

The Vision of Lord Jesus Christ

To behold Christ is the deepest longing of every redeemed soul. Prior to salvation every soul is under bondage, blindness and spiritual death. The god of this world has blinded the minds of them that believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, Who is the image of God, should shine unto them (2 Cor.4: 4). How different is the state of one saved by grace! David expresses the longing of the converted soul. "One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in "his temple"(Psa.27: 4).

Beholding Christ brings in atleast three wonderful blessings. Firstly, it brings us into a realization of who we are. When the self-righteous Job saw God face to face, all his self-defense crumbled." I have heard of thee by the hearing of! The ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:5,6). Simon of Galilee, after a night of fruitless toil threw his nets again at the command of Christ! and had a miraculous catch. This incident opened his eyes to the Person of Christ and also to himself. Struck by the wretchedness of his own heart he cried, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord" (Luke 5:8). Isaiah, the anointed prophet of God, saw the Lord in all His glory. Instantly his heart was filled with grief for he said, "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" (Isa. 6:5). Moses the man of God prayed thus: "Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance" (Psa.90:8). Knowing God is knowing ourselves. Outside His revealing presence we will never know who we are.

Secondly, beholding Christ brings in transformation. John the apostle wrote: "...we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (1John 3:2). To see Him is to become like Him. This is futuristic. Yet, in the present, the Lord is working in us towards that blessed goal. Paul describes this ongoing transforming work in the life of a believer. "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Cor. 3: 18) . To behold Him is to be changed into His likeness.

Thirdly, beholding Christ brings hope, comfort and strength in our present trials and temptations. This is exactly what happened to John the beloved apostle in the isle of Patmos. Exiled by the cruel emperor Domitian, John must have been discouraged and depressed. The Roman emperor could banish him from the presence of churches and believers. Yet he could not banish him from the most prized possession of John-the presence of Christ. Christ was revealed in all His glory and John penned down that indescribable Image as far as the limited human expression could capture.

Christ spoke that He was the Alpha and Omega. These two Greek words stand for the first and the last alphabets. It was like saying, "I am the beginning and the ending". This in no way suggests that God has a beginning and an ending. Using the limitations of language of the mortal man, Christ states His eternity. Roman emperors come and go. Tormentors live today and disappear tomorrow. God however, is the eternal "I am." He is the One who knows no succession of time. Such

a God is our God. He has the final say of every matter. John's very life was in the hands of the eternal "I am", and not in the hands of Gentile rulers. As God's children we are already on the winning side. Aren't we? How about you? Are you in Christ on the winning side? Our sins were laid on Him, the sinless One. He died as our Substitute, our Sin-bearer. Have you accepted Him as your personal Saviour?

Today with the completion of the New Testament, we have the whole Bible in our hands. We are indeed blessed to have the Scriptures in our language. Many language groups are still waiting! The written Word of God leads us to the living Word of God, Christ. The Lord Jesus said, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39).

The image and beauty of Christ is now seen through the pages of the Bible, specially the New Testament. The Bible tells us of God's great love for every lost sinner. It was love that led Christ to the cross where all our guilt and sins were laid on Him. He was wounded for our transgressions. Sins un-forgiven, un-cleansed and uncovered would take us to the judgment. Eternal hell is the destination of those who have spurned the good news. Christ died to bring us forgiveness, fellowship and freedom. Have you, dear reader, received these blessings? Why not turn to Christ today?

"Behold Christ for salvation; behold Him for sanctification; behold Him for satisfaction". Simple, but true! The exiled apostle John in the island of Patmos was given a special vision of the Person of Christ. Nowhere in the Bible are we given such a description. To begin with, we are told about His attire. He wore the garment down to the foot (Rev .1: 13). This certainly suggests the clothes of a majestic ruler. We are also told about the "golden girdle" worn across the chest. This speaks of His absolute righteousness. "...Righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins" (Isa.11: 5), was the prophecy made regarding the ruler-ship of Christ. The first advent of Christ was in absolute humility. He came to minister to the needs of the sinful lost world. On the cross He paid the penalty of all our sins. "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him..."(Isa.53: 5). He "...was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification" (Rom.4: 25). Today, Christ is our living Saviour, seated with all authority and power at the right hand of the Father in heaven. The Scriptures speak of His second advent to this world. He will come back to rule the world in righteousness. Then the desperate cry of Eccl. 1: 15 will be answered. "That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered". With the second advent of Christ in righteousness; "Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and rough ways shall be made smooth" (Luke 3:5).

"His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow" (Rev.1: 14), symbolizes His eternal antiquity. Daniel saw a similar vision. "I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool" (Dan.7: 9). God is eternal and He is before everything. The prayer of Moses emphasizes the everlastingness of God. "...From everlasting to everlasting, thou art God" (Psa.90:2). As mortals we are like the "...grass which groweth up. In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth" (Psa.90: 5,6). We are now introduced to His eyes. "...his eyes were as a flame of fire" (Rev.1 :14). Eight significant things could be said of God's eyes. Firstly, they are SEEING EYES. It was Hagar, the Egyptian maid, running away from her mistress Sara, who gave God the name "El Roi", after

she confronted God. El Roi means, "Thou God seest me" (Gen.16: 13). The Psalmist highlights this truth by contrast with the idols. "They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not" (Psa.115: 5).

