

DEAR CHURCH

First and Last
Revelation 1:9-20
October 8, 2023

“Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.” - Revelation 1:17

I. I, JOHN

- The beloved disciple, and yet also a “brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus” (Vs. 9; John 16:33; Acts 14:22; 2 Tim. 2:11-13).
- John was writing from exile on the penal island of Patmos on account of “the word of God and the testimony of Jesus” (Vs. 9).
- John was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day. The resurrection of Jesus changed the day of worship for Jewish believers (and all believers) since that day (Vs. 10; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2).

II. JOHN’S VISION

- John hears a voice like a trumpet telling him to write to seven churches in the province of Asia (Vs. 10).
- He turns to see seven golden lampstands (the churches) and one standing among them “like a son of man” (Vs. 12).
- John describes this man for us. He looks much like the Ancient of Days from Daniel’s vision (Vs. 13; Dan. 7:9-13).
- The son of man proves to be the resurrected Christ, girded for judgment. When John sees the Jesus he once knew well in his incarnation, he falls to Jesus’ feet “as though dead” (Vs.17; Dan. 8:18, 10:10; 2 Cor. 5:16).

III. JESUS AMONG HIS PEOPLE

- Jesus walks among his churches as he walked within the garden at creation (Vs. 13; Gen. 3:8).
- He is among his people, and he holds their leaders to account (Vs. 20).
- He is the first and the last—the true “living one.” He died, but lives forevermore. He holds the keys of Death and Hell (Vss. 17-18; Dan. 7:14; John 19:30; Heb. 1:8; Rev. 20:13-14).

KNOW: A revelation for Christ’s church is about to be revealed. It will come from Christ himself. He reigns supreme, and he walks among his people.

DO: Fear not, Christ is with us. Know that he will teach us how to live in faithfulness to him.

Suggested Reading:

Basic Christianity by John R.W. Stott (Available in the LifePoint Library)

For Children:

Jesus: A Theological Primer (Big Theology For Little Hearts) by Devon and Jessica Provencher (Available in the LifePoint Library)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Revelation 1:9-20

1. Why is John writing this letter to the churches?
2. Read Daniel 7:9-14. What similarities do you see between Daniel’s vision and John’s? Why are they so similar, do you think?
3. Why is John fearful of the Jesus he knew so well? Should we “fear” Jesus?
4. Jesus walks among his churches. What does this mean for us at LifePoint?
5. How does John’s description of Jesus change your view of him, if at all? Who is Jesus?
6. How can you prepare yourself to hear what Jesus has to say to these seven churches? How was John prepared?