

Jesus is Revealed – Part 2
 Revelation 1:14-20
 Message 5

Last week we began to explore the depths of the description the Apostle John gives of the glorified Jesus.

- Imprisoned on Patmos, John is translated into eternity
 - Meaning that John was in the natural world one moment and then translated in to the world of eternity
 - To use human language, he transported, if you will, from the third dimension into God’s dimension
 - And it’s there that John is given the only eye witness description of the Lord Jesus in His heavenly glorified state
 - A truly awesome and majestic sight
- You know, just by way of reminder, being that this is the only sure picture of what Jesus looks like in His heavenly form
 - It stands to reason that it is the scripture by which to also judge all other claims of Jesus sighting
 - This includes books (like we discussed a little last week)
 - But it also includes bible teachers who claim to have seen Jesus in heaven
 - and even when Jesus is said to show up in your toast or pancake or pierogi

When John was given this vision of Christ, the first thing he saw was the seven lampstands – which we know represent the church

- And it’s there, in the midst of those lampstands, that John sees Jesus
 - And it’s in this revelation of Jesus that we see **12 characteristics** of Him
 - Twelve ways in which Jesus reveals Himself
- Last week we only had time to look at 3 of them
 - **First** we learned that **Jesus is revealed as the center of the church**
 - **Verse 13 says** “and in the *midst* of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man”
 - He is in the midst, He is the center of the church’s existence,
 - And as the center, He is the focus of the church
 - And the only source from whom we draw

- In chapter 2 verse 1, we saw that Jesus not only stands, but that He **walks** in the midst of the churches
 - Meaning He's active; He's tending to His churches; observing and examining
 - This also speaks of His care for you and me, actively loving us
 - Actively caring about what's going on in the church
 - and aren't we glad!
- **Second – Jesus is revealed in His humanity**
 - Again, verse **13** and in the midst of the seven lampstands **One like the Son of Man**”
 - This is a Messianic title speaking not only of Jesus' humanity,
 - But also His eternality as we saw from Daniel 7 last week
 - Giving us a insightful understanding that Jesus relates to us in heaven in our humanity
 - **Third – Jesus is revealed as our Royal High Priest**
 - He's clothed with a garment down to His feet with a gold band across His chest
 - Speaking of His royalty, while at the same time speaking of His position as High Priest
 - Ever living to make intercession for you and me before the Father
 - As we stand condemned day and night by the accuser of the brethren – the devil

This is what we saw last week. This morning we will look at the remaining 9 ways in which Jesus revealed Himself

- But let's take a moment to read the passage so we have a more complete understanding of where we are heading
 - **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, [h] “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 [i] 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.

We see Jesus revealed as the center, we see Him revealed in His humanity and as the Royal High Priest

- **Number 4 - Jesus is revealed in His purity**
 - Verse **14** “His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow,”
- When John turns around to see who is talking to Him,
 - He sees a figure of the Son of Man and the notices He’s wearing – the robe / golden band
 - But when He begins to describe details of the Person of Jesus
 - What immediately catches His eye is that His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow
- Many people see the “white hair” as a reference to age
 - And therefore making a connection to eternity and wisdom
 - Most reference Daniel 7:9 which gives a description of the Ancient of Days like that in which we see here in Revelation
 - Verse 9 of Daniel 1 says “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.

I understand why some come to this conclusion, but for me, I’m not fully satisfied with that

- Because in the text it says “as white as snow”
 - I think we are talking holiness and purity

- If the text described Jesus' head and hair like wool, I would probably be okay with it describing timelessness and wisdom
 - But John that last bit of description – as white as snow – speaks to me of the holiness and the purity of our Lord Jesus
- Isa. 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."
 - The Bible talks of Jesus as the Holy One – declaring His uniqueness in Holiness.
 - He is the Holy ONE
 - There is none like Him
- In Luke 4, when Jesus confronts a man in Capernaum who was possessed by a demon
 - And as He the man saw Jesus, the demon said to Jesus
 - ""Let *us* alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"
 - Even the demon knew the holiness of Jesus
 - Act 2:27 "For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption."
- Jesus is uniquely holy and therefore, uniquely pure.
 - He is, has always been and will be forever more without sin.
 - He is separate from it
 - Heb 7: 26 "For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;"
- He alone can claim ultimate holiness because His holiness does not depend on anyone or anything – He just is
 - Unlike you and me, our holiness is derived from His. Jesus makes us holy
 - Heb 10:10 "**10** By that [**that being His sacrifice**] will we have been sanctified [**been made holy**] through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*"
- We are dependent upon Jesus for our holiness
 - But Jesus Himself is not dependent upon anyone because His nature, His being, who He is - is holy

