

Have You Seen Jesus?

Revelation 1:9-20 ⁹I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea." ¹²Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴His head and hair were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. ¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. ¹⁹Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. ²⁰As for the mystery of the seven stars that 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.

❖ Intro:

- Let's Get to Know Jesus a little.... Through first 4 chapters of Rev
- Book of John

❖ Background (Brief look at the 1st 8 verses of this chapter)

- The Book of Revelation is the Revelation of Jesus Christ....
- He reveals these things to His servant John
- **A Blessing to those who read these words**
 - Revelation 1:3 ³Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.
 - Reads it aloud and hear it..... and keep what is written.... For The time is near....
 - That was 2000 years ago...

❖ John is writing an intro to something He has already just seen...

- And in this intro, you see how He views Jesus....
- And His viewpoint of Jesus is in direct correlation
 - To what He has just witnessed about Jesus....
 - That He is being commanded to write down....

Revelation 1:4-8 ⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. ⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

❖ Addresses and Greets His readers

- To the churches in Asia Minor...
 - 7 strategic churches in the area....
 - These churches are in the key cities of the area....

• SHOW THEM

- Grace and Peace to You
- From Jesus Christ

❖ From Jesus Christ (vs 5)

- Faithful Witness

- Firstborn of the Dead
- The Ruler of the kings on Earth
- ❖ **John Praises Him saying..... To Him ...**
 - Who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood....
 - ⁶And....made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father....
 - To him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen
- ❖ **Get Ready.... Get Ready (vs 7)**
 - He is coming with the clouds
 - Every eye will see him, even those who pierced Him
 - All the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.... Even so. Amen.
- ❖ **Jesus says:**
 - I am the Alpha and Omega, says the Lord God
 - “Who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.
- ❖ **What an Introduction!**
 - I get excited about seeing Jesus here...

⁹I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

- ❖ **John’s Predicament**
 - **In keeping with.....If you love Jesus.... Only good things happen to you....**
 - John is in prison.....
 - Identifies himself with them.... **Brother and partner in the tribulation and kingdom**
 - **Patient endurance that are in Jesus**
 - **On the Isle of Patmos...**
 - Big huge rock out in the middle of the Aegean Sea.... A little Northwest of Israel and North of Egypt
 - He is probably in his 90s by now....
 - Getting this revelation almost 60 years after He last saw Jesus...
 - **The Reason He is there....**
 - **Because of the Word of God...**
 - **The Testimony of Jesus....**
 - **Reason**
 - Because He was telling people that Jesus was God.... Preaching about Jesus....
 - So they put him in jail

¹⁰I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

- ❖ **He Hears Something**
 - **He was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day**
 - He knew it was Sunday.... The Lord’s Day,,,, the Day the church remembered the resurrection of Jesus
 - **Something Happened a little out of the ordinary...**
 - Within his spirit, by the Power of the Holy Spirit
 - He was transported somewhere else it seems...
 - **Voice like a trumpet....**
 - **He hears Jesus speaking to him....**
 - And he did not just hear it in his heart....
 - He hears it audibly.... Very loud and clear....
 - Trumpets are Very Loud Instruments.... So He hears a voice as loud as a trumpet
 - **He hears the very Powerful voice of God....**
 - And it says

➤ **Write what you see and send it to the seven churches....**

- He lists them....

❖ **He sees Jesus.....**

➤ **What is the point here this morning....**

- I want you to see Jesus....
- Deep within your Spirit.... As we read through and expound on these verses....
- See Jesus as John saw Him....

➤ **Don't make the Mistake**

- Of seeing these things in merely a physical sense.....
- This is an extraordinary Word Picture of Jesus...

➤ **Everything John sees is an explanation of Who Christ IS.....**

➤ **When we are able to see Jesus clearly....**

- We are more likely to Love Him as we should
- More able to serve him fully
- More able to see ourselves more clearly...
- More able to rid ourselves of the sin that clings to us
 - That entangles us so greatly. PRAYER HERE!

