

REVELATION: VISION ONE, Part 3: The Glorified Christ. Text: 1:9-3:22

Have you ever wondered what Jesus looked like? We have all seen portraits of Jesus hanging in churches and Bible book stores with long flowing hair, beard, and soft eyes, looking very European.

1. **His awesome and frightening appearance (v.13-16).** There was the awesome and frightening appearance of Christ. John referred to Jesus here as *the Son of Man*, which is the same way Jesus referred to Himself dozens of times in all four Gospels. John's vision of Jesus was so awesome that it defied description. There was no human language to describe Him. All John could do was take some of the things of earth and say the glorified Lord is like that. This is deliberate in that no one can literally picture the vision of Jesus so as to paint a picture. Why? No graven images (2nd commandment).

A. Jesus Christ was clothed with a robe down to His feet (Rev. 1:13). This was the robe of prophets (**Zech. 3:4**), of priests, and of kings and princes. The High Priest wore a robe down to the feet. Jesus is superior to the high priest in that He does not have to offer a sacrifice for Himself before offering one for the nation. He was without sin, thus able to sacrifice Himself for the whole world

B. The chest of Jesus Christ had a gold breastplate strapped across it (Rev. 1:13). This was something like the breastplate of the high priest on which the names of his people were engraved. The breastplate covered the heart. Prophets, priests and kings: Jesus is superior to each.

C. The head and hair of Jesus Christ were as white as white wool and snow (Rev. 1:14). This is the picture of Christ as the Ancient of Days, as being the eternal Lord of the universe. It is possible that this is also a picture of His sinlessness and purity of mind. The spiritual warfare is fought in the mind, and Christ never sinned; He never even had one evil or negative thought that came short of God's glory. He was the sinless Son of God Himself. **Dan 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. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire;*

D. Jesus Christ had eyes that were as a flame of fire (Rev. 1:14). This is describing a piercing, penetrating power of His vision. He sees everywhere, even in the dark places and behind closed doors.

His eyes search the innermost recesses of the heart. He sees and knows everything and thus knows those who love Him, and those who by rejection and disobedience hate Him. No one will be able to hide from Him nor can anyone hide anything from Him. **Prov.5:21** *For directly before the eyes of the Lord are a man's ways, and all his paths are well considered.* **Dan 10:6** *His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.*

E. Jesus Christ had feet like fine brass or bronze. In Scripture, brass is a symbol of judgment. The brazen altar before the Tabernacle was that on which God's judgment continually burned. These brazen boots, heated to white heat in the furnace of judgment shall trample His enemies.

F. Jesus Christ had a voice that was like the sound of many waters (Rev. 1:15). His voice signifies authority. It thunders forth majestic rebuke, conviction, and judgment. **Psa 29:4** *The voice of the Lord is powerful; The voice of the Lord is full of majesty.* **Jer 25:30** *"Therefore prophesy against them all these words, and say to them: 'The Lord will roar from on high, And utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily against His fold. He will give a shout, as those who tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth.*

G. Jesus Christ held seven stars in His right hand (Rev. 1:16, 20). The seven stars represent the messengers, the ministers of the churches. His hand securely holds the messengers with skill and strength and comfort. Stars guide and help navigate. Ministers guide and navigate people to Jesus.

H. Jesus Christ had a sharp two-edged sword coming out of His mouth (Rev. 1:16). This symbolizes the Word of God and its penetrating power. The word of God has both the ability to give life and to destroy; to heal and to reveal; to give hope, and to condemn. **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.* (**Rev.19:15, 21.**)

I. Jesus Christ had a countenance that was like the sun shining in its full strength. This expresses the dazzling brilliance of His presence in all of His majesty and honor and glory as God.

2. **His reassuring presence and care (v.17-18).** There was the reassuring presence and care of the Lord. John was terrified. He fell at the feet of the Lord as though he were dead. But note the calm assurance of Christ. Christ reached out with His right hand and softly and tenderly touched John, assuring Him that He was not there to consume him. Christ said four things to John.

A. "Fear not—do not be afraid" (**Rev. 1:17**). He was declaring that He had not appeared to John in judgment but in love and care. He was appearing to commission John and to use him in the great mission of building up the churches and of reaching the lost for God. **Isa 41:10** *Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.* **Isa 43:1 - 2** *But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.*

When Jesus walked on water toward the disciples on the boat, they were terrified in **Matt 14:27** *But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."* **Matt 17:7** Jesus came to Peter, James and John on the mount of Transfiguration, *and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid."* In **Mark 5:36**, we read that Jesus was informed of the death of a 12 year old girl. The text tells us: *As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe."* Jesus then took Peter, James and John into the room where the girl was and brought her back to life. Fear is an enemy to faith.

B. "I am the first and the last" (**Rev. 1:17**). That is, He is the beginning and the end. Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet and Omega the last letter. That is, Jesus Christ is the beginning and the ending of all there is. He began all things and He shall end all things. All things find their purpose, meaning, and significance in Him. Man, the world, history—no matter how chaotic and disjointed life may seem—all things are under the control of Jesus Christ.

C. "I am He that lives, and was dead; and behold, I am alive forevermore" (**Rev. 1:18**). The exalted and glorified Lord need not be feared, for He is the same Person who came to earth and died and arose for our salvation. He is telling John, "I am Jesus, the One who loves you, your Lord whom you followed and loved for three years...It is I, don't be afraid." **John 1:4** *In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.* **John 11:25** *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.*

D. "I have the keys of hell and of death" (**Rev. 1:18**). Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. He has conquered death, and He can deliver us from judgment and hell. He has the keys to unlock both death and hell and to deliver us from the bondage of both. **2 Tim 1:10** *but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,* **John 5:24** *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.*

3. His clear instructions (v.19). There were the clear instructions of Jesus Christ. Christ repeats His commission to John. He tells John to write three things. Note: these things provide an outline for the book of *Revelation*. John was to write: • *the things that he had seen*: that is, the vision of the glorified Christ (**Rev. 1-2**).• *the things which are*: that is, the state and condition of the churches (**Rev. 2-3**).• *the things which shall be hereafter*: that is, the consummation of human history, the coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ and the end of the world (**Rev. 4-22**).

4. His interpretation of the vision (v.20). There was Christ interpreting the vision for John. The interpretation is clearly stated. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches. The word "angels" (*aggelos*) means messenger as well as heavenly angels. There are several different ideas as to whom the word refers here. The weight of evidence points toward the meaning being the ministers of the churches. The seven candlesticks are symbols of the seven churches. Remember what the symbol means: the church holds forth the light of the world, the glorious light of the Lord Jesus Christ.