

"The Vision"

Part 5

Revelation 1:9-20

Introduction:

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.

a. He is interceding for us.

Hebrews 7:22-25

²² *By so much was Jesus made a surety[God's personal guarantee] of a better testament.*

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.*

2. He is providing wisdom for His church.

Notice Revelation 1:14

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

3. He is purifying His church.

4. He identifies with His church.

Notice Revelation 1:15a

Hebrews 2:9-10

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.*

5. He empowers His church.

Notice Revelation 1:15, 16b

Here we see that the voice of our glorified Lord is as the sound of many waters. Then in verses 16 we see that from His mouth comes a sharp two-edged sword. Keeping in mind that Jesus is in the midst of the church and we are looking at His present ministry in the church this description of His voice and the sword has something to do with the church.

The reference to "many waters" would refer to POWER of His Word. The "two-edged sword" refers to the EFFECTIVENESS of His Word. Let us first consider the power.

a. **The Power**

If you have ever been close to a river or a stream at flood stage you then know that when the stream is full of water it is very powerful.

Now the fact that the power is in His voice therefore tells us that there is power in His Word. This thought takes my mind to many passages in the Bible.

Ephesians 6:11-17

¹¹ *Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

¹² *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

¹³ *Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

When we look at the armour of God we can see that we as believers are only given one weapon and it is the Word of God.

There are many believers who do not understand how powerful the Word of God really is and how it can be used by God when His people speak the Word of God into the lives of those around us.

John 18:2-6

² And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples.

³ Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons.

⁴ Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye?

⁵ They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.

⁶ As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.

We Jesus spoke they all (over 1000 soldiers) fell to the ground at the power of His Word.

Romans 1:16

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

So in Revelation 1:15 when we see Jesus voice as the sound of many waters it is a way to show the power of His Word which is the weapon given to the church to fight the spiritual battle.

b. The Effectiveness

Hebrews 4:12

¹² For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The fact that the Word of God is pictured as a TWO EDGED SWORD means that it cuts both ways.

To some the Bible **convicts** and to others it **converts**. But the point is the Word of God is powerful and it is effective.

Isaiah 55:10-11

¹⁰ For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

¹¹ So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

6. He protects His church.

Notice Revelation 1:16a

Here we see that John saw Jesus holding in His right hand 7 stars. To see the meaning we need to look further.

Notice Revelation 1:20

Here we see that this is a mystery which means it was a previously hidden Truth. We also see the 7 stars are the 7 angels of the 7 churches. Now there is much difference of opinion as to who these 7 angels are. The word "angel" in verse 20 means "messenger" and so there are many who teach that these are the Pastors of the 7 churches. The fact that the "stars" are in our Lord's RIGHT hand this tells us they are held in the hand of POWER.

I really appreciate the thought that God would hold me in His right hand and that He empowers me for the ministry. I do believe that to be true, but there could be a different meaning here.

Let me give you something to consider:

God works through angels in the book of Revelation.

Hebrews 1:13-14

¹³ *But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?*

¹⁴ *Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*

There is a possibility that there is assigned to each TRUE church an angel who issues the power of God upon those within the body of Christ.

There is also another thought on this verse and it comes from John Phillips. He says:

These angels are symbolic of the highest powers that exist and the picture here is that our Lord has the control over every power that is under Him.

Matthew 16:15-18

¹⁵ *He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?*

¹⁶ *And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*

¹⁷ *And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*

¹⁸ *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

We get a glimpse of this protection in Job.

Job 1:8-10

⁸ *And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?*

⁹ *Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?*

¹⁰ *Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?*

What is the HEDGE OF PROTECTION?

Let me show you a scene where the king of Syria sent an army to bring Elisha back to him. Elisha has with him a young man whom he is training.

2 Kings 6:14-17

¹⁴ Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.

¹⁵ And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?

¹⁶ And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

When God opened the eyes of the young man he was able to see that they were surrounded by an heavenly host which was protecting them.

This is the protection that is around us.

Conclusion:

Let me pull this together for us.

God empowers us with His Word which is POWERFUL and EFFECTIVE. Therefore we are full equipped for the battle. Then we can rest in the fact that He PROTECTS us in the midst of the battle.

So as we step in faith and serve Him in this window which has been entrusted to us let me give you some verses to hold on to.

Deuteronomy 20:4

⁴ For the LORD your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.

Joshua 1:5-6a

⁵ There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

⁶ Be strong and of a good courage:...

Romans 8:31-32

³¹ What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

January 22, 2017

Revelation Study #8

³² He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?