

## Revelation 1:13f

1. We continue with the vision from verse 13
  - a. Now John sees “in the midst of the lampstand one as a son of man”
    - i. The images from the OT are all coming together so don’t worry too much about the staging. The point is theological and pastoral, not directorial.
    - ii. We now bring back Daniel 7 and 10 into the mix. Read Daniel 10 and notice all of the similarities.
    - iii. Before we go further we should ask a question. This image of a powerful, warrior Jesus to defeat the Romans and save the Jews was exactly what everyone in Jesus’ day was wanting and expecting but Jesus consistently and forcefully rejected this image. Why bring out this image now? Should we see the suffering Jesus hanging on a cross? Why is it OK to shift gears at this point? How are the two images connected?
    - iv. This powerful Jesus now stands in the midst of the church/churches. What is being communicated here? Why is this important?
  - b. The clothing of the Son of Man here has both kingly and priestly elements and it seems (like many elements in John) intentionally colluded.
    - i. Part of what the priests did in the temple was to tend to the lamps. This is what Jesus will be doing in this book. Tending would involve replacing and trimming wicks, replacing old oil with new, all to keep the lamps burning brightly.
    - ii. There is also here the collusion of elements of the Ancient of Days to the Son of Man in Daniel 7. The Son of Man is priestly, in maintaining the lamps, but he is also kingly in bringing both vindication and judgment. Again, see the section in Daniel 10-12 culminating in resurrection and the judgment of the raised. (12:2,3).
    - iii. Refined as in a furnace alludes to Daniel 3 and the fiery furnace and the fourth person in the furnace.
    - iv. There is much discussion about what the seven stars means. 7 planets following pagan astrology the assumption that these were gods controlling the destiny of the inhabitants of earth (sometimes called “seven classical stars” because they are the heavenly bodies seen with the naked eye: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, the moon, the sun). Of they might symbolize the risen saints (Dan 12:3) or they might refer to the stars depicted in the temple (temple as microcosm of the cosmos). Following 1:20 the seven churches. Whichever is true (or even if all are true) the meaning is clear. This Son of Man controls destiny.
    - v. Equally clear is the sword in his mouth, judgment. See Isaiah 11:4 and 49:2. Again, we have the question of “the sword” and what Jesus said in the garden at his arrest. How can we put these together? Lamb/lion, victim/victor? Notice on whose behalf he acts in Is 11:4.
2. John’s response follows the pattern from the OT. Again, we should ponder this at a number of levels. This is Jesus’ closest friend during Jesus’ ministry, but now the view of Jesus strikes him down, as OT theophanies of YHWH consistently did. Note also on the mount of transfiguration in Luke they were terrified as they entered the cloud.
  - a. This is in great contrast to nearly all assumptions of what experiences of “spirituality” are supposed to entail in our current climate.

- b. John is struck as if dead and the Son of Man touches him with his right hand.
- 3. The Son of Man's response to John.
  - a. The pattern in Revelation follows very closely with what occurs in Daniel 10.
  - b.
- 4. This is to be a message of comfort, why the form of the vision?
  - a. Again, "do not fear".
  - b. "I am the first and the last." The Son of Man clearly identifies himself with YHWH in Isaiah 41:4, 44:6 and 48:12. See the contexts of 41:10, 44:8 and the rest of 48. In each case YHWH acts on Israel's behalf to save her and to judge the empires that have arisen against her. Again, we see the universalizing of the OT and the transference to the church.
  - c. "The living one and I was dead and look living I AM into the ages of ages"
  - d. "I have the keys of death and hades" Why doesn't it say "hell"? What is Hades?
  - e. Why must he write? For what purpose?