¹²Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.

❖ **Sees Jesus walking and working within the Church**

➤ **Seven Golden Lampstands**

- ²⁰As for the mystery of the seven stars that 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.
- **Lampstands are the churches.....**
 - The Christians church is described as a Lamp on a Hill....
 - ◆ To be shedding its light to those around it...
- **Golden...**
 - Royal nature of them.... Children of the King of Creation
- **7 churches**
 - Specific churches...
 - 7 is the number for completeness....also signifying the church as a whole

➤ **Jesus in the midst of them (Jesus promises to be with us...)**

- He is watching over them.... Working in them.... Giving them Strength.... Bringing correction and comfort....
- **Matt 28.20.... Behold I am with you, even to the end of the age...**
- **Heb 13.5 ...I will never leave you are forsake you..."**

➤ **In that Day and Today.... He wants His Church to See Him as He is.... Know who Jesus is!**

- **Later on in 2-3 you will see His introduction to each church is mostly**
 - Reintroducing himself in specific ways to each church
 - To Emphasize certain aspects of Himself to those churches...

❖ **Sees Jesus as a Son of Man**

➤ **Turns to see what is going on..... and as He looks....**

- He knows He is having some vision.... Maybe not sure what He is about to see....
- And He looks.... And He says.... **"hey... it looks like a human.... Like a person.... Like a son of Adam..."**

➤ **Sees Him as the Son of Man**

- I want you to see the magnificence of this....

➤ **Son of Man had become a title for the Messiah.... For the Anointed One... For the Son of God**

- We see it when Shadrach, Mechac and Abednego are thrown into a fire for not worshipping false gods in babylon....
 - Someone like a Son of Man was in there to deliver them....

- We see Him in **Daniel 7** and He is given all Dominion and authority over all things....
- **It is an emphasis of Something Supernaturally wonderful and meaningful for you and me.....**
 - God is identifying Himself with us....
 - He made us in His image....
 - And then.... He takes all of His glory and power and places it within the God-Man Jesus....
 - **He doesn't identify himself with:**
 - The greatest of animals....
 - The great angels
 - Or Cherubims
 - Or Seraphims....
 - Or anything else of His great creation....
- **He identifies Himself with man....**
 - And John sees Jesus....
 - Initially here.... In the same way that he came....
 - As a son of man...
- **Jesus wants to emphasize His Human nature**
 - There is no mistaking He is God....
 - So we see Jesus as a Son of Man here...
- **WOW.... Right..... ?**
 - We are special to Him.... We are His prized creation.... He humbled Himself for us....
 - Dies for us...
 - Conquers for us
 - Prepares a place for us....
 - And will cause us to dwell with Him....
- **Ultimately.... All of this brings the greatest of glory to Him....**

❖ **Sees Jesus as our Priest (Sees Jesus as interceding on our behalf)**

- **Sees Him clothed with a long Robe with a golden sash**
 - John is clearly trying to portray what he sees to shows us Christ's Priestly functions...
 - The Robe could signify His righteous Character...
 - But the golden sash immediately identifies Him with the Priests of the O.T.
 - And the O.T. system of Priests and sacrifices were merely a shadow of heavenly things...
- **Jesus wants us to know He is our Priest....**
 - What is a priest....? Isn't He someone that is a go between man and God...
 - His job is to make prayers for people
 - To offer sacrifices for people...
 - Here we see Jesus in this role
- **Romans 8:34 ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.**
- **Because Jesus is our Priest....**
 - He takes all our cares and concerns and needs to the Father....
- **Heb 4 teaches that Jesus is our High Priest...**
 - He sympathizes with us because He was tempted like we were, yet without sin
 - Because of who He is, Hebrews 4 teaches us that we can
 - **....approach the throne of grace with confidence (boldness), and receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need. Heb 4.16**
- **We need to see Him like this within our hearts**

