

How Will We Respond To The Coming Of Christ?

Revelation 1:9-20

I. Our Eagerness For The Coming Of Christ (9-11)

- A. Looking For Relief In Our _____ (9a)
- B. Finding Our Place In Christ's _____ (9b)
- C. Enduring With _____ In Captivity (9c-11)

II. Christ's Awesomeness At His Coming (12-16)

- A. Christ's Realm As _____: The Churches (12)
- B. Christ's Title As _____: "The Son Of Man" (13a)
 - Son Of Man (Mt 9:6; 12:28)
 - A Reference To Christ's Deity (Mk 14:60-64)
 - A Reference To Being The Representative Of Humankind (Ezek 2:1,3,6,8; Mt 11:19; Mk 8:31)
 - A Reference To Being The Messiah (Dan 7:13)
 - A Reference To Having Divine Authority - To Forgive Sin (Mt 9:6; Mk 2:10; Lk 5:24); As Lord of the Sabbath (Mt 12:8; Mk 2:28; Lk 6:5)
 - A Reference To The Ascended & Glorified Christ (Mt 24:30; Mk 14:62; Lk 17:22; 18:8; 22:69; Acts 7:55-56; Heb 2:7; Rev 1:13; 14:14)
- C. Christ's Description As _____ (13b-16)
 - Long Robe (Isa 6:1)
 - Golden Sash (Isa 11:5)
 - White Wooly Hair (Isa 1:18; Heb 7:26)
 - Fiery Eyes (Heb 4:13; 12:29)
 - Bronze Feet (Rev 19:15b)
 - Voice like Roaring Waters (Ps 29:3-4; Heb 12:25-26)
 - Right Hand possessed 7 stars (Col 1:16-17)
 - Double-Edged Sword Mouth (Rev 19:15a)
 - Face Shining Like The Sun (Mt 17:2)

III. Our Awe When We See Christ (17)

- A. Worship (17a; 22:8-9)
- B. Assurance (17b-20)

Conclusion:

- Are we in awe of Christ?
- Are we assured by Christ in life and death, in heaven over hell?

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⁹I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea." ¹²Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. ¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. ¹⁹Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. ²⁰As for the mystery of the seven stars that 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 are the seven churches.

Introduction:

- **The Coming Of A Princess** - Thousands of people waited for her coming lined along the streets by Windsor Castle. Millions watched on TV – many stayed up all night to catch a glimpse of the American actress who would become a princess when Megan Markle married Prince Harry.
- **The Coming Of A Champion** – Warriors return home. Parade
- **The Second Coming Of Christ**
 - There are 329 prophecies concerning Christ's 2nd Coming
 - The 2nd Coming is the 2nd most talked about issue in Scripture next to the doctrine of salvation
 - One of every 30 verses in the New Testament concerns the 2nd Coming
 - All 9 NT authors describe it in 23 of the 27 NT books
 - Jesus describes His 2nd Coming 25x
 - There are 50+ encouragements to prepare for Christ's 2nd Coming

Acts 1:11 Who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Jude 14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints"

Hebrews 10:37 For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

I. Our Eagerness For The Coming Of Christ (9-11)

⁹I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

A. Looking For Relief In Our Tribulation (9a)

⁹I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation

- John was exiled on the Isle of Patmos for preaching Christ
 - Patmos – barren, volcanic island, 10x6 miles
- His contemporaries would be martyred
 - Saul of Tarsus led the Jewish persecution of Christians
 - The Sanhedrin stoned Stephen to death
 - Herod Agrippa I persecutes the Apostles
 - James - Killed with a sword. 45 A.D.
 - Emperor Nero begins the Roman persecution of the church in A.D. 64
 - Peter - Hung on a cross "head downward." A.D. 64
 - Andrew - Hung from an olive tree. A.D. 70
 - Thomas - Burned alive. A.D. 70
 - Phillip - Crucified. A.D. 54
 - Matthew - Beheaded. A.D. 65
 - Nathanael - Crucified. A.D. 70
 - James - Thrown from the temple. A.D. 63
 - Simon - Crucified. A.D. 74
 - Judas Thaddeus - Beaten with sticks. A.D. 72
 - Matthias - Stoned on a cross. A.D. 70
 - John - Natural death. A.D. 95
 - Paul - Beheaded. A.D. 69

- He would die in exile
- John and his Christian contemporaries were under persecution with the Roman Emperor Domitian (Nero before him)

1. Nero (37-68)

- Nero made the Christians scapegoats for the fire of Rome in AD 64 that burnt for 6 days leaving much of Rome in ashes though Christians had nothing to do with the fire
- Significant Martyrs: Paul & Peter
- Region: In and around Rome
- "Nero (37- 68) saw Christians as easy scapegoats and executed many in cruel and ingenious ways, including burning crucifixions like these. Fortunately, his persecution was limited to Rome itself. Unfortunately, it took two centuries before Romans felt

