

THE BOOK OF REVELATION
"The Voice That Spoke"
Revelation 1:12-17

Introduction

1. John is on the isle of Patmos for the sake of the Gospel (v. 9). There in his loneliness, the Lord spoke to him (vv. 10, 11).

2. The voice of the Lord was so magnificent that John turned to see it (v. 12). Imagine, turning to see a "voice!" This confirms the fact that Christ is the "Word" of God (John 1:1).

3. When John turned to see the voice, he immediately saw an astounding vision. Here is what he saw:-

1. CANDLESTICKS v. 12

a. Their numeration

There were seven of them. Not seven in one, as in the O.T. (Ex. 25:40), but seven specific ones. This number suggests completeness.

b. Their construction

The gold of which the lampstands are made in divine righteousness. It is like a display of God's righteousness and His perfectness.

c. Their signification

Each lampstand represents a local independent assembly and utterly responsible to displace the gloom with its light (v. 20). These Asiatic lampstands have long since been snuffed out (Rev. 2:5) and the entire world-wide lampstands are threatened (Rom. 11:22). What about our light in this lampstand where we fellowship?!

2. SON OF MAN

Actually, the Son of Man is not seen, but one "like" a Son of Man. The anarthrous construction here suggests His characteristics rather than His person. The title is used of Ezekiel about 100 times, of Daniel 1 time (8:15), and of Christ about 70 times in

the Gospels. Although glorified, it is thrilling to note that He is associated with the churches for He is "in the midst of the seven lampstands," it is the view of Him which fills the vision; not the lampstands! This is how he was viewed:-

a. His clothes

The garment he wore is used by the LXX of the ephod worn by the high priest (Ex. 28:31). It is probably a reference to the priest in judgment for he sees to it that the light is used (Lev. 24:3, 4). The covering of the breasts indicates divine glory (Rev. 15:6). What a picture of priestly dignified judgment (John 5:21-23).

b. His head

The "white" of the head and hair is similar to the O.T. (Dan. 7:9, 10, 13, 22). It connotes the absolute purity of divine wisdom. Holiness is an obvious character of the matter. The dazzle of such a view is overwhelming!

c. His eyes

It is true that when He comes the second time to earth, this view of Christ will be exhibited (19:12), but this is His basic person-- He possesses penetrating judgment. It is this aspect of His character from which no one will escape scrutiny!

d. His feet

Brass is the translation of a difficult Greek word which some just transliterate. It certainly refers to a composite metal produced through fire and which dazzled the eyes of John. It may well be a reference to the ground of wrath-judgment and this is Calvary. Christ's judgment is according to that which He secured at the Cross.

e. His voice

The Psalmist speaks of God's mighty voice (29; 93:4). Even the future temple speaks of His voice (Ezek. 43:2). It was this

mighty voice that stilled the waters (Matt. 8:23-27). The "many waters" of His voice suggests the variegated attributes of deity found in Christ.

f. His countenance

Once spittle fell on Him (Matt. 26:67), but now divine glory, more brilliant than the midday sun. Christ is the light to the world (John 8:12), the Sun of righteousness to Israel (Mal. 4:2) and the bright and morning Star to the church (Rev. 22:16).

NOTE: Added to these physical descriptions are two other features: 1) Right hand. In this hand are seven stars. Stars in the Bible speak of a) multitudes (Gen 15:6) b) eminent authority (Dan 8:10; Rev. 6:13, 12:4) c) subordinate powers (Gen 37:9; Rev. 12:1). What an honorable and responsible position for every leader of the local church to possess (v. 20)! 2) Mouth. From our Lord's mouth comes the double-edged sword. This is His personal Word, but the same characterizes His written Word (Heb. 4:12). He speaks and it is done. Nothing can ward off His Word--It is double-edged!

Conclusion. When John "saw" all of this, he "fell down" as dead. This is what must invariably happen when you get a true vision of the person and character of Christ! Others were similarly moved when they "saw" Him (Isa. 6:5; Ezek. 1:28; Dan. 8:17, 18; 10:7-10). Oh beloved, fall at His feet in worship today! Amen.