

The Vision of the Son of Man

Help for Suffering Believers

- Believers do not suffer alone
 - We have a family
 - We are partners together
 - We Share in Christ's Sufferings
- Believers Have Hope Beyond their Suffering
 - We have a kingdom
 - We can have "patient endurance"
- The Hope of the Believer is in Jesus
 - Our family, our partnership, our Kingdom our patient endurance comes from Jesus
 - The key to hope for suffering believers is to find these things "in Jesus"
 - We languish under our suffering when we seek hope in anything else
- Believers Suffer due to allegiance to Jesus
 - The Word of God
 - The Testimony of Jesus

The Son of Man

- The Title Son of Man
 - This is a critically important term for understanding the New Testament
 - This is one of Jesus' favorite terms for Himself and it is only ever applied to Himself
 - The Son of Man is a title given to Messiah (Daniel 7:13-14, 10:16)
 - The Term Son of Man looks at Jesus as the Messiah
 - Stephen saw Jesus as the Son of Man just as he was about to be martyred (Acts 7:55-56)
 - The office of Messiah is an office that will be eternally filled by Christ.
- The Vision of the Son of Man (Parallels Dan. 10:5-6)
 - The Vision communicates Jesus' as the Priestly King
 - The Meaning of the Robe and Golden Sash
 - It may refer to the garments of the priest
 - It may refer to the vestments of aristocracy or royalty
 - It is likely a reference to both
 - Jesus is ministering among the "golden lampstands"
 - This is likely a reference to the lampstand in the tabernacle
 - The writer of Hebrews tells us that the earthly tabernacle was just a tangible representation of the heavenly tabernacle (Heb. 9:23)
 - Only a priest had the right to enter the holy place and be among the lampstand.

- Jesus is also a priestly King
 - In Matthew 12:1-8, Jesus points to two people who were permitted into the tabernacle
 - The Priests (vs. 5)
 - The King (David- vs. 3-4)
 - Jesus concludes by telling the Pharisees that “something greater than the temple was there”
 - He then calls on the title “Son of Man” and tells them that the Son of Man is “Lord of the Sabbath”
 - Jesus has double access into the temple as priest and as King
- The Vision Communicates Jesus’ Divine Wisdom
 - This is also a description given to the Ancient of Days (Dan. 7:9)
 - Passage shows how Jesus and the Father are distinct yet can be thought of as the same
 - White hair is often viewed as an indicator of wisdom
 - As the Ancient of Days, Jesus has eternal wisdom
- The Vision communicates Jesus’ as the Omniscient Judge (c.f. 19:12)
 - There is no escape from Christ’s judgment
 - His eyes see all (2 Chron. 16:9; Ps. 11:4)
 - This is a blessing and a curse
 - A blessing for those who seek righteousness
 - A curse for those who follow wickedness
- The Vision communicates Jesus’ as Possessing Glorious Strength
 - The reference here is to military apparel and armor
 - This armor is strong and shining
 - It communicates power and excellence
- The Vision communicates Jesus’ as Powerful
 - God’s powerful voice is often described as the sound of rushing water (Eze. 1:24, 43:2; Rev. 14:2, 19:6)
 - The rushing water is likely a reference to the unceasing pounding of the ocean waves against the rocky coast
- The Glory of the Son of Man
 - Glory Made available to the Church
 - There is Great difficulty in understanding the Stars
 - We know for certain that the stars:
 - Refer to the “angels” of the seven churches (vs. 20)
 - Are held in Christ’s Right Hand
 - We can be confident that Christ holds His church firmly and exercises authority over it.
 - There is a clear emphasis on the spiritual and heavenly realities of our faith (Eph. 1:3)
 - When the church gathers on earth, it is reminded of the heavenly reality of its presence before the Glory of Christ.

- What do the stars, which are angels, refer to?
 - Literal angels (guardian angels or patron angels)
 - “Personified Spirits”
 - A Rebuke to Angel worship
 - Leaders of the Church (Elders)
- Glory Provided through the Piercing Word of Christ
 - The Word of Christ Reveals God to Humanity
 - The Word of Christ Convicts of Sin (Heb. 4:12)
 - The Word of Christ will Bring Judgment (Rev. 19:5)
- Glory as the Shining Sun
 - Christ’s Glory is a Radiant Splendor
 - Christ’s Glory is Unsearchable (Ex. 33:18-23)
 - Christ’s Glory Will Endure with His People Forever (Rev. 21:23-25)

Hope from Fear

- Fear _____ because of Our _____
 - John’s response is like every response of man when viewing the unrestrained glory of God
 - Ezekiel (Eze. 1:28)
 - Peter, James, and John (Matt. 17:6-7)
 - Isaiah (Isa. 6:5)
 - Our falling short of God’s glory because of sin makes His presence _____ (Rom. 3:23)
 - Jesus takes away that fear through His Redemptive Work
 - The most _____ words in the scripture are “fear not”
- Hope Because of Jesus’ _____
 - This Speaks of Christ’s _____
 - Jesus _____ for Himself a characteristic that only _____ can claim
 - Isa. 44:6-8- YHWH describes His _____
 - Isa. 41:4- YHWH calls himself the first and the last
 - This Speaks of Christ’s Work in _____
 - This Speaks of Christ’s _____ over All Things
 - We need not fear because Jesus is in control of _____!
- Hope Because of Jesus’ _____
 - Jesus is the _____ of Life (John 1:4)
 - Jesus has been _____ over Death (I Cor. 15:55-56)
 - Jesus provides Redemption _____
 - Christ’s full control of _____ and _____ is immensely uplifting for the suffering
- Hope Because of Jesus’ _____
 - Christ has authority over Death and the Realm of the Dead
 - Christ’s authority allows him to offer true _____ from Death
 - Christ’s authority gives _____ that believers will reign with Him eternally

- Hope Because of Jesus' _____
 - Jesus' Plan is all that John is about to see
 - All that _____, _____, and _____ happen is a part of Jesus' _____ Work
 - John is to _____ all that he sees
 - This provides a _____
 - This allows for objective _____ of God's faithfulness to His Word
- Hope Because of Jesus' _____ and _____
 - Jesus _____ is among His _____
 - Jesus' presence among his people is the _____ of redemption (John 1:14)
 - Jesus presence is the _____ for the _____ (Matt. 28:20)
 - Jesus _____ Keeps His Church in His _____
 - The _____ place for the believer is in the _____ of the Savior (Jn 10:28)
 - Our names are _____ in His _____ (Isa. 49:15-18)