

Revelation 1:12-19 Jesus in Glory

Intro: Throughout History there have been many Artists who have painted pictures of Jesus! – Many different looks.

A)Anglo saxon Jesus – Blond Hair and Blue – eyes.

B)Perfect hair Jesus – **long flowing locks** – looks like he has hair product in his hair – perfect skin – Handsome face.

C)But this is what is interesting: There is no physical description of Jesus given in any of the gospels.

1)We know nothing about his **Ht, Wt, his hair color**, how long his hair was, how long his beard, the color of his robe –

D)Nothing is told to us of those things – Isaiah said of Jesus – **He looked very common, nothing about Him stood out that we should desire Him.**

1)Other words – People Magazine's list of 100 most beautiful pp

The gospels present Jesus to us in His Humility – Common Man – because the point is – He is the Savior for all men. – All relate to Him

A)Young, old, Tall, short, rich poor- Jesus is relatable to us all.

B)Purpose of the gospels – Show Jesus as the Savior who came to suffer for the Sins of the world – TO SAVE – TO RESCUE!

The Book of Revelation – has a different purpose- **The purpose is to show us Jesus in His Glory! – His Power!**

Soren Kierkegaard Danish Philosopher and Theologian tells a great parable. He says that there was **once a king** who went out into a field, saw a woman that he loved; **she was common and simple**. He desired to marry her and love her. And so to win her hand, he humbled himself, put on the clothes of a peasant and went out and took a job in his own field, working and laboring alongside of her, **winning her heart** so that she would love him. And on her wedding day, he revealed to her that he was the King.

That is what JESUS has done with us.

We meet Jesus in his humble state and we love him, and then he reveals to us that he is the king .

To fully worship Jesus, We need to see him as this king in glory.

A)TITLE: The Revelation of end times events? The Revelation of the Anti-Christ? The Revelation of the End of the world?

B)Now it will tell us things about all of that –

Bb)But the Purpose of the Book of Revelation is to Reveal to us Jesus Christ.

1)THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST!

C)We are going to see Jesus in all of His glory and power! – His holiness and His majesty. –

1)AND WE NEED TO SEE HIM THAT WAY!

THE BOOK STARTS WITH A VISION OF JESUS!

A)Written by the apostle John – AD 96 – He is at this point the last of the 12 apostles still alive – Banished to island of Patmos – Roman Emperor.

B)Jason will give us some more info on John and the time frame on Wed night.

C)On this Island Prison – Cold, alone, hungry, - John gets a visit from Jesus – He is given a vision.

1)This morning we want to look at this vision of Jesus in Glory

Context – Lets read – beginning in V. 10

Rev 1:10-20

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as {or like} of a trumpet, 11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. 17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. 19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. 20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

So John sees this vision of Jesus in Glory!

A)This particular description that runs from verse 10 down through the first part of verse 17 is equalled in **grandeur only by one other description of Christ in the book of Revelation, and that is found in chapter 19 verses 11 to 16.**

That's very near the end of the book, this, of course, is very near the beginning.

A) And these two glorious revelations of Jesus Christ set the pace.

B) They are the Pillars or brackets in which all the other revelations occur.

C) Seeing Jesus in His glory is meant to inspire at least two reactions in His people

1st is Confidence -

A group of seminary students would gather at a Gymnasium by their seminary to play B. Ball on **Monday nights** - The janitor, an old black man with white hair, would wait patiently until the seminarians had finished playing.

He would sit there **reading his Bible**. / One day one of these proud Pious seminary students asked him what he was reading

The man simply replied, "The Book of Revelation."

With a bit of surprise, The Seminary student responded "The Book of Revelation? Do you understand it?"

Oh yes the man answered – I understand it!

"You understand the Book of Revelation! What does it mean?"

Very quietly that old Janitor answered – It means that Jesus wins!!!!

D) We need to see This is Jesus who is going to Win – Who tells me that He loves me / is with me & wants to use my Life –

D) Jesus is for me – Who can be against me? Really? Nothing separates us from His love

1st is Confidence –

2nd is Reverence that leads to worship.

