

Revelation 1:10-18: I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet¹¹ saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands,¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire,¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters.¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last,¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."

Intro: This world is full of pain, suffering, hardship, trials, and death. Think about the pain, suffering, and death you have experienced in your own life. Many of us have memories of great pain from funerals of loved ones. We will all struggle with the fears of pain, suffering, and death in the future. By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Apostle John actually wrote this letter of Revelation during a time of great suffering in his own life. He had been exiled to the island of Patmos because of His faithfulness to Jesus Christ and God's Word: **Revelation 1:9:** I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. **But he brings us good news today! You see, there was One, the LORD Jesus Christ, Who endured the greatest pain, the greatest suffering, the greatest hardship, the greatest trial, & the most horrific, painful death ever & then conquered death so that those who believe in Him & follow Him will never suffer & will never die again forever!**

1. John Was In The Spirit On The Lord's Day

Revelation 1:10: I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day

- a. John was in the Spirit:** The Holy Spirit was showing Him revelation from God (a trance-like, visionary state)
- **Revelation 4:2:** At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven
 - **Revelation 17:3:** And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness
 - **Revelation 21:10:** he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city

b. On the Lord's day: Dever: It could be a day John chose to spend in prayer and dedicate to the Lord. It's more likely though, that it's Sunday, the day dedicated to Jesus because it's the day He rose from the dead. Within 50 years after this, Christians were referring to Sunday as the Lord's day. There's just no evidence against this.

Christians meet to worship together on THIS Day – the Lord's day – because (Hebrews 10:24-25):

1. Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week, not on the Sabbath: Mark 10:33-34; Mark 16:9
2. All seven appearances of Jesus before He ascended back to His Father that record a specific day when these appearances occurred happened on two Sundays, not on a Sabbath day: 1) Mark 16:9; 2) Matthew 28:1-9; 3) Luke 24:1-3, 13-16; 4) Luke 24:33-34; 5) Luke 24:35-40; 6) John 20:19-21; 7) John 20:26-31
3. Christians are recorded in the Bible assembling three times on Sunday after the resurrection and before the ascension, never on the Sabbath: John 20:19; John 20:26; Acts 2:1-4
4. The only time Christians are recorded to have assembled together after Christ's ascension was on a Sunday in Acts 20:7. Never does the Bible record that the disciples assembled on the Sabbath.
5. The only day ever mentioned when Christians broke bread was on Sunday: Acts 20:7
6. Christians are commanded to give financially to the church on the first day of the week: 1 Corinthians 16:1-2
7. Jesus was declared to be the Son of God in power on Sunday: Romans 1:4
8. Psalm 2:7 "Today I have begotten You" was fulfilled on Sunday when Jesus rose from the dead: Acts 13:32-39
9. The Apostle John was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day; The only other occurrence of this form of adjective "Lord's" in the New Testament is of the Lord's Supper: 1 Corinthians 11:20: When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat.
10. Throughout history for over 2,000 years, Christians have met together on the first day of the week ever since Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the first day of the week.

2. Jesus' Loving Communication To His Church

Revelation 1:10-13: and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹ saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea." ¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man

a. Jesus' voice is like God's voice because Jesus is God: V. 10: I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet; **Exodus 19:18-19:** Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln [oven;furnace], and the whole mountain trembled greatly. ¹⁹ And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder.

b. Jesus speaks to His church: Jesus is speaking to these seven churches in Asia Minor (Western Turkey); **Rev. 1:20:** the seven lampstands are the seven churches. (7=perfection-all churches; gold=precious; light of world)

God has chosen to reveal Himself to us through the Word made flesh and His spoken words! Bible!

c. Jesus is in the midst of His church: Jesus is here! Jesus is present! Jesus loves us and is involved with us – guarding and protecting us! **Metzger:** When John says he saw Christ the midst of the lampstands, he wants to let us know that Christ is not an absentee landlord. On the contrary, he is in the midst of his churches supporting them during trials and persecutions. Jesus is Immanuel! God with us! Matthew 28 – I am with you always!

