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SERIES: Revelation (God's Message To The Church)

TITLE: Program 6 – The Living One!

MONDAY

OPEN

When you picture Jesus Christ, what kind of a picture forms in your mind? Is it like many of those movies that you've seen about Him where He has long, stringy hair and kind of a fragile anemic looking body? Oh, Beloved, that's not the way He looks and that's not the way we're to see Him. Today we're going to get a glimpse of Him in His glory as we look at the book of Revelation. Wow, what you're going to see.

PART ONE

You know when you read through the gospels you get a vision of Jesus Christ. I don't know what He looks like in your mind, but you see Him very much the man. You see Him with His men. You see Him walking along the road. You see Him standing and teaching the multitudes. You see Him eating with publicans and sinners. You, you see Jesus like an ordinary human being with extraordinary power. You see Him working miracles,

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healing the sick and raising the dead and making the blind to see and casting out demons. I'll never forget the first time that I saw the videos on the Gospel of Matthew. Bruce Marchiano, who has since become a friend of mine is the one that plays the role of Jesus. It was incredible. Matthew starts out with all those genealogies you know. So and so begat so and so. And, and it seemed so boring. But the way they did it was absolutely phenomenal. And then it talks about John the Baptist and it talks about Jesus coming to be baptized. And all of a sudden you see along the shore the feet of a man walking toward the water. And as he walks towards the water, all you're seeing are his feet. And then all of a sudden you look up; it's Jesus. And you look up and you see a man that looks like a man. You see a man with wonderful, wonderful eyes. But the thing that really got me was I said, ahhh, good, he has short hair. It's not long and it's not stringy. And then he goes out and it shows you that baptism scene and when he comes up out of the water, I mean, your heart, you say be still my heart, be still. And then as you watch the Gospel of Matthew all you're absorbing is the Word of God, but you see it acted out before your eyes. And you see a Jesus who loves, a Jesus who hugs, a Jesus who pats. You see a Jesus who is very, very much man, yet man without sin. What I want us to do now is I want us to go to Revelation, chapter 1, where we left off and I want us to see another view of Jesus, a view that is given to us of Him and all of His majesty and all of His glory and all of His holiness. Revelation, chapter 1. Let's look at it. We're going to start at verse 9 again. "I John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance, which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos" You know it's so wonderful to take people to that island. It's so wonderful to stand there and teach them in a visual way, in a way that they will never forget the book of Revelation. We go from Revelation, chapter 4 all the way through Revelation, chapter 19 and the coming of the Son of man. He says, "I was on the island of Patmos because of the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ." Now you have to

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understand that John was an enemy of the Roman Empire. He was an enemy of the Roman Empire that proclaimed that Caesar was god, when Caesar was not god, but God was God. And so John had been exiled to the Isle of Patmos. He had been put there and history or tradition tells us that he had been dropped, immersed in a caldron of hot boiling oil and then pulled out. So his body must have been scarred and red and there he was on this barren rock. It's not like Patmos looks like now, as I told in an earlier program, where it's a beautiful, beautiful resort and there's lots of artists. And, and it's just idealistic as you look at it. But he was there because of the Word of God and because of the testimony of Jesus Christ, because in his tribulation he had persevered and he had been faithful. And he had been faithful because he knew that he belonged to an eternal kingdom, the kingdom of God. It says, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day" Now when we talk about the Lord's Day, we're not talking about Shabbat, we're not talking about the Sabbath. But we're talking about the first day of the week, which is Sunday, the day on which they celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. And he says, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, saying, 'Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and Laodicea.'" I've had the privilege of visiting all those sights. Now some of 'em there's really nothing to see, but I've stood on that ground. These were churches that existed at that time. This book was written about 90 A.D. And these were seven churches, seven very different churches, but seven churches that exemplify and portray to us the problems, the strengths, the weaknesses of all the churches down through the ages. Now what John was to do was John was to write in a book what he saw. John was going to see this whole book of Revelation played out before him, before his eyes. God was going to give him a glimpse of the things that were to come. So He tells him to write it in a book. And he says in verse 12, "... and I turned to see the voice that was

speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lamp stands; and in the middle of the lamp stands, one like a son of man, clothed in a robe coming down to his feet and girded across his breast with a golden girdle. And His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire; and His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been caused to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. And in His right hand He held seven stars; and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as a dead man. And He laid His hand, His right hand upon me saying, ‘Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last and the living One; and I was dead. Behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and Hades.’” What a vision he saw that day, the Lord’s Day when he was in the Spirit on the Isle of Patmos. He saw Jesus. The sound of that One, standing behind him with that incredible voice and he turned to see who was speaking to him. And he saw someone that looked different, different than the One that he walked and talked with when He was here on the earth. All of a sudden His hair was white as wool, white, like John had read about in Daniel, chapter 7. When in Daniel, chapter 7, Daniel has a vision and he has a vision of four beasts coming up out of the sea. And then he has a vision of God Almighty. And then he has a vision of One like a son of man. Now this one that John sees in all of his glory in Revelation, chapter 1 is still like a human being, but he’s like a human being like no one else has ever seen. Let’s look at some Old Testament scriptures and put them together with this. And let’s catch a glimpse of this resurrected, glorified God, the Son of man, the Son of God. I want us to go to Daniel, chapter 7, first of all, Daniel, chapter 7. And I want us to look at what Daniel 7 says about the hair of God. Because what God wants you to see and what God wants you to understand is that this One that is like a son of man is also like His Father. He is the Son of God and He bears His resemblance. In Daniel, chapter 7 in verse 9 it says, “I kept

looking ...,” And Daniel’s having this vision. “... until thrones were set up and the Ancient of Days took His seat; and His vesture was like white snow, and the hair on His head like pure wool. And His throne was ablaze with flames, and its wheels were like a burning fire. And a river of fire was flowing from Him and coming out from before Him; and thousands upon thousands were attending Him, and myriads upon a myriads were standing before Him; and the court sat and the books were opened.” So here we see the Father. You say, how do we know that it’s the Father? How do we know that’s it’s the Father and not the Son? Well watch, because in verse 13 it says, “... and I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like the Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, and glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, and nations and men of every language might serve Him. And His dominion was an everlasting dominion which would not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.” Remember in our last program I shared with you that this is the final kingdom, the kingdom that will rule forever and ever. It will be ruled by the Almighty, the One who is, who was, and is to come and it will be that there will be One that will sit beside His throne as King of kings. It’s the Jesus that we just saw in Revelation, chapter 1. And when we come back we’ll take another glimpse of Him in His glory.

