



# BOOKENDS

GENESIS

REVELATION

## A VISION WORTH LIVING FOR

*REVELATION 1:9-20*

### SYNOPSIS

In Revelation 1:9–20, John receives a breathtaking vision of the risen Christ while exiled on Patmos for his faith. Writing as a brother and partner in suffering, John reminds the church that hardship is not evidence of Christ’s absence but often the setting for His clearest revelation. In worship on the Lord’s Day, John sees Christ in overwhelming glory, drawing together Old Testament images of kingship, priesthood, wisdom, purity, and authority. Christ stands in the midst of His churches, holding them securely in His hand, ruling by His powerful word. The vision exposes the inadequacy of lesser visions that often drive our lives and calls believers to reorient everything around Christ alone. When John collapses in fear, Christ responds with grace, laying His hand on him and proclaiming the gospel. Because Christ has died and risen, He alone holds the keys to life and death. Christ in all His glory is the only vision worth living for.

### SERMON OUTLINE

1. **The Setup to the Vision** John refers to himself as their “partner in tribulation, in kingdom, and in patient endurance.” Here we examine what he means by this, and how this background builds our understanding of the vision he receives.
2. **The Vision:** In this section we’ll go through each aspect of the description of Christ and show how John filtered what he saw through well known Old Testament passages (Daniel 7, Daniel 10, Zechariah 4).
  - a. Christ in all his glory is the only vision worth living for
  - b. We often settle for lesser visions that are not able to sustain our life
3. **The Response to the Vision** John responds as other prophets responded when they witnessed Christ, he fell on his face in fear. But the risen Christ, the conqueror of death, gives John the right

hand of fellowship. Here we see the gospel in full display. The same glorious Christ of the vision offers sinful man his friendship!

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### LOOKING AT THE TEXT

*These questions are designed to get you looking at the details of the text on your own. Use them only as they help foster skills among your group of seeing and savoring the details within the passage.*

1. What details in the vision communicate Christ's authority, holiness, and nearness to His church?
2. How does John's response in verse 17 compare to other biblical encounters with God and what does that teach us about God's holiness?
3. Why is Christ's declaration of His death, resurrection, and possession of the keys central to the comfort of this passage?
4. Where is John when he receives this vision, and why is he there?
5. How does John describe himself in verse 9? Why might that matter for the understanding of this vision?
6. As you read the description of Jesus in verses 12-16, what details stand out to you and why? What images does John want to evoke in the reader about Christ?
7. What titles and descriptions are given to Jesus in this passage?
8. In verse 19, John is instructed to write three categories of things. What are they and what does this instruction suggest about the structure of Revelation?

### GROUP REFLECTION & APPLICATION

1. Where do you feel sidelined, restricted, or frustrated in this season (as John may have felt while exiled on Patmos) and how does John's worship on Patmos challenge your response?
2. Everyone has a vision that drives their life. Very often the driving vision is what Pastor Raef referred to as a "lesser vision," something that is not able to fit all the pieces of our life together properly. What "lesser visions" do you feel are most common in the circles you regularly operate in? And how do you see those lesser visions shaping people's lives and decisions?

3. Which lesser visions are hardest for you to keep in their proper place such as career, family, comfort, legacy, etc.?
4. How does seeing Christ “in the midst of the churches”, as opposed to standing at a distance from his church, reshape the way you think about suffering, faithfulness, and the church today?
5. What would it look like for you to grow in keeping the vision of Christ glorified as the central driving vision of your life and family?