3. A Glorious Description Of Jesus Christ

Revelation 1:13-16: and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

We are transformed by gazing at Jesus, looking to Jesus: 2 Corinthians 3:18: And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.

This is not literally what Jesus Christ looks like. These descriptions are symbolic of His glory, power, & actions!

a. Jesus is the Son of Man: Daniel 7:13-14: I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. ¹⁴ And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

b. Jesus is clothed in a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest: 1) Jesus is our priest:

Exodus 28:3-4: You shall speak to all the skillful, whom I have filled with a spirit of skill, that they make Aaron's garments to consecrate him for my priesthood. ⁴ These are the garments that they shall make: a breastpiece, an ephod, **a robe**, a coat of checker work, a turban, and **a sash**. They shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons to serve me as priests. (Also kingly garments, garments worn by those of high power and dignity)

2) Jesus has all authority: Isaiah 22:20-22: In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, ²¹ and I will clothe him with **your robe**, and will bind **your sash** on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. ²² And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.

- **Revelation 3:7:** And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: "The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens."

c. Jesus' hair is white like wool, as white as snow: Jesus is eternal, infinite, and has all knowledge and wisdom. He is the wisdom of God! He is God! And He is perfect in purity and holiness. Only two places in the Bible is someone's hair described like pure, white wool: God Almighty, the Ancient of Days, and Jesus Christ:

- **Dan. 7:9:** the Ancient of days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, & the hair of his head like pure wool

- **Rev. 1:14:** The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow.

Conclusion: Jesus is Almighty God, the Ancient of Days, come in the flesh, who is infinite & eternal & all wise!

d. Jesus' eyes are like a flame of fire: 1) Jesus knows & sees everything: He knows thoughts, motives, desires.

2) Jesus is coming to judge in righteousness and truth: Revelation 19:11-13: Then I saw heaven opened, & behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful & True, & in righteousness he judges & makes war.

¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire . . .

e. Jesus' feet are like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace: Jesus possesses unshakable power and stability. He is absolutely pure and steadfast, unstopably walking in the perfect will of God. He is the unconquerable King of kings and LORD of lords! He is the unshakable foundation of everything! **Grant Osborne:** Since feet in the ancient world portrayed the direction of one's life, the image here depicts Christ's life in both its strength or stability and its absolute purity.

f. Jesus' voice is like the roar of many waters: Jesus' voice comes with all authority and all power! God Almighty's voice is like the sound of roaring waters: **Ezekiel 1:24:** like the roar of rushing waters, like the voice of the Almighty; **Again, Jesus is God!**

g. In Jesus' right hand he holds seven stars: 1) Pastors; 2) The spirit of the churches; 3) The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches (**Beale:** Heavenly beings who also represent the church) (v. 20). They point to Jesus possession, protection, control, and sovereignty over the church, both in heaven & on earth.

h. From Jesus' mouth comes a sharp two-edged sword: Jesus is going to judge His and our enemies:

Isaiah 11:1-2, 4: There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him . . . ⁴ and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

- **2 Thessalonians 2:8:** And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

i. Jesus' face is like the sun shining in full strength: Grant Osborne: This final picture sums up the others. It recalls Moses when he came down from Sinai and his face was radiant, because he had spoken with Yahweh. Also, John had been present at Jesus' transfiguration when his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light [Matt. 17:2]. God is called a sun and shield in Psalm 84:11, and in Isaiah 60:19 we are told, the Lord will be your everlasting light. Once more an Old Testament image of Yahweh is applied to the glorified Christ. In light of the "sword" imagery in the previous description, the twin themes of glory and judgment may well be connoted here. The glory theme is predominant, with the judgment motif secondary.

