

VISION OF THE RESURRECTED CHRIST

IN REVELATION 1:9–20

Rev. Robert C. Lewis • Glendale Baptist Church • Houston, Texas 77015 • quicknotes.org • 2008

BODY	FUNCTION	SYMBOL	INTERPRETATION	LOGICAL PROGRESSION
“one like a son of man” (1:13)	identification	possible allusion to Jesus’ title “the Son of Man”	some similarities and differences from a normal human being	Jesus appears in person to John in a vision
clothing (1:13)	identification	long robe and golden sash (probably the long blue robe of the ephod)	Jesus is a high priest who is greater than levitical high priests with their variegated sashes of gold, purple, scarlet, fine linen, and blue (cf. Josephus, <i>War</i> 5.231–232)	Jesus has authority over the seven churches as their great high priest
BODY PARTS				
head [A] (1:14)	thinks	snow white hair	holiness, wisdom, and honor of old age	Jesus will judge the seven churches with wisdom, since all judgment has been given to him (John 5:22)
eyes [B] (1:14)	see, inspect	flame of fire (consumes)	<i>double metonymy</i> : eyes put for seeing and fire for judgment (eyes look for evil to judge and to consume)	Jesus is looking for false teaching and evil people to judge, consume, and remove from the seven churches (Rev 2:18–23; 3:9)
feet [C] (1:15)	walk, travel	burnished bronze and furnace	<i>double metonymy</i> : feet put for walking and bronze for purity (judgment of sin, as on the bronze altar, and removal of sin by purification with fire, cf. Rev 3:19)	Jesus may walk from “the middle of the lampstands” to each church to judge and purify them (“I am coming to you” Rev 2:4–5, 16; 3:3)
voice [D] (1:15)	pronounces judgment	many waters	very loud voice, overwhelms all voices of opposition, final authority in judgment	Jesus may pronounce judgment on the seven churches [center of the inverted parallelism and point of turning from inspection to execution of judgment]
right hand [C'] (1:16)	holds, controls	seven stars	messengers (pastors) of the seven churches	Jesus owns the seven messengers (pastors) through redemption and has the right to give orders to these servants (Rev 2:1; 3:1)
mouth [B'] (1:16)	speaks	sharp two-edged sword	execution of judgment by speaking (cf. Rev 2:12, 14–16)	Jesus may execute judgment and discipline in the seven churches
face [A'] (1:16)	identification	shining sun	glory from heaven	Jesus comes from heaven with authority over the seven churches as their great high priest (cf. Hebrews 4:14)
PROPS				
lampstands (1:12, 20)	bearers of light lamps provide light	seven gold lampstands	seven churches bear light for their communities	seven letters and threatening visits by Jesus are attempts to maintain the light of God’s Word in the seven churches
stars (1:16, 20)	stars provide light and guidance	seven stars	messengers (pastors) of the seven churches	seven letters to pastors of the seven churches will help identify and correct the spiritual problems in their churches

Interpretive Key Is in Verse 20: the seven stars (symbol) are the angels of the seven churches (interpretation) and the seven lampstands (symbol) are the seven churches (interpretation). Identify the other symbols and their interpretations in the same way. **Physical Appearance:** the symbols are in keeping with the reason why Jesus came—to inspect, judge, consume evil, and purify the seven churches of Asia Minor. **Note the inverted parallelism of the body parts.**