# A Picture Of Jesus



Revelation 1:9-18

## A Picture Of Jesus

- All of Jesus' life as the Messiah was in preparation for one event
  - John 17:3-4 NIV, 3 "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. 4 I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do."
  - John 12:27 NIV, 27 "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name!"

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- All of Jesus' life as the Messiah was in preparation for one event
  - Matthew 27:50-52 NIV, 50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. 51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split 52 and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life… *(and were seen)*

## A Picture Of Jesus

- All of Jesus' life as the Messiah was in preparation for one event
  - Matthew 27:54 NIV, 54 When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"
  - God's creation is ripped from the hands of Satan's authority, Salvation is openly revealed, the Power of God exploded into man's darkness

## A Picture Of Jesus

- All of Jesus' life as the Messiah was in preparation for one event
  - All who look to the cross believing will be saved, redeemed, rescued, forgiven, accepted…
  - Numbers 21:8-9 NIV, 8 The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." 9 So Moses made a bronze snake and put *(raised)* it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked *(raised their eyes in faith)* at the bronze snake, they lived.

## A Picture Of Jesus

- All of Jesus' life as the Messiah was in preparation for one event
  - So often today we want to put a period here as if this is the climax to God's revelation of Jesus
  - But even after the cross we only see a splinter of who Jesus is
  - God takes His megaphone and shouts to us in Revelation

## A Picture Of Jesus

- Revelation 1:1a ESV, “The revelation of Jesus Christ”
  - Revelation 1:5 NIV, 5 Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. He loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.
  - Revelation 1:7 NIV, 7 Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him.
  - I have been forgiven of my sin debt, I know this to be true
  - I know He is returning to claim His own and I look forward to that day

## A Picture Of Jesus

- This is all wonderful but what about today?
  - Are there answers for today?
    - The Roman government is too powerful, cruel, dominating to fight against – where can I go to get away from it?
    - The pagan city's influences are too powerful, too connected to overcome – how can I protect myself, my children, and grandchildren?
    - How can I protect the people where I worship from being carried away by false teachings?

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- This is all wonderful but what about today?
  - Are there answers for today?
    - What is Jesus doing today?
    - Does He really know what is going on?
    - Does He really have the answers?
    - Can I trust Him with my today?

## A Picture Of Jesus

- How does God answer their and our concerns?
  - He shows us or reveals to us, Jesus the Son of God, as much of His glory as we can comprehend
  - Here is the problem -
    - How can the finite mind understand or grasp the infinite?
    - We are limited to time and space and have no experience with eternal or everlasting or without end
    - We have words that try to describe the infinite, but no experiences to lay beside it to understand

## A Picture Of Jesus

- God draws us or gives us word pictures
  - Psalm 23:1 NIV, "The Lord is my Shepherd"
  - Psalm 103:13 NIV, "As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him"
  - The Prodigal son's Father Luke 15:20 NIV, "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him."
  - Jesus on the cross – a picture of God's love
    - Luke 23:34 NIV, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

## A Picture Of Jesus

- Revelation 1:9-11 NIV, 9 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. 10 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, 11 which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."
  - John doesn't approach this as an apostle but as a companion

## A Picture Of Jesus

- Revelation 1:9-11 NIV, 10 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,
  - "in the Spirit" - Under the direct control, inspiration, and supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit to receive a vision coming directly from God
    - A deep state of spiritual awareness, communion
    - Think of Moses on the mountain being with God as he received The Law summarized by the 10 Commandments

## A Picture Of Jesus

- Revelation 1:9-11 NIV, 10 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,
  - "loud voice like a trumpet" - The loud, clear sound behind him signaled an authoritative, divine command from Jesus Christ
  - God whispered at the manager but now He is the commander
    - Think of an army signally trumpet
    - 1st Thessalonians 4:16 NIV, "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God"

