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## Revelation 1:9-20 - The Glorified Jesus - Daniel 10:4-6

1. We already saw that John is a good writer when we looked at 5:6 together. In today's passage you see this in the fact that in the vision (verses 12-18) the name Jesus not mentioned. The reader is supposed to wonder 'Who is this special person?' He is referred to as 'the voice' (vs 12) and as 'son of man' (vs 13).
2. Verse 11 is John's commissioning as prophet, like the calling of an OT prophet.
3. What a tremendous vision this is! Try to visualise this – there are quite a few special effects and John also describes the sound of Jesus' voice. John uses the word 'like' several times, so hard is it to render his impressions.

This is the Lord who reigns in heaven, all powerful. This is the ascended and glorified Christ. No wonder John falls down as if he were dead (17)! Jesus will now give John a message, but whatever its contents, it begins (and ends) with him. That's important for our reading of Revelation. It's not about the information, the small facts, the identity of the Antichrist, but about who Jesus is. Our reasoning, our piety, all church life – do they begin and end with Jesus?

There is beauty here (13, 15, 16) and light (full sun, 16) and power / judgment (sword).

This 'son of man' is God, for he uses the words 'I am' (17). In claiming to be 'the first and the last' he claims to be the Alpha and Omega (8).

It is royal imagery, as well as some priestly: Jesus looks like the high priest!

But there is also the reference to his death and resurrection (18). Jesus is unique!

4. So what is our response?
    - We confess Jesus as Lord, not the Roman Emperor or the present government. Lord over the world, Lord of the church.
    - There is no need to fear, but in 2021 we tend to the opposite: many of us speak jokingly, irreverently about Jesus. We should not do this. How respectful are we?
    - This vision sets the tone for understanding Revelation: this Christ is worthy of all glory and praise; he can surely be victorious. In fact he has already been victorious in cross and resurrection. The most important event in history is not coming up, but it is behind us: the Easter morning.
    - Like John, let us submit and worship Christ (= songs and words and deeds).
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