

REVELATION: Hear & Take Heed

Week #3

“The First Look”

As we turned to the last portion of chapter 1 in Revelation (Rev. 1:9-20), we hear John speak of his first glimpse of Christ. The setting is with incredible anticipation. In Revelation 19 we will see “The Marriage Supper of the Lamb”; however, this first look comes with the excitement of a bride and groom on their wedding day seeing each other for the first time in all their wedding attire.

Making the setting a bit more radiant is the backdrop to the moment. John is on the Island of Patmos in exile for proclaiming Christ (v.9). It is Sunday, the first day of the week (The Lord’s Day). And the Lord speaks from behind John, calling to him. The words themselves are piercing and powerful like a trumpet (v.10). Like a diamond in a jewelry store, the stark and dark backdrop only illuminates the beauty of this moment that much more!

Really, the voice of the Lord coming like a trumpet is quite expected. In John 1:1 we see the Lord Jesus is part of declaring creation along the Father in Genesis 1. In Psalm 29, David recounts the power of God’s words. They thunder, carry the power of many waters, break the cedars, bring forth flames, shake the wilderness, bring life, and are absolutely majestic. Nahum records the power of God’s words and presence as holding the power to “melt mountains” (Nahum 1:1-5). Surely, John would make no mistake over Who it was speaking behind him with such power. So, the anticipation grows!

As John listens to the 2 commands to write and deliver the words he hears to seven churches, he turns to see the One who is speaking. His first glimpse at the Lord shows Him (Jesus):

1. *Among the Churches (7 Golden Lampstands – Rev. 1:13&20c)*
2. *As the Son of Man (Daniel 7:13-14 & John 1:51)*
 - *Head & Hair of pure white wool like snow*
 - *Eyes that penetrate and refine like fire*
 - *Feet like hot burnished bronze able and ready to judge justly*
 - *A voice of great power like many waters*
 - *Wearing a gold sash signifying His position as King and readiness to act*
3. *Holding the Messengers In His Hand (7 Stars – Rev. 1:16&20b)*
4. *A Mouth Baring the Sharpness of a Two-Edged Sword (Rev. 1:16)*

This glimpse of the Radiant Son of Man did what it has always done. John saw the Lord and fell before the Lord (v.17). In the Garden of Gethsemane the soldiers and Judas fell in His presence (John 18:1-6). Abraham fell and worshipped at God’s appearing in Genesis 17, and Joshua in the Lord’s presence (Joshua 5:14-15)... John’s response is good and right!

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The next action is Christ's, though. Being the Groom, Savior, and Creator of the world, the Lord extends His right hand to John who is on the ground. Placing it on John, He says 5 Phrases of Great Comfort to the apostle John. Let's take a look at these phrases more as part of the "Going Further" section

Going Further

1. "Do Not Be Afraid..." **Read Matthew 14:22-27; Matthew 17:1-7; John 16:33

In each of these passages Christ declares for the hearer to "not be afraid". In the Matthew 17 text we even read that Christ, at His transfiguration, reached out and touched the disciples like what He does with John in Revelation 1:17. As powerful as the Lord is, what encouragement does it bring to you to hear this phrase from the Lord?

2. "I Am The First and The Last..." **Read Isaiah 41:1-4; Job 42:1-3; Romans 8:31

The Lord was before all things, and stands as the Sustainer Sovereign God eternally. This phrase carries with it the power of the final word. When God speaks, His words are decisive and perfect. Nothing that the Lord speaks goes unfulfilled. This is encouraging because it is what supports why I need not be afraid. This phrase also inputs the name of Christ as the "Alpha and Omega", the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Signifying that all spoken words of truth belong to the Lord. He bares absolute authority.

3. "The Living One..." **Read Luke 24:1-5

The Greek word for "Living One" in Luke 24:5 is the word "zaō". It means to have life, breathe, or to walk among the living. In this case and in Revelation this word is used to describe Jesus as the One who is breathing and also the giver of breath. He is the One and ONLY that gives life!

4. "I Was Dead, AND BEHOLD, I Am Alive..." **Read 1 Corinthians 15

The previous phrase from Christ about being "The Living One" would not bare much value if at His death on the cross He remained dead. He would not be able to give life any longer, and all hope would be gone. However, Christ rose from the grave! The word "Behold" is used 25 times in Revelation. It is used to grab the readers' attention to something that will preserve or even save their life. So, Christ interjects after His stated death, BEHOLD!!! I AM ALIVE! To this the believer can truly take great confidence of life that when the Son sets you free, you are truly free and abundant in life by the Lord's great power!

5. "I Have The Keys Of Death & Hades..." **Read John 8:31-36; Luke 4:17-19; Revelation 19 & 20

This phrase could be heard with great fear. But, in this case John is reminded of what he wrote in John 8:32&36. Jesus, who holds the keys has loosed the bonds for those who have professed Him as Lord and Savior! So, they are free INDEED.

*There are two types of people. Those that have these phrases in comfort, and those that have them in dread. To John, and those that know Christ, they are comfort. What are they for you?