PART TWO

I’m glad you’re back. Now let’s get back to Revelation, chapter 1. You know this is such an incredible, incredible picture of Jesus Christ that it’s really hard to grasp it all. It’s hard to plumb the depths of it. But let me just give you a few more scriptures so that you can compare scripture with scripture, because what I think God wants you to see is I think He wants you to see this One in all of His majesty that stands in the midst; now remember, He’s in the midst of the seven golden lamp stands. You say, what are those

seven golden lamp stands? Well you keep listening and we'll see in just a minute because God doesn't want to leave you in the dark. He wants to give you light about the lamp stands. All right, but let's go to verse 15. We've seen that His hair was white as wool. We've seen that His eyes are like a flame of fire. We've seen in Daniel that from the throne comes all this fire. Now listen, when you think of fire; fire is a purifying thing. It's a purifying thing. All right now in verse 15: "And His feet were like burnished bronze, as it has been caused to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters." I want us to go from here to Ezekiel, chapter 1. In Ezekiel, chapter 1 I want us to look at verses 26 and 28. And Ezekiel now, is having a vision of all these living creatures before the throne of God. And it says in verse 26, "Now above the expanse that was over their heads there was something resembling a throne, like lapis lazuli in appearance ...," That's a, a deep, deep rich blue. "... and on that which resembled a throne, high up, was the figure with the appearance of a man. Then I noticed from the appearance of His loins and upward something like glowing metal that looked like fire all around within it, and the appearance of His loins and downward I saw something like fire; and there was a radiance around Him. As the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the surrounding radiance. 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 a voice speaking" Now this is Ezekiel seeing this glorious appearance in all of His glory, and all of His radiance and he falls on his face. And what happens to John? In Revelation, chapter 1, when he sees Jesus and all of His glory and this radiance, he falls on his face as a dead man before Him. It's awesome. It puts you on your face. There's no, in a sense, flippant familiarity with God. Rather it's awe and it's reverence. And you can't believe what your eyes are seeing. Well now, I want you to go to Daniel, chapter 10 and we want to look at verse 6, and he's talking about this One that is appearing to him. And he says in verse 6, "His body also was

like beryl, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words were like the sound of a tumult.” Now doesn’t that parallel what John is seeing in the book of Revelation? Let’s read it again, verse 15: “And His feet were like burnished bronze, when it had been caused to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. And in His right hand ...,” and this is important, “... in His right hand He held seven stars ...,” And it says, “... and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.” Now listen, where is He? He’s standing in the midst of seven golden lamp stands. He’s holding in His right hand the right hand of power. He’s holding in His right hand the seven stars. And it says, “... and when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as a dead man. And He laid His hand on me saying, ‘Do not be afraid; you don’t have to be afraid. When you see Me in My glory you don’t have to be afraid; I am the first and I am the last.’” This living One is the One that John wrote about in John, chapter 1, verse 1: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And everything that came into being came into being by Him.” He was the first. He is the preeminent One. He was with the Father before the world ever came into existence and He was part of creation. And then in John 1:14: “The Word becomes flesh and dwells among us and we beheld His glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” And then at the end of John’s gospel he tells us about the death of the Son of God who was in the beginning. He says, “I am the living One ...,” He says “... I was dead ...,” But He says, “I am living now.” He says, “I am alive forevermore. I have the keys of death and Hades.” Now remember this is a message that is written to the churches. This is a message that they so desperately need to know, that they so desperately need to hear. It’s one that you need to know and one that you need to hear. And you need to know it and you need to hear it because you need to remember that Jesus is the living One, the One who is alive

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forevermore; the One that you are going to see in all of His glory, in all of His majesty; the One that is going to subdue the kings of the earth and turn the kingdom over to God, the Father. Now John was told by Jesus in verse 19: “Write therefore. Since you have seen all this, write therefore the things that you have seen ...,” that’s chapter 1; “... and the things which are” and that’s chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation. The things that are are the seven existing churches that he needs to write to. And the things which will take place after these things and that begins in Revelation, chapter 4. And you can see that when John is told come up here and I will show you the things that will come after these things. And then it says in verse 20, “As for the mystery of the seven stars...,” Remember he holds those seven stars in His hand. He says, “... which you saw in My right and, and the seven golden lamp stands.” Remember, in all His glory He was standing before these seven golden lamp stands. He says this; He says, “the seven stars are the seven angels of the seven churches, or the seven messengers.” And He says, “And the seven lamp stands are the seven churches.” Where was Jesus in all His glory, in all His majesty, in all of His eternity, in all of His holiness, in all of His power? He was standing among the seven golden lamp stands, the seven churches to which John was to send the message of all that he saw, so that you and I might know the things that are shortly going to come to pass. And so that you and I, Beloved, can order our lives in the light of who Jesus is, not just the suffering Savior, but the coming, reigning King; and so that you and I will remember that our allegiance is to this One, with hair as white as wool and feet of burnished bronze. Bow before Him; serve Him all the days of your life.