

Revelation 1:9-20

REVIEW...

- Purpose – Revelation of Jesus...
 - REVELATION - the APOCALYPSE - meaning to UNCOVER something that was HIDDEN...
 - This BOOK is meant to UNCOVER or REVEAL to us – Jesus Christ!
- Opening with GRACE...
 - GRACE that is given the SEVEN churches – those who are called out of this world...
 - GRACE that is given by GOD – the Trinity – the Father – Son – and Spirit...
 - GRACE that makes [passive] us – KINGS and PRIESTS to our Father...
 - GRACE that we need to receive NOW – because Jesus is coming soon!
- Outline - THREE sections...
 - PAST - John wrote the things he HAD seen – vision of Jesus – **Revelation 1**
 - PRESENT - John wrote the things which ARE – the SEVEN churches – **Revelation 2-3**
 - FUTURE - the final section - are the things which will take place AFTER this – **Revelation 4-22**

SEEING JESUS...

- 1st – THE VISION... vs. 9-11
 - 1st – John our brother... vs. 9
 - I – John - your brother!
 - As John begins to describe what he SAW in this REVELATION of Jesus...
 - He first describes himself – emphasizing that He is just LIKE us...
 - He does NOT call himself an APOSTLE – or a PASTOR [titles]
 - He calls himself our BROTHER [ἀδελφός] – he is just another SINNER saved by GRACE!
 - John was an APOSTLE – and PASTOR – but he wanted to RELATE to us...
 - And although he was given the most POWERFUL vision every recorded in the Bible...
 - It was NOT because he was special - he was just a SINNER!
 - We tend to like TITLES – it feels nice when people use them to address us...
 - But if I am honest – I am WARY of being called Pastor...
 - The dilemma is – all TITLES do practically is cause separation...
 - It puts people on a pedestal – as if they are MORE – or BETTER than others...
 - They make people forget we are just like them - SINNERS who are saved by GRACE...
 - Therefore ANYTHING God does in our lives – He can do in ANYONES life!
 - [Our] companion in the tribulation - and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ!
 - John goes on to describe THREE ways he is our COMPANION [συγκοινωνός] – 4x in NT
 - The word means to be a PARTAKER with – to have something in COMMON [κοινός]
 - TRIBULATION [θλίψις] – like us John went through HARD times – **John 16:33**
 - KINGDOM [βασιλεία] – like us John also was also a citizen of the KINGDOM of God...
 - PATIENCE [ὑπομονή] – [ὑπό] is the preposition UNDER – and [μένω] means to ABIDE...
 - Like us – John had to ABIDE in Jesus – as he waited for the KINGDOM to come!

- When we put our FAITH in Jesus – we become citizens of His KINGDOM...
- But until the day comes when He brings us HOME – we will go through TRIBULATION...
- That TRIBULATION – our TRIALS - teach us to CLING [μὲνω] to Jesus...
- As we – just like John – wait patiently for Jesus to come!
- **James 1:2-3** – “Count it all joy... knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”

o 2nd – Patmos... vs. 9

- Was on the island that is called Patmos!
 - As we mentioned in our INTRODUCTION to the book...
 - PATMOS – is a small island about 70km off the coast of Ephesus [Turkey]
 - The Romans used the island as a PRISON for their worst criminals!
- For the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ!
 - John was banished there for teaching the WORD of God [Bible]
 - And because of his WITNESS [μαρτυρία] for Jesus Christ!
 - Church tradition [Tertullian] – tells us Rome tried to kill John by boiling him in oil...
 - When he miraculously survived - he was exiled to PATMOS!
 - **John 15:20** – “If they persecuted Me - they will also persecute you.”
 - Standing up for Jesus comes with a COST – the world will try and SILENCE us...
 - But no matter how BAD a day we are having – what TRIALS we might face...
 - At least no one has tried to BOIL us in oil – or banish us to a remote Island!

o 3rd – The Lords day... vs. 10

- I was in the Spirit on the Lords Day!
- The Lords DAY – ONLY mentioned here in all of the Bible...
- It could refer to the SABBATH day – the ONE day set aside for the LORD – **Exodus 20:9-10**
- It could also refer to SUNDAY – when the CHURCH met to worship – **Acts 20:7**
- But the DAY is not important – what matters is John was in the SPIRIT...
- He was WORSHIPING the LORD – and then he SAW the LORD!
- There are people who make a BIG deal out of what DAY we meet to WORSHIP...
- But the DAY is not important – what matters is that we WORSHIP – we are in the SPIRIT!
- **Colossians 2:16-17** – “Let no one judge you... regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths - which are a shadow of things to come - but the substance is of Christ.”

