

August 31, 2010

REVELATION 1:9-20

THE EXALTED SON OF MAN



Text (ESV and *VMT*)- 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 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. ¹⁴The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵his feet were like *fiery burnished bronze*, 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 *appearance was like the sun when it shines in its full power*.

¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "*Stop fearing*, 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.

-
- v9- **"the tribulation"**- reference to the persecution under Domitian
"Patmos"- an island off the coast of Miletus (south of Ephesus)
- v10- **"in spirit"**- four times in Rev. (1:10, 4:2, 17:3, 21:10). Vision like that of Paul (2 Cor. 12:1-6)
"Lord's Day"- Sunday, the day of the Resurrection
"voice like a trumpet"- Ezekiel 3:12
- v11- **"seven churches"**- NOT to be interpreted as seven eras of church history. These are actual cities with churches that form an easy circuit for a messenger to travel
- v12- **"seven golden lampstands"**- the seven churches (Rev 1:20). The Church as light- Matt 5:14-16
+ Exodus 25:37- The Menorah in the Tabernacle has 7 lamps on it
+ Zechariah 4:2-10
- v13- **"one like a son of man"**- Daniel 7:9-14- Ancient of Days = God the Father, Son of Man= God the Son. "Son of Man" is Jesus' favorite self-designation in the gospels. Here, the one like a son of man has the qualities of the Ancient of Days in Daniel 7. **What does this mean?**
"Long Robe" and **"Golden Sash"**- the robe is the word for the High Priest's robe, the sash on the chest is a symbol of royalty (1 Maccabees 10:89, 14:44). Also read: Dan. 10:5-6, Zech. 3:4
- v14- **"The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow"**- Dan 10:6, symbol for a crown of splendor and righteous wisdom (Prov. 16:31, 20:29)
Brighton: "The whiteness of the Ancient of Days (Dan 7) has been transferred to the victorious Christ." We'll see this again in Rev. 5:11-14
"His eyes were like a flame of fire"- Dan 10:6, in OT fire purifies and destroys evil
- v15- **"His feet were like fiery burnished bronze"**- Dan 10:6, Bronze symbolizes the strength that conquers enemies (Dan. 2:33). **What does this mean?**
"his voice was like the roar of many waters"- Ezek. 43:2
- v16- **"Right hand"**- Isaiah 41:10
"seven stars"- the seven "angels" → the Greek word "angelos" means "messenger"
Two possibilities for who these seven angels are:
1) They are spirit messengers who represent churches God's throne (Hebrews 1:14, Matthew 18:10)
2) They are human, earthly messengers who share God's message ("gospel" is euangelion)
"from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword"- Heb 4:12, Is. 49:2, 27:1, Josh 5:13-15
"his appearance was like the sun when it shines in its full power"- Malachi 4:2, Matthew 17:2

Here we have Jesus revealing himself to John using the images of Daniel's Son of Man, exalted with the glory of the Ancient of Days, along with images from Isaiah, Zechariah, and Malachi. What are Jesus and John telling the 1st century persecuted Christians? (hint: who were the Church's two main enemies?)

- v17- **"I fell at his feet as though dead"**- Isaiah 6:5, Dan 8:17
"Stop fearing, I am the First and the Last"- *The Lutheran Study Bible* says that first and last are more or less synonyms for Alpha and Omega. NO! Alpha and Omega is an expression of eternalness distinct and apart from creation. This would offer no comfort to the trembling John! *Brighton: The first and the last refers to the eternalness of Christ's relationship to his bride, the church.* Is 44:6-8, 48:12- God is our first and last covenantal partner!
- v18- **"the living one"**- OT "living God" distinguished Yahweh from the idols. Being the Living One, Jesus can impart Life to his bride, the Church.
"I died, and behold I am alive forevermore"- one of the only straightforward statements here!
"I hold the key to Death and Hades"- let's read about another set of keys- Matthew 16:13-19

The Son of Man and The Lamb of God in Revelation

"The book of Revelation generally presents the Lord Christ as either the Son of Man or the Lamb of God. When he appears as the Son of Man, it is fearful to contemplate him, for as such he is the judge of all the human race on behalf of God the Father (Rev 19:11-16; Jn 5:22-27)...When however he appears as the Lamb, it is to his own people only and there is no fear. God's people can stand before him in his love as ones washed in his blood (Rev 7:9-17)" (Brighton, p. 53)

JESUS AS KING IN HIS TRANSFIGURATION, RESURRECTION, ASCENSION, APPEARANCE IN REV. 1 AND FINALLY AT HIS SECOND COMING

Similarities:

Dressed in white, glory in the cloud, brightness and shining like the sun, glorified as God yet true man, the voice and sound of God and angels, the reaction of falling down on the ground before him, initial fear and then he takes it away with his peace, always connected to his death on the cross, given a glimpse here on earth of what it will be like in heaven!

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Wednesday Sept. 1- CTSFW Seminary Admissions Counselor at Trinity Lutheran Church
from 4:30 – 7:30pm

Bring your questions about Pastoral Ministry, Diaconal Ministry, and Masters of Arts in Theology

Saturday Sept. 4- **LSF Tailgating (OU vs. Utah State) game time 6pm**

Tuesday Sept. 7- 6:30 **LSF "First Tuesday" Mexican Dinner, 7:30 Bible Study**

Meet at Vicar's house, bring your friends!

Saturday Sept. 11- 10am-Noon, First **ESL class** at the Forum

This is a great way to serve our international students and help them improve their English skills, we always need volunteers to help with registration and conversation groups. It meets every Saturday at this time.

Tuesday Sept. 14- 6:30 **Free Pizza, 7:30 Bible Study @ Vicar's House**

Sunday Sept. 19- 3-5:30pm- OK District Campus Ministry Leader's Meeting

We will be planning the Spring retreat (April 1-2) and discussing ways to improve each other's campus ministry. Give your ideas to Vicar, John, Kurt, or Meredith.

Tuesday Sept. 21- - 6:30 **Free Pizza, 7:30 Bible Study @ Vicar's House**