

Revelation: The Appearance of Christ (series #2)

Cornerstone Community Church – Pastor Jerry Ernst

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Scripture: Revelation 1:10-20

In Revelation chapter one, Jesus stands in the middle of the seven churches carrying the glory of God. Jesus holds the seven stars (seven angels) – and comes with a two-edged sword (His Judgment). Jesus is holy – with penetrating eyes and a mouth speaking God's Truth.

WHAT JOHN SAW IN THIS REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST? (Vv. 11-20)

1) JESUS' APPEARANCE TO HIS CHURCH: (Vv. 11-13)

Jesus' COMMAND to His CHURCH: *"(11) saying, 'I am the Alpha and 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.'"*

Send it: (Gk: *pempson*): *"To send, transmit, permit to go, put forth."*

Seven: (Gk: *heptá*): *"Completeness, totality; seven."*

Church: (Gk: *ekklésia*): *"Church, assembly, congregation; called out ones; believers who worship, fellowship, and serve Christ."*

Jesus' SYMBOL of His Church: *"(12) Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven **golden lampstands**,"*

Lampstand – A lampstand is not a light but a bearer of light!

- The seven golden lampstands represent the seven churches being addressed.

Jesus' POSITION to His Church: *"(13) and in the midst of the seven lampstands **One** like the **Son of Man**,"*

- **"Son of Man"** – Jesus' Messianic & human character. Describing Christ's **dominion**.
- Occurs 100 times in Ezekiel; 80 times in New Testament.
- Daniel 7:13-14: A "Son of Man" receiving **authority** from the Father.

Jesus' WARDROBE to His Church: *"(13) ...clothed with a garment (robe) down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band."*

ROBE/Garment: Represents clothing of a **Priest** and **Judge**; Aaron's robe (Ex. 28:2).

GOLDEN BAND: Gold – for a king; Girded - to hold up robe.

2) THE SEVEN BODILY ASPECTS OF JESUS' DEITY: (Vv. 14-16) - *"(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."*

HEAD & HAIR - *"(14) His **head and hair** were **white like wool**, as **white as snow**,"*

Wool/white snow: Pre-existence & sinlessness (Isaiah 1:18); meaning absolute holiness and wisdom – like a judge.

- Daniel 7:9-14 "Ancient of Days" *Eternal existence of God & Jesus.

EYES - like a flame of fire (Vs. 14) Literally: *"his eyes shot fire."*

- **Judgment** to pierce souls. *Hebrews 4:13

FEET - like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace (Vs. 15)

- **Brass/Bronze:** symbolizes judgment in OT; brazen altar (Exodus 38).

VOICE – as the sound of many waters (Vs. 15)

- **Jesus' voice** has powerful authority!

RIGHT HAND - holding seven stars (Vs. 16)

- **Right hand:** Jesus' *position, protection, and authority* over His Church.
- **Seven (7) stars** – Seven angels over the seven churches (Vs. 20).

MOUTH - Two-Edged Sword (Vs. 16)

- **Meaning:** *"devastating Judgment; a stabbing intent."*
- **Sword:** (Gk: romphaia): Used five times in Revelation. *Hebrews 4:12

FACE – his countenance was like the sun shining its strength (Vs. 16)

3) JESUS' REASSURANCE TO JOHN AND CHRIST'S CHURCH: (Vv. 17-20)

His Comfort: *"(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;'"*

His Position: *"(17) ...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.**"*

- **Keys:** (Gk: kleis): **"Key, keys"** *Control over their eternal domain.
- **Hades:** Hell *Luke 16:23 (eternal hell)
- **Death:** (Gk: thánatos): **"to die"** – physical or spiritual *death* (Luke 16:19-31; 2nd Peter 2:4).

His Command: *"(19) Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this"*

- **Chapter 1:** *"The things which you have seen;"*
- **Chapters 2 & 3:** *"and the things which are,"*
- **Chapters 4-22:** *"and the things which will take place after this."*

His Explanation: *"(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."*

- **The seven stars** - the angels of the seven churches.
- **The seven golden lampstands** - the seven churches.

Cornerstone Community Church

- 1) Do we anticipate a holy God Coming in His glorious power to give a verdict to His Church?**
- 2) Is today's Church ready for the times of trial and fire before Jesus Returns?**
- 3) Is your soul saved before Jesus comes? (John 3:3, 16-17)**