

"The Vision"

Part 4

Revelation 1:9-20

Introduction: This morning we return to our study of Revelation and as we do I want to do a short review.

1. This book is NOT a mystery it is The Revelation/apocalypse of Old Testament prophecy.
2. This book contains a blessing for the student and the teacher.
3. This book is addressed to the 7 churches which are symbolic of the complete church.
4. It is from God to Jesus Christ, then to the angel, then to John, and then to the church.

We are currently looking at John's vision which God gave to him while he was under persecution on the island of Patmos. He was there because of his testimony of Jesus Christ and for his stand on the Word of God.

In the vision he has been permitted to see Jesus Christ in all of His glory. Now so far as we have looked at this vision we have considered several points.

I. The Position of Jesus Christ

He is in the midst of the golden candlesticks and they represent the church so therefore we can see that Jesus is currently in the midst of His church.

As we look closely at John's description of Jesus Christ we can get a clear picture of the ministry of our Lord in the midst of His church.

II. The Present Ministry of Jesus Christ

1. **He is serving as our Great High Priest.**

Notice Revelation 1:13

The garments and the sash are the garments of the High Priest.

2. He is providing wisdom for His church.

Notice Revelation 1:14

The white head and the white hair speak of wisdom and purity.

James 1:5-8

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.*

⁶ *But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.*

⁷ *For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.*

⁸ *A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*

3. He is purifying His church.

Isaiah 1:25

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

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:*

His eyes "as a flame of fire" also connects with the purity for He sees everything within our lives. There is not one sin which is hid from our Lord.

This brings us to where we are today.

4. He identifies with His church.

Notice Revelation 1:15a

When John saw the feet of Jesus he tells us they were like fine brass as if they burned in a furnace. This statement contains a great amount of encouragement for those of us who know Jesus Christ as our Savior.

Jesus feet looked like fine brass that had been burned in the fire because of the path He was given to walk through this old world. Let me show you what the writer of Hebrews has written and this will help us better to understand.

Hebrews 2:7-10

⁷ *Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:*

⁸ *Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.*

⁹ *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

¹⁰ *For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

Here we see that Jesus Christ was MADE PERFECT THROUGH SUFFERINGS. Now this does not mean that Jesus was IMPERFECT when He came into this world. He was MORALLY perfect when He was born for He was God.

The PERFECTION spoken of here speaks of PERFECTION in experience.

Jesus could have come into this world and lived for 33 years and never suffered and He could have died and paid for our sins. But instead of just strolling easily through this world God the Father chose to give His Son a path to walk which would be full of pain and suffering. WHY?

Because through His suffering He can now identify with you and I as we go through the sufferings of this present life. Let me show you something which I have shared with you many times and let us remember that not all who are here have heard this Truth.

Isaiah 53:4-6

⁴ *Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

⁵ *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

⁶ *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

This was written about 900 years before Jesus died on the cross and it speaks of His Substitutionary death on the cross.

Now the verse which we need to look closely at is verse 4. We are told that He borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. This is amazing when we grasp the meaning here.

The word "GRIEFS" means sickness and disease. The word "SORROWS" refers to exactly what it says. Both of these are the results of sin entering into the world. There was no sickness and there was no sorrow before sin entered into the world. Now listen to this!

When Jesus died upon the cross He took all of our sins upon Him and with the sins came the physical and the mental effects of the sins. He has felt every sickness you will ever live. He has felt every heartache you will ever feel. So through the suffering on the cross he was made PERFECT in the sense that he can now relate to us in the midst of our times of sickness and sorrow.

Now someone may ask, "But was He ever tested in His life?"

Satan hit Jesus with 3 major tests or temptations.

A. Food

Matthew 4:1-10

Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

² *And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.*

³ *And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*

⁴ *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

B. Fame

⁵ *Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,*

⁶ *And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.*

⁷ *Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*

C. Freedom

⁸ *Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;*

⁹ *And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*

¹⁰ *Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

Let me show you one more time of suffering.

Luke 22:42-44

⁴² *Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*

⁴³ *And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.*

⁴⁴ *And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

Here is Jesus facing the cross and the enemy comes and he puts so much pressure on Him that it squeezed the blood from the pores of His skin. Therefore our Lord knows pressure and so when we face pressure He can identify.

Now let me take this even further. I need to show you something else which the writer of Hebrews wrote.

Hebrews 4:13-16

¹³ *Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*

¹⁴ *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

¹⁵ *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

Now remember here in Revelation we looked at how Jesus is serving as our Great high Priest?

So, as our Great High Priest He can identify with our suffering and therefore we can come CONFIDENTLY unto the throne of God for mercy and grace.

5. He speaks to His Church.

Notice Revelation 1:15

John tells us the voice of Jesus Christ was as the sound of many waters. I believe this has a twofold meaning to the church and He is in the midst of the church so it is the church He is speaking to.

Let me show you what Clark says concerning this verse:

"Sweet and low as the brook that sings its way through the meadow, or filled with majesty and grandeur as it speaks the language of judgment and fear, as the roar of the angry surf as it thunders upon the shore."

- a. **He speaks comfort and peace into the lives of His church.**

This voice which John heard is the same voice that calmed the wind and the waves.

Let us remember that Jesus speaks to us through the Bible. Let me show you words of peace and comfort.

Philippians 4:6-9

⁶ *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

⁷ *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

⁸ *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*

⁹ *Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*

- b. **He speaks words of warning into the lives of His church.**

2 Timothy 3:1

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 Peter 2:1-3

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

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² *And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*

³ *And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.*

Conclusion:

Jesus is our Great High Priest and He died to save us and to make us children of God. He is at work within our lives at all times. When we need warned He sends the warning. When we need comfort He sends the comfort. He has been made perfect through the sufferings.