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

❖ **Sees Jesus as the Eternal, Wise and Holy God**

- **Head and Hair were white**
 - White – Meaning blazing or brilliant

- The Hair and Head being this color symbolizes his Great Wisdom...Also His Eternality
- **Clear Reference to God the Father in Daniel 7.... John sees the same thing that Daniel saw...**
 - Here the Ancient of Days is Pictured...
 - Daniel 7:9⁹ "As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire.
 - **God makes it clear there is no one like Him...**
 - (I want you to see John sees Jesus as Eternal God)
 - He does not just see some highly exalted created being
 - **God makes it clear there is no one like Him**
 - Isaiah 46:9⁹ remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me,
 - When we see Jesus with the same attributes as the Father....
 - It is a clear affirmation that He Is God
- **We need to see Him like this within our hearts**

His eyes were like a flame of fire,

❖ Sees Jesus as all Knowing

- Hebrews 4:13¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.
- **Why do we try to hide our sin from God....**
 - And if we are not trying to hide it.... Are we trying mock God with it...
- **Jesus is revealing Himself to the Church in this picture of Himself as**
 - The One who knows all things, and sees all things....
- **His Sight is Penetrating and Refining**
 - Fire is used here to describe the depth of His gaze...
 - Not only does He see it, but He sees the rightness and wickedness of our deeds....
 - With His eyes He is able to make proper judgments...
- **Oh How We need to See Jesus like this Individually and as a Church!**

¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace,

❖ Sees Jesus as the Great and Powerful Judge

- **Literally could be.... As gleaming brass glowing in a furnace...**
- **The feet are a symbol of judgment...**
 - Things are placed under the feet of the King... meaning He rules over them
 - Psalm 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."
- **The Church should see this two ways...**
 - **1) For the Church Jesus is watching over us and will discipline us...**
 - Heb tells us not to "take lightly the discipline of the Lord"
 - So the church needs to realize we are UNDER Jesus
 - Jesus Will put us through the fire to test our deeds to see if they are good or evil...
 - **2) The Church is comforted knowing He is Over all....**
 - No matter what comes our way.... Jesus will judge, He will rule over it all...
 - We gain great Hope
 - He will One day put an End to all Sin and Rebellion of Man
- **This Judgment**
 - Is a perfect one...
 - As He sees with His flaming eyes that penetrate into even the thoughts of man....
 - He then executes His judgment with Power and Perfection
 - Malachi 3.2 pictures Jesus as a "refiner sitting before His fire"

and his voice was like the roar of many waters.

❖ **Sees Jesus as the Great Authority (what He says..... it happens...)**

- Ezekiel 43:2 ² And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east. And the sound of his coming was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with his glory.
 - Ezekiel sees God in this same way in His visions...
- **The Voice of Authority**
 - The Voice that spoke the world into existence
 - The voice that called Lazarus out of the grave
 - The Voice that will one day call all men out of their graves
- **I Sometimes like to think of myself as having some authority...**
 - But my thinking quickly ends with my kids...
 - If there is one thing I should have power and authority over.... It is my children...
 - And 90% of the time my children listen to me when I speak....
 - But sometimes... It doesn't matter how loud I get.... They will do their own thing...
 - I have to get really loud sometimes.... And when I do have to raise my voice.... It catches their attention
- **Jesus Speaks and it is done**
 - When Our Great God and Savior speaks...
 - The World will stop to listen.... They will have no choice
- **We need to see Jesus as the great Authority this morning**

¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars,

❖ **Sees Jesus in Control of His Church**

- **The stars are the Messengers of the churches.... Vs 20**
 - ²⁰the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches,
- **Your version may read Angels....**
 - But the word is translated Messenger.... And He is referring to their Pastors
 - The Meaning does extend to leaders, those who watch over the church
- **He holds them in His Right Hand....**
 - He is in control over them...
 - He will lead them and guide them...
 - He will discipline them....
 - It is important that these men be Spiritually Healthy Men....
- **His control Extends into the church...**
 - Jesus Is in Control of His church.....
 - And He will give blessings, allow trials, or bring judgment to the church
 - Wow.... This is a bit scary isn't it?
 - He knows if your Pastor is where He needs to be....
 - He knows if the people find His word important...
 - He knows how you love each other, or don't
 - He knows if you stir up trouble or talk unkindly of others....
- **We need to see Jesus like this!**

from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword,

❖ **Sees Jesus as Protector of His People**

- Hebrews 4:12 ¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
- **Protects the Church against inward attacks**
 - Those who desire to cause the church to follow false doctrines...