Secondly, His eyes are OMNISCIENT. "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good" (Prov .15:3). How dreadful is this truth to those who sin! "For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings. There is no darkness, nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves" (Job34: 21,22).

Thirdly, His EYES are SEARCHING eyes. "The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God" (Psa.14:2). God is a seeker. His eyes probe into the secrets of men and women.

Fourthly, His eyes are HOLY EYES. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and can not look on iniquity" (Hab.1: 13). Sin is such an abomination in His sight that He cannot tolerate it. He notices all hypocrisy, all pretence in our lives.

Fifthly, His eyes are TESTING EYES. "...His eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men" (Psa.11: 4). "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do" (Heb.4: 13).

Sixthly, His eyes are SUPERINTENDING EYES. This fact brings great comfort to a believer. In Mark's Gospel chapter six, we read about the feeding of five thousand men besides women and children with just five loaves and two fishes. After the miracle the Lord constrained His disciples to get into the ship and go to the other side. The Lord remained on the mountain while He sent the multitudes away. The disciples had a tough time since the wind was contrary to them. It was a dark night and the disciples, most of them fishermen, rowed hard for several hours. Mark 6:48 tells us that the Lord Jesus "saw them toiling in rowing". Neither distance nor darkness could hide His children from Him. How comforting is this thought!

Seventhly, His eyes are WEeping EYES. At least in three places it is written that Jesus shed tears (Heb.5: 7; Luke 19:41; John 11: 35). The God of grace and mercy weeps over the hard, unrepentant hearts of men and women for He is not willing that any should perish.

Eighthly, His eyes are JUDGING EYES. John the apostle saw the eyes of the Lord Jesus as a "flame of fire" (Rev.1: 14). Fire is a symbol of judgement. While this fact of judgement brings great fear to the one who is in sin, it brings hope to every persecuted saint. Today His eyes are full of compassion. Turn to Him for He is willing to save you.

John, the beloved apostle of Christ, was exiled by the cruel emperor Domitian to the island of Patmos. In his loneliness and discouragement God granted His suffering servant special visions. These visions revealed the beauty of Christ and the future plan of God regarding the end times. The vision of Christ encouraged the aged servant and by the commandment of God wrote what he saw. In this study we will consider the Lord's feet. " And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace" (Rev.1: 15).

In the Bible, gold stands for Deity, silver for redemption and wood for humanity. Brass stands in the Bible for judgment. Brass also typifies power. It is power to withstand judgment. In Numbers 16 there was a riot. Korah, Dathan, Abiram and two hundred and fifty princes made an 'improper' sacrifice with brass censers in hand. The fire of God's judgment fell upon them and consumed them but that which endured the fire were the brass censers. Later this was used to cover the altar in the Tabernacle.

The 'brass feet' of the Lord speak of the judgment that they went through but survived. The feet of the Lord in the Gospels were the bruised feet on the Cross. The earliest prophecy of the Saviour in Genesis 3:15 made around 4000 BC, speaks of the seed of the serpent bruising the 'heel' of the seed of the woman. The Psalmist spoke of the "pierced feet" in Psalm 22:16. The feet, which bled on the Cross, turned into the feet of fine brass in Rev.1: 15. In His first advent, the Lord Jesus came as our Saviour, but in the second advent He will come back to be our Judge.

The holy Scriptures speak of at least seven judgments. Of these, six concern humanity. Of these, two belong exclusively to Israel. Of the remaining four, the unbeliever faces two judgments. Firstly, the sins of every sinner are judged at Calvary. The unrepentant sinner rejects the only Saviour, the only provision made for his salvation. By despising the blood of the Son of God, the sinner opts for condemnation. The sinner chooses to pay for all his sins by refusing the blood of Christ.

Having despised the judgment at Calvary, the un-forgiven sinner faces the sure and certain white throne judgment as described in Revelation 20. Here is the solemn passage to which the whole humanity must pay earnest heed.

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before, God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead, which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire"(Rev.20: 11-15).

Combined with the above passage there is another in the book of Revelation, which describes the dreadfulness of that day. "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Rev.6: 15-17).

How dreadful then, must the white throne judgment be! The Bible opens with the book of Genesis where Adam and Eve tried to hide themselves behind the fig tree after rebelling against the Lord God. The Bible closes in the book of Revelation where great men, rich men, chief captains, mighty men, bond and free men hide from the presence of the One Who was about to judge them. As Adam and Eve could not hide themselves, no sinner would be able to escape from the searching eyes of God.

The Bible tells us plainly that judgment, the day of judgment and the Judge have been appointed by God. "...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"(Heb.9:27). "...he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead" (Acts 17:31).

The very Saviour Who loved us and gave Himself for us on the cross of Calvary, would be the Judge appointed. On that day mankind would be forced to accept His Lordship, but, such an acceptance would not bring deliverance. Today is the day of salvation. Today is the period of grace. Today the doors of mercy are open to the faintest cry of every lost sinner. The cry of God goes out to every sin –weary human being, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt.11 :28).