

"The Vision"

Part 3

Revelation 1:9-20

Introduction: Today we are continuing our study of Revelation and we are currently in Revelation 1:9-20. In these verses we are looking at the vision which John was given by God. Now in this vision he sees Jesus Christ in all of His glory. Let me show you what it was that we looked at last week.

I. **The Vision**

Part 3

A. **The Position of Jesus Christ**

Notice Revelation 1:12-13a

Here we were able to see the POSITION of our Lord in the vision. He was in the midst of the 7 candlesticks and we know that the 7 candlesticks are the 7 churches which represent the complete church of Jesus Christ. Therefore we can conclude that Jesus is ever in the midst of His people.

B. **The Present Ministry of Our Lord**

Notice Revelation 1:13

Last week we looked at this verse and we were able to see this is Jesus dressed as our Great High Priest. This is His current ministry to serve as our High Priest. Last week we looked at 2 responsibilities of the high priest.

1. **To trim the lamps.**

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.*

2. **To intercede for the people.**

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.*

His now brings us to where we are today.

Notice Revelation 1:14

We can see 3 points of ministry concerning our Lord within this verse. Let us remember that as we examine our Lord in the midst of the candlesticks we are seeing Jesus in His present ministry within the church.

The white head and hair speak of WISDOM and PURITY. I want to take some time and consider both of these.

1. He is the Source of Wisdom to the Church.

This verse reminds me of what Daniel also recorded.

Daniel 7:9

⁹ *I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.*

In the Bible white hair is the sign of wisdom and honor. So the white head and hair speak of the wisdom of our Lord. Let me give you a foundation for a thought.

Colossians 1:14, 18

¹⁴ *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

¹⁸ *And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*

Jesus Christ is the Head of the church and it is from the HEAD of the body that we are to get the wisdom which we need as we pass through this world. His present ministry is to give to us the wisdom we need.

James 1:5

⁵ *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

Job 28:

¹² *But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding?*

¹³ *Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living.*

¹⁴ *The depth saith, It is not in me: and the sea saith, It is not with me.*

¹⁵ *It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof.*

¹⁶ *It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire.*

¹⁷ *The gold and the crystal cannot equal it: and the exchange of it shall not be for jewels of fine gold.*

¹⁸ *No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies.*

¹⁹ *The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold.*

²⁰ *Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding?*

²¹ *Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the fowls of the air.*

²² *Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears.*

²³ *God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof.*

Jesus Christ is our Source of wisdom and we are to look to Him for the wisdom which we need as we face the decisions of life.

2. He is working to purify His church.

Not only do the white hair and the white head speak of wisdom but it also speaks of PURITY.

Now POSITIOPNALLY in Christ we are perfect.

Hebrews 10:14

¹⁴ *For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

This describes our POSITION but our PRACTICE does not match our position and for that reason our Lord is working to PURIFY our lives every single day.

Philippians 1:6

⁶ *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

Now let me show you some verses.

Isaiah 48:10

¹⁰ *Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.*

Isaiah 1:25

²⁵ *And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:*

Proverbs 25:4

⁴ *Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer.*

Our Lord takes us through difficult times in order to purge away the dross from our lives. Let me show you another verse.

Malachi 3:3a

³ *And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver:*

I heard a man tell a story connected to this verse. He said there was a ladies Bible study and they were planning to study this verse the next time they came together. So one of the ladies decided she would visit a silver smith to ask him some questions about his work. She asked him to explain how he refined the silver.

He explained to her that he placed the silver in the fire and then he would sit and he would watch. He told her that he had to be very careful that the silver did not get too hot for then its quality would be compromised.

The lady began to glow and she said that explains Malachi 3:3 when it says that God shall sit as a Refiner and a Purifier of silver. She could not wait to get to the study and share with the other ladies what she had discovered and explain to them that God watches very carefully when we are in the fire of affliction and He CONTROLS the heat of the fire.

But just as she was ready to leave the silver smith said there was more. He told her that there was a way in which he could tell when the silver was perfectly refined. He explained that when the silver was perfectly refined he was able to see his reflection in the silver.

Now let me bring this into our lives for a moment.

Application:

God allows you and me to go through the furnace of affliction and it can be very painful. But we must know that He is the One who CONTROLS the heat. He can turn the heat up or He can turn the heat off. Now we must also understand that just as the silver smith's goal is to see his reflection in the silver so it is God's purpose to refine us so that He can see His reflection within us. You see there are many things in this life that keep the Christ from being seen in us so God must expose us to the furnaces of affliction in order to burn away the dross from our lives and it is then that Jesus can be seen in us.

Now let us get back to Revelation again.

Notice Revelation 1:14 again.

John tells us at the end of this verse that Jesus eyes were as a flame of fire. Fire in God's Word speaks of judgment.

1 Corinthians 3:13

¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

So when we see our Lord with eyes as a flame of fire we can conclude that He is looking in judgment. His eyes are piercing and penetrating as He looks upon His church. He misses NOTHING which happens within our lives.

This thought also connects with the previous thought about purifying. You see Jesus looks into our lives at all times and it is His desire that we live separated lives. We are to be separated from the world and the practices of the world. But there are times when we get entangled in the world. When this happens Jesus is fully aware. Remember what the woman at the well said concerning Jesus?

John 4:28-29

²⁸ The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,

²⁹ Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

Then we need to remember what was said concerning Jesus and the religious leaders.

Matthew 12:25a

²⁵ And Jesus knew their thoughts,

So Jesus watches His church with piercing eyes and if need be He judges the sin in our lives.

Hebrews 12:6-11

⁶ *For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*

⁷ *If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?*

⁸ *But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.*

⁹ *Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?*

¹⁰ *For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.*

¹¹ *Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*

Conclusion:

Let me leave you with a few verses which will wrap this up.

Ephesians 5:25-27

²⁵ *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

²⁶ *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*

²⁷ *That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

Titus 2:13-14

¹³ *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

¹⁴ *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

Jesus Christ died for us and He will do what is needed to purify His church as we pass through this world.