

The Vision of the Glorified Christ

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I. Introduction

A. Text: Revelation 1.

B. Circumstances of this vision.

1. The Apostle John wanted to identify with the persecution of the churches.
2. Conquest and commerce was driving the Roman Empire during this period.
3. John was banished to the island of Pat Moss.

C. Reasons that Rome persecuted the church.

1. The church was militant in their faith. Rome tolerated nothing that was militant.
2. Christians demanded universal obedience to Jesus rather than the Caesar.
3. They refused to bow down to idols.
4. They were looked upon as cannibals because the Romans heard about them talking about the Lord's Supper.
5. They offended those who trafficked in idols. (Acts 29:24)
6. Christians were usually poor and among the slaves whom the rich looked down upon.
7. They refused Emperor worship.

D. The Spirit took John to a place that he was not capable of going by himself. (II Corinthians 12, Revelation 1:10)

E. The Lord's Day does not necessarily refer to Sunday.

F. We cannot really say that John received all of this revelation on one day.

G. The Lord's Day refers to the coming judgment of God.

H. The trumpet sound was always a signal of something important. (Matthew 24, I Thessalonians 4)

I. John is writing a revelation to the seven churches of Revelation.

II. The content of the message.

A. This is the only description of what Jesus looked like in the Bible. We see Him and all of His glory.

B. The seven lamp stands were lamp stands symbolic of the church. God intervenes in history to give His revelation of the future to the church.

C. In the middle of the lamp stands was one like a Son of Man.

1. This phrase is used of Jesus 83 times in the gospels.

2. Jesus was baptized in order to identify Himself with sinful mankind.

3. Jesus was veiled in human flesh so that He could relate to man. Now Jesus is unveiled before John. He is both priest and judge.

4. The symbolic imagery indicates His purity and His omniscience. He is both intercessor and judge. (Ephesians 2)

D. The seven stars represent the pastors of the churches.

E. The sword that comes out of Jesus' mouth indicates the judgment that will come upon the churches. The message of Jesus Christ never gets old. It is eternal.

F. John's response to standing before Jesus was worshiping Him. When we see Jesus, all we will be able to do is bow down before Him.

G. Jesus response to John was to say not to be afraid. He touched him.

H. Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega. Without Jesus, no one is going to heaven.

I. Jesus promises every believer a reward reserved in heaven.

J. Jesus is the ruling and reigning Lord, and He deserves our all.

Application questions:

1. How would you characterize the early church?

2. How would you characterize Jesus according to the picture created in Revelation 1?

3. Why is it important to understand Jesus as judge? Explain.
