

Honor the Son
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Revelation 1:12

In verse 10, John says he was in the spirit on Sunday and then heard a voice like a trumpet.

In verse 12, he turns to see that voice and we all know that the One he sees is Jesus. What a sight to see, what a reunion to have. Question: What is the best reunion you ever had? As it turns out, John does not see Jesus first, represented in the body of a man; John sees seven lamp stands.

These were not candlesticks, they were not menorahs, but they were free-standing oil lamp stands. The actual lamps sat on these lamp stands.

The Old Covenant lamp stand was one lamp stand with seven lamps on it. Here in the New Covenant, we see seven lamp stands. With that in mind, think about this: God had but one church for the Jews, but many among the Gentiles (Poole).

In verse 20, we are told that the seven lamp stands are the seven churches. They are not the source of light, but they are bearers of the light and thus they signify the works of the Church.

In Christ's physical absence, the Church of God is responsible to keep a light burning in the midst of the darkness.

Notice that the lamp stands are made out of gold. Why? Because gold was the most precious, the most lovely, the most beautiful metal. Not only is the Church a light in this world, we are the heart of God. So we are the most costly, the most beautiful, the most precious, and the most valuable thing on Earth.

In the world's history, what has often been the most valuable commodity? Gold. We should shine forth like gold.

In **John 8:12**, Jesus says that He is the light of the world. Think about this: Jesus is that same Pillar of fire that protected Israel from their enemies during the exodus. He is that same Pillar of fire and that same Light that is protecting us during our exodus. He is still shining for all to see.

In **Matthew 5:14-16**, He says that we are the light of the world.

- Verse 15 - Jesus didn't save us so we could become closet Christians. During the tribulation period it might cost you your life to follow Him. It might even be costing some of you right now.

- Verse 16 - The light that you give off should be a reflection of the grace and compassion of Christ.

Revelation 1:12 - And having turned, I saw seven golden lamp stands.

People, there is a message in this. The message is that our Lord Jesus Christ dwells in the light. And our responsibility as lamp stands is to hold up the light. It's getting darker out there, folks, and sin is running rampant.

Here are a few things to consider:

1. It's only in the dark places that we stumble.
2. It's only in the dark places that we ask, "Who's there?"
3. It's only in the dark that we cannot see.

Have you ever been in a dark place and you wanted to hold onto someone for comfort?

2 Peter 1:19 - And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts ...

The planet Venus is called the morning star. We see it at its brightest point while we're at our darkest point. **Revelation 22:16** - Jesus is called the Bright and Morning Star. The tribulation period will push the world into its darkest point, but will the world's people respond?

Set against the black canvas of a sin-filled world are these seven burning lamps.

Today there is still hope for the lost in the tribulation period. There is still going to be hope for the lost. The light will never die or burn out, only the people who reject it.

Verse 13 – The middle (or midst) of the lamp stands.

Matthew 18:20

Even in the last days, even during the Great Tribulation, Christ is there.

In **Matthew 28:20**, we read "I am with you always, even until the end of the age." He said He will not leave us as orphans. If anyone loves Jesus, He will make His abode with him.

Christ is in the midst of our:

- Joy
- Pain
- Sorrow

- Trials

He is there to give us peace.

Not only does He give us peace, He empowers us (His Church) that we will continue to walk by faith and not by sight.

Matthew 17:20 – The phrase “Say to this mountain ‘be removed,’” refers to the One Who removes difficult situations. That’s what He does for us those who walk by faith. So the question is the following: Is there anything too hard for the Lord?

Verse 13 - I saw one like a Son of Man. Despite the glory of His appearance John recognized Him to be a man, indeed the very Son of Man.

The term Son of Man is used first in **Psalms 8:4**, prophesying His first coming in humility; and last in **Revelation 14:4**, prophesying His second coming in power.

Then it goes on to say He is clothed in a robe reaching down to His feet. Notice the fullness of His garment: there is no nudity or semi-nudity. Jesus was stripped once of his garments but now He is pictured in the fullness of royalty. He is our great High Priest.

Hebrews 4:14-15

Psalms 104:1

“And girded across His chest a golden sash.” The sash is a symbol of His righteousness. In the gospels we read of Jesus girding Himself with a towel and washing the disciples’ feet; but here He is clothed in majesty, not as a servant.

