

Revelation 1

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Preacher: Mr Joe MacPee

[0 : 00] Let's turn then to this portion of scripture that we read. And what I'd like to do is to look at this particular portion in two parts.

So we'll look at one part today and we'll look at part two this evening. And what I'd like to look at in particular is the vision.

The vision that John received. And looking at that vision as we have it in particular in verse 9 down to verse 16.

And then tonight I want to look particularly at verses 17 and 18. So these are the ways in which I would like to look at this particular portion.

The whole of the chapter of course is so full that one could spend time on any of the verses. But just to give us a feel for exactly what the revelation of Jesus Christ is presenting to us.

[1 : 14] And in particular the visions that John received. So a word of introduction first to this particular narrative.

The revelation of Jesus Christ. Quite often you still hear this particular book to be referred to as the revelation of John.

But this is the revelation of Jesus Christ. So it tells us immediately that this book is about Jesus Christ. The revelation.

The word that people use sometimes is the apocalypse. And the word apocalypse means an unveiling. It's an unveiling. It is the full disclosure.

It's the veil being removed as it were. It's an unveiling. It's an unveiling. A full disclosure of God's purpose. God's purpose.

[2 : 13] Christ in all the scriptures. From Genesis to Revelation. The revelation. But here in a particular way. We see. We see. The majestic revelation of the risen.

The exalted. The glorified Son of God. As we look at him after his resurrection. After his ascension into heaven.

And in the glory and the majesty of his second coming. When he tells us. In verse 7.

Behold he is coming. It is referring to the second coming of Christ. This is the theme of the book.

The majestic revelation of the risen.

Exalted. Glorified. Son of God. The other thing to note about this vision. Is that it's not a future vision. It's a present vision.

[3 : 15] It's a present vision. It depicts Jesus Christ. In his present ministry to his church.

And that's something we should always bear in mind. That this is talking about today. It is talking about every individual believer's communion with Christ.

When you have communion with Christ. Which we pay is constant. You are having communion with this risen.

Exalted. Glorified Savior. That's who you have communion with. When you go on your knees in the morning. Whatever you do.

When you call on the name of the Lord. Through Christ. You are coming. Through him. Through this Jesus. Through this person.

[4 : 15] That we have revealed here. That's why this book is such an important book. Such an remarkable book. And there's many remarkable things about it.

There's even. At verse 3. A blessing associated. With those who read. Those who hear. And those who keep. Those things. That are written in it.

Those who read. And those who hear. And those who keep. Those things. That's the purpose. Of the book. John to the seven churches. Which are in Asia.

Grace to you and peace. That's the purpose. That you might. See this. Saviour. And that grace and peace.

Would be mediated. By the Holy Spirit. Into your hearts. Into your hearts. Grace and peace to you. And it is the common. The salutation. The common greeting.

[5 : 15] That you see. In all the epistles. And it's almost. Remind you. Of the fact. That this was. John. The word this. It's a common salutation.

As you know. If you read. The epistles. You will see this. Time and time. Again. Grace and peace. To you. From him.

Who is. And who was. And who is to come. And from the seven spirits. Who are before his throne. And from Jesus Christ. Who is it referring to?

From him. Who is. And who was. And who is to come. He's referring to the father. Who is he referring to? He's referring to the seven spirits. He's referring to the Holy Spirit.

In all. His perfection. And in all. His fullness. The fullness. The fullness. Of the Holy Spirit. And from Jesus. Christ.

[6 : 12] And from Jesus Christ. In all. His. Glory. In all. His. Glory. And in all. Of what he's done for us. In all.

The glory. Of his salvation. And his saving. Work. And we'll say more about that. This. Evening. Behold.

He is. Coming. Behold. He is. Coming. And he makes this. Announcement. To John.

And to us. The second. Coming. Of Christ. Is a reality. And he's coming.

To judge. The world. Every eye. Will see him. Even they. Who pierced him. Every eye. Will see him.

[7 : 08] He's coming. To judge. The world. He's coming. To judge every. Person. In the world. And as they say. You can run.

