



SESSION 3 | REVELATION 1:12-20

THE SIGHT JOHN BEHELD | VV. 12-16

THE FOURFOLD SIGHT

- The seven lampstands (v. 12)
- The Savior (vv. 13-15)
- The seven stars (v. 16a)
- The sharp sword (v. 16b)
 - The two-edged sword is seen again in the letter to Pergamum as well as in Rev 19:15, 21 (at the Second Coming).
 - This sword is stronger than the "sharp, two-edged sword" of the Bible, which is a *machairon* (from which we get *machette*), a small, personal sword. This sword is a *romphia*, a large sword worn over the shoulder.
- Note: Seven is a number for *spiritual perfection* and is used over 50 times in the book of Revelation
- Note: Principles of Interpretation in Revelation—
 - The only sure interpretation is one given by the text itself, or in an exact use of the term in other Scriptures.
 - Meanings drawn from implication may or may not be true, and must be treated as conjecture.
 - If a meaning seems to be true but is not clearly defined, then ask:
 - Is there a need to determine a meaning?
 - Is the conjectured meaning true the first time the word or phrase appears in Scripture?
 - Is the conjectured meaning ever contradicted in Scripture?

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE SAVIOR

- The Description:
 - Like a son of man
 - Clothed in a robe reaching to the feet
 - Girded with a golden sash
 - Head and hair white like wool / snow
 - Eyes of a flaming fire
 - Feet of burnished bronze
 - Voice like the sound of many waters
- The meaning: not revealed. Likely simply a physical description of the Glorious Risen Savior.

JESUS AS THE FIRST AND THE LAST | V. 17

- Earlier the Father was the "*arche and telos*," the *beginning* and the *end*.
- Now Jesus is the *protos* and the *eschatos*, the *first* and the *last*.
- On both occasions, one is foundational to the other, the first being *spiritual* and the latter being *substantive*.
- Note the comparative use of these in the book:
 - *Arche* and *telos*:
 - Rev 1:8 - of the Father
 - Rev 21:6 - of the Father
 - Rev 22:13 - of the Father, together with the Son
 - *Protos* and *eschatos*:
 - Rev 1:11 - of the Son
 - Rev 1:17 - of the Son
 - Rev 2:8 - of the Son
 - Rev 22:13 - of the Son, together with the Father
- Interpretive key:
 - Alpha and Omega could mean the Father or the Son
 - Beginning and end is only used of the Father
 - First and last is only used of the Son
 - Note that this is true in the Old Testament as well. Each time "first and last" is used, it is in reference to the Redeemer.
 - Isaiah 48:12 (in context with v. 16)

JESUS AS RULER OF LIFE | V. 18

It appears that the Keys given to Peter have now been returned to Jesus, if the keys to "death and hades" are the same as the "keys to the Kingdom." In either case, neither Peter nor his successor has the keys to death and Hades today.

THE OUTLINE OF THE BOOK | V. 19

While a number of good outlines are available for the book of Revelation, the outline presented in verse 19 appears to be most consistent for the broad panorama of the book.

The instruction of v. 19 is built upon the vision of the previous verses. "Write, *therefore!*"

- The things which thou has seen – the things of the vision of the Son of man in chapter 1
- The things which are – the things of the church age in Revelation 2-3
- The things which shall be hereafter – the things of the coming time, beyond the church age, in Revelation 4-22

THE INSTRUCTION TO WRITE, AND A MYSTERY REVEALED | V. 20

A mystery in the Bible is that which was previously unknown but has now been revealed. It can only become known by revelation. After the revelation, there is no need for speculation of any kind.