

"The Vision"

Part 7

Revelation 1:9-20

Introduction: Today we return to our study of the book of Revelation and we have currently been looking at the vision in Revelation 1:9-20. It is in this vision where John was permitted to see Jesus Christ in all of His glory. The glory of Jesus Christ was as the sun shining in its strength and He was clothed in His high Priestly garment. His eyes were as a flame of fire and His feet as fine brass as if they burned in a furnace. His voice was like a trumpet and as the sound of many waters. His head and His hairs were white like wool and He held in His right hand 7 stars which represented the 7 churches.

Today we are going to look at how this vision of Jesus Christ in all of His glory impacted John. But before we get into our text today let me just remind you of something which needs to remain at the front of our minds at all times.

Every person who is hearing my voice will one day stand before Jesus Christ in all of His glory.

Hebrews 9:27

²⁷ And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

This verse is very clear that every person will one day stand before the Creator and be judged.

John 5:22

²² For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

All judgment will be carried out by Jesus Christ. He will one day judge the saved.

2 Corinthians 5:10

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Jesus will also one day judge the unsaved.

Revelation 20:11-13

¹¹ *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

¹² *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

¹³ *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

So the point I want you to understand is that every person will one day stand before Jesus Christ in all of His glory. Let us now get to our text today.

I. The Collapse

Notice Revelation 1:17a

When John saw the Jesus Christ in the fulness of His glory he immediately collapsed at His feet and was motionless just as a dead man. John was literally terrified in the presence of Jesus Christ. We will come back to this thought but let me take you to some other Scriptures first.

In my studies I searched the Bible for others who were exposed to the glory of God and I want to share what I found.

Ezekiel was also exposed to the glory of God when he was given a vision.

Ezekiel 1:26-28

²⁶ *And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.*

²⁷ *And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about.*

²⁸ *As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, **I fell upon my face**, and I heard a voice of one that spake.*

Daniel 10:7-10

⁷ *And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves.*

⁸ Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.

⁹ Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground.

¹⁰ And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands.

Habakkuk 3:3-4, 16a

³ God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise.

⁴ And his brightness was as the light; he had horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power.

¹⁶ When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself,

Isaiah 6:1-5

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

² Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

³ And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

⁴ And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

⁵ Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone: because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

Isaiah believed he would die because he saw the glory of God.

Matthew 17:5-6

⁵ While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

⁶ And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.

Why was this the response of those who have been exposed to the glory of the Lord? The reason is because when someone is exposed to the glory of the Lord there are 2 things which are brought directly before them.

1. The Holiness of God.

2. **Their own sinfulness.**

Now let me get you back to Revelation again. This is interesting that John fell at Jesus feet as a dead man. Let me tell you why. John was the disciple whom Jesus loved. He was the one who was the closest to the Lord of all the disciples. He was the man whom Jesus entrusted the care of His mother too at the cross. John had a place in the close circle of friends but he chose to go beyond all others and he stepped deeper than all the others into his relationship with Jesus Christ.

So here is the one man on the earth who was the closest to Jesus and when he comes before Him in all of His glory he falls down as a dead man!

Application:

I have heard people over the years who were upset with the path which God had given them to walk in life and I heard some of them make the statement that when they see God they are going to have many questions for Him.

Let me just say when we enter into the presence of our glorified Lord there will not be one question asked by us to Him. Let me show you what the Apostle Paul said concerning the judgment of believers.

2 Corinthians 5:10-11

¹⁰ *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

¹¹ ***Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.***

Paul had an idea what it would be like to stand in the presence of the glorified Christ. How did he know?

Acts 9:3-6

³ *And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:*

⁴ *And **he fell to the earth**, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?*

⁵ *And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.*

⁶ ***And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?***

Let me ask you a question, "What will it be like for you to stand in the presence of the glorified Lord?"

It will NOT be like meeting an old friend! He is holy and righteous and we are sinners!

Today there are people who have claimed to have some kind of supernatural experience where they met Jesus Christ. Then they come back and they write a book. But have you ever noticed that not one person describes His presence as an experience that paralyzed them with fear?

That tells me that either their experience was not accurate or the Bible is wrong and I can assure you that the Bible is not wrong!! Experience does not and never will override the Truth of God's Word!!

Back to Revelation, John collapsed when he was exposed to the glory of Jesus Christ.

II. The Comfort

Notice Revelation 1:17b-18

John was very much afraid. Let me read for you what one Bible teacher states about FEARING God.

"Today we are so cavalier in our attitude toward the Maker of a myriad of galaxies! We, who dare not even touch a 60-watt light bulb without wearing protective gloves, often treat Him as our "Genie on call." We haven't the slightest notion or appreciation of His holiness, even daring to think that worship is about pleasing us—expressing our dislike if the music is not to our taste or we are unable to drink coffee during the "worship service." How much we are in need of a glimpse of His glory that we might have a Scriptural fear of the Lord!"

Jesus laid His hand on John and what He said here is so very important. Three times Jesus used the title I AM. This is a statement of Deity. The title I AM HE THAT LIVETH is the same as saying, "I AM THE LIVING ONE or THE LIVING GOD". This is a clear declaration of Jesus Deity meaning that He is God.

Psalm 42:1-2

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

² *My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?*

Psalm 84:2

² *My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.*

These are just 2 verses and there are many more. But there is more here.

When Jesus says that I am He that LIVETH and was dead and I am alive forevermore, He is making a REDEEMPTIVE statement. He is basically saying to John, "I am the One who died for you and was buried and now I am alive forevermore so you do not need to fear."

Application:

We who know Jesus Christ as our Savior need not fear the Lord. He has died and paid the penalty for our sins and He is alive forevermore as our Great High Priest.

Romans 5:8-10

⁸ *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

⁹ *Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*

¹⁰ *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

Hebrews 7:23-25

²³ *And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:*

²⁴ *But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.*

²⁵ *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

III. **The Command**

Notice Revelation 1:19

Here is the outline for the entire letter.

February 5, 2017

AM Service

1. The things which he had seen. (This very vision Revelation1)
2. The things which are. (The letters to the 7 churches Revelation 2-3)
3. The things which shall be hereafter. (Revelation 4-22)

John was to make known the Revelation given to him.

Conclusion:

The very same command is given to us.

Mark 16:15

¹⁵ *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*