

2

A Vision of Christ



KICK OFF

Is the church being persecuted today?

What help is there for a church that is suffering?



KEY VERSE

Revelation 1:16: In his right hand he held seven stars, and from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.



BIG IDEA

Jesus is almighty, all-wise, and all powerful. He is God. He is amongst the churches. He is our help.



INVESTIGATE

ABOUT JOHN

Read Revelation 1:9-11

1. Why was John on Patmos?
2. What was John doing?

WHO IS CHRIST?

Read Revelation 1:12-16

4. How is Christ described? What does this mean for who he is? (Read Daniel 7:9-10; Daniel 7:13-14)
5. What is the significance of the two-edged sword? (Read Isaiah 11:1-4, Hebrews 4:12)
6. What impression would seeing this vision make upon you?

Read Revelation 1:17

7. Why is John afraid? Should we be afraid? (Matthew 17:1-6)



DIG DEEPER

There are a lot of metaphors and symbolic references in the book of

Revelation. This passage is heavy with them. Some of the others not mentioned in the study...

Lampstands—are the churches (v20); But it also reminds us of the seven stemmed lampstand was within the tabernacle and later in the temple which represented God's presence. See Ex. 25:31-40; 1 Sam. 3:1-4.

White hair is a sign of age and wisdom. Lev. 19:32, Prov. 16:31.

Eyes like flames of fire—speak to the penetrating gaze of Christ and his ability to know us deeply (our good and our bad) c.f. Rev. 2:18-20.

Feet like refined bronze may refer to the purity of his life (focusing on purity from refining), but more likely to his ability to stamp out his enemies (focus on the bronze feet). Rev. 2:18, 22-23, 26-27.

A voice like the roar of many waters is how God's voice sounds. C.f. Ezek. 1:24

WHO CHRIST IS TO US

Read Revelation 2:17-20

8. How does Christ assure John? How does this assure us?

9. What does it mean that Christ is the first and the last?
(Read Isaiah 44:6)

10. What does the vision of the seven stars and lampstands say about Christ and the church?



THINKING IT THROUGH

11. How might these verses influence the way we see Jesus in our worship?

12. What do these verses say for churches facing persecution?



Praise God for the challenges raised by God's Word through this study

Praying for others in your group:



In what ways does Christ rule the church today?

In verse 19, Christ tells John to "Write therefore...
a) the things that you have seen;
b) those that are; and
c) those that are to take place after this."

The book of Revelation is often divided into sections based on this verse. In this way chapter 1 is about the things John has already seen, chapters 2-3 about the churches which are, and the remaining chapters about those things to take place after this.

While this is somewhat helpful, this shouldn't be strictly applied. Later chapters also talk about past and present events.

It is better to see the statement in it's immediate context, Jesus is saying "write down everything. What you've already seen, what I'm saying now, and all that you are going see."

PRAISE GOD ... For Jesus who saved us, and walks amongst the churches

CONFESS ... That we often fail to see Christ as he truly is in his full glory, and fail to trust in his control of all things.

ASK GOD ... To encourage us too in our struggles, and ask for his help and wisdom in how to live today.

PRAY ALSO ... for the church throughout the worlds as it faces persecution.



Revelation 2:1-11