

Revelation Lesson 19
He Touched Me

Revelation 1:17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

We just concluded our 5-part series of John's description of the Glorified Christ. Tonight, we pick up in verse 17 which acts as an epilogue: He Saw but then what? This verse, as I have mentioned before, proves to me that this account of the Book of Revelation is not merely what John Saw and Heard but has to be what John FELT and what he EXPERIENCED! As a matter of fact, when we get to Chapter 4, when John's writing to the Churches is concluded, the aged Apostle actually travels THROUGH TIME to the 3rd Heaven, the Throne room of God Himself. Since God's method of "counting time" is different (since the 3rd Heaven is outside our Timeframe see Genesis 1:14-19) John actually experienced and saw and heard the rest of the Book of Revelation as he jotted it all down. Wow! But that's a preview of coming attractions. Here we see the prelude to this when the vision becomes reality...

And when I saw him, - Think about John, here he is an elderly man, he was standing in his cave on Patmos after a long week of work; He was worshiping the Lord on Sunday, and suddenly he heard something like a trumpet! He then spun around to see the voice – there He saw Jesus – his heart knew Who, but his mind was reeling. He quickly looks at the Risen, Glorified Lord and then John tells us what happened next:

I fell at his feet as dead. - John tells us "where" this vision occurred. It was not some Heavenly vision. He did not see Jesus in the "heavens" as say Stephen did: Acts 7:55-56 *"But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God."* There is a popular Contemporary Christian Music (CCM) song by the group MercyMe entitled: I Can Only Imagine. It states the following: *"Will I dance for You Jesus? Or in awe of You be still? Will I stand in Your presence To my knees will I fall? Will I sing, Hallelujah? Will I be able to speak at all? I can only imagine..."* Well folks I think my good old KING JAMES BIBLE has the answer for this question by MercyMe! If they'd get back to the good book instead of their Imaginations, they will find their answer! Let's see:

1. Moses saw the Lord, and fell before him and hid his face.
 1. Exodus 3:4-6 *"And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. 5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. 6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God."*
2. Aaron and Moses saw the Lord at the Tabernacle
 1. Numbers 20:6 And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them.
3. Isaiah saw the Lord on his throne, and while this happened even the Seraphim covered their faces before the Lord. Once must argue that this Isaiah felt "woeful" he would have covered his face as well!
 1. Isaiah 6:1-2 In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. 2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.
 2. Isaiah 6:5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.
4. Ezekiel saw the Lord and covered his face when he saw the angels, the wheel within the wheel (which many like Giorgio Tsoukalos of *Ancient Aliens* or *In Search of Aliens* fame believe to be a UFO) fell down before the Lord's throne!

1. Ezekiel 1:28 As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.
5. Daniel and his companions were near the Hiddekel or Tigris River in Babylon. Daniel alone saw the vision, but knew something was different and fled.
 1. Daniel 10:7-9 *“And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. 8 Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. 9 Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground.”*
6. Saul of Tarsus (while he was lost, before he was called Paul) he met the Lord in a vision:
 1. Acts 9:3-7 *“And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: 4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. 7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.”*

So over and over again, when God appears in His glory, we find that mere man cannot stand in such a presence and that all hid their faces from before Him. This is by no means an exhaustive list, but rather an effort to show what happened when they saw the Lord. What happened? Do we have to imagine? Did any of them dance or such like? No, they were all reverent and hid their faces in shame before the Lord. What a day of difference will be, when we are freed from this sin-cursed body and be able to enjoy the fullness of his presence.

And he laid his right hand – Last week, when we looked at verse 16 (Lesson 18) we noted how the right-handed position is symbolic of power and authority. Now we see that John states that Christ laid His right hand upon him. Some may question this validity since John fainted and was “as dead.” The answer to that is merely that God the Holy Ghost moved him to write it, since God never sleeps and knows all, he told the writer which hand it was that touched him.

upon me, - Once Daniel had his experience in Dan. 10, the same happened to him in Daniel 10:10 *“And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands.”* Again this whole accounts still shows how personal this is – with all the “I’s” and “Me’s.” Furthermore, this is further enlightening us to the fact that this is an actual experience of John’s and not merely a vision.

saying unto me, - Even in this state, John still understands that Christ is speaking to him.

Fear not; - Here we observe a phrase used by Jesus at least 6 times in the Gospels:

1. Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
2. Luke 5:10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.
3. Luke 8:50 But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole.
4. Luke 12:7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.
5. Luke 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
6. Luke 18:4 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;

Dr. Waite says the following: “John had rested on the Lord Jesus Christ's bosom at the last supper. He had seen Him on the earth, but here, this powerful resurrected Saviour, he did not know, and he was afraid. In fact, that phrase, “Fear not,” is a present continual action, but it's a prohibition in the present, which means stop an action already in process. “Stop fearing.” John was afraid when he saw the Lord Jesus Christ.

This phrase “fear not” comes from two greek words: PHOBEO = fear, being afraid, flee in terror and MAY = means NOT so, I reckon the King James Version means what it says! Folks Come on, we don't need an update, like the new “MEV” Modern English Version, just stick with the King James Bible because if it ain't broke, don't fix it! Now, that Greek Word PHOBEO comes from the Root word PHOBOS which means Terror. Do you see? John wasn't terrorized by this sight of the Lord, he was just afraid. By the way, phobos is the name of one of Mars' moons and it is the root of the English suffix – phobe or phobia. 19 million Americans or 8.7% suffer from a specific “phobia” Women are twice as likely to be affected as men. It typically begins in childhood; the median age of onset is 7. Most people are aware of Germophobes (fear of germs), (so-called) Homophobes (fear of Homosexuals) and Xenophobes (fear of Immigrants). How about Amaxophobia (Fear of riding in a car), Chaetophobia (Fear of hair – I'm glad I don't suffer from that, I'd scare myself silly each time I brushed my teeth or took my shirt off! Hey I guess I could look at my bald head!), Ecclesiophobia (Fear of Church), Ergophobia (Fear of work), Homilophobia (Fear of Sermons), logophobia (Fear of words), Novercaphobia (Fear of Stepmothers), Papaphobia (Fear of the Pope), Uranophobia (Fear of Heaven) and Zoophobia (Fear of Animals). Now seriously folks I wonder who comes up with all these words!?! But they are documented “fears” whether rational or irrational that Americans and many others are afraid of or are terrorized by. All the more reason why we are reminded as Christians in 2 Timothy 1:7 “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

I am the first and the last – This echoes what Christ stated in verse 11 (Lesson 12). Allow me to restate the following from that lesson, about this “title” of Christ: “*We recall that the definite article such as “the” denotes one from among others. Some may describe this as contradictory in its application to God. Such is not the case. Rather what this is pointing to is that in every “first” we experience here on earth, Christ is before it. Likewise, at each “last” here on earth, Christ will be after it. He as God has been before the first “first” and will remain after the last “last.” Among all these, God is singled out as THE first and THE last of all.*”

This title is used of Christ in Revelation 2:8 “*And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;*” and Revelation 22:13 “*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.*”

So Jesus reminds John (and us) we have nothing to fear, for He was there with us at our first, and will be there with us at our last, for He promised in Hebrews 13:5c “...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

So Jesus' Right Hand touched John. His words touched him at his heart bringing him comfort and peace. I know for one, I am so glad that I can say like John and Daniel – HE TOUCHED ME!