o 4th – Seven churches... vs. 10-11

- And I heard behind me a loud voice - as of a trumpet!
 - As John was worshiping – BEHIND him he heard a MEGA [μέγας] voice...
 - It was as LOUD as a TRUMPET – 110 decibels - almost as loud as a thunderclap!
 - It is interesting John heard it from BEHIND – he was going the WRONG way...
 - And Jesus LOUDLY got his attention to TURN him around!
- Saying [present] - I am the Alpha and the Omega - the First and the Last!
 - I AM [Εγώ εἰμι] – we are familiar with the SEVEN - I AM statements of the Gospel of John...
 - Jesus said I AM – the Good shepherd – the light of the world – the Resurrection and the life...
 - Here Jesus adds the title - the [Α] ALPHA and [Ω] OMEGA – [2nd of 4x in Revelation]

- The FIRST and LAST letters of the GREEK alphabet!
- Because Jesus was there BEFORE the BEGINNING – the [α] and the [ω] - **Genesis 1:1**
- And He will be there AFTER the END – **Revelation 22:13**
- What you see - write [imperative] in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia!
 - John was to record what he SAW for the SEVEN churches - interpreted in THREE ways!
 - Referring to the HISTORY of the church – from PENTECOST to the RAPTURE...
 - Referring to different KINDS of churches – the TOTAL [seven] church...
 - Referring to SEVEN literal churches in the days of John!
- To Ephesus - to Smyrna - to Pergamos - to Thyatira - to Sardis - to Philadelphia - and Laodicea!
 - Here we are given the LIST of the SEVEN literal churches...
 - All located in the Roman province of Asia Minor – modern day southwest Turkey...
 - They will each be individually addressed in - **Revelation 2-3**
- 2ND – DESCRIPTION OF JESUS... vs. 12-16
 - o What John SAW... vs. 12
 - I turned to see the voice that spoke with me - having turned I saw seven golden lampstands!
 - John TURNED around to SEE [βλέπω] – to LOOK with his eyes...
 - What he SAW [εἶδω] – often translated as to KNOW...
 - He SAW Jesus standing in SEVEN lampstands – more on this in a minute - **Revelation 1:20**
 - John did not just TURN around to LOOK – he TURNED so he could KNOW – Jesus!
 - There were MANY people who SAW Jesus – when He walked on the earth...
 - Yet it did not CHANGE them – they moved on and FORGOT what they SAW!
 - Those who TURN to Jesus – so that they can KNOW Him – truly SEE Him...
 - In all His POWER – GLORY – and SPLENDOR – and they are NEVER the same again!
 - John goes on to give the ONLY description of Jesus in the NT – he gives us SEVEN things:
 - o 1st – Son of man... vs. 13
 - In the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man!
 - In the MIDDLE of the LAMPSTANDS – important location – **Revelation 1:20**
 - Was one LIKE – here is our word that tells us NOT to take it literally...
 - LIKE - the Son of MAN – meaning the APPEARANCE of Jesus was HUMAN!
 - But He is NOT human – He is GOD who took on the FORM of a MAN...
 - So that He could be offered as a SACRIFICE for the SINS of men on the CROSS!
 - **Philippians 2:7-8** – “Taking the form of a bondservant - and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man - He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death - even the death of the cross.”
 - o 2nd – Long Robe... vs. 13
 - Clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band!
 - Jesus wore a LONG robe – that went all the way down to His feet...
 - It had a GOLDEN belt that went around His chest!
 - His clothing is reminiscent of the High Priest – **Exodus 28**

- The GOLDEN band around His HEART – perhaps speaking of His immeasurable LOVE for us!
- Because Jesus is our HIGH priest – who LOVES us – and LEADS us into His THRONE room!
- **Hebrews 4:14** – “We have a great High Priest... Jesus the Son of God.”
- o 3rd – White hair... vs. 14
 - His head and hair were white like wool - as white as snow!
 - Jesus had WHITE hair – LIKE the color of wool or snow...
 - This could be referring to His WISDOM – the GREY hair of the elderly...
 - God is described as the ANCIENT [old] of Days – with WHITE hair – **Daniel 7:9**
 - With that AGE – comes WISDOM – because we have LEARNED from our experiences!
 - **Proverbs 20:29** – “The gray hair of experience is the splendor of the old.”
 - Referring to His PURITY...
 - The color WHITE in the Bible is used for PURITY – **Isaiah 1:18**
 - The white HEAD and HAIR of Jesus refers to His PURE mind – there is NO evil...
 - From head to toe He is all GOOD – all PURE – all WHITE!
- o 4th – Eyes of Fire... vs. 14
 - His eyes like a flame of fire!
 - His eyes were NOT on fire – they were LIKE flames of fire...
 - This is the FIRST of THREE times in Revelation Jesus is described as having BURNING eyes...
 - The idea being they were INTENSE – could BURN right through the exterior...
 - The gaze of Jesus can penetrate and see what is INSIDE – see the HEART!
 - I can imagine it is a VERY overwhelming to stand before Jesus...
 - As His gaze falls on us – we KNOW – there is NOTHING hidden from Him...
 - He does NOT look at the facade we create – He knows EVERYTHING about us!
 - **Hebrews 4:13** – “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.”
- o 5th – Brass feet... vs. 15
 - His feet were like fine brass - as if refined in a furnace!
 - The FEET of Jesus looked LIKE – they were made of BRASS [bronze]
 - As if they had just been taken out of the FIRE – still RED hot!
 - When Moses built the TABERNACLE – BRONZE was ONLY on the outside...
 - The BRONZE altar – where the SACRIFICES were made for the SINS of the people...
 - Because BRONZE is a picture of JUDGMENT – **Exodus 27:2**
 - The idea being – Jesus FEET are ready to JUDGE the SINNERS of this world...
 - Rebellious men who will fall under the WRATH of the KING...
 - Who will bring down His RED hot BRONZE feet in the JUDGMENT because of their SIN!
 - **Revelation 19:15** – “[Jesus] treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”
- o 6th – Loud voice... vs. 15

