

The Seven Churches of the Apocalypse
“The Unveiled Christ”
Revelation 1
Pastor John Miller

Introduction: One of the greatest needs in the church and in the life of every Christian today is for a fresh vision of Christ.

*** In 1918, composer Helen E. Lemmel wrote the song “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus.”**

- **That is why I have chosen to start my series on “The Seven Churches of the Apocalypse,” with “The Unveiled Christ” in Revelation 1.**

I. The Prelude to the Vision (v.v. 1-8)

*** (v. 1) “the revelation”**

- (v. 2) “the record”
- (v. 3) “the read”
- (v. 4) “the recipients”
- (v.v. 5-8) “the revealed”
 - The “revealed” is Jesus!

*** Seven statements about Jesus:**

- 1) Jesus is the “faithful witness” (v. 5)
 - a. “Prophet”
- 2) Jesus is the “first begotten of the dead” (v. 5)
 - a. “Priest”
- 3) Jesus is the “Prince of the Kings of the earth” (v. 5)
 - a. “King”
- 4) Jesus “loves us” (v. 5)
- 5) Jesus “washed us” (v. 5)
- 6) Jesus “has made us” (v. 6)
- 7) Jesus is “coming again” (v.v. 7-8)

II. The Portrait in the Vision (v.v. 9-16)

*** (v.v. 9-11)**

*** The portrait of Christ (v.v. 12-16)**

- The portrait vision

*** Seven characteristics of Him:**

- 1) His head and hair (v. 14)
 - a. His wisdom; purity; holiness
 - b. His eternality
 - i. Daniel 7:9- “Ancient of days”
 - ii. John 1:1
- 2) His eyes (v. 14)
 - a. His omniscience
 - i. For us, the “Bema”
 - ii. Hebrews 4:13- “All things...”
- 3) His feet (v. 15)
 - a. “Brass” judgement
- 4) His voice (v. 15)
 - a. The authority and power (all power)
 - b. Psalm 29:4- “The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.”
- 5) His right hand (v. 16)
 - a. (v. 20) “the angels of the seven churches”
- 6) His mouth (v. 16)
 - a. The Word of God
 - b. Revelation 19
 - c. Hebrews 4:12
 - d. Ephesians 6:17
- 7) His countenance (v. 16)
 - a. His glory
 - b. Illustration- Matthew 24
 - c. Illustration- Mount Transfiguration- Peter, James & John

III. The Purpose of the Vision (v.v. 17-20)

- 1) To comfort John (v.v. 17-18)
 - a. “Don’t fear” (us too)
 - b. Five reasons not to fear:
 - i. “I am the first and the last” (v. 17)
 - ii. “I am alive” (v. 18)
 - iii. “I was dead” (v. 18)
 - iv. “I am alive evermore” (v. 18)
 - v. “I have the keys of Hell and death” (v. 18)
- 2) To command John (v.v. 19-20)

- a. 3 views:
 - i. Preterist
 - ii. Idealist
 - iii. Futurist

CONCLUSION

- 1) Christ still stands at the center of His church
 - a. (v. 12) “He’s in the midst of the seven candlesticks”
 - b. Matthew 16:18- “I will build my church...”
- 2) Christ still speaks to His church in His Word
 - a. Chapters 2-3
- 3) Christians still need to see Christ in His power and glory
 - a. Illustration- John- “I heard” (v. 10), “I saw” (v. 12), “I feel” (v. 17)