robbed death of its **stings**, robbed grave of its **victory**. **Col 2:14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.1 Cor 15:55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"**

Keys death and hades power over Eph 4:8-10 8Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN." (Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

19 Key that unlocks the book-- Only book in bible w/ divine outline to accompany it so it is w/o confusion **1**-seen, glorified Christ **2**-are ch 2,3 church age Pentecost to rapture history & conditions **3**-metatauta what take place after these things---Anti-christ to coming of Jesus Christ Ch 4-22

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20 *mystery* a truth once hidden now divinely revealed

Angellos messengers-pastors those responsible for spiritual condition of flock. Who will give account ***Heb 13:17 17Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.***

Jesus holds, called by Him, responsible to Him, accountable for spiritual condition of church