



The DAILY JESUS NEWS #355
The Eternal Ministry of Jesus in Heaven
The Continuing Words and Works of the Risen Jesus Throughout Eternity Future

Jesus' Thirteenth Resurrection Appearance:
to John on the Island of Patmos
Rev. 1.4-6, 9-20

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4 John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from the One who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven-fold Spirits who are before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from among the dead, and the absolute ruler of the kings of the earth.

To the One who is always loving us, and has set us free from our sins through his blood, 6 and has made us to be a kingdom--priests in personal service to his God and Father--to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

9 I myself, John, your brother and fellow participant in the agony and kingdom and endurance that we share in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and my testimony about Jesus.

10 I was worshipping in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard a booming voice behind me like a trumpet, 11 which said:

"I command you to write what you are seeing in a book and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

12 I turned around to take a look at the voice that was talking to me. After I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and at the center of the lampstands was someone like a Son of man, dressed permanently in a long robe reaching down to his feet, wrapped in a golden sash bound permanently around his chest.

14 His head and his hair was white like wool, as white as snow, but his eyes looked like blazing fire. 15 His feet were like bronze that was permanently glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many rushing waters. 16 In his right hand he was holding seven stars, and a sharp, double-edged sword was coming out of his mouth. His face was radiant like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man.

Then he placed his right hand on me and said: *"I command you to stop being afraid. I AM the First and the Last. 18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive in God's kind of life for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.*

19 "I command you to 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 messengers of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches."

NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	On the Greek Island of Patmos, Just Off the Coast of Turkey
Timeline	About 60 Years After Jesus Ascended
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IX: The Resurrection and Eternal Ministry of Jesus
	Jesus' Eternal Ministry in Heaven
	The Continuing Words and Works of the Risen Jesus Throughout Eternity Future
Title:	Jesus' Thirteenth Resurrection Appearance: To John on the Island of Patmos

Jesus' 13th resurrection appearance inaugurates the final section of texts in the SAGA OF JESUS CHRIST, and the DAILY JESUS NEWS. This sequence of eleven scenes or messages featuring the ministry of Jesus in heaven in eternity future climax the Bible, and the Scriptural saga of Jesus' life. The glory of Jesus is revealed in these passages with breath-taking power that should leave us in awe-struck worship and overwhelming gratitude.

About 60 years had passed since Jesus' ascension. John was the last of the Twelve Apostles to remain alive. The first empire-wide, universal persecution of Christians under the Emperor Domitian was probably under way (89 to 96 AD), though some historians are not so sure about how extensive the persecution was. John was an old man in his 80's--ancient for his day--exiled to the lonely island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea for his faith. While he was worshipping in the power of the Holy Spirit on the Lord's day, Jesus suddenly appeared to him.

The visual splendor of Jesus in his resurrection appearances after this ascension is striking. Paul experienced Jesus on the road to damascus as a blinding, bright light like the sun. Now, in his appearance to John, Jesus' face was *"radiant like the sun shining in all its brilliance."* This had to have reminded John of Jesus' glory on the Mount of Transfiguration so many years ago, when he was transformed before the three apostles, and his face was shining like the sun.

John used verbal imagery to try to capture the glory of Jesus in this appearance. His hair was a brilliant, shining white burst of brightness. His feet were also shining like red hot, molten bronze. His eyes gleamed like burning, bright fire. His voice sounded like the roar of many rivers converging in a massive waterfall, like the Niagara. His hands were strong and large enough to hold shining stars in them. He was dressed in the robes of his High Priestly ministry. And he stood in the central place of attention and honor-- *"in the center"* of the lampstands that represented the seven Churches.

The perception that pervades this description is that the infinite, holy glory of the God who is powerful enough to create and fill an infinite number of infinite universes, is simmering just beneath the surface of Jesus' glorified humanity, which is compatible with his Divine nature, but can in no way contain or limit it. This glorified Jesus holds ALL the infinite power and authority of the Godhead in his nail-scarred hands. We will see that his radiance is so powerful that there is no longer any need of the sun, or any created light in heaven. The glory beaming from his face alone will light heaven forever, brighter than the light of every star and sun in the universe put together. Jesus is AWESOME!

Having seen the glory of his Lord like this, John fell down as a dead man. Compared to this Living God, John's frail old fallen humanity was nothing but living death. He was less than dust and ashes before his Lord.

In contrast to John's death-likeness, Jesus emphasized his ALIVE-ness. ***"I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive in God's kind of life for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."*** Not only is Jesus ALIVE in God's life, he is the key to the death and life of all his creation. He reigns in the indestructible life of God. He is worthy of worship and dominion forever.

The glory of God that was concealed in the earthly incarnation of Jesus is now on full display again in the risen, ascended Lord. This appearance radiates the power and majesty of God in the ascended Jesus in a riveting way. It is just the beginning of the revelation of the eternal glory of Jesus that climaxes the story of his perfect life.

APPLICATION:

Jesus is awesome in his glorified state. We all ought to fall down as dead people before him. Yet, it is so much like the Jesus of the four gospels that he placed his hand on John to calm him. He commanded John to stop being fearful, just as he had said to so many people in Judea and Galilee. Yes, his Divine glory is now evident in his ascension. But his compassion and love remain unchanged. He is the same Jesus.

This final sequence of eleven scenes of the ascended Jesus in heaven caps off the total Scriptural witness about him perfectly. He has returned to the glory of his pre-existent state, with his humanity permanently, eternally added to his eternal Deity. He is the God-man. And because he is a union of the human and Divine, he has opened the Divine Nature up to our humanity, as well. This is what makes him our Savior and Lord.

Jesus prayed in his High Priestly prayer that we would be able to really see his eternal, Divine glory (JN 17.24). Only three disciples briefly saw that glory during his earthly ministry at the Transfiguration. Now it is on display for all of creation to see forever, including you and me. These eleven scenes prepares us for eternal worship by showing us his ascended, eternal glory now--right here on earth where our feet are not shining with his radiant glory, but are dirty from daily contact with our fallen, sinful world.

"To the One who is always loving us, and has set us free from our sins through his blood, 6 and has made us to be a kingdom--priests in personal service to his God and Father--to him be glory and power for ever and ever!"

Priests are worshippers. So worship!

Pray Jesus' prayer that you may see his glory in these eleven final scenes, and truly worship him like never before in your life.