But you can't hide. You can run. But you can't. Hide. How long.

How long. Are you going. To reject. The sin. It's. Astonishing. When the gospel.

Is presented. It's astonishing. Just. How people. Reject. And ignore. And deny. That you can't hide. Nobody. Can hide. And remember. Watch what he says here. Even so. Amen. Even so.

[8 : 07] Amen. This is. Going to happen. Surely. And. Certainly. I am the Alpha. And the Omega. The beginning.

And the end. Says the Lord. Who is. And who was. And is to. Come. The Almighty. And even so. Amen. And he sets. His own seal.

Of it. As the one. Who is. And who was. And is to have come. The Almighty. Sets. His own. Seal. On these. Remarkable.

Words. And on these. Remarkable. Truths. And on that. Remarkable. Message. Of grace. And peace. To you. I.

John. At verse 9. Both your brother. And companion. Both your brother. And. Companion. Othello. Partaker. John.

[9 : 02] In his. In his. Humility. In his. Humility. John. Who was one of the great apostles. And one of the great leaders. Of the church. One of the great elders.

Of the church. Doesn't declare. Any of that. The statue. That. Belonged to him. But rather.

Declares. This. Both your brother. And.

Your. Fellow. Partaker. As if he. Reduces. Himself. From any. Eligated. Thought. Or. Or. Or office. Or apostolic office. Or experience. But he brings himself. As it were. Down. To the level. Of. If I could say it.

Of you. And me. Of believers. Believers. And he brings himself. Down in three ways.

[9 : 57] I. John. Both your brother. And companion. In the tribulation. In the kingdom. And patience. Of perseverance.

Is the better word. And the perseverance. Of Jesus. Christ. He's identifying himself. With you. In your.

In your. Revelations. In your. Sufferings. In your. Day to day. Experience. In your.

Status. As being. In the kingdom. Of God. And a. Member. Of that kingdom. A subject. Of that.

Kingdom. And in the. Perseverance. The everyday. Perseverance. That we need. As we journey. Every day.

[10 : 50] Through. Life. And through the trials. And through the temptations. Of life. Temptations. All around us.

To deny him. To take another. Way. To take another path. When sin. Rears its ugly head. And presents itself. So. So. So. So. So. So. So. So. So. So. Attractively. And we. We. We. We're drawn to it. And it's.

Asking us. And it's. Speaking to us. And it's. Asking us. To. To. Partake of it. Anything but Christ. And. Let nobody.

Be. Be. Deluded. By. By. Thinking that this world. Is somehow neutral. There's no such thing as neutrality. To the Lord himself.

[11 : 46] Not to play it. Those who are out for him. But against him. The world is against him. Against him. Anything. But Christ.

Christ. As we journey through. Well. Trials and temptations.

Out. Sorrows and our sufferings. The wonder is that he gives us exactly what we need. In those moments. What do we need?

What exactly does he give us? Well he gives us himself. He gives us himself. I was reading this the other day.

What does he give us? He is the grace that he gives. He is the grace that he gives.

[12 : 45] God's best gift of grace is himself. And that's the way he came to John here. Himself. Himself.

I. I. John. I. John. John. Both your brother and companion in the tribulation and him. The impatience of Jesus Christ. Was on the island that is called Patmos.

For the word of God. And for the testimony of Jesus Christ. And he heard a loud voice.

And he saw the vision of Christ himself. Coming. To him. He was exiled to Patmos. As you know. It was an island prison.

Approximately 30 miles off Ephesus. In the Aegean Sea. And banishment to such a prison.

[13 : 42] Was a common form of Roman punishment. And if the crime was political. There was a measure of liberty. Associated with those who were imprisoned there.

But if the crime was criminal. If it was a criminal offence. Then you were part of a chain gang.

According to the historians. A chain gang. Breaking stones. And doing various tasks. It was a cruel punishment. A cruel punishment.

And it seems as if John. And most certainly. It was the case. That John. Because of his. Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

And as I know what he says. For the word of God. And for the testimony. Of Jesus Christ. Here was a man. Who didn't. Back down. Who didn't.