Not only do we see Jesus revealed in His purity, but **Jesus is also revealed as judge**

- **Verse 14** His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, **and His eyes like a flame of fire**
 - It doesn't say that His eyes were a flame of fire, it says they were LIKE a flame of fire
 - His eyes are singled out as being like *a flame of fire*.
- This evokes the image of a gaze which instantly pierces the deepest darkness to lay bear all sin
 - Turn to chapter 2 beginning in verse 18.
 - Jesus speaks to the church of Thyatira and describes Himself as "Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire" (v. 18)
 - And then goes on to say in the next verse - "I know your works" (19)
 - Jesus not only knows all our works; but His eyes that are like a flame of fire exposes them
 - Verse 23 – "...I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works"

There is NOTHING hid from the sight of Jesus. But it's not just a matter of knowledge; it's a matter of exposure.

- Just like light exposes the darkness
 - John 1: **4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it"
- See sin grows in the darkness; but the light of Jesus exposes it because He searches the hearts of all men
 - Psalm 139:1 "O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*"
 - Psalm 44:21 "Would not God search this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart."
 - Jer. 17:10 "I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings."
- His eyes like flame of fire judges our works, our motives, everything for what they truly are
 - Not in the light of men, but in the light of God
 - John 3: **19** And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. **20** For everyone

practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. **21** But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

- The point here is that there is no evil activity of men which Jesus does not see
 - The eyes of the Lord know. The scrutiny of God knows. Men cannot hide, men cannot cover
 - The Lord sees all things for what they really are.

And by way of encouragement, that also means that there is no den of iniquity so dark that Jesus is not there

- Job 34:22; - There is no darkness nor shadow of death Where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves”
 - You might hear that and think – how is that encouraging? If He sees all and I can’t hide my sins from Him
 - How is that then encouraging?
- It’s because our sins are open to Him that we can run to Him for help! We can run to Him for cleaning. Our sins can be dealt with
 - And for Christians, who by the witness of the Spirit of God within, are keenly aware of the devastations of personal sin
 - Knowing that Jesus sees our sin and that it can be dealt with in the Light of Christ
 - This is overwhelming encouragement
- We can run to Him for victory over those sins that continually haunt us.
 - When we think it’s just not possible to be over this sin or that sin – whatever it is
 - Jesus knows. And Jesus will help. And Jesus will cleanse.
 - 1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin... 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”
 - Heb 7: **25** Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them”

We see Jesus here in our passage revealed in His centrality, His humanity, as Royal High Priest

- He is revealed in His purity and holiness and as judge
 - The 6th thing we see here – **Jesus is revealed as victorious**
 - Look at verse 15 “His feet *were* like fine brass , as if refined in a furnace”
- Bronze speaks of judgment.
 - We see this clearly in Ex. 27 where the Lord gives direction on how to construct the bronze, or “brazen” altar where sin was judged
 - We also see this in Num. 21 where the bronze serpent was lifted up
 - which was a symbol of Jesus as our sin-bearer Who took our judgment (John 3:14-15)

What immediately catches my attention here in the text is that the feet of bronze are Jesus’.

