

REVELATION

Revelation 1:17-20 (Jesus Unleashed)

Read Revelation 1:17-20 Jesus in His exalted, glorified human state as fully man, YET fully God:

Notice: Jesus is described as the Son of Man (human being) BUT...with divine qualities:

¹⁴ His head and His hair were white *like* white wool, *like* snow; and His eyes were *like* a flame of fire. ¹⁵ His feet were *like* burnished bronze [fine brass] when it has been heated to a glow in a furnace, and His voice was *like* the sound of many waters [power/roar] ¹⁶ In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was *like* the sun shining in its strength. This is a description of Jesus in His fully exalted glory: **Fully man; fully God**. Glorified & Preeminent above all Beings in the universe. He is described in a glorified human state – *as a man*, though God. Jesus revealed in all His executive power and divine authority:

-The **white head and hair** = purity on display; full, superlative, holiness, truthfulness, & wisdom!

*Daniel 7:9-10 -Daniel had received a similar Vision that John received. Overwhelming to Daniel

"I kept looking Until thrones were set up, And the Ancient of Days took *His* seat; His garment *was* white as snow, **And the hair of His head like pure wool**. His throne *was* ablaze with flames of fire, Its wheels *were* a burning fire. ¹⁰ A river of fire was flowing. And coming out from before Him; Thousands upon thousands were serving Him, And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; =the Person of God and His throne =white-hot, holy, consuming radiance & unmatched, majestic power to bring all beings to bare in holy judgement.

-A description of God on His throne of righteous judgment. 'Ancient of Days' lit. means "*before there were days*" =**the eternal One**—this title is given both to the Father and the Son Jesus (7:22).

Notice John's explicit description of Jesus as Judge:

-His **purity** (white/snow); His **wisdom** (white/wool) and His **holiness** (eyes/flame of fire)

*All-consuming fire He.12:29 =nothing is unchanged in His all-consuming holy presence (i.e. melt)

-What comes out of Jesus mouth is like a **sword**. **A weapon to cut to the soul**. **Truth that is unstoppable**. The eternal WORD which is irresistible & overpowering!=**Transforms lives/judges**

-Hebrews 4:12 "**For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge/discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**" =**Scalpel cutting**

-The message to the churches =**Truth**, sharp *as a sword* is both piercing & cutting=**judgment!**

In exposing, revealing, & judging TRUTH...

A. Jesus is **warning** the Church to rid herself of open, rebellious sin & pride. *Or He will cut it out!*

B. Jesus will **defend** the Church, His Bride – and sends a warning to the predators within the church, the wolves in sheep's clothing, those who would cause division, dissension, & harm to His Bride; and to those who bring *heresy* or permit/ignore heresy within the Church (Acts 20:30)

C. Jesus will **destroy** His enemies, those who hate God, reject the truth, & persecute the Church:

-Rev. 19:11-16 **And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.** ¹² His eyes *are* a flame of fire, and on His head *are* many crowns; and He has a name written *on Him* which no one knows except Himself. ¹³ *He is* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of

God. ¹⁴ And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses. ¹⁵ **From His mouth comes a sharp sword**, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will ^[e]rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. Jesus' *first coming*=gentle, lowly servant-humble/veiled -*lamb*, BUT, at His *Second Coming* **LION**-His fierce holy judgment will consume all wickedness in all forms

-Daniel 10:5-6 "I raised my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a man dressed in linen, whose waist had a belt of pure gold. ⁶ His body also *was* like topaz, **his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches**, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude." **Nothing escapes His gaze:

- Matthew 10:26 "So do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known."

-Heb 4:13 "And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him to whom we must answer." *In Jesus*, perfect sight, perfect wisdom, perfect judgment

¹⁷ When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "**Do not be afraid**;(loving father; faithful brother; helping friend)-*personal/touch* -**I got it**

Notice how Jesus describes Himself to John-His trusted friend, Apostle, & witness to His full deity:

1. Jesus is declaring that He is **God** – and there is to be NO mistaking that He is God. (Gospel of John, 1-3 John, and NOW Revelation = the deity of Christ is the theme of John's ministry! **BC** John is eyewitness-Jesus's life, miracles, teaching, transfiguration, death, res., ascension, & this).

V17: *I am the first and the last* (Alpha/Omega =**Eternal**), =an O.T. Title that God gives Himself: -Isaiah 44:6 "This is what the Lord says, *He who is the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of armies: 'I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me.'*" Jesus is declaring that He predates all others and that no one will outlast Him = He *is* God almighty, the *eternal* One
****APPLICATION:** As God, Jesus is worthy of all our praise, devotion, and discipleship! **You??**

2. Jesus is also declaring that He was fully **human**; truly **died** a human death; and was eternally resurrected as the Living, *proven*, **Lord of life**.