[14 : 41] Deny. But for the word of God. And for the testimony. Of Jesus Christ. He suffered. He suffered. And it is a remarkable thing.

That God calls. His people. To suffer. It's a remarkable thing. If you place it down. Through this dream. For some of the Lord's people.

Those perhaps. That he uses most. Often in their experience. And their problems. Have great. Trials of suffering. But here's.

John. Serving. A punishment. A punishment. As it were. In this. Prison. In this. Prison.

For this. Faith. And then. Remarkably. You did this. Grr. I. Was in this. Spirit. On the Lord's day.

[15 : 39] The contrast. Between this. Chain gang. This man of God. Chained. I'm sure. To the other prisoners. And breaking stones.

And day by day. And he was an old man. The historians reckon. When he was 90 years of age. In a chain gang. I was in the spirit.

On the Lord's day. Oh. What can he words? These. Ah. The Lord's day. Even. The Lord's day. We. Here.

The Lord's day. We share. With John. We can identify. With John. The same Lord's day. The first day of the week.

For the Christian. Sabbath. And we share. With him. We can identify. With him. We meet. Do we meet.

[16 : 38] In the spirit. Or we pray. That we do. We pray to God. The Holy Spirit. Would be here. And has he not promised. That while the two. Lord's day. And gathered.

In his name. That he would be there. That he would be there. The promise. Associated. With where the church of God. Meets. To worship God. Publicly.

And mark this. Mark this. You know. One of the things. That really. Is a. Plague of the day.

Is that people. Can think. That they don't need. To gather. In the public worship. Of God. The public worship. Of God. Is what God. Has promised. To meet.

What Christ. Has promised. To meet. His people. That is in the public worship. Of God. And what you have today. Is people who say. But I don't actually. Need to go to church. I can just go.

[17:32] And listen to us. I don't really need to go out. That's nonsense. I'm not saying. That. That. That. Listening to us everyone. Is. Is. Is not profitable. For your soul. But if you're doing that.

And forsaking. The gathering. Of ourselves. Together. In the public worship. Of God. Then I'm saying to you. That is not. What the scriptures teach. Not what the scriptures teach.

We meet Christ here. With his word open. And all of us together. Gathering. That's what. Glorifies God. Not me. Being my own individual self.

As if I don't need anybody. Me. My own. Wants and needs. Being satisfied by myself. I've listened to us. Serving.

And. Oh yes. I've. I've done it. Lord. I've. I've ticked the box here. That's not. The pattern. It's good. Whatever it is.

[18:29] Well. Our capacity. To make. A God. Of our own design. Is. Absolutely remarkable. Do you know. That we can make God.

And we can shape him. To suit ourselves. We can make him to. So it doesn't really bother us. That much. I was in the spirit.

In the Lord's day. Says this man of God. With a herd behind me. A loud voice. As a trumpet. Saying. I am the Alpha.

I am the Omega. The first. The last. Here is. Divine authority. His. Here is. Eternal. Godhead. Godhead. Speaking. What you see. You are to the book. And send it. To the seven.

[19:27] Churches. And you see. The seven churches. There. If you read on. In chapter two.

You can read for yourself. These great messages. To the seven. Churches. Then I turned. To see the voice. That spoke with me. And having turned. I saw seven. Golden.

Lampstands. And as we read. This narrative there. From verse. Twelve. Down to. Verse. Sixteen. There are seven. Things here.

Seven. Things. That. That. John draws. In attention to. Seven. Things. And we will just. Go through them. Seven. Golden. Lampstands.

And you see. Of course. From the end of the chapter. Verse 20. That these are the churches. What do we see? We see Christ. In the midst.

[20:22] Of the church. I saw. Seven. Golden. And the midst. Of the lampstands. And verse 13. And in the midst. Of the seven lampstands. One.

Like the son of. Man. Christ. In the midst. Of the church. We sang that. Didn't we? God.

