

## THE BEAUTIFUL CHRIST

By Roelf L. Ruffner

Have you ever wondered what Jesus Christ looks like? The only “pictures” we have of Jesus Christ are the word pictures of the Bible. It is not the blond, blue eyed actor of film and video. It is not the pasty white looking male figure of Renaissance art. It is not the muscular superman found in pictures in the Book of Mormon.

A description of the physical image of Jesus Christ is conspicuously absent in the Bible. We know he did not have long hair (1 Cor. 11:14). He probably had some sort of beard because history tells us that most Palestinian Jewish males of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century A.D. wore beards. With humanity’s propensity to worship idols and icons, thank God for the absence of a picture! Because of early Christianity aversion of idolatry, even idealized pictures of Jesus did not appear until the Third or Fourth Centuries A.D.

The last word picture we have of Jesus was written by the apostle John and the Holy Spirit toward the end of the First Century A.D. in the book of Revelation. In its figurative language we glimpse the glorified Christ – the beautiful Christ - as recorded in Revelation 1:10-20.

## THE GREAT VOICE OF THE MASTER

“I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last...” (Rev. 1:10,11). John may not have heard this voice for sixty years. This was the voice which had declared God’s word with strength and clarity (cf. Mark 1:22; John 7:45, 46); quieted the storm (Mark 4:39); raised the dead (John 11:43); and, slew the arguments of the wicked.”That all flesh may know that I the Lord have drawn forth my sword out of his sheath: it shall not return anymore” (Ezk. 21:5).

## OUR DIVINE KING

In Revelation Chapter One John sees Jesus as he had never seen him before – King of Kings. Like kings of the day He wore a long garment down to his feet with a golden girdle or belt about His “paps” or chest (Rev. 1:12, 13).

He stood in the midst of seven lampstands or “candlesticks” which each represented a congregation of His kingdom, the church, in the province of Asia Minor (Rev. 1:20).

## THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

The person John saw in the midst of the lampstands was amazing. “His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; and his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters”(Rev. 1:14, 15). This is the figure of the all-knowing Christ we will see on the Judgment Day (Rev. 20) – pure, holy and all knowing. Yet this personage exuded the legal wrath or judgment of God. “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Heb. 10:31).

## HIS PRESENCE IS OVERWHELMING

“And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead” (Rev. 1:16-17a). This is not the picture we have of Jesus from popular culture. This symbolized His majesty and power. The sun can burn or bless, heal or hurt. He was coming to judge the churches. John fell at His feet as if he had been hit with a club.

## “FEAR NOT!”

That same “right hand” which held seven stars representing the seven angels, now reassures John that he is under Jesus’ protection and had nothing to fear (Rev. 1:17-20). He was the one who was murdered and buried but God had raised Him up in victory for us (cf. Rom. 6:4)! He has no beginning and no end. He has never been defeated. In His hands He holds the “keys” or symbol of power over death and Hades (Rev. 1:18). At His Second Coming BOTH will be destroyed (1 Cor. 15:24,25; Rev. 20:14).

Have we taken to heart the Bible’s final portrait of the Master: power, majesty, glory, holiness and authority? Are we ready for His triumphant return and judgment of the rebels? Come King Jesus!