

Verse by Verse: Revelation 1: 14-17

Author: Louis T. Talbot

[Choir Music]

Announcer:

The Bible Institute of Los Angeles Inc., half-century old Christian training center of the West, presents verse by verse with Dr. Louis T. Talbot, Biola chancellor and one of America's great evangelical leaders. Now once again your radio Bible teacher, Dr. Louis T. Talbot.

Dr. Louis T. Talbot:

And thank you Mr. Announcer, and good morning my radio friends and friends of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. This is Louis T. Talbot greeting you and I trust that you had a blessed day in worship and in service yesterday. Last night I spoke a long prophetic lines at the Fountain Avenue Baptist Church of which Dr. Chester Padgett is the pastor. And I will be speaking again there on Wednesday night of this week in regard to how this age is going to end religiously. Last night at the close of the service we had so many people asking about our new campus at La Mirada and my heart is just full and overflowing with gratitude to God for the interest that so many of God's people are showing in that project because the training of over 800 young men and young women for service in all parts of this world is something that should challenge every child of God.

We sadly need that memorial building that I have been talking to you about which would save some 200 young men from the inconvenience of commuting to and fro from our downtown buildings. That journey out there from Sixth and Hope Street is about 22 miles each way. And so if the Lord has entrusted you with some of this world's goods, well here is the place where upon you can invest for time and for eternity. You know that we are very interested in the supporting of missionaries and let me say my dear friends that supporting missionaries on the foreign field is something that we believe in with all of our hearts. And the Bible Institute has a work for God in Hong Kong but the training of young men and young women is just as essential because there are always vacancies on the foreign field due to retirement and sickness. And then there is always the opening of new fields and Biola is providing the recruits for such service and has done so for some 50 years.

And so let me urge you my dear friends to have a part in this ministry. I thank you for your prayers. I thank you for the wonderful letters that you have been sending and especially at this time of the month do I want you to write if you have not already written. Just address your letters to the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, Los Angeles 17 California. And when you get to heaven my dear friends you will be amazed to find what the Lord has done with your money. When you send a dollar, well it doesn't seem very much but you know that those five loaves and two fishes that that little fellow brought along that day and which were later placed in the hands of the Lord Jesus. Well when the Lord has a little thing dedicated to him we're going to be amazed when we get up there to find just what he has accomplished through our gifts.

Now we're studying the book of Revelation, the last book in the Bible and I want you please to have your Bibles open to chapter one. Now last Friday we began the study of the first division of the book of Revelation which is the beacon of the Lord Jesus Christ in the glory carrying on his great high priestly work in your behalf and mine. And we saw in our last lesson that the Book of Revelation is divided into three divisions given by the Lord himself. Just let your eye go down to verse 19 will you, because after John had been given this vision of Christ in the glory as our Great High Priest he said to John in that verse 19, "Right the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter." My friend you circle that verse with your pencil because it is the divinely given outline of the Book of Revelation. And you will have no difficulty in understanding this book if you keep in mind that division. Now the risen Christ said, "Right the things which thou hast seen," and that of course refers to his high priestly work, the work that is described in the preceding verses, that is Christ is seen standing in the midst of the seven golden lampstands and he's ministering under those lights, and it's a representation of what the Lord Jesus Christ is now doing in heaven, living for you and for me in order that we might give a testimony and shine a light in this darkened world. Now the second division, "the things which are," or the present existing things are in chapters two and three, the messages to the seven churches and they represent the seven stages of the church age from beginning to the end. And then in chapter four right on to chapter twenty-two you have, "the things that shall come to pass hereafter."

That is the things that this earth is going to know after the churches completed and taken away. And everything in chapter four right onto chapter twenty-two has to do with the things that are going to take place after the church age has been completed. And so the book of Revelation from

chapter four right on to the end portrays events that are going to take place on the earth and under the earth during the Great Tribulation period, the rise of the Antichrist, and so on right on to the time when the heavens shall part and the Son of God shall return in glory and he is going to reign for a thousand years and then we're taken right on to the new heavens and the new earth. Now let us go back my dear friends in our study to the glorified Christ and the work that he is now carrying on for you and for me in the presence of God. I want you to look at verse 14. Now before we read this let me remind you that in our studies last week that John saw the glorified Christ standing in the midst of the seven lampstands which represent the church's testimony down here upon this earth. He was standing in the midst of seven golden lampstands and without a doubt that those lampstands being light bearers represent the church down here. And Christ is at the right hand of God and he is ever living to enable us to bear a light to a darkened world. And that is Christ's concern my dear friend about you and me down here upon this earth.

