

The Beauty of Jesus: Son of Man, Prophet, Priest & King (Rev. 1:10-20)

I. JESUS SHOWS HIS GLORY AND BEAUTY TO JOHN AS THE SON OF MAN

¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, 11 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." 12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 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. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 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. 19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. 20 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. (Rev. 1:10-20)

A. Jesus' revealed His majesty and beauty to John as the God-Man who is the great Prophet, Priest and King who will purify the Church and the nations that they may receive His leadership.

B. As a prophet, Jesus revealed to John how natural history will come to an end and receive the promises that God revealed to Daniel (Dan. 7).

¹⁹ Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. (Rev. 1:19)

C. As the great high priest, Jesus has made away for individuals, nations and the earth to be purified so as to live in God's presence (Rev. 21:1-8).

¹⁴ A great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God. (Heb. 4:14)

³ Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. (Rev. 21:3)

D. As the King, Jesus will show His great power as He subdues all His enemies. He sits in the highest position of any man that exists. He is the uncreated preexistent God like the Father.

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. 14 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...26 But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his (Antichrist's) dominion, to consume and destroy it forever. 27 Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him. (Dan. 7:13-14, 26-27)

II. JESUS AS THE SON OF MAN

- A. Jesus' most emphasized self designation was as "the Son of Man." Jesus quoted this from Daniel's prophecy of the coming Messiah (Dan. 7:13-14).
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... (Dan. 7:13)
- B. At the very end of His ministry, Jesus used this title when privately teaching His disciples about His Second Coming to fulfill the prophecy of Dan. 7:13-14.
³⁰ They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power... (Mt. 24:30)
³¹ When the Son of Man comes in glory...He will sit on the Throne of His glory. (Mt 25:31)
- C. Jesus' Second Coming is the main theme of Revelation to bring salvation to the nations. John had just quoted Jesus' own words in Mt. 24:30; Mark 13:26 that were first seen in Dan. 7:13.
⁷ Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him... (Rev. 1:7)
- D. When Jesus spoke of Himself as the Son of Man, He proclaimed the two most important truths about Himself, that being His deity and humanity. He alone is the God-man. As the "Son of Man," He would come on supernatural clouds after He was commissioned in heaven to rule all the nations of the earth by the Father (as the Ancient of Days). By using this title, Jesus was saying, "I am God and My Father has chosen Me to be king on all the earth." By using this title, Jesus also was crying out, "I am fully human, I am one of you."
- E. By using this title, Jesus veiled His eternal glory as God and His Messianic office to deliver Israel from the oppression of the Gentile nations at the end of the age. For the majority of Jesus' 3½ years, He did not openly claim to be God or the human Messiah. Why? He did not want the interference and hindrance from Jews who were political zealots. Such men appealed to Jesus' ministry in their quest to stir the people up to their political agendas to revolt against the Roman Empire. Jesus knew that many in Israel were looking for the Messiah who would deliver them from the oppression of Rome. However, since many of the people were unfamiliar with the prophecies of Daniel, Jesus could use the term without arousing wrong expectations about His mission.
- F. Jesus used this title to the high priest during His trial, so that the leadership would be responsible for their actions against Him. Jesus' claim of this title was clearly understood by the Sanhedrin and Caiaphas the High Priest who charged Jesus with blasphemy when Jesus claimed Daniel 7:13-14.
⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, "... I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." (Matthew 26:64)
- G. Stephen spoke of Jesus as the Son of Man when testifying before the High Priest (Acts 6:15; 7:1).
⁵⁶ I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God! (Acts 7:56)

III. JESUS' USE OF THE TITLE THE SON OF MAN

- A. Jesus used this designation 85 times in the NT. Jesus is the only one to use this title in the NT except for Stephen (Acts 7:56) and John (Rev. 1:13).
- B. Jesus spoke of His pre-incarnate glory and existence before He came to earth as a babe. He was seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven (John 17:5).
⁵ O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. (John 17:5)
⁶² What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? (John 6:62)
- C. Jesus used this title to speak of Himself as the only man with authority to judge men. In Daniel, the Son of Man is the king and judge of the nations (Matt. 10:23; 13:41; 16:27, 28; 17:9; 24:27, 30, 37, 39, 44).
²⁵ Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, ²⁷ and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. (John 5:25-27)
- D. At the very end of His ministry, Jesus used this title when privately teaching His disciples about His Second Coming to fulfill the prophecy of Daniel 7:13-14.
³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (Matthew 24:30)
³¹ When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. (Matthew 25:31)
- E. Jesus spoke of Himself as the "Son of Man" when prophesying of His death and resurrection (Jn. 3:14-15; 12:32-34). The Son of Man "must be lifted up" by dying on the cross, that all who believe in Him may have eternal life. The Son of Man suffered and died to give us eternal life.
¹⁴ As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish... (Jn. 3:14-15)
³² And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." ³³ This He said, signifying by what death He would die. (Jn. 12:32-33)
- F. He used this title to speak of Himself as the one the people must believe in to receive salvation (Jn. 6:53-54).
⁵³ Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." (John 6:53-54)

IV. JOHN IS COMMISSIONED AS A PROPHET TO WRITE WHAT HE SAW

¹¹ *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...in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."* ¹² *Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, (Rev. 1:11-12)*

- A. John was commissioned to communicate what he saw and heard from Jesus who was speaking.
- B. John first described Jesus standing in the middle of seven golden lampstands. In Rev. 1:20, Jesus clarified that they represented seven churches in Asia. The local church is a lampstand in that it brings forth God's light to the nations. John saw seven golden lampstands. This was similar to what Zechariah saw, when he saw one golden lampstand with seven lamps. (Zech. 4:2)
² *And he (angel) said to me, "What do you see?" I said, "...there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps... (Zech. 4:2)*
- C. A seven-branched golden lampstand stood in the holy place of the tabernacle (Ex. 25:31-40).