4. The Fear And Comfort Of The Living Christ

Revelation 1:17-18: When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."

a. Seeing Jesus makes you fall over as if dead: Ezekiel 1:26-2:2: above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance. ²⁷ And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him. ²⁸ Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of

the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And **when I saw it, I fell on my face**, and I heard the voice of one speaking . . . ^{2:1} And he said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you." ² And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. **(Isaiah 6) (Peter)**

Dever: A man asked him why he was not more expressive in his worship of God on Sundays (not loud, jumping up and down, with hands raised). The most intense times of worship in the New Testament seem to bring about silence and falling down.

b. Jesus laid His right hand on John: Jesus was often touching people, comforting, healing, and helping!

Sinclair Ferguson: He saw what he thought was a woman with a hand knitted on the shoulder of her sweater.

c. Jesus said: Fear not: No matter what you face; No matter what pain, suffering, hardship, trials, or death, you face, Jesus is telling John and us: do not fear! Because of Who Jesus is and because of what He has done, we have no need to fear. God is for you, no one can successfully be against you! Nothing can hurt you! All is working for your good!

Romans 8:35-39: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? . . . ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Piper: If they reject us, He accepts us. If they hate us, He loves us. If they imprison us, he sets our spirits free. If they afflict us, he refines us by the fire. If they kill us, he makes it a passage to paradise. They cannot defeat us.

If you're not a Christian here today, Jesus isn't saying that you should not fear. You should fear! **GOSPEL!**

d. Jesus is the First and the Last: V. 17: I am the first and the last – Jesus is the eternal, everlasting, infinite God! - **Isaiah 44:6:** Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god." (3 times in Isaiah!)

- **Revelation 1:8:** "I am the Alpha & the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is & who was & who is to come, the Almighty."

- **Revelation 22:13:** I am the Alpha & the Omega, the first & the last, the beginning & the end. (3 times in Rev!)

Commentator: God precedes all things, as their Creator, and he will bring all things to [end times] fulfillment. He is the origin and goal of all history. He has the first word, in creation, and the last word in new creation.

e. Jesus is the Living One Who died but is alive forevermore: V. 18: I died, and behold I am alive forevermore Jesus died on that cross to save sinners! Crushed; Struck; Sword; Propitiation; Cursed; Cup; Forsaken; Not Spared Jesus is alive! Jesus is God! - **Deuteronomy 32:40:** I live forever

- **Daniel 4:34:** I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever

f. Jesus has the keys of Death and Hades: V. 18: I have the keys of Death and Hades.

Jesus is King over every kingdom and every place and every area and every realm! He's even King over all wicked, evil powers, and He's King over the place of the dead! (Kuyper: Every square inch – Mine!)

Colossians 2:15: He disarmed the rulers & authorities & put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Charles Spurgeon: We have suffered bereavement after bereavement, but we are going to the land of the immortal where graves do not exist. **(John 11:26-26)**

Jesus is coming back! Patterned after S. M. Lockridge's poem "It's Friday, But Sunday's Coming!"

It's Sunday

The devil couldn't defeat Him
Sin couldn't stop Him
Death couldn't handle Him
And the grave couldn't hold Him!
And His return is comin'

It's Sunday

The tomb is empty
The grave clothes are folded
The stone has been removed
The Son has risen
His work is finished
And we all know
That His return is comin'

It's Sunday

Hope has been restored
Sin has been conquered
Death has been defeated
The strong man has been bound
Now all the nations will come to Him
Before His return is comin'

It's Sunday

Mary is crying
The disciples are trembling
But soon they'll be rejoicing
Then they'll be a preaching
And tellin' the whole world about Him
Callin' all men everywhere to repent and believe in Him
Because His return is comin'

It's Sunday

The priests are bribing
The elders are lying about what happened
The soldiers are telling stories
And the Jews are believing the lie that His body was stolen
But His return is comin'

It's Sunday

On the Emmaus road
Jesus new light has bestowed
From Moses to the prophets He has showed
It's all about Him – the Word is sowed
All allegiance to Him is fully owed
Because His return is comin'