In Bill Moyers's book A World of Ideas II, - He describes what it was to be like an observer at the launch of Apollo 17 in 1975. *It was a night launch, and there were hundreds of cynical reporters all over the lawn, drinking beer, wisecracking, and waiting for this 35-story-high rocket.*

"The countdown came, and then the launch. The first thing you see is this **extraordinary orange light**, which is just at the limit of what you can bear to look at. Everything is illuminated with this light. Then comes this thing slowly rising up in total silence, because it takes a few seconds for the sound to come across. **You hear THIS LOUD ROAR ! It enters right into you.**

"You can practically hear jaws dropping. The sense of wonder fills everyone in the whole place, as this thing goes up and up. But you realize there are humans on it. **And then there's total silence.**

Then He Describes what happened next

"People just get up quietly, helping each other up. They're kind. They open doors. They look at one another, speaking quietly and interestedly. These were suddenly moral people because the sense of wonder, the experience of wonder, had made them moral."

Moyer adds this Insight – **“When we have a sense of wonder toward God, we too have our lives changed for the better.”**

John saw Jesus in glory!

A)When we see Jesus in His glory – a Sense of wonder will fill us, - sense of being awestruck – speechless. Blown away Mesmerized.

B) As I **make a feeble attempt to unpack** this description today – knowing can't really do it justice

1)My prayer is that **in a small but similar way** –

2)Our hearts would be filled with wonder, bit awestruck – even Mesmerized – **CHANGED!**

C)As we behold our great and glorious King – Who loves us so dearly!

WHAT JOHN HEARD -..... SAW!

A)John hears a **LOUD** Voice like a trumpet!

B)Trumpets were used significantly in those times to wake people up/to sound the call to Battle **URGENCY**

B)There was a sense of Urgency in this Voice – that commanded John's attention –

V.11 Jesus identifies Himself: **I am the Alpha and the Omega – the First and the Last!**

A)Now John had heard Jesus identify himself before as the I AM

B)John wrote about that in His Gospel – 7 I Am statements – Seven statements that were a reflection of Christ – Deity – **Bread of life, REZ life, Door**

1)Seven attributes of God.

C)But this was the ultimate: - The Alpha and Omega..... End

1)Most Comprehensive – Description – Everything – Begins and ends with ME!

John did the right thing – He turned to see

A)The word see here is blepo' – used in John's gospel – on Rez day – Mary – Jesus is risen

B)John doesn't tell us much about himself in his gospel – except he identifies himself as the disciple – that Jesus loved.

C)And He tells us that He and Peter – ran to the tomb and that He got there first –

1)Some reason –John wanted us to know –He was a faster runner than Peter. **J**

D)When He got to the tomb – he glanced inside – Peter got there and ran right in –

1)Peter wasn't worried about being defiled – Peter is impulsive – Ready, fire, aim.

E)After that – John said – I went in and Saw – Blepo' – I perceived that this was so – I understood.

That is the word He uses here too- I turned to see – Blepo' – I understood – Who I was looking at – Jesus – Glorified.

What John Saw: 8 fold description of Jesus in Glory!

12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

Eightfold description – Jesus in Glory.

#1 Jesus is in the midst of the CHURCH- Seven golden Lampstands.

A)The lampstands we are told in v.20 are the 7 Churches – Interesting thought the glory of Jesus is seen in the MIDST OF THE CHURCH

B)Lampstand is a Very appropriate Description of a Church – Lampstand's Job is to give off Light – (Lighthouse)

Bb) That is the role of the Church – Light in this dark world / But the Church is not a Building – made up of individual believers {pp who come to the building

C)John 8:12 Jesus declared *I am the light of the world –*

Matthew 5:14,16 “*You are the light of the world.... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*”

POINT

D)The Father is glorified by His Son – Shining in His church – through individual members of the Body of Christ and in the Church collectively.

The lampstands are golden. Why?

A) Because gold was the most precious, the most lovely, most beautiful of metals.

B)The Church, the bride of Christ is precious, beautiful and Valuable – to Jesus.

1)So valuable that He was willing to purchase it with His blood!

C)So Jesus is seen here as being in the midst in the center of His Church – She is His beloved bride.

1)Love the Church – the body – can't love Jesus and hate His bride -

D) Radical thought that Jesus is in our Midst today!

1)He inhabits the praises – He is enthroned upon.

#2 Jesus is the intercessor for His Church.

v.13 He was clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

A)As you read the Bible, there are only two people I can find in the Bible that wore a **golden sash**. It was a king or a priest;

B)the highest **political office**, the **highest spiritual office**.

1)Here, Jesus is priest and king. Order of Melch.

C)You recall from our study in the Book of Hebrews – Jesus Hp – who became a man – sympathize with us in our weakness –

1)Understands the struggles of living on this earth – His heart goes out to us -

D)But He is also a King – who can **supply us** with the necessary resources to live victoriously in this world.

1)Your struggle today? Jesus knows – Priest

2)Your need? As King He supplies!

