

Study 1: The Lord Who Speaks Revelation 1:9-20

Revelation 2-3 records seven letters written by Jesus to seven churches. It must have been a thrill for an early church congregation to receive a letter from the apostles Paul, Peter or James, but here where letters from Jesus himself. And we all get to read everyone else's mail! The letters were sent not just to one church but to all seven churches, and then to every church for two thousand years. Each letter closes with a call for all the churches to hear what the Spirit is saying.

The letters were composed by Jesus but were written down by the Apostle John, one of Jesus' closest followers during his earthly ministry. John was an old man by this time, sent into exile to the prison island of Patmos. The Roman emperor Domitian sent John there because of John's leadership role in the early Christian community. The pagan emperor hoped John would die in that gulag, but God had other plans. While on the island, John was given an astonishing vision of God's final victory over evil and sin. It all began with a majestic vision of Jesus in his glory.

Read: Revelation 1:9-20

Discussion Questions:

- 1.) Even though John was in exile, what did he have in common with those he was writing to (v.9)?

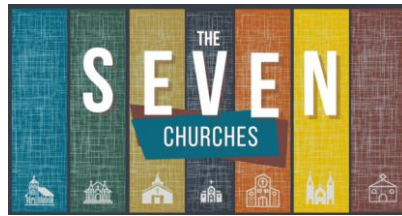
- 2.) What does John sense first, and what is he told to do (v.10-11)?

- 3.) What does John see when he turns around (v.12) and what is the meaning of what he sees (v.20)?

- 4.) John, then sees Jesus amongst the lampstands. List the description of Jesus' appearance (v.13-16) and explain what each descriptive phrase suggests to you about Jesus?

- 5.) When we think of Jesus, this isn't the way we usually picture him. What is different about your normal portrait of him?

- 6.) John was Jesus' closest friend during his earthly ministry, but John didn't rush up and put his arms around Jesus. How did he respond (v.17), and what does that tell you about who Jesus is?



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What does this suggest to you about how we will respond to Jesus when we see him some day?

7.) What does Jesus do and say to John (v17-18)?

Why should that take away John's (and our) fear?

8.) Jesus begins to explain the meaning of what John sees (v.20) The stars are the "angels" of the churches. These could be literal angelic beings who watch over churches, or Jesus could be using the word "angel" in the sense of a messenger and referring to a human leader. Explain what you think is the best interpretation.

9.) How does it affect you to realise that Jesus watches so closely over his churches and he walks among them.?

What do you want him to notice and affirm in your church and in your life ?

What would you rather he didn't see?

RESPOND: Spend some time worshipping Jesus using a song or prayer of adoration.

NOW OR LATER: Think about your posture before the Lord when you pray or worship. Do you usually sit, kneel, or stand during prayer? Use some different postures this week as you pray. Do you normally close your eyes in prayer? What would it be like to pray with your eyes open, perhaps lifted towards heaven? What does your posture reflect about your attitude of your heart towards the Lord?