- As if to say Jesus walked through, in a sense, the judgment of God
 - And that the description of them being refined speaks of His victory through it all
- As Guzik says “Since **fire** is connected with judgment, these **feet like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace** speak of someone who has been through the fires of judgment and has come forth with a refined purity. Jesus has been through the “Refiner's Fire”

We also see here **Jesus is revealed in His majesty**. #7

- **15** His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and ***His voice as the sound of many waters***
 - Psalm 29:3 “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. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars, Yes, the Lord splinters the cedars of Lebanon. **6** He makes them also skip like a calf, Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox. **7** The voice of the Lord divides the flames of fire. **8** The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; The Lord shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh. **9** The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth, And strips the forests bare; And in His temple everyone says, “Glory!”
 - The voice of God is powerful; it thunders; it’s majestic!
- This is the voice that created all things and yet when He speaks

- Can break the cedars, divide flames of fire; shake the wilderness and make the deer give birth
 - Is there anything like the voice of God
 - So majestic to our ears that it would sound like many rushing waters.
- If you have even been to the basin of a waterfall, you only have a small glimpse of the roar of God's voice.
 - It's described as a multitude of water; but it's a sound attributed to only one voice.
 - With that type of authority, with that majestic power
 - It makes me think – who would be able to talk back to Him in His presence
 - Who could withstand the authoritative power of the voice of Jesus!
 - Answer: no one!

This voice from Revelation that is like the sound of many rushing waters

- It's the voice that says "Let there be light!" and there was light
 - Who speaks and the entire universe shakes
 - It's the same One who spoke with such compassion and love and care and gentleness and tenderness to people in need
 - And it's the same voice that can say to you and me, "your sins are forgiven you".
 - Is there anything more astounding than the sound of the voice of Jesus?

The eighth characteristic we see here is that - **Jesus is revealed in His sovereignty**

- **16** "He had in His right hand seven stars"
 - When we talk about sovereignty we have to define it a bit
- When we talk about the sovereignty of man,
 - It means that man has control over something
 - But when we talk about the Sovereignty of God means the total control of God over everything
 - It's all under His care. He's running everything
 - His throne is in the heavens, earth is His footstool
 - And His Sovereignty rules over all
- Now we know from verse 20 that these 7 stars are seven angels.
 - But where are they seen? In the right hand of Jesus.

- Jesus holds all things and this is a picture of His Sovereignty over all things
- And this picture of the stars being within His right hand - the side of favor -
 - Should be of great comfort to believers
 - for what Christ grasps in His hand cannot be snatched away
 - **John 10:28** And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. **29** My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand. **30** I and My Father are one."

The 9th and the 10th things we see here in our text - **Jesus is revealed in His authority** and Jesus is **revealed in His beauty**

- Verse 16 "out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength.

Many take this sword coming out of His mouth as the piercing character of His authoritative word.

- That the word of God is able to discern and reveal. Like a surgeon's knife, able to cut away the darkness
 - Heb. 4:12 "For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. **13** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account."
 - The word for "sword" here in Heb. is the Greek word <machalra>
 - And it refers to hand sword that was used for hand to hand combat
 - The Romans were masters with this sword and it had two edges
- But here's the really interesting thing – this is not the word used here in Revelation 1 (or in the rest of the book)
 - When Jesus is described having a doubled edged sword coming out of His mouth
 - John uses the Greek word <rhomphaia>
 - And it refers to a long broad sword that was primarily used by barbaric people
- You can picture a really large heavy sword that's used with both hands

- Raised over the head and brought down with all you might
 - Destroying the enemy in one chop
- Is. 2:4 “But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.”
 - 2 Thes 2: 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming”

This double edge sword that comes from the mouth of God is a blow of judgment against the enemies of God

- We will be judged by what we have done with His word
 - John 12:48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day”
- It’s interesting, when we quote scripture to the unrepentant man,
 - How many times we hear those words -:”don’t judge me”
 - But the truth of the matter is that they have already been judged by the Word- which is why they feel the sting
 - And will ultimately be judge by how one responds to God’s word in the last day.
 - Rev 19: 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”

From His authority, we move to His beauty

- Verse 16 “out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength”
 - If you were to see Jesus in His splendor and glory, how would you be able to describe Him?
 - How would you be able to find words
 - John uses the only thing in his existence that he knew of to describe the brilliance of Jesus’s glory!
- It’s this same glory that made the face of Moses shine
 - It’s the same glory that Peter, James and John saw on the mouth of transfiguration

- **Matt. 17:2** “and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light”

Oh church, to see that brilliant light and glory...does not your heart long for that?