V. JESUS THE HIGH PRIEST

- A. Jesus was standing like the high priest in the Temple in the midst of the candlesticks and clothed in a priestly robe and golden breastplate.
¹³ *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. (Rev. 1:13)*
- B. Jesus was clothed down to His feet in a robe as a parallel to Israel's high priest wearing a robe.
⁴ *These are the garments which they shall make (for the high priest): a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a skillfully woven tunic, a turban, and a sash. (Ex. 28:4)
¹ *I saw the Lord sitting on a Throne...and the train of His robe filled the temple... (Isa. 6:1)
⁴¹ *These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory (in Isa. 6) and spoke of Him. (Jn. 12:41)***
- C. Jesus was girded about His chest with a golden band as the high priest was girded with a linen sash and a breastplate (Ex. 25:7; Lev. 16:4).
- D. The 7 angels that pour out the 7 Bowls of wrath also were girded with golden bands (Rev. 15:6).
⁶ *Out of the Temple (in heaven) came the 7 angels having the 7 plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. 7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels 7 golden bowls full of the wrath of God... (Rev. 15:6-8)*
- E. The angel who revealed the End-Time judgments to Daniel was also girded with a golden band.
⁵ *Behold, a man (angel) clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold...(Dan. 10:5)*

VI. JESUS' PERSON: THE KING IS THE ETERNAL GOD (LIKE HIS FATHER)

¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow...His eyes like a flame of fire. (Rev. 1:14)

⁹ I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days (Father) was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His Throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; ¹⁰ a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. (Dan. 7:9-10)

A. Jesus' head and hair being white as wool and snow. This intentionally reflects the Father's glory as seen in Dan. 7:9-10. The Father as the "Ancient of Days" has white garments and white hair which emphasizes His eternal existence and purity. Jesus is showing Himself to John as the eternal pre-existent Christ with titles reflecting the Father's (Rev. 1:11; 2:8; 22:13).

B. Jesus' head and hair are white as snow like the Father's garments which emphasizes His purity.

⁷ Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (Ps. 51:7)

¹⁸ "Come now...let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet (red), they shall be as white as snow; though they are red...they shall be as wool." (Isa. 1:18)

⁸ To her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (Rev. 19:8)

C. Jesus' eyes were as a flame of fire which speaks of His knowledge that penetrates all things like fire penetrates metal that He might judge in His righteousness and justice (Rev. 15:2-4). It also speaks of God's zeal for His people and against sin. This description of Jesus is emphasized in Revelation (Rev. 2:18; 19:12).

¹⁸ These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire... (Rev. 2:18)

¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. (Rev. 19:12)

D. Jesus' feet like refined brass will purify and judge all by His fire.

¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace... (Rev. 1:15)

²⁷ From the appearance of His (Jesus') waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. (Ezek. 1:27)

E. Feet in the Scripture speak of receiving our inheritance and victory over the enemy. Jesus will crush all opposition with His feet like burnished bronze.

³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you... (Josh. 1:3)

²⁰ The God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly... (Rom. 16:20)

- F. Jesus' voice is like the roaring sound of many waters as when He appeared to Ezekiel as the One who will rule the earth from the Millennial Temple in Jerusalem.

¹⁵ *His voice as the sound of many waters... (Rev. 1:15)*

² *Behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory...⁴ And the glory of the LORD came into the Temple... ⁵ and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the Temple. ⁶ Then I heard Him (Jesus) speaking to me from the Temple... ⁷ He said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of My Throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever." (Ezek. 43:2-7)*

- G. Jesus' voice is like a trumpet and thunder (Rev. 1:10; 14:2).

⁴ *The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. (Ps. 29:4)*

¹⁰ *They shall walk after the LORD. He will roar like a lion. When He roars, then His sons shall come trembling from the west... (Hos. 11:10)*

VII. JESUS THE KING

¹⁶ *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. (Rev. 1:16)*

- A. These stars spoke of the key apostolic leader over the each of the seven churches, who would be responsible to get John's message to others. The right hand is the place of favor (Ps. 110:1), blessing and protection from Satan and persecution. Stars speak of those who will faithfully speak the truth (Dan. 12:3). Jesus' revealed specific dimensions of His nature that spoke most directly to the need of each of the seven churches. The titles of Jesus as the One with the seven stars is used twice (Rev. 2:1; 3:1). Jesus refers to titles from this vision in His messages to six of the seven churches. Only the Laodicean church lacks one of these.

- B. From Jesus' mouth proceeds a sharp two-edged sword (Rev. 2:12, 16; 19:15). In this, we see Jesus the King in battle destroying His enemies. A two-edged sword is greater in effectiveness. This revelation of the Messiah was first seen in Isa. (Isa. 11:4; 49:2). NT passages compare God's Word to a sword (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12).

⁴ *He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth (Isa. 11:4)*

- C. Jesus' appearance is like the sun shining in its strength. This recalls John's experience with Jesus on the Mt of Transfiguration as His face "shone like the sun" (Mt. 17:2). No clouds can hinder the intensity of the sun's rays this time. This is taken from the song of Deborah and describes people who love Jesus. The righteous will shine like the sun (Mt. 13:43) as the face of an angel of judgment (Rev. 10:1).

³¹ *Thus let all Your enemies perish, O LORD! But let those who love Him be like the sun when it comes out in full strength. (Jud. 5:31)*

- D. In Daniel 10:5, 6, girdle of gold; his eyes fire; his feet as brass; his voice as waters or a multitude; his countenance as the sun or as lightning Jesus' eyes like fire and feet like shining bronze are seen also in the angel who visited Daniel.

⁶ His...face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze...and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude. (Dan. 10:6)