

## REVELATION'S TEN CHARACTERISTICS OF JESUS CHRIST

When John turned to see who it was that was speaking to him in Revelation 1:12-20, he saw seven golden lampstands and a person in their midst. He lists ten details of that person that are most descriptive. Notice that only the stars and the lampstands are interpreted for us. Nothing about the person of Christ is interpreted. One might ask, "Why is this true?" Because the Holy Spirit has interpreted these details on other occasions in the Word. As we contemplate this fact, we recognize the basic principle of Bible study that we should compare Scripture with Scripture. Let's take each of these characteristics of John's vision and note their meaning from Scripture.

1. "...someone `like a son of man'" indicates this person to be human in appearance, not a grotesque creature of the supernatural. Son of Man is one of the most frequent titles Jesus applied to Himself in all four Gospels, as well as in Daniel 7:13.

2. "...dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet." Typical of the long robes of the high priest as they ministered in the Holy Place in the Temple. Hebrews tells us Jesus is our great high priest pertaining to all things in our relationship with God.

3. "...with a golden sash around his chest" refers to a symbol of strength and authority. The average working man wore a short tunic of loose-fitting clothes. Only those in authority wore a girdle. Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Matthew 28:18).

4. "His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow," reminds one of antiquity and of the vision of Daniel 7:9-13, where Christ is the "Ancient of Days". It also speaks of God's righteousness, Who is from everlasting to everlasting.

5. "...his eyes were like blazing fire." Literally, "his eyes shot fire," indicating that Christ was indignant over the indifference, in some cases, of the apostate churches. Whenever the Church is not what it should be, we can be sure it arouses the indignation of Christ.

6. "...his feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace." Bronze speaks to us about judgment. It reminds us of the brazen altar of the tabernacle, where sin was judged.

7. "...his voice was like the sound of rushing waters." Niagara Falls ... all other sounds are eliminated from your hearing by the sound of the turbulent waters. This seems to indicate the attitude of the Son of God as He comes on the Day of the Lord in judgment. Far too many do not hear His voice today, but will then. In the coming time of judgment, lost man will be stilled by the deafening, voice of the Son of God, to whom all will give heed in that hour.

8. "In his right hand he held seven stars." The Lord Himself interpreted to John the meaning of the seven stars. In verse 20, "the seven stars are the angels of the seven

churches." The meaning of the Greek word translated "angels" is literally "messengers." Two views of the interpretation of messenger are:

A. Wide belief is that the messenger is the "pastor". The main objection here is that many of the "angels" have failed to keep their churches pure.

B. I feel that the "messenger" means literally "angel". With all the enemies armed against the Church, both natural and supernatural, I like to think that we have specially assigned angels working in our behalf.

9. "...out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword." Ephesians 6 refers to the Word of God as "the sword of the Spirit." Hebrews 4:12 tells us that the Word of God is "sharper than any two-edged sword." There will be no defense in the Day of Judgment. Even the Antichrist will be indefensible against the presence of Christ at His coming (Revelation 19-20).

10. "His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance." This speaks of the divine nature of Jesus Christ and reminds us of the event that took place on the Mount of Transfiguration, where Christ "was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the lights" (Matt. 17:2). Let there be no doubt about it: This is Jesus the Christ, the divine Son of God. Amen!

**NOTE:** Though we are the sons of God, "co-heirs with Christ" (Rom. 8:17), let it be clearly understood that we will never be divine or "deities." Christ is so exalted beyond us that even in our glorified state we will willingly worship at His feet. This John who prostrated himself at the feet of the resurrected Christ is the same John who was familiar enough with the Lord Jesus to lay his head on His breast in the upper room. Now we find John falling at His feet "as though dead," knocked cold by His glory. Anyone truly in touch with the Spirit of God instinctively bows in adoration to Jesus Christ. Any spirit that motivates one in defiance of Jesus Christ is an unholy spirit.