You remember that before he went away he said, "Ye are the light of the world." Now as John saw this vision of the risen Christ standing in the midst of those seven lampstands that he noted the person of Christ and, and he gave to us a description of what he saw the risen Christ to be like. And in verse fourteen we read that John recorded, "his head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire." I touched on that in the study last Friday but, but I told you when we began this study that every symbol in the book of Revelation is explained in some other part of the Bible.

And when John saw the Lord with hair as white as snow the spirit of God evidently took his mind back to the seventh chapter of the book of Daniel where Jehovah was seen by the prophet

Daniel as having hair white as snow, and he is described, that is that Jehovah is described, as the Ancient of Days. You know that white hair speaks of great age and we must remember that while the Lord Jesus Christ was just thirty-three and a half years old when he died on Calvary, yet Micah 5:2 prophesied that he was the one who is going forth had been from old and from everlasting.

In other words the white hair identifies Jesus, the risen Christ, as the one and the same with the Ancient of Days that Daniel saw in the seventh chapter of the book that bears his name. You know my friends that the biggest blasphemer that God lets live is the man who denies the eternal deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. And then in verse fourteen John saw his eyes as a flame of fire. In other words the Lord sees everything with those all-seeing eyes of his. He not only sees the service that you render for him my dear friend but he also sees the motive behind it. And that is a very, very solemn thing for you and for me to remember because everything that is done for self, everything that is done for self-glory, everything that is done for the glory of your denomination is going to be like chaff in that coming day.

You know that the Lord has eyes of fire and he can see not only what you are doing but he can also see the motive. He knows everything and you know that we have a tendency these days when we stand before people to put on a 'front,' as we call it. But let me tell you my dear friends that no person can put on a front with him and when we sing My Jesus I Love Thee he knows whether we speak the truth or not or whether we are just singing in order to just take up the time or because it is a part of the service. He looks into our heart just to see what we really are. And then in verse 15, look at verse 15 there. We read that his feet were like molten brass, and brass in

the Old Testament as you know represents judgment. You remember that the altar of sacrifice in connection with the Jewish Tabernacle and the temple that was erected in Jerusalem was made a brass and the altar of sacrifice was the place where, where the offerings were placed and where they were burned and of course all of those offerings, all those lambs and other animals were all shadows of the coming into this world of the Lord Jesus Christ to be the sin bearer, and they were burned there, they're offered there on an altar of brass.

And then you remember that when they were going through the wilderness and God was displeased with them because of things that they had done, that and then when they repented Moses prayed for them, that God told Moses to put on a pole a brazen serpent, and that is a serpent made of brass. And every person that looked at that serpent, behold he was cleansed, he was healed. And of course it's a picture of Jesus Christ on the cross, there bearing judgment for you and for me and brass speaks of the fact that God must judge sin.

Now your sins and mine were judged at Calvary, but I want to tell you that the day is going to come when he will return to this earth and his, and his feet are going to find that the Lord is going to make his enemies his footstool. It'll be a terrible thing my dear friend in that day to be among his enemies when he comes and his feet are likened unto brass and this too was a very, very serious thing for unconverted people to ponder, for one day he is going to put down all of his enemies and overthrow everything that is foreign to him and that is the time when unconverted men and women will call for the rocks and the hills to fall upon them. And then in verse 16, let your eye go down to verse 16, and you'll find there that his voice is as the sound of many waters.

My friends, have you ever stood on a cliff, a cliff by the seaside at a time when the ocean was in the grip of a storm? If you have you will remember how awed you were by the power of the sea. Great ocean-going liners that seem so large when they were at the dock in the harbor, why they look like little corks or some helpless thing when the ocean aroused itself in fierce anger. And the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ is portrayed here as the voice of the billows of the sea. Do you see it is portrayed as the voice of power that voice is now calling from heaven to men and women to be saved?

And the Lord says, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you a rest." And you know that sometime in the near future all that are in the graves are going to come forth and they're going to hear the voice of the Son of God and they shall come forth. And you'll remember my dear friends how that Jesus said concerning his voice. He said that the hour is coming and now is when all that are in the grave shall hear the voice of the Son of God and they that hear shall live.

And then in first Thessalonians chapter 4 we read that the Lord shall descend from heaven with a shout, and with a, and with a voice of the Archangel, and with a trump of God. And the dead in Christ shall rise first, and then the living are going to be changed. They're going to be caught up all at the call to the voice of the Lord Jesus. My friends I wonder if all of you listening to me this morning have heard the voice of the Lord Jesus in salvation, and you have responded to that call.

