

VISION OF THE HIGH PRIESTHOOD OF JESUS CHRIST

This passage introduces to the author of the Book of Revelation that is to be sent to the 7 churches of Asia Minor.

The author is the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ dressed in the full high priesthood of Israel.

We will study this passage of Scripture by the following four homiletical points.

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| • Lord's day | (Rev 1:10) | Spirit: | Sound; startled. |
| • Lord's book | (Rev 1:11,19) | See: | Script; send. |
| • Lord's look | (Rev 1: 12-17a) | Scenery: | Son of Man. |
| • Lord's words | (Rev 1:17b-20) | Savior: | Seven stars and lampstands. |

1. The Book of Revelation was introduced to John on the Lord's Day while a prisoner on the Island of Patmos (1:9-10).

The Greek word for Lord is (te kuriakos), not the normal word (kurios). The suffix (kos) refers to belonging to the Lord. This Greek form of kurios is used one other time in reference to the Lord's Supper (1 Cor.11:20). "A technical term for the first day of the week – so named because Jesus rose from the dead on that day. It was also the day on which the Christians met (see 1 Cor.16:2)." (NIV, Rev.1:10) *Kuriakos* was used by the Romans to refer to the Imperial Day on which the Imperial tax was collect each month (Mark 12:13-17).

John received divine revelation, known to us as the Book of Revelation on the Lord's Day (our Sunday) (vs.10).

John declared that he "was in the Spirit." There is no definite article with (pneuma/ Spirit). This reminds us the importance of walking in the Spirit (Gal.5:16). The Greek word (was) is ginomai (a.m.ind). *Ginomai* refers to something happening or occurring as a normal part of the spiritual life.

Listen to me carefully, because in human terms John's life is anything but normal as a prisoner suffering undeservingly on the penal colony of Patmos. *However, in the plan of God, his life is normal. Therefore John can find inner peace and joy in spite of these circumstances by walking in the Spirit by faith (Gal.5:16-17, 22-23; James 1:2-4).*

John was startled by a sound behind him. He heard a sound like a trumpet (salpinx) later described as many waters (ch1: 15). The Greek word and grammar for *behind* is (opiso+ablative of separation). It refers to regaining all of John's attention after being startled.

2. John was commanded to write (grapho/ a.a.impv.2ps) and send (pempo/ a.a.impv.2ps) what he saw (blepo/ p.a.ind) a book (biblion) to the 7 churches of Asia Minor (11).

What he saw became the Scriptures of the last book of the bible canon (Revelation).

"biblion – pieces of papyrus or parchment sewn together and rolled on a spindle (see-Ex.17:14). The book form was not invented until about the second century AD." (NIV, Rev.1:11)

“Write (grapho/ a.a.impv.2ps), therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things.” (1:19)

The Greek word grapho (write) is a.a.impv.(strong command) in both 1:11 and 1:19.

“The commission covers the whole series of visions which all grow out of this vision of the Risen Christ.” (Revelation by A.T.Robertson, Rev.1:11)

John divided the Book of Revelation into three parts according to 1:19.

- The things which you have seen (horao/ a.a.ind) -Rev.1.
- The things which are (eimi/ p.a.ind) – Rev.2-3
- The things which shall take place after these things (mello/ p.a.ind) (ginomai/ a.m.infin) – Rev.4-22
(Note: “after these things” of Rev.4:1)

3. When John turned (epistrepho/ a.a.ind) and saw (blepo/ p.a.infin) the voice speaking to him, he fainted from fear (1:12-17a) – “do not be afraid/ me phobeo/ p.p.impv.2ps).

What John saw was the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ standing in the middle of the 7 lampstands dressed in the high priesthood garment of Israel (1:12-16; Heb.5-10).

“The high priest wore a full length robe (Ex.28:4; 29:5). Reference to Christ as high priest is supported by the reference to the golden sash around his chest.” (NIV, Rev.1:13)

“For it is fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens.” (Heb.7:26)

In the sevenfold description of high priesthood of Jesus (1:13-16), there is only one main verb (phaino/ shining/ 1:16).

Head –	Voice -	Face -
Eyes –	Right hand –	
Feet -	Mouth –	

4. The Son of Man told John three important things regarding the vision of Rev.1.

Author (1 :17b-18) – *power* titles

Book (1:19) – *points* of outline (see point 2)

Mystery (1:20) – *parts* of the mystery explained; (OT lampstand was one with 7 branches)

“The first of several places where the symbols are interpreted (see – 17:15,18).” (NIV, Rev.1:20)

Each lampstand (church) has one star (angel/ messenger/ aggelos) (Rev.2:1).