- Hearing of what He looks like in His utter radiance – does not everything within you yearn for it
 - Do we not cry out with the Psalmist “My soul longs, yes, even faints For the courts of the Lord; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.” (Ps. 84:2)
 - “My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?” (Ps 42:2)
- And yet, though we thirst to be with Him in our dwelling place to come
 - Even now we know the promise of Jesus that
 - “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, **14** but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

When John turned to see the voice of He who spoke, Jesus revealed Himself

- As the center of the church and in His humanity
 - He is revealed as the Holy, Pure, Judge
 - The Beautiful Sovereign Authority who is victorious over all sin
 - Whose voice shakes the world’s foundations
- And if you and I were to see Him today as He is revealed to John
 - We would have the same involuntary reaction!
 - **17** And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead.”

What other response could there be when a man is faced with Jesus by to fall down at His feet with zero strength of our own.

- It’s the same response Daniel had in his vision of the Messiah - “And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a **great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. [note that, we will come back to it]**
 - Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength. Yet I heard the sound of his words; and

while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, **with my face to the ground.**" (Dan.10:5-9)

- When Isaiah saw the glory of God all he could say was
 - **5 ...“Woe is me, for I am undone!** Because I *am* a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.”
- The sheer power and Glory of the vision of the Lord caused John and Daniel to fall at His feet in a complete and utter collapse.
 - It will be involuntary as there will be no other response we could offer such a One as God.

What I find show stopping in Daniel’s account, is that though Daniel fell on his face to the ground

- The enemies of the Lord tried to hide themselves in great terror.
 - And that’s the only reaction a non-believer could have
 - Sheer horror.
 - Each will see His holiness and be faced with the reality of their sin before Him
 - Knowing that He has been longsuffering with each
 - But there will be no place to hide
- That is why the Gospel of Jesus Christ is so necessary to understand and accept now
 - That this same Jesus that could insight such fear in men
 - Came down to earth in the form of a man to die on a cross and take away that penalty of sin
 - That penalty is eternal separation from God and all that awaits is outer darkness and gnashing of teeth
- But it doesn’t have to be that way for anyone.
 - Every one has the same opportunity to respond to His love and receive His forgiveness for their sin
 - He awaits each man and only says “come”

As a believer, John’s response is the only reaction any of us would have – we would fall on our face, with no strength, as if we were dead

- And say with Isaiah – woe is me!
 - But look at the response of Jesus
 - Verse 17 “...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.

- The reassuring touch of Jesus
 - The loving touch of our Savior. His right hand upon John
 - And then lovingly speaks – “do not be afraid”
 - We won’t need to be afraid in the presence of Jesus.
Isn’t that wonderful!

But He continues. Not only is John not to be afraid, but Jesus gives him the reasons why not

- And in doing so gives us the last two characteristics
 - The 11th way we see Jesus reveal Himself in His deity
 - and the 12th He reveals Himself in His eternity
- Verse 17 “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.
 - This speaks to His deity and his eternity – which we have covered in a previous message
- And I have the keys of Hades and of Death
 - Meaning that He has complete control and authority over hell and death
 - And, as one said, “we can trust that Jesus never lets the devil borrow the keys.

John finishes with explaining the responsibility Jesus gave to him in that vision

- **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.”
 - Of course verse 19 gives us the blueprint for the book of Revelation – which we have already covered in our first message

And there we go. After 5 messages, we are finally ready to move out of chapter one.

- When John was on the prison Island of Patmos, long into his old age,
 - God gave John the greatest gift ever experience by man
 - He revealed Himself in His glorious state in heaven to him
- Jesus revealed Himself in at least 12 separate way
 - As the center of the church, in His humanity as the Son of Man

- As the Royal High Priest, in His Purity, as Judge and as Victorious over all sin and the enemy
 - He revealed Himself in His Sovereignty, His Authority, His Beauty
 - And the last two in His Deity and Eternality
- What a great way to get to know Jesus – as He is today

Hmmm...should we turn off the media and answer questions on Chapter 1?