

“HE HOLDS THE KEYS”

Revelation 1:10-18

Pastor Keith E. Gephart

INTRODUCTION

Read Matthew 16:16-18

- Note that John saw this “On the Lord’s Day” (v. 10)
This is also a Lord’s Day! *How we need a fresh vision of Christ!*
- Note that John was “in the Spirit”—difficult when so consumed with *entertainment and recreation!*
- Today we see **widespread desecration of the Lord’s Day** which leads to the **absence of the vision of Christ in today’s churches.**

John was in **trouble** and **tribulation**—he must persevere. BUT JESUS HOLDS THE KEYS!

YOU MUST TRUST IN THE ONE WHO HOLDS THE KEYS!

GOD IS WITH US—HOW OUR SIGHT NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED!

Life’s troubles seem so small once we truly see the Risen Christ: Cf. Saul on the Damascus road!

John hears a voice “like a trumpet” (v. 10); He turns “to see the voice that was speaking with me” (v. 12)—that is the person who spoke with this voice. **Cf. Gen. 3:8**—the voice of God in the Garden of Eden.

John sees seven lamp-stands—individual menorahs; they are the 7 churches

Let us now look at this portrait of the Divine Person who manifested himself to John and try to understand Him better.

I. HIS NATURE

A. _____

1. “Son of Man” (13); yet this is also a title of divinity and power! (Dan. 7:13)
2. Priest and Judge—seen by his garments; to the feet; gold belt around breast

B. Deity

1. _____: the First and the Last (17)
2. _____: “Living One” (18)—personally possesses this life quality—not given to Him!
 - He became dead
 - He is alive forevermore

II. HIS CHARACTER AND WORK

A. White _____—*wisdom, dignity, purity, eternity*

B. _____ “like a flame of fire”—*insight, justice, “all things naked and open to Him”*

C. _____ “like burnished bronze when caused to glow in a furnace”—*strength and judgment, **conquering sin and rebellion.***

D. _____ “like the sound of many waters”—*majesty and power; he **commands his people.***

Compare mighty Niagara, cf. the powerful waves crashing on the rocks of Patmos. This is His powerful voice through the **Scriptures, the Holy Spirit, and conscience.**

- E. _____—“sharp two-edged sword out of His mouth.” He **protects His church**. His word is “quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword”.
He uses this for both the correction and judgment of enemies, false cults, liberalism, Charismatic errors and excesses, New Evangelical compromise, fakes and frauds, etc. He also uses it to assist and comfort His people.
Used it in **Creation fiat; judgment of Flood; future judgment; preaching of Gospel, etc.**
- F. _____—“like the sun shining in its strength.” His **glory and exaltation**. He reflects His glory through His church. Later the Lord applies these characteristics to individual churches.
HOW SHOULD ONE RESPOND TO THIS VISION OF THE RISEN CHRIST?

III. JOHN’S RESPONSE (17-18)

- A. Insignificance of _____ (v. 17)
- Cf. Joshua and Angel of the Lord
 - Isaiah—“Woe is me!”
 - Daniel—Faint and sick
 - John—“Fell at His feet as a dead man”
 - Cf. silly “visions” of people today and supposed casual conversations with Jesus.
 - **Loss of self interest, self worth, self righteousness.**
- B. Christ’s Encouraging _____ (17b)
“Fear not”!
- Words with which John was already familiar from the Mt. of Transfiguration, the boat in the midst of the storm, etc.
 - Words spoke in the past to Abram, Hagar, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Zerubbabel, Joshua, Israel, Joseph, 12 disciples, 3 disciples, women at grave, ruler of synagogues, Mary, shepherds, Peter, Jairus, Paul, and John.

John was as though dead: Jesus said “I am the living one.”

John was experiencing trials: Jesus is with him in His **Glory**.

“I HAVE THE KEYS OF DEATH AND HELL”!!

Fear not—even though worse things are to come!

CONCLUSION

John, although he had leaned on Jesus’ breast and had seen His miraculous power, was overwhelmed.

How then with those who do not know Christ? How about when He comes in Power and Glory?

How about with us at the Trumpet of God?

How much better to receive His **comfort** and **Presence**: “FEAR NOT”!

Yet, where is the comfort if we are not ready? Unsaved? Not Right with God?

YOU MUST TRUST IN THE ONE WHO HOLDS THE KEYS!