

Vision of Christ

Revelation 1:12-20

| Description | Cross References | Significance |
|---|---|---|
| "one like a son of man" (v.13) | Daniel 7:13-14 Matthew 16:13, 16 | Reflects Jesus' transcendent majesty; alludes to the future mysterious human figure Daniel foresees who brings an end to the succession of pagan, world dominating kingdoms |
| "clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest" (v.13) | Exodus 28:4, 8; 29:5 Daniel 10:5 | High priestly apparel that signifies purity; the golden sash reflects the wealth, beauty, and exalted status of the one wearing it |
| "hairs of his head were white" (v.14) | Daniel 7:9 | Alludes to the to the Ancient of Days; suggests purity and wisdom associated with old age; in OT, refers to the Father |
| "His eyes were like a flame of fire" (v.14) | Daniel 10:6 | Burning eyes see the secret sins of the heart and burn away sin and impurity |
| "His feet were like burnished bronze" (v.15) | Ezekiel 1:4, 7, 27 Daniel 10:6 | Bronze was used in weapons so suggests association with judgment and war; brightness suggests judgement with intense purity, beauty, and glory |
| "His voice was like the roar of many waters (v.15) | Exodus 19:16, 19 Psalm 29:3 Ezekiel 1:24; 43:2 Daniel 10:6 | Loud authoritative sounds/noises are often associated with God |
| "in his right hand he held seven stars" (v.16) | | Angels of the seven churches could refer to angelic beings sent to look after the needs of individual churches, or to the leaders or elders of the churches |
| "from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword" (v.16) | Isaiah 49:2 Hebrews 4:12 | Shows the capability of Christ's Word to bring punishment or reward |
| "His face was like the sun shining in full strength" (v.16) | Ezekiel 1:27 Daniel 10:6 | Emphasizes the brilliance and majesty of His appearance |

Seven Churches

| Church | Passage | Description of Christ | Commendation | Critique | Promise |
|--------------|---------|---|--|--|--|
| Ephesus | 2:1-7 | He who holds the seven stars and walks among the stars | Good works of toil, patient endurance, orthodoxy | Loss of love for God and each other | Will eat from the tree of life |
| Smyrna | 2:8-11 | The first and last, who died and came to life | Tribulation, including poverty, slander, prison, | none | Will be given crown of life; will not be hurt by the |
| Pergamum | 2:12-17 | He who has the two-edged sword | Holding fast to His name and faith | Some gave in to error | Will be given hidden manna and a white stone |
| Thyatira | 2:18-29 | Son of God, with eyes like a flame and feet like bronze | Good works of love, faith, service, and patient | They compromised and tolerated idolatry and | Will reign with Christ; will be given the morning star |
| Sardis | 3:1-6 | He who has the seven spirits of God and seven stars | Some have remained faithful | Nominal Christians, appearing alive but really | Will be clothes in bright garments; name will be in |
| Philadelphia | 3:7-13 | The holy one, true one, who has the key of David | Keeping the faith and patiently enduring | none | Will be made a pillar in God's temple; will partici- |
| Laodicea | 3:14-22 | The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the begin- | none | Lukewarm hearts, materialism, and pride | Will dine with Christ; will sit with Christ on His |

Jesus Knows...

The Letters to the Seven Churches

1. What and who I really love (Ephesus).

- * **Has my love for Christ and for others grown cold?**
- * **Do I love the truth about Christ more than I love Christ Himself?**

2. What I'm willing to suffer for (Smyrna).

- * **Am I willing to accept that suffering is part of the Christian life?**
- * **Do I trust Jesus to be with me and protect me in the midst of my suffering?**

3. What I really believe (Pergamum).

- * **Does my life show that I believe in the truth of God's Word?**
- * **Have any of my beliefs been influenced by the lies of the culture?**

4. What I'm willing to tolerate (Thyatira).

- * **Do I tolerate sin in my own life or the lives of those in my church?**
- * **Am I willing to confront those who are living in sin?**

5. The reality of my spiritual condition (Sardis).

- * **Am I known for being a righteous woman?**
- * **Does my reputation match the way I live my life?**

6. Whose kingdom I am committed to (Philadelphia).

- * **Am I committed to being faithful to Christ in spite of outside pressures to compromise?**
- * **Am I committed to going through the open doors that Christ has put before me, no matter where they may lead?**