

# Revelation 1:9-20 One like the Son of Man

## REV 1:9 JOHN ON THE ISLE OF PATMOS

**v9 Companion in tribulation:** literally “pressure”. **Acts 14:22** “We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God”. See also **Jn 16:33; Rom 8:35; Rev 2:9,10,22; 7:14**. Tribulation is linked with the word *apokalupsis* in **2 Thess 1:6-7**. Suffering believers are strengthened by **visions of Christ and the Saints coming in glory**. John is personally associated with those he is writing to.

**Patience of Jesus Christ:** Gk. “patient waiting for Jesus Christ”. Patience is repeated 7x in the book: also **2:2,3,19; 3:10; 13:10; 14:12**. A major theme of Revelation is that believers endure trials through patience. **Jas 1:3-4** “the trying of your faith worketh patience”. **Patmos:** The Isle of Patmos was a prison and there were likely other prisoners on the island. Banishment was a characteristic of Emperor Domitian’s reign. **Testimony of Jesus Christ:** Gk. *marturia* (ie. *martyr*) meaning to *witness*. A witness is one who testifies in the dock, in a court of law. This is an important theme in Revelation. The word is also translated as “bare record”, “testify”, “testifieth”, “martyr” and “witnesses”. The witnessing theme is in **Rev 1:2,5,9; 2:13; 3:14; 6:9; 11:3,7; 12:11,17; 15:5; 17:6; 19:10; 20:4; 22:16,20**. It is also found 47x in John’s gospel.

**Key verse: John 18:37** “Jesus answered... To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.” We hear the voice of Jesus Christ in the book of Revelation. He is the greatest witness of all. The Apostle Paul was also a witness: **Acts 23:11; 26:21-22**. Stephen also: **Acts 6:9 - 7:60**.

## REV 1:10-20 MULTITUDINOUS CHRIST COMING IN JUDGMENT

This vision follows **1:7** revealing **Christ coming with the Saints in glory and judgment**. This vision describes **the body of Christ** so perfectly united as to be **one** man. A very similar vision is in **Dan 10**. A man representing a multitude is explained in **Eph 2:19-22:4:13-16**. Consider the similarities to Christ’s transfiguration in **Lk 17:1-9**.

Christ is the head. Believers are the body. They are one. The man’s words are “the voice of a multitude”: **Dan 10:6**.

**v10 In Spirit:** A prophetic vision as in **4:1-2; Ezek 2:2**. Divinely inspired: **2 Pet 1:21. The Lord’s Day:** the “day of Yahweh”: **Isa 2:12; Mal 4:1-2; 1 Thess 5:2**. Armageddon, the “great day of God Almighty”, the “day of Christ”: **2 Thess 2:3; Rev 16:14-16**. This is the revealing of **Christ and the Saints in judgment** to the world, in Jerusalem: **Joel 3:14-17; Zech 14:1-2**. **A great voice, as of a trumpet:** Firstly the resurrection, then Israel’s salvation: **Isa 27:12-13; Zech 9:13-14; 1 Cor 15:52; 1 Thess 4:16**.

**9** I John, who also am your brother, and <sup>o</sup>companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for <sup>o</sup>the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

**10** <sup>o</sup>I was in the Spirit on <sup>o</sup>the Lord’s day, and heard behind me a great voice, <sup>o</sup>as of a trumpet,

**11** Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, <sup>o</sup>the first and the last; and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto <sup>o</sup>the seven churches which are in Asia; unto <sup>o</sup>Ephesus, and unto <sup>o</sup>Smyrna, and unto <sup>o</sup>Pergamos, and unto <sup>o</sup>Thyatira, and unto <sup>o</sup>Sardis, and unto <sup>o</sup>Philadelphia, and unto <sup>o</sup>Laodicea.

**12** And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw <sup>o</sup>seven golden candlesticks;

**v11 Alpha and Omega:** See **1:8. Seven Ecclesias:** Representative of the whole body of Christ in the times of the Gentiles: **22:16**.

**v12 Turned to see the voice:** Normally you don’t see a voice, but this voice represents a multitude of **people**. **Golden lampstands:** The explanation is given in **1:20**. An allusion to the tabernacle in **Ex 25-31**. Many of visions are based on the courts and furniture of the tabernacle. Pure olive oil was used to keep the lampstands burning: **Ex 27:20**. The Holy Place was lit by the lampstands. If the lampstand was not alight, the Holy Place was in darkness. We must be lights in this dark world: **Mt 5:14-16**. **Gold** represents tried faith: **Lam 4:1-2; 1 Pet 1:7; Rev 3:18**. **Jewish** symbols are used to represent **Gentile** ecclesias in the Roman Empire. This **sets a precedent** for interpreting the rest of the book.

**v13 In the midst:** In **2:1** Jesus Christ is actually **walking** in the midst of the lampstands. He is intimately aware of ecclesial life: **Deut 23:14; 2 Cor 6:16**.

**One like the Son of Man:** Not just Jesus Christ, but **one like him**. Even though Christ says he is actually this man in **Rev 2-3**, it also by extension represents those who are “in Christ” by faith and baptism: **1 Cor 15:22; 2 Cor 5:17; Eph 1:3; 2:20; Phil 1:1,13; Col 1:2; 1 Jn 3:2**. The title “**Son of Man**” represents Christ’s authority to judge because he had dominion over the flesh: **Jn 5:25-27**. The title is used over 100x in **Ezekiel**. Ezekiel was strengthened by visions of the Saints in glory. Compare **Gen 1:26-28; Psalms 8:4-6; 1 Cor 15:24-28; Heb 2:6-8**. There is a clear link with **Dan 7:13** where the “**Son of Man**” comes in “the clouds of heaven”. Jesus also applies this to his second coming in **Mt 26:64** which is confirmed in **Rev 14:14**.