In the midst. Of her. Doth dwell. Who is the her? His church. He's always. In the midst. Of his church.

In that sense. But in a. Greater sense. With all brothers.

We now have. The wonder. Of the revelation. Of the spirit. That tells us. That God came. Into this world. He became man.

[21:17] Why did he become man? Also that he could die. Why did he die? He died. To save you.

And to save me. To save us. From our sins. To save us. From our lost. Eternity. And he died.

And he rose again. Triumphant. Glorious. Risen. Exalted. Here he is now. In a remarkable sense.

In the midst. Of the church. And all the glory. Of his majesty. Of his exalted majesty. Father. Glorify thou me.

With the glory. That I had with thee. Before. The foundation of the world. Here he is. The glorified. Comprehensible. And wisdom. All powerful.

[22:14] Almighty savior. That's the savior of the church. This is the Christ. Who dwells in the hearts. Of his. People.

And the church is seen. As God's lampstand. God's lampstand. God's lampstand. You know of course. From. The scriptures.

The. The Beatitudes. In Matthew chapter 5. But. We read. At verse 14. He says. This. You.

Are the light. Of the world. You. Are the light. Of the world. The church. Is a. Lampstand.

So. So. That. We can shine forth. Into a dark world. So that we can be witnesses. Of Jesus.

[23:13] Christ. Lights. In a dark world. You.

Are the light. Of the world. And. Christ. The risen. Exalted. Glorified. Christ. Is in the midst. Of the church.

He is. The light. And. We. Shine forth. With that light. In us. With that. Life.

In us. With that love. In us. Oh. Do I love. Do I love. One. Like the son of man.

Seven golden lampstands. And in the midst of the seven lampstands. One. Like the son of. Man. Golden. Lifestands.

[24 : 09] All of these things are significant. In their own way. Gold. The most precious. Metal. The most beautiful. Metal. And it reminds us that.

The people of God. Not only. Must they be less. In the world. But they are. To God.

Precious. They are. To God. Precious. You might not think of yourself.

As precious. In the eyes of God. Especially when you realize. Just your sinful sin is. Job said. I am vile.

I am vile. And that's how we feel. In our experience. But we have to be. Through to scripture. That reminds us. So often.

[25 : 09] Just how precious. We are. To God. Just how precious. We are. To God. For the two or three.

That gather in my name. There am I. In the midst. In. The midst. Christ. And here he is.

In the midst. Of his church. Empowering. The church. As it were. One like. The son of. Man. And when you see. The title. Of son of man.

It reminds you. That here is. The messiah. Here is. His. Messianic title. The messianic title. And it's the most common name.

That Christ used. For himself. It reminds us. Of three things. It reminds us. That. He is the God. Man.

[26 : 07] Who took to himself. A true. Human nature. A true nature. Of a reasonable soul. It reminds us.

Secondly. Of this. That he came in. Into a state of humiliation. And thirdly. It reminds us of this. That he is the second Adam.

Or the last Adam. To do. What the first Adam. Failed to. And to undo.

What Adam did. The last Adam. The last Adam. So that's the first thing. We see. Christ in the midst. Of the church.

Empowering the church. What do we then see? Clothed with a garment. In the middle of verse 13. Clothed with a garment. Down to the feet.

[27 : 05] And girded around the chest. With a golden band. Christ in the midst. Of the church. Christ interceding. For the church. These garments.

And this belt. Or the sash. Reminds us. Or this golden band. As it is here. Reminds us. Particularly. Of the kinds of robes.

That the Old Testament feasts. Would have worn. The garment. Of the high priest. The garment here. Of the great high priest.

The great high priest. And here we have a picture. Christ interceding. For the church.

It's a garment. Of royalty. Of the great high priest. A priest. A priest. Who is a king. A priest.

[28 : 06] Who is a king. And he's the only one. Who can play. That. He's the only one. Who can claim that. Clothed with a garment. Down to the feet.

And girded with a chest. With a golden band. And the words. Denote activity. They denote activity. There is movement. There is activity.