- **Protects the Church against outward attacks**
 - The order of the devil that wants to destroy the church of God
 - His Word will be the instrument of their downfall
 - **Revelation 19:15¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron.**
 - **John 12:48⁴⁸ The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.**

and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

❖ **Sees the Glory of Jesus**

- **You ever looked up at the sun on a good clear day... especially in the summer**
 - It is almost unbearable to look upon....
 - Maybe a quick glance, but that is it...
- **John sees the Glory of Jesus...**
 - ...like the sun shining in full strength....
- **Signifies that Jesus:**
 - Is glorified....
 - And will be glorified through His church, and His work....
- **We have no idea what glory is....**
 - It is impossible to relate this to us....
 - But Jesus will have all glory
- **The sight of the glory of Christ**
 - Brings men to repentance, and service
- **We must see Jesus as John saw Him in His glory...**

❖ **John and Jesus Relationship**

- They were friends....
- John describes himself at least 5x in Gospel of John as... “The disciple Jesus loved”
- Ate with Jesus... Talked with and learned from
- Relaxed with Jesus....
- Saw Jesus crucified and resurrected.....
 - So John’s response is in some way surprising, but not so much

¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.

❖ **John sees Jesus as He Is.... And quickly realizes His own unworthiness**

- **Fell at those feet of judgment as though dead....**
 - With no power... no hope of strength....
 - As a dead man....
 - I am pretty sure this is the proper response to seeing the glorified Jesus....
 - This happens because the created man sees
 - The nature of Jesus....
 - He quickly realizes His inability to stand before such a Holy One as God
- **Others had this response**
 - **Isaiah 6**
 - Isaiah pronounced a curse on himself... calling himself unclean
 - **Ezekiel**
 - 5 times God caused Ezekiel to fall on His face
 - **Daniel**
 - **Daniel 10:8⁸ So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength.**

- **Job's response was to repent.... He had heard of Him, but then He saw Him... and it changed Him**
- **Habakkuk questioned God, and God displayed His power before him**
 - This caused Habakkuk's lips to quiver.... His body trembled... and rottenness entered his bones
- **Why is our response to God so....**
 - Irreverant?

But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not I am the first and the last,¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

❖ **Jesus Restores John**

- **Lays His right on Him and tells him 'Fear not'**
 - I know how you see yourself....
 - I know... even now.... Knowing all you know....
 - You still see your humanness...
 - You see your fallen nature in my presence....
 - You see your sin.....
 - **But there is no reason to fear**
 - You do not have to worry about your sin....
 - And this is why.... Don't you remember
- **I am the First and the Last –**
 - **I am Eternal.... There is nothing before me, and will be nothing after me...**
- **The living One**
 - Do not die before me... I am the living one....
- **I died and behold I am alive forevermore**
 - Remember.... I died, then came back to life....My death brings you life, and covers your sin
 - Remember, if you are mine, you will be with me
- **I have the Keys of Death and Hades**
 - Death has no power over you....
- **Sure your in prison.... And you see your sin... and the church is getting persecuted....**
 - Don't worry about all that stuff....
 - Remember who I am

¹⁹Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.

❖ **John is commanded to write**

- Past, present and future....
- If you do not understand this is the pattern, you would never understand this book....
- A book to bring Hope and Comfort to a suffering church....
- One that needed to be Reminded of Who Jesus is...
 - And still needs to be reminded....

❖ **Come see Jesus today**