**Key verses: Rom 12:5** “We, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.” **Gal 3:27** Believers “baptised into Christ have put on Christ.”

**Clothed with a garment:** Believers forgiven who have “put on” Christ: **Isa 61:10; Gal 3:27; Rev 3:4,18; 7:14; 16:15**. The importance of clothing is impressed upon Adam and Even in **Gen 3:21**, cp. **Rev 13:8**. **Down to the foot:** Lit. *fastened around the foot*. Same word in the LXX for a covering of the high priest in **Ex 28:4,31**. Christ is the perfect high priest: **Heb 4:15**. He has made us kings and priests: **Rev 1:6; 5:10**.

**Girt about the paps with a golden girdle:** RSV “a golden girdle round the breasts”. The girdle symbolises righteousness, mercy, truth and power: **Isa 11:5; 22:21; Job 12:18; Dan 10:5**. Gold is for tried faith.

**13** And in the midst of the seven candlesticks <sup>o</sup>one like unto the Son of man, <sup>o</sup>clothed with <sup>o</sup>a garment down to the foot, and <sup>o</sup>girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

**14** His head and <sup>o</sup>his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and <sup>o</sup>his eyes were as a flame of fire;

**15** <sup>o</sup>And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and <sup>o</sup>his voice as the sound of many waters.

**16** And he had <sup>o</sup>in his right hand seven stars; and <sup>o</sup>out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword; and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

**17** And <sup>o</sup>when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And <sup>o</sup>he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; <sup>o</sup>I am the first and the last:

**18** <sup>o</sup>I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and <sup>o</sup>have the keys of <sup>o</sup>hell and of death.

**19** Write <sup>o</sup>the things which thou hast seen; <sup>o</sup>and the things which are, <sup>o</sup>and the things which shall be hereafter;

**20** The mystery <sup>o</sup>of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and <sup>o</sup>the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are <sup>o</sup>the angels of the seven churches; and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.



**v14 Head and hairs white like wool, white as snow:** Christ is the head: **1 Cor 11:3; Eph 5:23; Col 2:17-19; Phil 2:4-5**. White is a contrast to scarlet: **Rev 17:3-4**. No two snowflakes are the same. Likewise, believers are diverse but all forgiven: **Psa 51:7; Lam 4:7; Dan 7:9**.

**Eyes as a flame of fire:** Judgment: **Isa 30:27; 31:9; Rev 10:1; 18:8; 19:12,20**. The Saints will be the eyes of Yahweh: **2 Chr 16:9; Ezek 1:18; Zech 4:10**.

**v15 Feet like fine brass:** Allusion to the Cherubim: **Ezek 1:7**. Brass symbolises flesh purified by judgment: **Num 16:35-38; 31:22-23**. Feet symbolise progress and treading down: **Psa 18:32-33; 58:10-11; Dan 10:6; Mic 4:13; Mal 4:3; Rev 14:18-20**. Feet also preach the gospel: **Isa 55:7; Rom 10:15**. Why feet? Because the power of the gospel is **seen in the life** of the preacher. **Burned in a furnace:** Judgment: **Mal 4:1-2; Rev 10:1**. **Voice the sound of many waters:** Same as the Cherubim in **Ezek 1:24**. Explained in **Dan 10:6** as a multitude. Sea and waters represent peoples: **Rev 15:2; 17:15**.

**v16 In his right hand 7 stars:** Explanation in **1:20**. **Out of his mouth went a sharp two edged sword:** The long sword of judgment (Gk. *rhomphaia*) as in **Lk 2:35; Rev 2:12,16; 6:8; 19:15,21**. Direct allusion to **Isa 49:2**. **Countenance as the sun:** See notes on **1:7**. The sun represents Christ: **Mal 4:2**. The dawning of a new day is symbolic of Christ’s return: **Psa 30:5; 49:14; 130:6**. See also **Deut 33:2; Hab 3:4; Rev 10:1**. The saints are “*kings from a sun’s rising*”: **Rev 16:12**.

**v17 I fell at his feet as dead:** Daniel experienced a symbolic death and resurrection: **Dan 10:8-19**. Compare this to Jesus in Gethsemane in **Mt 26:36-39**. **Fear not:** Often said by angels to believers, eg. **Dan 10:19**. **First and the last:** Title of Yahweh in **Isa 41:4; 44:6; 48:12**. God was revealed in Jesus Christ, **the first one**. He will also be revealed in the immortal saints, **the last ones** (plural, as it is in **Isa 41:4**). This title is used of Christ in **Rev 2:8; 22:13**. Here again is this grand theme of **the revealing of Christ and the Saints**.

**v18 He that liveth and was dead:** This is applied to Smyrna in **2:8**. Christ’s resurrection is a guarantee that they also will be resurrected to eternal life. **Keys to hell and of death:** Christ’s power to open the grave: **Mt 16:16-19; Rev 3:7**.

**v19 Three sections in the book:** seen (**Rev 1**); are (**Rev 2,3**); hereafter (**Rev 4-22**). **v20 Seven angels:** Messengers, Spirit gifted elders of ecclesias: **Acts 20:28; 1 Cor 12:28-29**.

**Colour code:** Blue (God and Jesus Christ); Red (sin/devil/judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words & phrases); Purple (return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation). Prepared for Rathmines Bible School Teenagers..