

# The Lord of the Seven Lampstands

## Revelation 1:9-20

### One Like a Son of Man

**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 (*PAT muhs*) 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 (*EF uh suhs*), Smyrna (*SMUR nuh*), Pergamum (*PUR guh muhm*), Thyatira (*thigh uh TIGH ruh*), Sardis (*SAHR diss*), Philadelphia (*fil uh DEL fih uh*) and Laodicea (*lay ahd ih SEE uh*)."

**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**His head and hair were 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 out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

**17**When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. **18**I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

**19**"Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. **20**The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

### I. **Patmos** — v.9

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A small 8 x 4 island mile near the western coast of Turkey. Scholars of the first century period have found evidence that the Roman government maintained rock quarries on Patmos to which prisoners and banished trouble makers were sent to live out their lives.

### II. John — vv.9,10

#### A. “In The Spirit”

This phrase would not have been an uncommon way of expressing worship for the early Christian reader. Jn 4:24; I Cor 14:2

#### B. “On the Lord's Day”

This is a new phrase, never before listed in the NT. The day in which we remember the victory of Christ over death.

#### C. “Heard A Voice Like a trumpet”

Notice that a distinction is made by John which shows that he will be trying to express by words, inadequate as they are, the vision he has experienced. He does not say that he heard a trumpet, but that the loud noise was best described as sounding like a trumpet.

### Note: Interpretation

Three basic guidelines for interpretation of the vision portion of the Book.

1. We must endeavor to understand the passage within its own immediate textual setting.
2. In the case of vision imagery, the next step is to seek clues to possible intent or meaning of an image or word choice for parallel descriptions in the OT or other parts of the NT, or even in some of the inter-testamental books.
3. Stand in reverence and restraint when a particular sentence or image is not clear. This is the application of the “*lean is better than luxurious*” interpretive guideline. There will be times when we will read the book, and in order to be most loyal to the text we must restrain our natural desire to immediately develop a theory of interpretation.

### III. The Voice — vv. 10-16

#### A. “I Am The Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last”

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B. **“someone** “like a son of man,” — v.13 (Dan 7.13)

<sup>13</sup> “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven.

1. **“Standing** among the seven lampstands” — vv. 13,20

2. **“Dressed** in a Robe” — v.13

3. **“Hair** - white like wool, as white as snow” — v.14 (Dan 7.9)

4. **“Eyes** like blazing fire” — v.14 (Dan 10.6)

5. **“Feet** like glowing brass” — v.15

6. **“Voice** like the sound of rushing waters” — v. 15 (Ezek 43.2)

7. **“Held** seven stars in his right hand” — vv. 16,20

8. **“From** his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword” — v.16 (Isa 49.2)

9. **“His** face shown with brilliance like the sun” — v.16

C. **Fear Not - I Am** — vv.17,18 (Jn 6.16-21)

1. **“The** First and the Last” — v.17

2. **“The** Living One” — v.18

3. **WAS** Dead - **AM** Alive — v. 18

4. **“And I** hold the keys” — v.18

D. **Write** to the Churches — v.19