

Things to Come #2 Things You Have Seen

I. Introduction

- A. The Things You Have Already Seen (1:1-20)
- B. The Things Which Are (2:1-3:22)
(The Letters to the Seven Churches)
- C. The Things Which will Take Place (4:1-22:21)

II. The Things You Have Already Seen

A. The Doxology vs. 4-6

Note the Trinitarian reference:

From Him (God the Father): who is and who was and who is to come (time dimensions: past, present and future)

From the (Seven) Spirit(s): A way to depict the fullness of the Holy Spirit. See Isa 11:2 and Zech. 4:1-10

From Jesus Christ:

1. A faithful witness (Rev. 3:14 and John 18:37)
2. The firstborn of the dead: In preeminence, not chronological order. There were resurrections in the OT (I Kings 17, II Kings 4, 13) and Jesus raised some in His ministry (Matt. 9, Luke 7, John 11).
3. The ruler of the kings of the earth. He is the absolute sovereign (Ps. 2:6-8, Jer. 23:5, Zech. 9:9). He has a name above all names! (Phil. 2:9-11)

B. The Preview of the Second Coming vs. 7-8

"Behold": used 21 times in Revelation

"The Coming One" (the expected one): This is the theme for the entire book! The second coming is referred to some 500 times in the NT. Jesus spoke often of His own return (Matt. 16:27, Mark 8:38, Luke 9:26). And He warned His believers to be ready (Matt. 24:42, 44, Luke 12:40).

In MacArthur's *NT Commentary on Revelation* (p. 28-32), He outlines nine compelling reasons why Christ must return:

1. The promises of God require it (Gen. 49:10, Isa. 9:6-7, Da. 7:13-14)
2. His own promise requires His return (John 14:2-3)

3. The guarantee of the Holy Spirit requires His return (John 14:26)
4. God's program for the church requires His return (Rev. 3:10)
5. God's program for Israel requires His return: Jer. 33:25-26)
6. God's program for the unbelieving nations requires His return: Joel 3:1-7)
7. His own humiliation requires it (Phi. 2:10-11)
8. The judgment of Satan demands his return (John 12:31)
9. The expectation of the believers demands His return (I Cor. 15:19, Titus 2:13, II Tim. 4:8)

Notice who will see Him: it will be obvious to everyone: Jews: "those who pierced Him"- (Zech. 12:10) and the Gentiles ("all the tribes of the earth").

Notice too how He "signs" or authenticates this prophecy: The Alpha and Omega, the Lord God and the Almighty (Rev. 4:8, 11:17, 15:3)

C. His Vision of Christ vs. 9-16

1. As a 90-year-old man, "he was in the spirit" (on the Lord's day-Sunday): supernatural things were revealed to him. It happened to Ezekiel (2:2, 3:12), Peter (Acts 10:9), and Paul (Acts 22:17-21).
2. He is commanded to "write what you see..." This is the first of 12 times he is commanded to write in a book. On one occasion, he was told not to write what he saw (Rev. 10:4).

He is told to send it to the seven churches of Asia Minor. These were key cities in seven postal districts. It would be easy to distribute the letters.
3. His voice (verse 10): Like a trumpet blast, similar to Moses on Mount Sinai (Ex. 19:16)
4. The Vision Itself:

Son of Man in the midst of seven candlesticks:

Remember: Matt. 28:20 "I will be with you always, even to the end of the age."
5. Clothed in a robe: this is a term used mostly for the robe worn by the High Priest. (Heb. 4:14)
6. His hair (white) His eyes (like fire) and his feet (like polished brass): these are all emblematic of holiness. (I Peter 1:15-16)
7. His Voice (verse 15): the mighty roar of many waters (Eze. 43:2)
8. Seven Stars: The angels or messengers of the churches-these are likely the pastors of those congregations.
9. Out of His mouth: Judgment

D. The Effects of the Vision vs. 17-20

John fell at His feet like a dead man. Note the similar reactions of others who saw the living God: Isaiah 6:5, Ezekiel 1:28, 3:23, 9:8, Manoah (Samson's father) Judges 13:22 and Job 42:5-6

III. So What? Notice His Assurance to John (and us): verses 17-18

On the basis of His resurrection, he literally He says: Stop being afraid!