## A Picture Of Jesus

- Revelation 1:9-11 NIV, 11 which said: “Write on a scroll what you see *(witness with your eyes and your ears)* and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”
  - John is making it clear that he is just the recorder
  - Much like Mark sat at Peter’s feet and recorded his teachings

## A Picture Of Jesus

- Revelation 1:12-16 NIV, 12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. 14 The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. 15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

## A Picture Of Jesus

- Revelation 1:12-18 NIV, "And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands"
  - Specifically, these represent the 7 churches mentioned in verse 11
  - By application they represent every church that proclaims the name of Jesus throughout history
  - Churches are responsible for providing light to a lost dark world where they are planted, much like the Nation of Israel was supposed to

## A Picture Of Jesus

- Revelation 1:12-18 NIV, 13 “and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man”
  - Jesus presented as human but with eternal authority, glory, and an everlasting kingdom *(Dan. 7:13-14)*
  - Jesus is seen as actively walking among and attending to the lampstands
  - This was an image of great comfort to those close to Jesus
  - He does not leave them alone, even when He must speak harshly toward them

## A Picture Of Jesus

- Revelation 1:12-18 NIV, 13 “dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.”
  - This indicates Jesus’ High Priestly duties and royal role as King of Kings and Lord of Lords

## A Picture Of Jesus

- Revelation 1:12-18 NIV, 14 The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.
  - This symbolizes Jesus' ancient wisdom, purity, and eternal dignity *(Dan. 7)*
  - Eyes blazing symbolizes His penetrating and omniscient judgement

## A Picture Of Jesus

- Revelation 1:12-18 NIV, 15 “and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.”
  - A majestic, authoritative, and overwhelming sound
  - How do you feel standing beside the roar of a massive waterfall or the waves crashing into the coast?

## A Picture Of Jesus

- Revelation 1:12-18 NIV, 16 “In his right hand he held seven stars”
  - Representing the messengers of God, the church as a whole
  - Showing Jesus’ sovereign protection, guidance, and authority over those who proclaim

## A Picture Of Jesus

- Revelation 1:12-18 NIV, 16 “and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword.”
  - Showing the authoritative, piercing power of His word
  - Hebrews 4:12 NIV, “For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

## A Picture Of Jesus

- Revelation 1:12-18 NIV, 16 “His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.”
  - Shining in unapproachable, radiant strength and wisdom
  - Hebrews 4:13 NIV, 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

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- We are no longer looking at Jesus through the manger, the role of Messiah, the sacrificial Lamb of God
  - All of those were roles He filled
  - As much as we see Jesus through His love and sacrifice
    - Never ever forget He is Jesus, the Son of the Most High God

## A Picture Of Jesus

- Why is it important for us to grasp, to see the glory of Jesus?
  - To see the depth of His love for us in becoming human
    - And going to the cross
  - To understand He is still walking, providing, saving today
  - For us to understand He has the authority to make what is going to be revealed to us happen

## A Picture Of Jesus

- Revelation 1:3 NIV, "Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near."
- Can you imagine the first century church hearing those words?
  - Rome is not the ultimate victor; Jesus is and us by His provision
  - My harsh slave master is not the ultimate master of me, Jesus is
  - My failures are not my master, Jesus is
  - Cancer is not my master, Jesus is
  - Addiction is not my master, Jesus is

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- Revelation 1:3 NIV, "Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near."
- Take to heart – means more than a simple head-knowledge fact
  - It means to deeply internalize, believe, and live out the truth of who Jesus is and what He has done
  - It means trusting that the Risen Savior has the final word over every earthly power, threat, or circumstance

## A Picture Of Jesus

- Revelation 1:3 NIV, "Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near."
- Take to heart – means more than a simple head-knowledge fact
  - Shifting your mindset from anxiety or hopelessness to assurance
    - Knowing that your life and your future are held by an undefeated, living Savior
  - It means as Jesus said in verse 17, **"Do not fear!!!"**

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