

## The Glory of the Lord Revelation 1:10-18

### Turn to Revelation chapter 1 -

A) If you missed last week's introduction - please go online and listen to it

B) Important Info for understanding our approach our study - Both Sun am/ Wed Pm

1) Key aspects of the book of Revelation

C) Purpose - Reveal to us Jesus

1) Author - Apostle John

2) Divine Outline. V.19 Write things Seen/ Are/ Take.

Our approach: Simply state it in this way: Sun am we are going to take the telescope and zoom in -

A) Portraits of Jesus in the book of Revelation - primary focus See Jesus in this way.

B) So on Sunday am - zoom in and take a detailed look at Jesus in a particular section of the book

C) Then on Wed pm we are going to zoom out and see how that portrait relates to the whole chapter/ section

D) So today we are going to zoom in and see the Vision that John gets of Jesus here in chapter 1

E) This Wednesday night we are going to zoom out and see how this vision relates not only to Ch. 1

1) But the entire story of the Book of Revelation

F) On Wednesday night we are also going to talk about the 4 different ways that Revelation is approached

1) The pluses and minus of those approaches

Today I want to zoom in on V. 10-18 - John's vision of Jesus in his glory.

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as 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. - Pray

In Bill Moyers's book A World of Ideas II, -

A) He describes what it was to be like an observer at the launch of Apollo 17 in 1975.

"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.

Then you hear this LOUD ROAR! It enters right into you.

The sense of wonder filled everyone in the whole place, as this thing goes up and up. But then 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."

Then Moyer adds this Insight – "When we have a sense of wonder toward God, we too have our lives changed for the better." Bill Moyer

**Author Max Lucado** penned these words  
Christianity in its purest form, is nothing more than seeing Jesus. Christian service, in its purest form is nothing more than imitating him who we see. To see His majesty and to imitate him, that is the sum of Christianity. Something happens to the person who has witnessed His majesty. One glimpse of the king and you are consumed with a desire to see more of Him and to say more about Him. Max Lucado

### **I Mentioned last week:**

A) My hope and prayer as we work our way through this book on both Sunday mornings / Wed pm

B) Is that we would find ourselves Awestruck at the sight of Jesus

1) We would be **in AWE of Jesus,**

C) And that we would be motivated to eagerly await the return of Jesus,

D) And that we would be consumed with loving and serving Jesus!

### **Consider today: First what John heard and then what John saw;**

A) What John Heard: V.10-11

**10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, (WED) 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."**

B) John hears a LOUD Voice like a trumpet!

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

**C) So 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 – **Bread of life, The Light/ REZ life, Door,**

1) **Good Shepherd / The way the truth.... The vine**

C) But here Jesus identifies himself in the ultimate depiction of his DEITY

1) **The Alpha and Omega..... End**

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

**Notice John's response to what He heard - 12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me.**

A) The word see here is blepo' – to see and understand

B) John used this same word in his gospel to describe what happened on Rez day -

1) Mary came and told the Disciples Jesus is risen

**C) And He tells us that He and Peter –took off and 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. ☺

**D) When He got to the tomb – John glanced inside – defiled - Peter got there and ran right in –**

1) 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.

1) That is the same word that John uses here too - Blepo - to see and understand

**I understood – Who I was looking at: Jesus in Glory!**

A) You know what's really interesting?

B) This is the only description in the entire Bible of what Jesus looked like.

C) For centuries, artists have wondered, how shall I paint him? What did he look like?

1) Anglo Saxon Jesus - blond hair blue eyes - African Jesus / Cool surfer Jesus - long hair - sun tan

D) I like in the chosen - they at least try to make him look Jewish.

**John who did know what Jesus looked like when he was on earth - lived with him for 3 years**

A) And yet John never describes his physical appearance.

B) Until this moment - But this view of Jesus unlike anything that John has ever seen before.

1) **John sees Jesus in Glory!**

**This particular description that runs from verse 12-16 is radical - glorious - ominous**

A) John's reaction v.17 - he fell on his face - as if he were dead. - Couldn't move. - Awestruck - afraid

B) It is interesting that we are given this picture of Jesus to start the book of Revelation - ch.1

C) And we will see a similar picture of Jesus given to us toward the end in Ch.19 - 2<sup>nd</sup> coming

**These two descriptions of Jesus serve as book ends for everything that is talked about in between.**

A) This is the Picture that the Jesus wants us to keep in mind as we discuss the tribulation -6-18

B) Horrific period for life on planet earth - that Jesus said - if not shortened no flesh would survive.

C) This is the picture that we need to keep in mind - as the book of Revelation

1) Depicts the actions of the anti-christ on Humanity

D) We need to keep in mind this picture of Jesus in Glory - who is on the throne in glory

1) and who is coming again

**E) This is a picture we need to have etched into our hearts and minds today -**

1) when it seems like evil is winning - prospering

2) When our world seems chaotic and confusing

A group of seminary students would gather at a Gymnasium by their seminary to play B. Ball on **Monday nights** - The janitor, an old African American man with gray 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 even 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!!!!**

A) Billy Graham - The end will come with the return of Jesus Christ... That is why a Christian can be an optimist. That is why a Christian can smile in the midst of all that is happening... We know what the end will be: the triumph of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**In the remainder of our time today: I want to do my best to try and unpack this description**

A) Of What JOHN SAW!