Isaiah 11:5

In verse 14 of **Revelation 1**, His head and hair white like wool. In **Daniel 7:9**, God the Father is described. But here we have a description of Christ. There is no other way to put it: Jesus is God. Not God the Father but God the Son, the second Person in the Trinity.

Verse 14 - His head and hair were white like wool.

Check this out: Modern-day men use dyes to mask their gray hair in order to retain the appearance of youth. See **Proverb 16:31**. Question: Who is more righteous than Christ? No one. And this is not talking about the decay of the body (i.e. old age). It’s talking about:

1. Righteousness
2. Wisdom

3. Purity (Snow and wool are naturally white, so they portray what is clean; please see **Isaiah 1:8**)

Christ also says in **1 Peter 1:16** that we should be Holy as He is Holy, therefore He must have a standard for His Church also.

Ephesians 5:25-27

So far, we have seen Christ:

1. Empower His church
2. Intercede for His church
3. Call His church to holiness as He is Holy

Next, we will see His perfect judgment.

Verse 14 says His eyes are a flame of fire. Jesus Christ exercises perfect judgment, but first it must start in His own Church. **1 Peter 4:17**

Again in verse 14, His eyes are like a flame of fire. I have both given and received some penetrating stares, but nothing even close to this.

His eyes are piercing and penetrating into the very hearts and reins of men, scattering terrors among His adversaries.

2 Corinthians 5:10-11

Psalm 44:20-21

Can you imagine with me a courtroom scene? All rise as the judge enters in, sits down, and looks out over the courtroom. Everyone sees a brilliant shining face and then eyes that are red like fire.

Hebrews 4:13

Psalm 11:4

Verse 15 - Feet like burnished bronze when hot.

Brass speaks of the wrath of God. It brings judgment and vengeance. The brazen altar that stood before the tabernacle was that on which the fire of God's judgment burned continually. It was overlain with brass because brass could withstand the fire.

By the way, John MacArthur says that all of the temple and all of the tabernacle furniture that was in any way used in a sin offering was always brass. When you see brass in this situation, you know it has something to do with sin. And here you have feet glowing hot: a very clear reference to judgment. Any time anybody came before the king during ancient times, the king always sat on an elevated throne. And when a criminal came in to be sentenced, he was always below the feet of the king. The criminal would bow down and look up to the feet, then to the throne, then to the body, and then to the head. The feet of the king became the symbol of his authority. And here we find Jesus Christ with red-hot feet, moving through His church to exercise His chastening authority: blazing, molten, pure, refined, gleaming feet of judgment. This metal is pure, refined by the holiness and the glory of God and ready to deal out pain, if need be, to a sinning Christian and a sinning Church.

Verse 15 - And His voice was like the sound of many waters.

This is not a quiet storm but the rushing of the waters as they come upon those who disobeyed the warning signs. **Jeremiah 25:30-31**

Verse 16 - He had in His right hand seven stars. They are the ministers of the seven churches.

1. They are under His direction.
2. They get all of their light and influence from Him.
3. They are secured and preserved by Him. **Daniel 12:3**

Verse 16 - Out of His mouth went a sharp, two-edged sword.

The idea is that this sword is the Word of God. See **Ephesians 6:17**. It brings judgment on those who do not obey it.

Revelation 19:15

Hebrews 4:12

Speaking of the phrase “sharp two-edged sword,” Charles Spurgeon says that there is no such thing as handling this weapon without cutting yourself, for it has no back to it; it is all edge. A sword is not for play, it’s for usage. The Word of God is not for playing around with, it is to be used and used correctly.

Verse 16 - And His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

Why is His face portrayed as the sun?

There are several things to consider here. When the sun is shining in its strength...

1. You either put your hands up to block it,

2. You cover your eyes,

3. Or you turn away.

All these things tell us that we have to honor and respect the sun. It's the same with Christ.

We either throw our hands up to worship Him ...

We cover our eyes so as not to look upon Him ...

Or, if we don't know Him, we turn away from Him.

When the light shines upon you, what is your response?

Malachi 4:2