All right, now look at that verse 18 that, verse 16 rather, that verse 16 now. And you read this, "He had in his right hand the seven stars." Now the seven stars speak of the ministry that has

been committed to you and to me. You remember my dear friends how that we read in the twelfth chapter of Daniel, "and they that be wise shall shine as the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars are for ever and ever." And the seven stars in the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ speak of this that ministry for God to be rendered by his people is in the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the one that appoints one to go here and another one to go there. And it may be that some of you dear folks listening to me this morning had the desire years ago to go it may be to Africa and India and be a trailblazer but in the providence of God, that you never realized that desire and things just came up that kept you here in this country and that may be that now instead of being a trailblazer you're just raising a bunch of little children for the Lord.

Let me tell you my dear friends that whatever the Lord gives you to do, no matter how seemingly insignificant it is, don't you ever despise it because even the giving of a cup of cold water is recognized by him and shall be rewarded to the full. The stars are in his hands. You know that that word stars you know is wrongly applied these days, for instance the certain folks in Hollywood they speak of the movie stars, the stars of the screen, and the stars of the stage. Let me tell you my dear friend you don't find the real stars there at all. The stars of those are in the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ through faith in him and to them he has given a ministry during his absence.

You know some of God's people seem to be very, very bright stars, stars of the first magnitude. Men like Billy Graham and others that may be named, and then there are others my dear friends and I guess that all of us are in this second class that is very, very insignificant, just like the stars

in the heavens. You go out tonight and have a look at the heavens if the atmosphere is clear. You will see stars of the brightest magnitude, the first magnitude, and then you'll see others. Well you can scarcely see them, but you know my dear friends astronomers will tell you that some of those little stars that you can scarcely see are even larger, many times larger, than the ones that you can see very clearly because they are so far away. And it may be that there are some folks that are far away, as far as publicity is concerned. They never get their names on the front page of any newspaper yet possibly some of you dear folks have been working in the church and you have never gotten your name in the church bulletin.

But let me tell you, don't you let the devil get you discouraged and get to think that your service for the Lord doesn't amount to anything. I tell you it may not be, it may not be recognized the preacher and nobody may come up and shake hands and congratulate you for the good work you are doing. But you know that there is one day my dear friends when the Lord is going to congratulate you. He understands at all. You know oftentimes I find myself reading the 16th chapter of the book of Romans where you'll remember that the apostle Paul says salute this one and salute that one and he names on a bunch of men and women in the Church of Rome, names that do not appear in any other place in the Bible and the Apostle Paul just said some little thing about each one of them and that sixteenth chapter of Romans is of so little consequence my friends that many Bible teachers when they're teaching the book of Romans they just pass over the 16th chapter as though it is not worthy of consideration. But I think that when the apostle Paul wrote that 16th chapter of Romans that he did so with tears in his eyes as he mentioned the men and the women that he mentions there and the service that they had rendered. They were not stars of the first magnitude as far as church leadership was concerned. But when you get into

heaven my dear friends you're going to find some folks that you never heard of, people that have buried their lives somewhere for Christ and in that day they are going to shine like the stars. You know that ministry, ministry is in the hands of the Lord Jesus.

All right, we must hurry on because I want that we should complete the study of this description of the Lord Jesus. Look at verse 16 will you. Look at verse 16, "and out of his mouth." That is this is the Lord Jesus of course, "and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword and his countenance was as the sun shining in his strength." My friends what a statement that is in regard to what the countenance of the Lord Jesus Christ looks like. If you want to know what the face of the Lord Jesus is like in that awful day when he comes as King of Kings and Lord of lords, you go out at noon day when there isn't a cloud in the sky and look into the sun and you will find my dear friends that your eyes will close, your eyelids will close the moment you turn your eyes toward that blaze of fire. You cannot look at the glory of the sun at noon day that is like the face of the Lord Jesus my friend.

You know that in that day men will want to hide and we find that that is so because in the book of Revelation it says that the day is coming when the Lord comes in the glory and unconverted men will want to hide themselves in the dens and in the caves of the earth to get away from the face of the Lord Jesus Christ, but my dear friends how different that is from all those who love him because I guess that the greater number, possibly all of you folks listening to me this morning, you know the Lord Jesus Christ and you love him, and you want to see his face. You know that hymn, "and I shall see his face and tell the story saved by grace," I trust that you're all in that class my dear friends. There is a moment somewhere before us when we shall see his

face, the face that we have never seen before. We have never seen the face of the Lord. We have just seen it by faith my dear friends. But we're going to actually look upon his face and that face will be like the sun in its noon day strength and yet we're not gonna be afraid.

