

Intro: Exiled on the island of Patmos, John is transported by the Spirit to the immediate presence of the glorified Christ.

- I. Getting reacquainted with John (Rev. 1:9)
  - a. We hear him more directly here than anywhere else
  - b. He was persecuted because of the word of God
  
- II. In the Spirit on the Lord's Day (Rev. 1:10)
  - a. *And the things of earth will grow strangely dim...*
  - b. The *vision* began with a *voice*
  
- III. "Write...what you see..." (Rev. 1:11)
  - a. It's one thing to take dictation, another to describe
  - b. John was the last inspired author of Scripture
  
- IV. John's initial vision: lampstands and a son of man (Rev. 1:12-16)
  - a. The "likes" fill in for lack of language
  - b. Why "one like a son of man" rather than "Jesus"?
  
- V. Symbolism behind the son of man's features (Rev. 1:13-16)
  - a. His regal apparel
  - b. His radiant appearance
  
- VI. John's response and the touch of Christ (Rev. 1:17)
  - a. Fear, worship, humility, submission
  - b. When the only One worthy of fear says, "Do not fear"
  
- VII. Paradoxes and mysteries (behind mysteries) (Rev. 1:17-20)
  - a. First and last; dead and now alive
  - b. Keys of death and Hades
  - c. Who are the seven angels of the churches?

Close: The double-edged sword coming from Jesus' mouth is shocking, arresting, and disturbing. Other scriptures tell us it is the word of God. In the next chapters we will see Jesus wield it with precision upon the seven churches, and upon us.