

Revelation 1:9-20 – A Dose of Reality: The Cosmic Christ

How will you face death well?

Christ calls us to suffer – but not on our own

I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. – v.9

- Suffering as members of Christ's Kingdom
- Suffering for the sake of Jesus Christ the norm for his people
- Are we ready to suffer for Christ
- Suffering, Kingdom, and patient endurance— go together – Mark 8.34-35

amongst the lampstands was someone 'like a son of man' - v.13

- Jesus' message to his suffering people: "*I am right there with you*"
- How will you respond to suffering for him?

Where is your Jesus today?

- Sleeping in a manger
- Walking around Galilee
- Hanging on the cross
- Ruling over everything in the heavenly realm – the indescribable Glorious King

What are all the pictures and imagery about in the book of Revelation?

- Revelation a picture storybook NOT a puzzle book
- Need to get the BIG picture *first*
- Don't rush to the details
- Pictures painted in Revelation with the brushstrokes of Old Testament language
- How well do we know our OT? A reason we struggle to understand this book
- Ask: Where in the OT do we find this language? What are we being told there?

Back to John's Vision – Revelation 1:12-18

- The vision of *son of man* / God in Daniel 7-10 and Ezekiel 1
- *son of man* – a glorious human who approaches the throne of God – Dan. 7:13
- *white hair* – Rev. 1 - son of man, Daniel 7 – the Ancient of Days – God himself – Dan 7:9-10
- *robe and sash* – High Priest
- *bronze / rushing water /face like sun* – absolute majestic sovereign, King and Judge

Old Testament language used in John's vision of the exalted Jesus in Revelation 1

Revelation 1:12-16	Ezekiel 1:25-28	Daniel 10:5-6	Daniel 7:9-14
<i>son of man</i>	<i>like that of a man</i>	<i>a man</i>	<i>son of man</i>
<i>robe</i>		<i>linen robe</i>	
<i>gold sash</i>		<i>gold sash</i>	
<i>white hair</i>			<i>white hair</i>
<i>eyes like fire</i>	<i>fire</i>	<i>eyes like flame</i>	<i>fire</i>
<i>feet like bronze</i>	<i>glowing metal</i>	<i>gleaning bronze</i>	
<i>voice like rushing water</i>	<i>sound like rushing water</i>	<i>sound of a multitude</i>	
<i>stars in hand</i>			
<i>face like the sun</i>	<i>radiance</i>	<i>like lightening</i>	

- John's reaction: *When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.*
- Fear the right response from mere creatures
- Christ's touch of grace: *Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid."*

The Cosmic Christ is worth dying for

I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. – v.18

- Why is it worth suffering and dying for Christ?
 - Because the Cosmic Christ IS life
 - Because having defeated death in his death Christ holds the keys of death and Hades.
 - Because Christ holds the key to *your* death
- A view of the majestic Cosmic Christ makes suffering even to death for him sensible
- Stephen – Acts 7:50
- Church at Smyrna – Revelation 2:10
- Christian martyrs throughout history