- His voice as the sound of many waters!
- The VOICE of Jesus is LOUD – is sounds LIKE [as] a LOT of water!
- One of the most amazing things I have ever seen is Niagara Falls...
- Almost three MILLION liters of water fall over the falls every SECOND...
- The result is not just beautiful – it is also VERY loud - deafening!
- The point is God is NOT quiet when He speaks – His voice is VERY loud...
- To which we might answer – I have never HEARD the VOICE of the LORD...
- God does not have to SPEAK with an audible voice [although He certainly can]
- He SPEAKS through His CREATION - He speaks through His WORD – **Psalm 19**
- God is NOT silent – the question is are we LISTENING!
- **Psalm 29:3-4** – “The God of glory thunders. He is over many waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful. The voice of the LORD is full of majesty!”

o 7th – Two edged sword... vs. 16

- He had in His right hand seven stars - out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword...
- Jesus had SEVEN stars in His right HAND – more on that in a minute - **Revelation 1:20**
- Out of His MOUTH – a TWO edged SWORD...
- SWORD [ρόμφαία] – a LARGE two handed broad sword...
- Not that Jesus literally has a SWORD coming out of His mouth...
- It is speaking of the POWER of His WORDS – that cut like a SWORD - **Ephesians 6:17**
- Because it is the WORD of God – that reveals the TRUTH...
- It is the instrument that he will use will bring the JUDGEMENT upon the world!
- **Hebrews 4:12** – “The word of God is living and powerful - and sharper than any two-edged sword [μάχαιρα]... a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

● 3RD – REACTION TO JESUS... vs. 16-18

o 1st – Falling down... vs. 16-17

- His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength!
 - Jesus was SHINING – like the power [δύναμις] of the noonday SUN on a cloudless day!
 - A 100 watt incandescent light bulb – is considered very BRIGHT...
 - The SUN has the BRIGHTNESS - of a THOUSAND 100 WATT bulbs...
 - If we ever try looking up at the SUN - NOT that I recommend this...
 - It is so BRIGHT – that more than just a glimpse – would blind us!
 - The BRIGHTNESS of Jesus speaks of His HOLINESS...
 - God is so HOLY - sinful man cannot look on the pure LIGHT of God!
- And when I saw Him - I fell at His feet as dead!
 - John – seeing Jesus – FELL down and His feet overwhelmed by His HOLINESS...
 - Which I find interesting – as John KNEW Jesus – they were friends – **John 15:15**