Emperors and Persecutions

Roman Emperors	Events	Christians Persecuted
0 Tiberius		
25 Claudius	Council of Jerusalem	
50 Nero	Fall of Jerusalem	Rome
75 Vespasian Titus	Eruption of Vesuvius	Asia
100 Trajan Hadrian		
125 Antonius Pius		
150 Marcus Aurelius	Marcion excommunicated Montanism starts in Phrygia	Polycarp Rome, Gaul, and Africa
175 Septimus Severus		
200 Decius		
225 Valerian Gallienus	Novatianists set up congregation in Rome	Decian Persecution
250	Empire divides East/West	
275 Diocletian		Diocletian Persecution
300		

Chart 31

pity for the Christians they executed.” (Editors, “Evangelism In The Early Church,” Christian History Magazine, Converting The Empire, Issue #57, p. 10)

2. Domitian (c. 90 – 96)

- Domitian persecuted Christians for resisting “emperor worship”
- Significant Martyrs: The Apostle John, Clement of Rome
- Region of Persecution: In Rome, extending to Asia Minor

John 16:33: “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world”

B. Finding Our Place In Christ’s Kingdom (9b)

and the kingdom

- John was among those saved by Christ
- He didn’t consider himself as much a part of the Roman Empire as he did the Kingdom of Christ
- John MacArthur: “John was part of the same **kingdom** as his readers—the sphere of salvation; the redeemed community over which Jesus reigns as Lord and King (cf. v. 6). He shared a kinship with them as a fellow subject of Jesus Christ.” (*Revelation 1-11, MNTC*, p. 41)

C. Enduring With Patience In Captivity (9c-11)

and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

II. Christ’s Awesomeness At His Coming (12-16)

¹²Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

A. Christ’s Realm As King: The Churches (12)

¹²Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands,

Revelation 1:20 ²⁰As for the mystery of the seven stars that 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 are the seven churches.

- **7 golden lampstands** – represents churches
 - Christ walks in the midst of our churches
 - Christ is walking with FBC

Revelation 2:1 To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: “The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.”

B. Christ’s Title As God: “The Son Of Man” (13a)

^{13a} *and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man,*

• Son Of Man

- used 94x in NT, 89x by Jesus Himself in the Gospels
- used exclusively for Jesus, except in Heb 2:6-8 (mankind in general)
- Jesus frequently uses it as a pronoun for “I” for Himself

Matthew 9:6 ⁶But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”

Matthew 12:8 ⁸For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

1. A Reference To Christ’s Deity

Mark 14:60b-64 ^{61b} Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” ⁶² And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” ⁶³ And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need? ⁶⁴ You have heard phis blasphemy. What is your decision?” And they all condemned him as deserving death.

2. A Reference To Being The Representative Of Humankind

- Ezekiel used the term over 90x to refer to his humanness (Ezek 2:1,3,6,8)
- One who works (Mt 11:19)
- One who suffered and died (Mk 8:31)

3. A Reference To Being The Messiah

- the Messiah is called the Son of Man

Daniel 7:13 “One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven!”

- Lee Strobel: “Scholars have shown that Jesus’ repeated references to himself as the Son of Man were actually not a claim of humanity, though he certainly was human. Rather, the phrase came from an Old Testament passage, Daniel 7: 13–14, in which **the Son of Man has universal authority and everlasting dominion, and receives the worship of all nations.** Theologian William Lane Craig summarized, ‘Thus, the claim to be the **Son of Man would be in effect a claim to divinity.**’” (*The Case for Christianity Answer Book*, p. 103, Zondervan, Kindle Edition, 2014-08-12)

- R. C. Sproul: "By identifying Himself as the Son of Man, Jesus was declaring that He was a heavenly being. The one who later would ascend into heaven was the one who had first descended to heaven. The Son of Man is a figure of glory. He comes to the Ancient of Days with the heavenly clouds of glory. To Him is given glory along with an everlasting dominion and an unconquerable kingdom. The Son of Man is the Old Testament-promised King of Glory." (*The Glory Of Christ*, Tyndale, 1990, p. 101)
- "In Daniel's vision, the Son of Man comes to the Ancient of Days, the Lord himself. But he comes from the clouds, from heaven, not from the earth. This indicates that he isn't a human. He is given messianic dominion and authority, something no angel can obtain and is reserved for God. **The Old Testament sees this divine person sitting alongside the Lord as an equal.** This second person of the Trinity was promised to receive the messianic mission to redeem the world, to defeat every enemy and liberate people. As God, he is exalted over all peoples, nations, cultures, and religions to be worshiped as the eternal King. Jesus is the one who claimed he would be the Son of Man coming with the clouds as God." (Mark Driscoll & Gerry Breshears, *Doctrine: What Christian Should Believe*, Crossway, 2010, Ch. 7)

