

## Revelation of Jesus Christ Study 6

*Rev 1:1-20*

*The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.*

*John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace 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, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

*Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.*

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."*

*I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

*I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, "I am the Alpha and the 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."*

*Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.*

*His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 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.*

*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; I am the First and the Last.*

*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.*

*Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.*

*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.*

Now we will be focusing in the Vision and seeing there the seven fold aspects of our Lord's present ministry.

He empowers

He intercedes

He purifies

**He speaks authoritatively to the church**  
**He controls**  
**He protects**  
**He reflects His glory through His Church**

## **CHRIST EMPOWERS HIS CHURCH**

*Rev 1:12-13a, 20b*

*Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.*

At the outset of the vision John had his back to the voice, so he turned to see the voice that was speaking with him.

As he did so he first saw the seven golden lampstands, identified in verse 20 as the seven churches.

These were like the common portable oil lamps placed on lampstands that were used to light rooms at night.

They symbolize churches as the lights of the world

*Phil 2:15*

*that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,*

They are golden because gold was the most precious metal, the church is to God the most beautiful and valuable entity on earth, so valuable that Jesus was willing to purchase it with His own blood

*Acts 20:28*

*Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

Seven is the number of completeness (*Ex 25:31-40; Zech 4:2*)

Thus the seven churches symbolize the churches in general. There were actual churches in real places, but are symbolic of the kinds of churches that exist through all of church history.

In the middle of the lampstands John saw one like a son of man:

*Dan 7:13*

*"I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.*

This is the glorified Lord of the church moving among His churches.

Jesus promised His continued presence with His church.

In *Matthew 28:19-20* He said:

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

*Matthew 18:20* promises Christ's presence during the difficult work of confronting sin in the church.

*For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."*

On the night before His death, Jesus promised His disciples, *"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you, if anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him" John 14:18-23*

*Heb 13:5*

*Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

Christians do not worship a well meaning martyr, a dead heroic religious leader.

The living Christ indwells His Church to lead and empower it

Believers personally and collectively have the inestimable privilege of drawing on that power through continual communion with Him.

Paul wrote of the Lords Supper, *"is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? 1 Cor 10:16*

The presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in His church empowers it, enabling believers to say triumphantly with the apostle Paul, *"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" Phil 4:13*

## **CHRIST INTERCEDES FOR HIS CHURCH**

*Rev 1:13b*

*"clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded acrossd His chest with a golden sash"*

The first thing John noted was that Christ was clothed in a robe reaching to the feet.

*Isa 6:1*

*In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.*

Such robes were worn by royalty

The Kings of Midian (*Judg 8:26*)

Jonathan (*1Sam 18:4*)

Saul (*1Sam 24:4*)

Ahab and Jehoshaphat (*1Kings 22:10*)

Esther (*Est 5:1*)

The Prophets (*1Sam 28:14*)

However the word translated robe was used most frequently (in six of its seven occurrences) in the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament) to describe the robe worn by the high priest.

While Christ is biblically presented a prophet, and king, and His majesty and dignity emphasized, the robe here pictures Christ in His role as the Great High Priest of His people.

That He was girded across His chest with a golden sash reinforces that interpretation, since the high priest in the Old Testament wore such a sash (*Ex 28:4; Lev 16:4*)

The book of Hebrews says much about Christ's role as our Great High Priest.

*Heb 2:17-18*

*Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.*

*Heb 3:1*

*Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession*

*Heb 4:14*

*Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.*

*Heb 7:25-27*

*Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.*

*Heb 9:11-12*

*But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.*

*Rom 8:33-34*

*Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*

He has unequalled capacity to sympathize with us in all our dangers, sorrows, trials, and temptations

*Heb 2:18; 4:15*

*For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.*

The knowledge that their High Priest was moving sympathetically in their midst to care for and protect His own provided great comfort and hope to the persecuted churches.

## **CHRIST PURIFIES HIS CHURCH**

*Rev 1:14-15a*

*His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;  
His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace*

Having described Christ's clothing in verse 13, John described His person in verses 14 and 15.

The first few features depict Christ's work of chastening and purifying His church

The New Testament clearly sets forth the holy standard that Christ has established for His church

Jesus Commands:

*Matt 5:48*

*Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.*

Paul wrote to the Corinthians

*2 Cor 11:2*

*For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

Paul reminds the Ephesians

*Eph 5:25-27*

*Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,  
26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,  
27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*

In Colossians Paul explained that Christ:

*Col 1:22*

*He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight--*

Peter reminds believers:

*1Pet 1:15-16*

*but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,  
because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."*

To maintain that divine standard, Christ will discipline His church

*Matt 18:15-17*

*"Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.*

*16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'*

*17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.*

*John 15:2*

*Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*

*Heb 12:5*

*And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;*

He will do this even to the point of taking the lives of some impenitent, sinning Christians.

*Acts 5:1-11*

*But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession.*

*2 And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet.*

*3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?*

*4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."*

*5 Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things.*

*6 And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.*

*7 Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.*

*8 And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much."*

*9 Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."*

*10 Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband.*

*11 So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.*

Even Peter warned that it is time for judgment to begin with the household of god (1Pet 4:17)

John's description of Christ's head and hair as white like white wool, like snow is an obvious reference to

*Dan 7:9*

*"I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool.*

This was the Ancient of days (God the Father)

The parallel descriptions affirm Christ's deity.

He possesses the same attribute of holy knowledge and wisdom as the Father

White translates *Leukos* which has the connotation of “bright, blazing”, or “brilliant.”

It symbolizes Christ’s eternal, glorious, holy truthfulness.

Continuing his description of the glorified Christ, John noted that His eyes were like a flame of fire.  
*(2:18; 19:12)*

His searching, revealing, infallible gaze penetrates to the very depths of His church, revealing to Him with piercing clarity the reality of everything there is to know.

Jesus said;

*Matt 10:26*

*For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.*

*Heb 4:13*

*And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account*

The Omniscient Lord of the church will not fail to recognize and deal with sin in His church.

That Christ’s feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, continues the obvious sequence by making clear reference to judgment on sinners in the church.

Kings in ancient times sat on elevated thrones, so those being judged would always be beneath the king’s feet.

The feet of the king thus came to symbolize his authority.

The red hot glowing feet of the Lord Jesus Christ picture Him moving through His Church to exercise His chastening authority, ready to deal out remedial pain, if need be, to sinning Christians.

*Heb 12:5-10* speaks to this matter

*And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;*

*6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."*

*7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?*

*8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.*

*9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?*

*10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.*

It is the Lord’s love for His redeemed sinners that pursues their holiness.