- John was the DISCIPLE whom Jesus LOVED – **John 19:26**
 - But when Jesus is revealed in all His HOLINESS – NO one can stand...
 - Even John fell before the FEET [judgment] of Jesus!
 - **Isaiah 6:5** - “Woe is me - for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips... For my eyes have seen the King - the LORD of hosts.”
- o 2nd – Do not be afraid... vs. 17
- But He laid His right hand on me - saying to me - Do not be afraid!
 - John was OVERWHELMED – but Jesus was quick to help...
 - He reached DOWN and put His hand on John - NOT in ANGER but to bring him COMFORT...
 - And commanded him – do NOT [imperative] be AFRAID [φοβέω]
 - Yet John had EVERY reason to be AFRAID – he was a SINNER in front of a HOLY God...
 - The reason he was NOT to FEAR – was because of what God had done for us!
- o 3rd – God died... vs. 17-18
- I am the First and the Last.
 - This is a VERY important phrase– because it is the KEY to the GOSPEL message...
 - We first have to answer the question – WHO is the FIRST and the LAST...
 - **Isaiah 41:4** – “I the LORD [יְהוָה] - the First and the Last. I alone am He.” [NLT]
 - There can be NO doubt – the Old Testament is VERY clear...
 - The LORD [יְהוָה] - the ONE and ONLY God - is FIRST and the LAST – **Deuteronomy 6:5**
 - I am He who lives - and was dead - and behold - I am alive forevermore. Amen!
 - The LORD [יְהוָה] is the God who LIVES – no problem there...
 - And was DEAD – wait a minute – when did God [יְהוָה] – DIE...
 - To which we are commanded [imperative] and LOOK [εἶδω] and understand...
 - The LORD – our GOD – is now alive forevermore [He will never die again] – **Hebrews 9:28**
 - AMEN – [אָמֵן] – this is the TRUTH!
 - Side note – there are those who try to remove the DEITY for Christ from the Bible...
 - But this cross reference can still be found even in altered translations – showing Jesus is God!
 - We do NOT have to FEAR – because God [יְהוָה] came down and DIED for us...
 - There was NO other sacrifice that would work – NO others way...
 - The ONLY hope we have – is through the blood of Jesus...
 - GOD [יְהוָה] – who was alive – then DIED for us – and is now alive forever more!
- o 4th – They Keys... vs. 18
- I have the keys of Hades and of Death!
 - The phrase HADES [ᾍδης] and DEATH [θάνατος] – appears FIVE times in the NT...
 - But in every other instance the order is reversed – DEATH first – then HADES ...
 - Because unbelievers DIE – then they are judged and sent to HADES [hell]
 - This is the SECOND death – permanent separation from God – **Revelation 20:14**
 - The greatest fear of all men is the fear of death - because they KNOW...
 - Although not everyone will admit it – they KNOW the judgement is coming!
 - God is the KEY...

- If someone has a KEY – it means there is something locked up...
- In this case – we were the ones BOUND for HELL – which leads to the second DEATH...
- But through the SACRIFICE of GOD [יְהוָה] – the FIRST and the LAST...
- We have no need to fear DEATH - it has no power over us...
- We know DEATH is not when we are JUDGED - it is when we enter eternal LIFE!
- I Corinthians 15:55-57 – “Death - where is your sting. Hades - where is your victory... thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

● 4TH – THE COMMAND... vs. 19-20

o 1st – Write down... vs. 19

- Write the things which you have seen - and the things which are...
- And the things which will take place after this!
- Jesus then commanded [imperative] John – to write down these things:
- PAST - the things John HAD [aorist] seen – vision of Jesus – **Revelation 1**
- PRESENT - the things which ARE [present] – the SEVEN churches – **Revelation 2-3**
- FUTURE - the things which will take place AFTER this [μετὰ ταῦτα] – **Revelation 4-22**
- Having already read about the PAST – the VISION of Jesus...
- John moves right on to begin to describe the things that ARE – the MYSTERY!

o 2nd – The Mystery... vs. 20

- The mystery!
 - MYSTERY [μυστήριον] – something hidden – a SECRET...
 - The MYSTERY of the STARS in Jesus had – and LAMPSTANDS He is standing in!
 - It is quite large – and yellow and blue – and the impact at the end can be a bit jolting...
 - But so long as you do not run into anyone – it is exciting...
 - If all you heard was that statement – it would be a MYSTERY...
 - But if went on to say we were at the SPLASH park riding a water slide – CONTEXT!
 - The book of REVELATION is famous for having a LOT of MYSTERIES...
 - But – the answer is often as easy as just reading the passage in CONTEXT!
- Of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand...
 - The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches!
 - The seven STARS Jesus is holding in His right hand [His strength] – are seven ANGELS...
 - There are TWO thoughts on WHO these ANGELS are...
 - FIRST – they could be guardian ANGELS – who watch over the churches...
 - Just as Michael is the guardian ANGEL of Israel - **Daniel 10:21**
 - **Psalms 91:11** – “He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.”
 - SECOND – they could be the PASTORS of the churches...
 - ANGEL [ἄγγελος] – means messenger – one who gives God's message...
 - Therefore Jesus could be talking about SEVEN pastors – who give the churches His Word!
- The seven golden lampstands:
 - And the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches!

- The seven LAMPSTAND – are the seven CHURCHES...
- Recall that Jesus is STANDING in the middle of these CHURCHES – **Revelation 1:13**
- Although we are going to be looking at SEVEN literal CHURCHES over the next few weeks...
- It seems unlikely Jesus was ONLY standing in the middle of THOSE churches...
- More likely – the number SEVEN – here again represents the COMPLETE church...
- Because the CHURCH is NOT a building or a denomination...
- We are the CHURCH – and Jesus dwells inside of us – **John 14:23**