4. A Reference To Having Divine Authority

- To Forgive Sin (Mt 9:6; Mk 2:10; Lk 5:24)
- As Lord of the Sabbath (Mt 12:8; Mk 2:28; Lk 6:5)

5. A Reference To The Ascended & Glorified Christ (Mt 24:30; Mk 14:62; Lk 17:22; 18:8; 22:69; Acts 7:55-56; Heb 2:7; Rev 1:13; 14:14)

- "In summary, the title 'Son of Man', an obscure term to Jesus' contemporaries, was laden with insights into the nature of the Messiah as kinsman-redeemer, suffering servant, and coming judge and world ruler." (McDowell & Larson, *Jesus: A Biblical Defense of His Deity*, p. 74)

C. Christ's Description As Awesome (13b-16)

^{13b} clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

- **Long Robe** = the greatness of Christ (Isa 6:1)

- The longer the robe, the more regal the royal is

Isaiah 6:1 I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

- This is also a description of the uniform the High Priest wore in Exodus 39 – Jesus is our High Priest

- **Golden Sash** around Chest (Isa 11:5)

- Faithfulness and righteousness

Isaiah 11:5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

- **White Woolly Hair** - *The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow.*

- Pictures his wisdom and purity (not age)

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

- Adrian Rogers: "Jesus is sinless—absolutely pure, holy, and whiter than the virgin snow. Indeed, Jesus is not only the reigning Christ; He is the righteous Christ. He will not overlook the sin of any person. He will never let sin go unpunished. He doesn't wink away our sins by calling Himself a loving Judge. In a court of law, when a guilty man is acquitted, the judge is condemned." (*Unveiling the End Times in Our Time: The Triumph of the Lamb in Revelation*, pp. 32-33, B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.)

Hebrews 7:26 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

- **Fiery Eyes** - *His eyes were like a flame of fire,*

- Christ sees and judges everything
- He sees all and knows all

Hebrews 4:13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Hebrews 12:29 For our God is a consuming fire

- **Bronze feet** - *his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace,*

- Judgment, movement
- Adrian Rogers: "Bronze is an emblem of judgment and feet are a symbol of progress. All the vessels in the outer court in the tabernacle were made of bronze. Jesus is pictured as relentless as He goes forth to judge. All hell cannot stop Him. He is not the meek and mild Jesus walking the shore of Lake Galilee. John doesn't lay his head on Jesus' breast as he did when He walked on earth the first time (see John 13:23–25). Now John falls at His feet like a dead man (see Rev. 1:17). This is the Lord Jesus Christ in relentless judgment." (*Unveiling the End Times in Our Time: The Triumph of the Lamb in Revelation*, p. 34, B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition)

Revelation 19:15b He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

- **Voice like roaring waters** - *his voice was like the roar of many waters.*

- Christ speaks with **power** and **authority**
- Have you ever tried to talk over a water fall? – too noisy
- Ie/ baptismal tank filling

Psalm 29:3-4 ³ The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over many waters. ⁴ The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

Hebrews 12:25-26 ²⁵ See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."

- **Right Hand possessed 7 stars**

- Jesus doesn't just hold the world in His hands, but stars – 7 of them
- 7 is perfect – picturing the whole universe
- Right Hand = sovereign control

Colossians 1:16-17 ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

- **Double-edged Sword Mouth**

Revelation 19:15a From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron.

- **Face Shining Like The Sun**

- Christ is bright and dazzling in His glorious appearance
- Not a reflection, but the source of Light Himself
- Christ's face shined like the sun at the Transfiguration

Matthew 17:2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

III. Our Awe When We See Christ (17)

A. Worship (17a)

^{17a} When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.

- People are in awe of an American Princess in Britain
- Bay Area fans are in awe of the Back to Back NBA Champs
- Will we be in awe when we see Christ?
- John's response was worship – falling down before Christ

Revelation 22:8-9 ⁸I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I **fell down to worship** at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, ⁹but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. **Worship God.**"

B. Assurance (17b-20)

^{17b} But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. ¹⁹ Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. ²⁰ As for the mystery of the seven stars that 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 are the seven churches.

- The resurrected Christ brought comfort to John
- Christ holds the keys to life and death, heaven and hell

Conclusion:

- Are we in awe of Christ?
- Are we assured by Christ in life and death, in heaven over hell?

Sing MAJESTY

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