B) As John writes down what he saw - he gives us an eight fold description of Jesus

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.**

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

B) The lampstands we are told in v.20 are the 7 Churches –

C) A Lampstand is a Very appropriate Description of a Church –

1) A Lampstands Job is to give off Light –

D) That is one of the roles of the church - to be a light in the midst of dark world.

1) Lighthouse

**CCSD Wed night - New Sanctuary -**

A) The Church is to be a place - where - People meet with God - Sinners forgiven - backslidden...

B)Famine and famished are refreshed - and Foreigners can meet God!

C)But then I reminded them - remind us - the church is not a building - the people in the building

1)Who take the light and love for Jesus.... World.

John 8:12 Jesus declared *I am the light of the world -*

A)But then he said to his disciples

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.”**

B)The Point: The father is glorified when His Son – Shinning in His church –

1)through individual members of the Body of Christ and in the Church collectively.

C)Notice these were 7 golden lampstands - why golden?

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

A)The Church is also the bride of Christ - And it is precious, beautiful and Valuable to Jesus.

B)So valuable that he was willing to purchase it with his blood!

C)So in this picture we are seeing - Jesus heart for his church - he is in her midst and she is beautiful

But here is what is interesting about Jesus being in the midst of these 7 churches

A)We will discover next week - 5 of these 7 churches were sick - messed up - real problems

B)But Jesus hasn't abandoned them - he is in their midst - his heart is for them

1)He wants to heal them - help them get right

C)You might feel like a mess today - Messed up - hard week - failed more than once

D)Jesus loves you enough to come to you -his heart is toward you today.

You sometimes I meet people who have left the church - no longer in fellowship

A)Reason - the church is sick - messed up full of hypocrisy

B)Jesus sees that in his church and he doesn't abandon it

C)Some people have been hurt by the church - never going back

D)Jesus has been hurt the most by his church - He is still with her and for her.

Sometimes I meet people who tell me - I love Jesus - just not into church - hate the church

A)Listen you can't love Jesus and hate his bride -

B)Be like you saying to me - Rob we think you are cool - lets hang out - come over dinner - no Denise

C)Not happening! - Listen Denise is a far better, godlier person than me

1)But even I know she is flawed - but I love her with all my heart - we are a package deal

D)Jesus would say of his church - I know my bride isn't perfect - full of sinners - messy

1)But we go together

E)Radical thought to think that Jesus is in our midst today

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

F)So the first thing that John Sees is Jesus in the midst of the churches -

1)Committed to them - committed to us.

#2 Jesus is the Kingly High Priest of His Church. v.13 He was clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

A)A garment down to his feet - It is also worth noting that commoners wore knee high garments

B)Only Kings and Priest wore robes that went down to their feet.

C)KINGS AND PREIST were also the only two people in the Bible who wore a golden band/sash

**D) So John is clearly depicting Jesus here as the Kingly High Priest of His Church**

**Now the book of Hebrews describes the priestly ministry of Jesus in this way: Hebrews 4**

<sup>14</sup> So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. <sup>15</sup> This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. Hebrews 4:14-15 NLT

**So Jesus is our High Priest understands the struggles of living on this earth –**

**A) His heart goes out to us - sympathize with us**

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

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

**C) Who needs to hear this today: Jesus our Kingly HP is in our midst saying -**

1) I understand your struggle I am ready to help -  
**Come to me boldly -no hesitation**

**D) Opportunity to do just that in our response time today -**

**E) So John sees Jesus in the midst of the churches are our Kingly High priest**

**#3 Jesus is the Holy one of His Church!**

**A) After describing His clothing in verse 13, he moves to describe 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;

**B) Notice, His head and His hair were white like wool, like snow.**

1) This reminds us of what Daniel saw in **Daniel 7:9**.

“I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. Daniel 7:9

**C) Here is what is interesting in Daniel 7:9 Daniel is describing God.**

1) But Here John is describing Jesus

**D) This is a marvelous parallel that is meant to indicate the fact to us that Jesus is God.**

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

**Let's consider the word white for a moment?**

**A) This is not white like a flat white color, it's not white like a white piece of paper**

**B) Or a white wall or a white garment. That is not the idea.**

**C) It is the word white which means a blazing. It has the potential to mean a blazing, glowing, white light.**

**John is seeing glory here.**

**A) The symbol of eternal, glorious holiness.**

**B) Whenever God showed His Shekinah, He was showing His holiness.**

**C) It demonstrates His purity of life. It demonstrates the purity of His truth. He is wise and He is holy.**

1) He is blazing, glowing, brilliant, shining light.

