

"The Vision"

Part 2

Revelation 1:9-20

Introduction: Today as we come back to our study in the book of Revelation we are again coming to chapter 1:9-20. It is in these verses where John describes the vision which he saw while he was on the Island of Patmos. The passage before us is one of great importance and as I had said the last time there is not another passage which can compare with what is in front of us. This passage describes for us Jesus Christ in all of His glory. The only other passage which would be comparable would be Revelation 19 when Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation.

Notice Revelation 1:9

John was on the island because of his stand on the Word of God and because his testimony concerning the Word of God.

Patmos was an island used by the Roman Empire for the punishment of criminals. It was basically a rock covered island full of marble about 10 miles long and 6 miles wide. It was the Alcatraz of Rome. The criminals would be sent to Patmos and placed under hard labor which consisted of mining the marble. They were forced to live in a cave and given little food and clothing. John was sent there in 95 AD under the Emperor Domitian.

It was in this dark situation that John was permitted to see this amazing vision from God.

Application:

I need to just remind you that it is in the darkest of valleys that the greatest spiritual Truth is discovered. Let me remind you what God said concerning Cyrus.

Isaiah 45:1-3

Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;

² *I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:*

³ *And **I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places,** that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.*

Notice Revelation 1:10-12

John had a supernatural experience while on the island as the Spirit transported him far into the future into what is known as "The Day of the Lord" here John describes it as "The Lord's Day".

John heard a voice which sounded like a trumpet which would have been a piercing voice. This was the voice of the *Glorified Savior*. John was commanded to write what he was shown in a book and pass it on to the 7 churches listed here.

Now 7 is the number of perfection or completeness and these 7 churches here represent the COMPLETE Church/body of Jesus Christ. This letter is not just for the 7 churches listed here but for all True churches of Jesus Christ.

As John heard the voice he turned to see where it came from and he saw 7 golden candlesticks.

Notice Revelation 1:20

Here we see that the candlesticks represent the 7 churches and rightly so because the Jesus said the church is now the light of the world. We looked at this last week and now we have come to where we are in our study today.

I. **The Vision**

Part 2

A. **The Position of Jesus Christ**

Notice Revelation 1:13a

The first thing we need to see is the position of Jesus Christ in reference to these churches. John tells us Jesus is in the midst.

This is a picture of the location of Jesus Christ in reference to the church today. We can be sure that Jesus Christ is in the midst of us.

There is great comfort in this thought when we slow down and really consider what John says here.

Hebrews 13:5

⁵ *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

Psalm 37:25-28

²⁵ *I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.*

²⁶ *He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.*

²⁷ *Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore.*

²⁸ *For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.*

Isaiah 41:10, 17

¹⁰ *Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.*

¹⁷ *When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.*

Isaiah 43:1-3a

But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

² *When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*

³ *For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:*

No matter what we face or where we are at Jesus will NEVER leave us. He is here when we gather in worship and he is with you when you face the trials away from here. We are Hid church and He has promised that we will never be abandoned.

B. The Present Ministry of Jesus Christ

Now as we move on in this vision we will see the PRESENT ministry of our Lord.

Notice Revelation 1:13b

Here we see that Jesus has upon Him a long garment down to His feet and he has upon Him a golden sash. Let me show you how the high priest in the Old Testament was dressed.

Exodus 29:5

⁵ *And thou shalt take the garments, and put upon Aaron the coat, and the robe of the ephod, and the ephod, and the breastplate, and gird him with the curious girdle of the ephod:*

So here in Revelation 1:13 we see Jesus Christ in His office of High Priest. So what does this mean to you and me?

Let me answer this by explaining the responsibilities of the high priest in the Old Testament.

1. **He was to dress the lampstands.**

Exodus 30:7-8

⁷ *And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it.*

⁸ *And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations.*

One of the responsibilities of the high priest was to be sure the lamps in the Holy Place were trimmed and burning brightly.

Application:

In verse 20 we were able to see that the candlesticks here in John's vision were the churches. So as Jesus Christ is in the middle of the candlesticks/churches one of His ministries is to be sure that we shine for Him in the midst of this world.

This means that Jesus is active within our lives and He is constantly working to trim from our lives that which causes our light to be hidden.

Let me put a few passages together for you.

Matthew 5:14-16

¹⁴ *Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*

¹⁵ *Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.*

¹⁶ *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

Our light is to shine so that the world can see our light but sometimes we allow things in which cover the light.

John 15:1-2

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

² *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

Let me connect another passage with this thought.

James 1:2-4

² *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*

³ *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

⁴ *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

It is the ministry of our Lord to prune/trim from our lives that which hides our light. This is often done through the trials of this life.

1 Thessalonians 3:1-3

Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone;

² *And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:*

³ *That no man should be moved by these afflictions: **for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.***

Now let us consider another responsibility of the high priest.

2. He was to intercede for the people.

The high priest would enter into the Holy of Holies once a year on the Day of Atonement. He would offer the blood of the sacrifice upon the mercy seat for the sins of the people. Therefore he interceded for the people of Israel.

Application:

Now Jesus died 2000 years ago and as our Great High Priest He entered into the presence of God and with His blood He paid the penalty for sins. He then rose from the dead and He ascended to the right hand of the Father where He serves today as our Great High Priest.

There in the presence of the father He intercedes for us today as the Accuser points to our faults every single day.

Revelation 12:10

¹⁰ *And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*

The point is we are perfect in POSITION but not in PRACTICE. So when we fail Satan brings our failures before God but we have in the presence of God a Great High Priest.

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.*

Let me show you how important Jesus' present ministry is as our Great High Priest.

Romans 5:10

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.*

Let me show you one more place where we see the importance of Jesus present ministry.

John 11:25-26

²⁵ *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:*

²⁶ *And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.*

Conclusion:

This vision which John recorded has much for us to learn. Within this vision there is much comfort for our lives today.