E)So part of the Glory of Jesus that shines in His church is the role that He plays as our kingly high priest.

#3 Jesus is the Holy one of His Church! After describing His clothing in verse 13, he moves to His person v.14

14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;

A)Notice, His head and His hair were white like wool, like snow. That's an obvious reference to **Daniel 7:9**.

B)However, in **Daniel 7:9** it is describing God. Here it is describing Christ.

1) This is a marvelous parallel that is to indicate again to us that Jesus Christ is in fact God.

C)He has the same attributes and the same characteristics as God.

White like wool or snow speaks of His purity – His holiness!

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

A)His Blood purifies us – We receive of His holiness!

B)And then he adds, "And His eyes were like a flame of fire." What is he seeing?

C)He is seeing the blazing, white, brilliant, shining of the glory of Christ coming out like two lasers, one from each eye..like flames of fire.

D)You might think – that sounds scary!

Recall - *Heb.12:29 For our God is a consuming fire.*

E)Does Jesus want to burn me up? Yes and No! –

Yes He wants to burn away the things in our lives that don't belong there – that don't honor God.

A)No in the sense that Jesus does want to Burn you up or burn you out –

B)but He wants to burn bright in our hearts – His love / His grace / His holiness.

Think of it this way: Fire can be a good or bad thing depending upon your Relationship to it;

A)If your House is on fire & You are trapped inside – it is a terrifying thing !

B)But if it is in the Fire Place it is very warm & Inviting !!!!

C))If you know the Lord –walking in Fellowship w/ Him – those eyes are comforting & assuring !!!! Warm & Inviting MY BEST INTEREST

D) But if You don't know the Lord –REBELLION those lives are terrifying – because one day stand before Him & be Judged.

E)Not fooled – He looks into you – looks through you!

So Jesus seen in Glory – in the midst of the Church – as the Intercessor and Supplier, as the Holy one – the Purifier!

4 Jesus is the enduring one of His Church.

15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace,

A)Brass – Bronze – Refined in the fire.

B)Bronze is an element that unlike iron – it doesn't decay or rust or deteriorate and is able to withstand – Hot temperatures.

C)Shad. Meschech / Abendgo- in the fire - 4th one in the Furnace who Looks like the Son of God

D)See His feet of Fine Brass or Bronze refined in the Fire- REMINDER of His Ability to go thru the fire for us / w/ us !!!!

E)Jesus is not aloof – distant – He is there with us in the midst of the fire -

#4 Jesus is the enduring one!

#5 Jesus is the voice of the Church.

v.15 and His voice as the sound of many waters;

A)Speaks of His voice being a Consuming Voice

B)This isn't the **sound of a little stream** – this is the sound of raging River this is a Niagara Falls Kind of sound {Enters right thru You.

C)If you have ever been to Niagara falls – or some similar body of water – rushing – Consuming – All you hear

1) Talk – *Hey what do you think of the FALLS ? It is great !!!!!*

Psalm 29:3,4 The voice of the LORD is over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The LORD is over many waters. 4 The voice of the LORD is powerful; The voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

D)It is a consuming Voice – Easy to hear

1)Now we have to Train our selves to Listen to Hear – tune out the Distractions – then it will be very Clear

#6 Jesus is Sovereign in His church.

16 He had in His right hand seven stars,

A)V.20 The Stars are the Angels of the seven Churches

B)Some Bible teachers – believe – that each church had an Angel to watch over it –

C)But the word Angel is Aggelos – literally means messengers

1)So other Bible teachers say – No, the stars refers to the Pastors – not that pastors **are Stars – Hollywood sense**

D)But Pastors are to be messengers! – Proclaim the truth.

1)**Angels are not the messengers of the Church.**

Either way you want to look at this – the message is the same – Jesus is Sovereign over His Church – He is in control.

A)The stars are in His right hand – the right hand was always seen in Biblical times as the hand of power and peace.

B)Fight with your right hand – but you also greet with the right hand.

C)Now if we want to say – This is Angels – telling us that Jesus **has Power and control** over the Angelic and the Demonic world.

1)It is all in His hand of power and under His authority.

D)If you want to take the view **that the Stars are the Pastors** of the churches the message stays the same – Jesus is in Control.

A) He holds the leaders of the churches in His right hand. – **His hand thru which He can embrace** – also discipline.

B) I actually prefer the picture of the stars being the Pastors because – **As we move into Ch.2-3 – See the Churches are messed up.**

1) Led by flawed leaders – **NO PERFECT CHURCH – FIND IT, DON'T JOIN IT!**

C) But ultimately Jesus is still in Charge – He can **correct – refine** – and that is exactly what He seeks to do.