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

**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.**

**A) You might think – that sounds scary!**

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

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

**A) Yes he wants to burn away the things in our lives that don't belong there- don't honor God.**

**B) A practice or an attitude - Yes he wants to remove what is dishonoring to God**

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

1) 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 !!!!

1)Warm & Inviting MY BEST INTEREST

D)But if You don't know the Lord – REBELLION those lives are terrifying –

1)because one day stand before Him & be Judged.

E)Not fooled – He is looks into you/looks through U!

#### # 4 Jesus is the enduring one of His Church.

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

A)Bronze or Brass is an element that is able to withstand – Hot temperatures.

B)See His feet of Fine Brass or Bronze refined in the Fire-

1)Is a REMINDER of His Ability to go thru the fire for us / with us !!!!

C)The Bible speaks of the Firey trials that we can face as followers of Jesus

1)But we never go through those alone - with us

D)Shad. Meschech / Abendgo- in the fire - .....<sup>4<sup>th</sup></sup>  
*one in the Furnace who Looks like the Son of God*

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

1)#4 Jesus is the enduring one! - Which helps us to endure and to OVERCOME

#### #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

1)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 –

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.

#### It is a consuming Voice –

A)His voice has power and authority

B)In Hebrews 1 -Long ago God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets at different times and in different ways. 2 In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son. - Final voice

God has appointed him heir of all things and made the universe through him. <sup>3</sup>The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact expression of his nature, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. Hebrews 1:1-4

C)The voice of Jesus carries with it the authority and power of being one with God - Equal w/ the father

D)The question is are we listening to His voice or have we found a way to tune it out ?

#### #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

SO other Bible teachers say – No the stars refers to the Pastors –

A)Not that pastors are Stars – Hollywood sense

B)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 –

A)Because the stars are in His right hand –

B)the right hand was always seen in Biblical times as the hand of power and peace.

1) You hold your sword and Fight with your right hand –

C) Now if you want to say – The stars are Angels –

1) Then this picture is telling us that Jesus has Power and control over the Angelic and the Demonic world.

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

But if you want to take the view that the Stars are the Pastors of the churches

A) The message stays the same –.

B) Jesus is the head of the church - Jesus is in Control

C) Focus next week – Jesus writes a letter to each of the seven Churches –

1) To each one He identifies himself using a part of this Vision-

D) 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

#7 Jesus is the Protector of His Church.

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

A) Now it is interesting that The word used here for Sword is different from Ephesians and Hebrews

B) In those two books the word sword speaks of the Word of God as a sword. –

C) The word for sword used in those two passages refers to the small sword a Roman soldier would wear on his waste. –

D) That word Sword described more of a knife used in hand to hand combat

The Word for Sword that John uses here is different - refers to a large Sword the Trojan Sword.

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

B) It was a huge sword that was capable of cutting a person in two

C) The fact that this Sword is coming out of his mouth speaks of the power of his Voice to condemn

1) Authority over darkness - authority over those who would come against his Bride

D) In the book of Revelation - we see that power on display in great detail.

1) HE IS THE PROTECTOR OF HIS CHURCH!

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

A) This speaks of His Glory & Brilliance

B) REMEMBER THE Transfiguration - His face shown like the Sun!

C) 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 –

1) No light in and of ourselves – reflection

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

1) 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 –

1) cares, ways, worldly things – come between us and Jesus!

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 – Saw the Lord.... Train of his robe - Angels - Holy Holy .....

B) Not robotic - it is the natural response - Jesus you are holy - Everything about you is RIGHT

1) GLORIOUS - Awesome -

C) I am AWESTRUCK - John fell down - dead

D) Isaiah - fell down Woe is me – flooded.

**Guys if Jesus showed up Physically in this room in this way - His glory**

A) That would be our response - our posture.

B) But so often that is not our response is it - We don't see him in this way.

C) We have little concept of his glory and holiness

D) We are so caught up in our own lives and problems - We lose sight of Him.

**Today can we behold him - Consider this picture and allow our hearts to be AWESTRUCK?**

A) This is He who said - I will never leave you nor forsake you -

**B) This is He who said - Cast all your cares on me - because I care so much for you!**

C) The Mountains of our problems - turn into Molehills when we see them in light of our Glorious Savior.

**John Falls down as if he were dead - Watch would Jesus do! v. 17 But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; - Awesome**

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

B) Do you need to be touched by Jesus today?

**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 as his Child

C) Or He might touch you today - to bring healing to your heart or life -

1) He touches you to make you WHOLE

**D) OR He might touch you today - to commission you for Service!**

1) Isaiah - Touched - Cleansed and then commissioned

**As we close our time in Worship today - Communion**

A) As we partake of the Bread and the Cup

B) Reminded of what Jesus went through to make us His bride.

C) Reminded and thankful - the work He started He is going to finish

**Also a time for us to be in Awe of the Glory of the Lord**

A) Fill this place and come and fill our hearts

B) As we humble ourselves before Him - Come and bow

C) Jesus wants to touch us.

First song - Listen to the words easy to catch on - this is our God - Worship Him