We're not only gonna see his face but we're going to be like him because we shall see him as he is. My dear friends here is given the picture of the Son of God. Now, no man could draw this picture. I hope that none of you folks in radio land put any credence to the pictures that have been drawn of Christ by artists. You know in all the Bible no single word is given to us in regard to the appearance of the Lord Jesus when he was down here upon this earth, not one single iota not a single word was given to us in the four gospels about what the Lord Jesus Christ looked like when he was here upon this earth, but I want to tell you there's a full description given to us my dear friend in regard to how he appears now in the presence of God.

Now I want you to see how all this affected John. Look at verse 17. Now these words seem strange, don't they? Follow me as I read verse 17. "And when I saw, and when I saw him I fell at his feet as dead." Now John was the one my dear friend that leaned on the bosom of the Lord Jesus Christ during his earthly ministry. John is the one that was called the beloved disciple. And I think that any day when Jesus was walking with the disciples that John could come up and put his arm in the arm of the Lord Jesus Christ and just walk along.

It seemed as though he was a little nearer than the rest of the disciples to the Lord Jesus. And it may be that the other disciples had to stand away a little bit. But John was in the inner circle. A man like John had to be very familiar with the Lord Jesus Christ to lay his head on his bosom

and to ask him questions that no other man dared to ask him. And you know that so close to Jesus was this disciples that went there when the other disciples wanted to ask the Lord Jesus some question they would tell John about the question saying, "Now you ask him." But listen. When John saw the risen Christ in this aspect he fell as though dead; instantly he fell to the earth. And my dear friends I want to warn you that these things are coming when Christ in the midst of the judgment has to present himself in such a way that if you are not saved that you will be glad to go into outer darkness. You know my dear friends no unconverted person could ever stand in such a realm as this that is to see where the Lord Jesus Christ is to seem like the sun in its noonday strength.

You know that you have to be regenerated and you have to have a new nature in order to abide in his presence. Any place in the universe would be better for an unconverted man than to be in his presence, and there he was. And John, it says, "he fell to the ground, he fell to the ground as dead." Now my dear friends he wasn't dead. You know nobody ever fell at the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ and died there. Why the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ is the place where folks live my dear friends, it's not the place of death. It is the place of life. Have you ever read through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and read of the different people that fell at the feet of the Lord Jesus? They fell at his feet. Now I tell you my dear friends when they fell at his feet they didn't die. I tell you they found life. They felt, they got strength for the day when they came and fell at his feet. And I beseech you those of you who do not know the Lord Jesus, you voluntarily now fall at his feet, my dear friend. If you are conscious of the fact that you're a sinner and you bear a lot of sins of commission and omission and your conscience is beginning to rob you of sleep. There is one place my dear friends where you're perfectly safe and that is at his feet.

His presence by the very sight of him [inaudible], just filled John. I do not know whether it was with wonderment or with awe or with fear. But you know that when John, look at look at verse 17 will you, "he laid his right hand upon me." That is there was John stretched out, not dead but he fell as a dead man. And the risen Christ laid his hand on him and says, "fear not, fear not, I am the first and the last, I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore and I have the keys of death and of Hades." My friends, I want you to note what the Lord Jesus Christ said to John. He said to John, "Fear not, I am he that liveth and was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore." There is the death and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And it's on that basis that the Lord said to him, "Fear not." And my dear friends when you come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as the one who died for your sins and rose again for your justification you can look into the face of that one whose countenance is like the glory of the sun in its noonday strength and yet have the words spoken to you, "fear not."

You know that those two words, fear not, you know they're wonderful words. And they go right through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and they're only spoken to those who come and put their trust in the Lord Jesus. You know three hundred and sixty five times in the Bible, my dear friends why, that's one for every day in the year isn't it? 365 days of the year and the Lord gives you one of those for each day and if you trust in him and if you put your trust in his death on Calvary and his resurrection my dear friends you can read of all the glory that this whole world is going to see when Christ comes as King of Kings and Lord of lords and you have no need to fear only to rejoice. And then Jesus say, "And I have the keys of death and of Hades." You may say,

"Well Mr. Talbot what does that mean?" Well, we'll see what it means tomorrow because my time is up.

I want to thank you my dear friends for listening and if any of you folks have not written for the chart on Revelation just drop me a card and address it to me personally so that I can take care of this personally and get it in the mail on the same day as that card reaches my desk, and just ask for the book, the chart rather, the chart on Revelation. Thank you for listening and goodbye and God bless you.

[Choir Music]

Announcer:

You've been listening to your radio Bible teacher Dr. Louis T. Talbot Chancellor of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles Inc. Address all mail to Dr. Louis T. Talbot 558 South Hope St., Los Angeles 17 California

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