

Revelation 1:9-20

The Lord's Work in His Church

The church is re-entering a time not unlike the time of the New Testament. .

Starting in Chapter 4, you have visions of the f_____. But in chapters one, two, and three, you have instruction in the present tense.

Chapter 1, the opening vision of the Book of Revelation, is a v_____ of Christ in His church. It is a vision that applies in the present time.

True godliness, clear gospel, sound doctrine is rare and scarce. Sober worship, hard to find, Selfishness rampant, even in the church. Worldliness dominates not only many people in the church, but many leaders in the church.

Chapter 1 is the Lord's work in the church. Chapter's 2 and 3, the Lord's W_____to His church.

The Book of Revelation basically was inspired by the Holy Spirit through the apostle John in the last decade of the first century, and escalating persecution had become the experience of everybody.

It was a crime to proclaim the Word of God and give testimony to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. For that crime, John was exiled to a criminal island.

Write, therefore. What you have seen, what is now, and what will take place later. Rev.1:19

There are identified seven golden lampstands which are stated to be in verse 20 the seven churches. This is Christ moving in the whole church.

John is a redeemed man, he's in the kingdom. He has an enduring faith; he is marked by perseverance. But he's also in the midst of persecution.

Five out of seven churches in Asia Minor in dire condition.

John's crime was unshakable loyalty to the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus— this could h_____ a_____. The wrath of the wicked put John in that place.

The book of Revelation is given to John to tell him there is a future for the c_____.

The culmination of the future, verse 7 of chapter 1 “Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So, it shall be! Amen”

The story isn't over Jesus has not been defeated! He will c_____ again.

verse 10: On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet.

What does he mean “in the Spirit?” It is a simple way to say that his is not a n_____ human experience. John was brought by and empowered by the Holy Spirit to an experience beyond the normal experiences.

A vision is not explained by human phenomena. It is the Lord opening one's awareness to the realm of the divine. John is supernaturally transported to the divine world. He is not asleep; this is not a dream; he is awake. But none of this is perceived by any of his human senses.

There is clarity of vision because he sees a _____ images. There is clarity of interpretation and an understanding that comes to him in another dimension; just happens to be on the Lord's Day, the first day of the week.

When in the future, the silence of the tombs are broken and the scattered children of God all over the globe will be gathered for glory, it will, be the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God that will call them out of their graves. The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall rise.

After every vision there are---there are twelve visions in Revelation. After every vision, there is a command "Write it down," with the exception of chapter 10, verse 4: "Don't write." John wrote the Book of Revelation s _____ times.

There were seven messengers there; they are identified in verse 20. They would be pastors from those seven churches.

John sees portable lampstands holding oil lamps so commonly used. And these seven lampstands are the seven churches. This is to remind us that the church is the light of the world. "*You are the light of the world,*" the Lord said. The church carries that light. God's people are assembled in local churches as lights in the world.

Why are there seven? Well there were seven churches that had been planted in Asia Minor, but seven is often a number used to refer to completeness.

He doesn't say he saw the son of man, he saw one like the son of man. This is the Son of Man, but He's not like the Son of Man John saw before the ascension. He's not like that. He is now full of g_____.

Son of Man is a messianic title given to the Lord Jesus Christ because He is the fulfillment of the p_____ of Daniel 7. Daniel 7 calls the Messiah “Son of Man.”

Jesus is the king. He is priest, he is prophet. He is all of that. But one thing nails down the idea that is a priestly robe, and that is that a cross---the front of His chest, over the robe, is a golden belt, a golden sash. This the high priest wore.

Priests wore a belt or a sash. We learn that in Exodus, Leviticus. Most particularly the high priest was identified by a belt or a sash. So, what do we see Christ is doing? He’s the royal High Priest interceding on behalf of His church. He is in His p_____ work.

He ever lives to make intercession for us. That is why no trial crushes our faith, but trials are cause for triumph, and strength, and growth, and joy.

Peter says that He wants the church holy, for he is Holy. The Lord clearly want the church to be holy.

There are patterns in Scripture for dealing with sin in the church. Matthew 18 gives us a model for disciplining of sinning people in the church. But the Lord Himself is w_____ in His Church. All of us He prunes all of the time, but sometimes that pruning is severe. He might even take lives---such as Acts 5.

1st John; “A sin unto death.” Peter said: “Judgement begins at the house of God.” But short of that, in John 15:2 The Lord cuts off branches that are not bearing fruit.

The Father is pruning His church. It is the work then of the Father the Son is doing as He purifies His church, penetrating to see the church.

Nothing is going on in your life, or my life, or this church that is unknown to the Lord.

His holy, wise omniscience, penetrating to everything and that in light of judgement, because the next thing that John sees are His feet, in verse 15, and they are like burnished bronze when it has been made to glow in a furnace—white hot metal; red hot glowing brass. The emphasis is on judgement. This pruning work is a work of judgement on sin, not a damning final judgment, but a disciplining judgement.

When men came before the throne of a king, the king was always elevated, they were always underneath. The king's feet came to symbolize judgement because the subject was u_____ his feet.

Our Lord has feet of burnished bronze and He will stomp out sin in His church—blazing, molten, pure, refined, gleaming feet of judgement.

He intercedes for His church to p_____ His own. But He also purifies His church by d_____ His own.

This is the voice of the Lord of the church. What are we seeing here? He speaks to the church with authority through His Word.

I believe in every time, in every period, the Lord has those who are faithful to be His spokesman. When he speaks, the church must listen. He has not abandoned His church, he is still speaking to His true church through His Word, which is His authoritative voice.

Verse 16, he sees he is holding something. He's holding seven stars. What are seven stars? Down to V20. The seven stars are the *aggeios* The word can mean "messenger," and here most likely refers to the pastors of the seven churches.

Chapter 2, verse 1. To the angel(messenger) of the church in Ephesus; V8 To the angel (messenger) of the church in Smyrna write. This command was repeated to all seven churches.

These are best translated messengers. Now what does that tell us? It tells us that the Lord provides leaders for His church and he holds them in His hand.

There will always be, in the hand of the Lord, true messengers. The Lord will always raise up true messengers, true I_____.

In verse 16. "Out of His mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. What is that? That is the Lord protecting His church.

Fight against who? Fight against those who are deniers of the faith, those who hold to the teachings of Balaam, those who walk in the way of the Nicolaitans, false teachers. The Lord protects His church.

Verse 16, His face was like the sun shining in its strength." What is this? This is the Lord reflecting His g_____ through the church.

This is the climactic reality in the church. The glory of the Lord shines through the church. Ref: Judges5:31;Matthew 13:43, Daniel 12.

The glorious, exalted Lord of the church, present in the church—empowering the church; interceding for the church;

purifying the church; speaking with authority through His Word to the church: controlling the church through His chosen, gifted, and prepared leaders; protecting the church; and being glorified in the church.—that is what our Lord is doing in the church even now. We have nothing to fear.

There's always fear in a true vision of Christ because we see His glory and we are aware He sees our sin.