V18: *and* (I am) **the living One**; (lit. the always living One) =the *ever-existent* One who could not die or be killed, the all-powerful one = God almightyand *yet*, [for our sake]..."**I became dead**" and **I was dead** [*how do you kill God? Jesus became a true man*. And *as a man, He died for us*] **and behold** [i.e. notice well], **I am now alive forevermore!** [lit. *always living into the age of ages*] = Jesus is reminding John (*and declaring to the world that*) (**Jesus IS fully Human**, the second Adam, the Resurrected, **Vindicated**, *approved*, & justified One as *our* sinless and accepted sacrifice on behalf of the whole world-for ALL humanity. *Jesus was the only accepted sacrifice* -**Because Jesus became human, He willingly became sin too**, = He took All of our sins/guilt/shame *FOR* us =NOW, IN HIM, our **debt is PAID** and **the debt is canceled**. We are now forgiven, guiltless, and Justified (righteous); **because He is LIFE...we now have life in Him!** -1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ also died for sins once for all *time*, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death **in the flesh**, but made alive in the spirit; In Jesus' humanity He died without ceasing to exist as God. His Spirit was ever-living, always living, and alive forevermore = fully man, fully God; truly man & truly God. A union of glorified humanity and deity. Now exalted and on universal display for ALL to worship & adore!

****APPLICATION:** As truly human, Jesus *can* understand our frailty, disappointment, & FEAR...
-What are you keeping back from Jesus in your life? What do you think you are experiencing that He won't understand? Our two greatest sins: **Pride/Unbelief** ...why don't you try Him?

So... Jesus is God; Jesus is man (dead, resurrected, & alive forevermore)AND

3. Jesus is declaring that He is **Sovereign** over all sin, all **death**, all evil, over heaven & hell!

V18:...and I now have the keys of death and of Hades/hell. The resurrected Jesus as **victor and Conqueror** over death, as reigning King over all LOSS, – He alone now has all **access** and **authority** over spiritual death, physical death, and most importantly...over eternal death.
-Jesus vanquished the power and threat of death forever. **The devil cannot threaten us w/ death!**
-By His resurrection, Jesus fully overpowered, defeated, routed & crushed DEATH, evil, & devil
-Eph. 4:8 **“When Jesus ascended on high, he took many captives/prisoners”**-defeated evil & overcame devil, demons & sealed their fate for eternity. **Their time is limited; power is limited.**
-Col. 2:15 **“And having disarmed the powers and authorities [devil/demons], He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”**
-How does Jesus apply His conquest toward us?
-John 11:25-26 **“ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.**

****APPLICATION:** As the conqueror of all sin and death, we do not need to be intimidated by sin and temptation, nor are we to be afraid of death and dying!!! Our second Act is just a mere passing from this world to His presence.

-Because Jesus perfectly accomplished all those things, we can have eternal confidence in His power, plan, and purpose in our temporary suffering/loss. **We can trust Him w/ our pain!**
-Because Jesus *is* all those things for us, we have His presence as the greatest treasure above all. **Jesus IS the prize!! Is He the prize of your heart?**
-Because Jesus *IS* all those things....for us (as we are now IN Him), we do not need to be afraid!!!
-No more fear of slavery to sin; no fear of death; of a meaningless life; we can experience JOY no matter what!

APPLICATION

1. Endure hardship with faithfulness.

John identifies himself as a “partner in the tribulation” (v. 9). Following Christ involves trials, but we endure them with the hope of His kingdom and the power of His presence.

2. Stay spiritually attentive.

John was “in the Spirit on the Lord’s day” (v. 10). We, too, must cultivate spiritual attentiveness through prayer, worship, and Scripture so we are ready to encounter God’s voice and direction.

3. Remember Christ’s presence with His church.

The risen Christ walks among the lampstands (v. 13, 20). Our church is never alone—Jesus is present, guiding, correcting, and empowering us to shine His light.

4. Worship Christ in His majesty.

The vision of Christ’s glory (vv. 13–16) reminds us that He is not just gentle Savior but also sovereign Lord. Our worship and daily living should reflect awe, reverence, and submission to His authority.

5. Take courage in Christ’s victory.

Jesus declares, “Fear not... I am the first and the last... I died, and behold I am alive forevermore” (vv. 17–18). His victory over death gives us courage to face trials, temptations, and even persecution with confidence.