1) **JESUS IS THE SOVEREIGN LORD OF THE CHURCH**

D) **Focus next week** – Jesus writes a letter to each of the seven Churches – To each one He identifies Himself using a part of this Vision-

E) The way **He identifies Himself to each church is in conjunction to their need or their problem.**

1) Begin looking at that – Application – our needs – Our problems

John Sees Jesus in His Glory – In the Midst of His Church – Intercessor, Holy One, Enduring one The voice, Sovereign one.

#7 Jesus is the Protector of His Church.

V.16 out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword

A) The word used here for Sword is different from Ephesians and Hebrews which speaks of the Word of God as a sword. –

B) The word sword used there is the small sword a Roman would wear on his waste. –

1) This sword was the Trojan Sword.

Bb) **Five feet in length – strapped to His back** – the kind of sword – Heman would wear!

C) The Trojan sword was a huge sword that was used to split an opponent in two.

1) A cross cut would cut a man in half – straight down the middle would cut him in two from the head to the groin.

POINT: Anybody **inside** the church that threatens the life of the church, anyone who tries to sow lies,

Any **outsider or unbeliever** who comes in to corrupt the church as they tried to in that church in chapter 2, He says **I'll take My sword out and I will use it!**

D) He'll protect His church. It's almost as if He is echoing, **"I will build My church and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it**

1) **HE IS THE PROTECTOR OF HIS CHURCH!**

#8 Jesus radiates in His Church. V.16 And His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

A) This speaks of His Glory & Brilliance
REMEMBER THE Transfiguration

B) Paul recounting His Conversion to Agrippa
*Acts 26: 13 "at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, **brighter than the sun**, shining around me and those who journeyed with me.*

C) Interesting – **Our light is a reflection** – Christians are like the moon – no light in and of ourselves – reflection

1) What causes the Moon's light to be diminished – half or quarter moon?

D) It happens when the world – planet earth comes between the Sun and the Moon.

E) What causes our light to be diminished? **It happens when the world – cares, ways, worldly things – come between us and Jesus!**

1) Careful of what we allow to infiltrate our lives!

F) Jesus radiates in His Church!

So John is given this tremendous 8 Fold vision of Jesus in His Glory – Notice how He responds

17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead.

A) John is undone – Isaiah – Woe is me – floored.

B) Key to worship – Posture reflects your heart.

C) Someone important enters a Room President Judge – Stand ! – Honor

D) **Kids were younger** – come home – Run jump in my arms – Daddy is home
1) Posture reflects the heart

E) Same is true in Worship – Your heart is reflected in Your Posture!

1) Hands in honor or surrender
2) Hands in need of receiving
3) Humility – kneeling

F) Bored uninterested ? – crossed – pockets -

John's falls down prostrate – UNDONE – BLOWN AWAY!

A) You might be thinking – I get it – this description is scary – Jesus with Blazing eyes – thundering voice – Sword ready to cut this in two.

B) I want that pretty Anglo Saxon Jesus – blond hair blue eyes –

1) Or the Jesus with the pretty hair

C) Watch what Jesus does! – Awesome

v.17 But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid;

Picture this: John is physically wiped out – Banished – tried to boil him in oil but didn't burn – beaten.

A)He is hungry, alone, many of the pp in his church have been murdered, he is the last of the apostles still alive.

B)What does Jesus do? He speaks to John and He touches John.

C)Do you need to be touched by Jesus? Happens in Worship!

The laying on of Hands in scripture was for three reasons: To bless, to heal and to commission.

Bless children, Heal sick, commission for service.

A)Jesus wants to do all three in this place today! Happens in worship!

B)When we come in to worship, here's what Jesus does; he touches you to bless you.

1)He puts His hands on you, and He commissions you to serve Him in this world.

2)He touches to heal and make whole.

C) Worship is where you were made strong. Worship is where your wounds are healed.

1)Worship is where your needs are met.

D)We come to God because we need Him. We don't come to God with hands full, saying, "God, here I am to bless you."

D)We come to God with hands empty, saying, "God, I need You. I need teaching. I need correction. I need love.

I need instruction. I need encouragement. I need help.
I need YOU LORD

And God comes and He gives. MEETS US IN THE MOMENT – WHEN – WE HUMBLE OURSELVES IN SINCERELY COMING TO HIM !

The Bible says Jesus didn't come to be served, but to serve. We come here today to meet with Jesus.