



REVELATION 1:9-20

Christ, the Only Lord of His Church

V. 9

A fellow brother in tribulation

“brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance of Jesus”

John doesn't speak down to us; under Jesus he is just a brother.

Pastors are fellow brothers, serving by knowing and living the Word before proclaiming it.



Exiled on Patmos for preaching Jesus

- A rocky, barren prison island, about 8 km by 8 km, last stop from Rome to Ephesus.
- Sent under Domitian (A.D. 81-96) to work in the mines.

His crime: preaching the word of God
and the testimony of Jesus.



V. 10

In the Spirit on the Lord's Day

- Awake and controlled by the Holy Spirit.
- The early church met on Sundays, and John kept the practice even in exile.
- Worship is a matter of the heart, not of place.
- A voice like a trumpet: the authoritative voice of the risen Lord.

Three descriptions of Christ, the only Lord of His Church

1

**Jesus alone
has Authority
over His church**

1A

VV. 11-12

He speaks to His Church

- “Write in a book what you see” and send it to the seven churches.
- John passes on what Jesus said, not what he thinks or feels.
- Jesus knows where each church is and what she needs.
- Seven golden lampstands: local churches that give forth God's light.



1B

V. 13

He leads: the Son of Man among the lampstands

He stands in the middle of the churches.

“Son of Man”

A title of deity, not only humanity.

All authority

He exercises it through His church
today.

1B

MARK 14:61-62

**“Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?”
And Jesus said, “I am; and you shall see the Son of
Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming
with the clouds of heaven.”**

The Sanhedrin heard the divine title from Daniel and called it blasphemy.

1C

He is our Mediator and High Priest

**Robe to the feet
and golden sash**

Priestly garments.

He intercedes at the Father's right
hand and walks among His people.

**Hair white
like snow**

His holiness, and the righteousness He
gives us.

Dan. 7:9; 2 Cor. 5:21

1C

HEBREWS 7:25

“He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”



1B

He walks among the lampstands

- The tabernacle priest trimmed the wicks and kept the oil supplied; a lamp cannot tend itself (Ex. 27:20-21).
- A general at headquarters versus a commander in the trenches: our Lord is in the middle of His church.

Small, dim or pressured? You are not abandoned.
Don't panic, don't drift, follow Him.

1D

He is Judge over His church

Eyes like fire: He sees into every heart.

Feet like burning bronze: the judgment of sin at the altar.

Voice like many waters, like waves on Patmos.

Seven stars in His right hand: ministers who must give account (James 3:1).

A two-edged sword from His mouth, and a face like the sun at full strength.

2

**Jesus alone
is worshipped
in His church**

2A

V. 17

See your unworthiness

John falls at His feet like a dead man.

He is exalted

And we are not.

We depend on Him

Always.

No new birth without feeling our nothingness and His sufficiency.

2B See His sufficiency

His right hand on John: strength and provision. “Fear not.”

**“I am the First
and the Last”**

Lord of history and of His church.

**“I have the keys
of Death and Hades”**

Death is not in Rome's hands, but
Christ's.

You are kept until you finish His work.

3

V. 20

Jesus alone directs His church

The seven stars are the “angels,” better translated sent ones or messengers.

Ministers pass it on

They don't create the direction; they pass it on with clarity and comfort.

His message keeps burning

Even under Roman persecution, His message keeps the lampstands burning.

Living under His Lordship - Applications

01 His authority is our comfort in trial.

02 He makes His church shine, fueled by His Word and Spirit.

03 Submit to His Lordship: freedom, not oppression.

04 Worship Him as He is: fall at His feet, rise on His word.

05 Finish the work He gave you: do not retire from faithfulness.

“Do not be afraid”

The First and the Last, the Living One,
holds the keys, and He walks among us.