It's Sunday

Thomas is doubting

But soon he'll be a shouting
As he touches the scars of his dear Savior
And then He'll be declaring
Jesus as his Lord and his God
And someday all will be proclaiming
Either willingly or unwillingly
That Jesus Christ is Lord!
Because His return is comin'

It's Sunday
Peter has gone fishing
Ashamed that he denied his Master
But soon he'll be restored
Oh Peter, do you love Me?
Yes, soon he'll be restored
By His loving, merciful, and patient King
Who will send Him to feed His sheep
Because His return is comin'

It's Sunday
His disciples will be commissioned
To teach others to obey all He has commanded
And all but one of them will die
To lift His name on high
But all their enemies don't know
That His return is comin'

It's Sunday, but His return is comin'
Are you ready?
He's coming back on a white war horse to make war
His name is Faithful and True and The Word of God
His eyes are like a flame of fire
A sharp sword comes out of His mouth
He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty
People will cry out for mountains and rocks to fall on them to shield them from the wrath of the Lamb
His wrath and judgment are coming
It's only Sunday, there's time for you to turn from your sins, trust in Him, and accept His terms of peace
It's only Sunday, but His return is comin'

It's Sunday
The new creation has begun
There is now no condemnation for those at peace in Him
All our sins have been forgiven
God has cast them behind His back
And He remembers them no more
As far as the east is from the west, He has removed our sins from us
He has cast them into the ocean floor
We are now to walk in the newness of holy lives
We are no longer slaves to sin, but slaves to righteousness
Because His return is comin'

It's Sunday
All things are now working for our good
Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus
In Christ all things are ours
And though there's still a lot of pain and suffering
His return is comin'

It's Sunday
Sin is still tempting
The world is still deceiving
The flesh is still warring
The devil is still prowling
Children are still being abused and dying
Racism is still dividing
Cancer is still killing
Wombs are still barren
Marriage is still hard
Singleness is still lonely
Hopes are still deferred
Dreams are still broken
But His return is comin'

It's Sunday
People are still poor
Loved ones still die
Tragedies still undo us
Crime is still rampant
Abortion is still killing
Airplanes are still disappearing
Ferry boats are still sinking
Viruses are still causing sickness and death
All manner of heart-breaks are still happening
Tears are still flowing
But let me tell you something
His return is comin'

And on that great day! On that great day of the everlasting wedding day
He will wipe away every tear from your eyes
There will be no more sin
There will be no more death
There will be no more pain
There will be no more heart-break of any kind
There will be no more loss or loneliness
There will be no more sadness but only ever increasing joy for all eternity
There will be a new heavens and a new earth where only perfect, perpetual, pure righteousness dwells
The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea
You will be eternally saved, safe, and satisfied beyond your greatest imagination
And everything sad will become untrue!

It's Sunday
It's only Sunday
But His return is a comin'!

Christ Jesus Is Alive So There's Great Celebration
This Day Is His, The LORD's Special Commemoration
His Description Is The Best Of All In Summation
There's No One Like Him In All Of Creation
He Speaks To His Church Most Loving Communication
The Great Son Of Man, The God-Man Incarnation
The Priest-King Sacrifice Who Rules Every Nation
His Hairs All White, Eternal Wisdom's Culmination
Bronze Feet Show He's Strongest With Highest Purification
He's God Almighty Speaking Like A Roaring Water Sensation
His Hands Hold All Authority, Every Thing In Subjugation
With A Sword Of Judgment Comes Just And Rightness Damnation
His Face Shines Like The Sun, God's Glory Manifestation
One Sight Of Him Transfixes, Knocks You Down In Paralyzation
He's The First And The Last, True God Who Brings Salvation
He Died Upon That Cross, Our Full Propitiation
Then Rose Forevermore, Our Life And Justification
The Keys Of Death And Hades He Holds In Confiscation
So Now No Longer Fear, He's Our All Preoccupation
Our Infatuation And Fascination Who Causes Intoxication
More Than Anything Else In All Of Creation!