There is intercession. Christ. Permanently. Intercedes for you. Every moment. Every day. He intercedes for you. Simon.

Simon. Satan. Has desired. To set you as wheat. But I have paid for you. Your faith. Fail not. I have interceded for you.

I have been part intercessor. And were it not. For his intercession. That it was to. Cease. For a moment. You will be cast away.

[29 : 06] Verse 14. He moves. From the. From the.

These activities. To the very features. Of this exalted Lord. The head. The hair. The eyes. And the feet. And that's what we see.

Here. We see at verse 14. His head. And hair. But white. Like wool. And as white. As snow. Christ.

In the midst of the church. Christ. In the midst of the church. Christ. Purify the church. Christ. Purify the church. White. Reminds us of holiness.

It reminds us that. His holiness. Is a blazing. Glowing. Brilliant. Shining. Holiness. Holiness.

[30 : 03] And it's so similar. To Daniel's. Vision. Of the ancient. Of days. And of a very direct. Link. Between revelation. And Daniel.

And revelation. And Ezekiel. Books. Also. That we. Sometimes. Have a little bit. Scared. To delve into. As if somehow. They failed. But they're not.

Veiled. Unveiling. The revelation. Of Jesus Christ. As I said. Is the unveiling. It's a revelation. Of himself.

It speaks to us. Of authority. And wisdom. And experience. It doesn't speak to us. Necessarily. Of hair. Of white hair.

And we might. Associate white hair. With somebody. Who is old. And of course. Daniel. Reversed to the ancient. Of days. But you're not going to see. A letter. A letter.

[30 : 56] Growing. We are not going to see him. Like that. A letter. Growing. His eyes. Like a flame. Of fire.

The all seeing. The omniscient. God. Who sees. Everything. His eyes. Penetrating. Gazing. At his church.

Gazing. At his church. Purifying. Purifying. Looking to see. With eyes.

Like a flame. Of fire. In chapter 2. And verse 18. Remind us of that. These things. Says the son of God. Who has eyes. Like a flame. Of fire.

And. His feet. Like. Thigh. Brass. In chapter 19. And verse 12. 12. Also. Reminds us of this.

[31 : 54] Very thing. His eyes. Were like a flame. Of fire. Looking into his church. Looking where sin. Might. Be found.

And purifying. Purifying. And cleansing. And that might be sore. And that might be hard. And it is. And it can be. Everything. Everything is open. For him. Everything.

But it reminds us too. It reminds us too. Of his. Holiness. And his. Wrath. Because his holiness. Must react. To sin.

It must. React. To sin. But it does. React. To sin. Sin. And held hearts. Sin. Sin. In the church. For little we know.

[32 : 52] How little we realize. His eyes. Like flames. Of fire. His. Feet. Like fine brass.

As if we find. In a furnace. His feet. Feet. Were the. Symbol. Of authority. For the king. King. It reminds us.

That we have to. Bow to this king. This king. That. Directs our ways. And this king. Who. Who. Walks. In his. Church.

It reminds us. Of all his. Administration. Of his church. The way he. Directs his church. On the right path. On the path. Of righteousness.

Even for his. Old. Aim. City. It reminds us. Of this. That these feet. These feet. Were. Rebinded. Of furnace.

[33 : 46] What furnace. Oh. The furnace. Of. Of. Of. The condemnation. That was due to us. The condemnation. That was due to us. He went into that.

Firey furnace. The firey furnace. Of. Of hell. The firey furnace. Of. Of. Of. The father's wrath.

On himself. For us. And in a room. And in a place. Refined. By fire. Indeed. I have. Thrown.

The wine. This alone. Thrown. And with these very feet. These. Very. Feet. Praise be to God.

Praise be to God.

You know. That the brazen altar. Was there. The brazen altar. Was there. And the fire. Was on the brazen altar. And why was it a brazen altar? And the cause.

[34 : 41] It could withstand the fire. It was consuming the sacrifice. So the brazen altar. The fire. Consumed. The sacrifice.

