

Vision of Jesus the Fuel for our Faith

Sam McVay, Jr.
1.15.12



Revelation 1:9-20 (ESV)

I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹ saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea." ¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. ¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. ¹⁹ Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. ²⁰ As for the mystery of the seven stars that 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 are the seven churches.

Culture of Persecution under Rome:

Stephen was one of the first men to have suffered early Christian persecution. He was stoned to death outside the gates for the faithful manner in which he preached the Gospel. After this, a great persecution was raised against all who professed belief in Christ as the Messiah.

The fate of the Apostles and close disciples followed in succession.

James the Great, the elder brother of John the Apostle, was beheaded in A.D. 44.

Philip, who served in Upper Asia was scourged in Phrygia, thrown into prison and later crucified (A.D. 54).

Matthew the tax collector served the Lord in Parthia and Ethiopia where he was slain with a halberd (a shafted weapon with an axe-like cutting blade and a speared end) in the city of Nadabah, A.D. 60.

James the Less, the brother of the Lord, served the church in Jerusalem and wrote the book of James. He suffered martyrdom at the age of ninety-four by being beaten and stoned by the Jews.

Matthias, the man who was chosen to replace Judas as an apostle, was stoned at Jerusalem and then beheaded.

Andrew, the brother of Peter, preached the gospel to many Asiatic nations and was crucified on a cross at Edessa. The ends of his cross were fixed transversely in the ground, thus the derivation of the term, St. Andrew's cross.

Mark was converted to Christianity by Peter and served as amanuensis (he wrote for Peter). He was dragged to pieces by the people of Alexandria.

Peter, the apostle, was sought by Nero to be put to death. Jerome wrote that Peter was crucified with his head down and his feet up, because he thought himself unworthy to be crucified in the same form and manner as the Lord.

Paul was really persecuted several times. He was scourged, stoned, and finally, Nero had him beheaded by a sword.

Jude, the brother of James, commonly called Thaddeus, was crucified at Edessa in A.D. 72.

Bartholomew preached in several countries and translated the Gospel of Matthew into the language of India. He was cruelly beaten and then crucified by in patient idolaters.

Thomas, doubting Thomas, preached the Gospel in Parthia and India. He excited the rage of the pagan priests and was martyred by being thrust through with a spear.

Luke the author of Luke and Acts travelled with Paul through various countries and was supposed to have been hanged on and olive tree by the idolatrous priests of Greece.

Simon the Zealot preached the Gospel in Mauritania, Africa, and even Britain where he was crucified in A.D. 74.

John, the Apostle whom Jesus loved, was sent from Ephesus to Rome where he was put into a cauldron of boiling oil. He escaped by a miracle, without injury, but was then banished to the Isle of Patmos and there he wrote the book of Revelation. Nerva, Domitian's successor, said he was the only apostle who escaped a violent death.

There are ten primitive persecutions mentioned in Foxe's Book of Martyrs. The first mass persecution occurred under Nero in A.D. 67. He was the sixth emperor of Rome and is remembered as the one who set Rome aflame and then blamed the Christians for the deaths and destruction caused by the fire. He had some Christians sewn up in skins of wild beasts and thrown to the dogs. Some Christians were dressed in shirts made stiff with wax, fixed to axletrees, and set on fire in his gardens, in order to illuminate them. Rather than diminished the spirit of Christianity, this persecution increased the devotion and commitment of Christianity.

The second persecution happened under Domitian in A.D. 81. Anything bad that happened whether it was famine, pestilence, or earthquakes he blamed the Christians and put them to death. The third primitive persecution occurred under Trajan in A.D. 108. Christians were beaten, beheaded, and devoured by wild beasts. About ten thousand Christians were put to death.

I. Three things in Jesus are listed in verse 9 and serve as a purpose of the book

- 1) Tribulation
- 2) Kingdom
- 3) Patient Endurance

II. The churches needed to know that Jesus stands in the midst of them according to vs. 12 & 13

Revelation 1:12-13

Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.

III. Eight descriptions of what the Son of Man looks like that stands in their midst in vs. 13-16.

Revelation 1:13-16

and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His

eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

These are to empower them to **OVERCOME IN VICTORY** as they walk out the three things from vs. 9.

Revelation 1:9

I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

{Remember the level of your obedience, endurance, and overcoming for Jesus will be directly proportional to your level of revelation about Jesus}

1. Clothed in long robe with golden sash = [Present Priest & King in victory](#)
2. Hairs of head like white wool, like snow = [Son of the Ancient of Days with Victorious Authority over All things](#)
3. Eyes like a flame of fire = [Pure, Piercing, and Victorious Revelation](#)
4. Feet like burnished bronze, like fired in a furnace = [Endurance to walk through persecution with victory](#)
5. Voice like the roar of many waters = [The strong, unrelenting, unstoppable victorious words of God](#)
6. Right hand holds seven stars = [I hold and empower you with my victorious leadership](#)
7. From mouth comes a two-edged sword = [The word of God that slays enemies and wins the victory](#)
8. Face shining like the sun in full strength = [Radiating with Glory that consumes all in victory](#)

IV. Three proclamations by Jesus to further empower them to not FEAR in vs. 17 & 18

Revelation 1:17-18

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

!!!!These statements are like a bold exclamation point on the previous revelations!!!!

- 1- I am first and last!
- 2- I am the living one who was dead but now alive forevermore!
- 3- I have the keys of Death and Hades!

Remember - Living revelation of Jesus fuels our faith for victorious overcoming in the Tribulation, Kingdom, and Patient Endurance that are in Jesus during this age.