Consumed the lamb. And his voice.

and his voice as the sound of many waters. We have Christ in the midst of the church.

Christ interceding for the church. Christ purifying the church. And now Christ speaking to the church.

His voice as the sound of many waters. Being on an island, he would be familiar with the roar of the sea. The sound of the sea. And here was the sound.

[35 : 53] This greater sound. As the voice of many waters. You know here, you are very familiar with the sound that the sea waves, the ocean waves. You hear it especially at this time.

Imagine what John would have heard. The voice. The voice. The voice as the sound of many waters. The voice of authority.

The voice of absolute authority and truth. Who is this, they said, about Jesus? Who is this that even the wind and the waves obey?

The voice of authority. The voice of authority. Lazarus. Come forth. The voice of authority that speaks to death.

And death must respond. Must let loose. What did happen? What happened? Lazarus came out of the grave. What happened to you when you were saved?

[36 : 55] The voice. Come out. Come out of the grave of your fallen sinful state. Come to life. And he brought you to life. Inresistible grace.

Inresistible power. Inresistible power. In raising the dead. In healing the sick. In the lame. In the deaf. In the dumb.

In the blind. In the blind. And Hebrews reminds us that he speaks to us. Through his son. And it's remarkable that he should speak to us.

Christ is speaking to the church. And then we have this. He had in his right hand seven stars. The seven stars remind us.

The angels of the seven churches. That these are not angelic beings. They are the leaders of the churches. The leaders of the seven churches. And we have to apply that I think to the leaders of the church.

[37 : 55] People who are in the leadership authority. Especially when it comes to preaching the word of God. He had in his right hand seven stars.

It's a great realisation is it not? For the minister of God realised that he is in the hand. He is in the hand of Christ. He had in his right hand seven stars.

How important. How wonderful. How important. How. How. In the old day and generation.

How much the office. The ministry of the world. What can we say.

How much the ministry of the world. in the hands of his pastors. He had in his right hand Christ is in control of his church.

[39 : 06] Christ is in control of his church. And then this belt of his mouth went up, sharp two-edged sword.

What does it remind us of? Oh, it reminds us of this word of God. The word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword.

For the divide he asunder. For the search he out. Search he out the very thoughts and intents of the heart. Divide he asunder, bone and marrow.

Protecting his church. Guide his church. As we see it here in chapter 2 and verse 12.

These things say, see who has the shaft two-edged sword. I know you works and where you dwell where Satan's throne is and you hold fast to my name and did not deny my faith even the days in which Antipas was my faithful martyr and who was still around you where Satan was.

[40 : 20] But I have a few things against you. And he's calling them to repentance. To repentance and his judgment he is defeating the enemies of the church and in his judgment of his chastisement he is chastising his people and calling them to repentance.

his countenance and his countenance was like the sun shining in its death.

And that's the final thing, the seventh thing. The church reflects Christ's glory. But Christ's glory reflected in the church face to face the glory of God where?

In the face of Jesus Christ. The point here is that God or the Lord Jesus Christ shines in his church or he shines through his church for those that are in the church should shine.

In thy light we see light. That's the order. In thy light we see light.

[41 : 49] He shows his glory. He shines his glory in and through the church. When Paul writing to the Ephesians says this to him be glory in the church.

To him be glory in the church. He wants to shine in the church. the Lord and the Lord so there it is.

There's the opening vision. The opening vision. The glorious risen exalted Lord of the church.

King and head of the church. Christ in the midst of the church. Christ interceding for the church.

Christ purifying the church.

Christ speaking to the church. Christ in control of the church he had in his right hand seven stars. Christ protecting his church. Christ shining in and through his church so that he would have the glory.

[43 : 04] what a vision. What a vision. And John says that I saw I fell at his feet as dead but he laid his right hand on me and said to me do not be athlete.

And in the Bible I'm not sure what Bibles you're using if you're using the New King James or the King James it says this do not be the first and the last full stop.

There should be no full stop there. I am the first and the last and the living one full stop. But more about that tonight.

May the Lord bless these hearts. Let's pray.