

DO NOT BE AFRAID - Rv 1:17-18

122720P

INTRODUCTION

1. Have you experienced immobilizing fear? Dan 8:15-18; 27 & Dan 10:1-19 visited by Gabriel - Dan unhinged : v12 *do not be afraid Dan*
2. John's experience similar to Dan's - Rv 1:10-20
 - i. See Jesus as He is - now. Keep this vision of Jesus in mind as we progress thru Revelation.
 - ii. The church will face scary challenges: remember THIS Jesus who deserves our "fear" & remember that He loves you & is faithful to you.
 - iii. The vision is symbolic. Rv 1:12ff Royal Judge - terrifies enemies but comforts Church. Dragon threatens [Mt 10:28], but fear *Him*.

1st: John Is Overwhelmed - Rv 1:17a

1. John passes out - overwhelmed by holiness & overcome w/ sense of sin.
 - i. Ab - Gn 17:3a; Moses - Exo 3:6; Joshua - Josh 5:14; Manoah - Jdg 13:20b; Isaiah - Isa 6:5; Ezekiel 1:28; 2:23; 43:3; 44:4; Daniel - Dan 8:17; Peter - Lk 5:8; Transfig - Mt 17:6; Jn 18:6 Soldiers in Gethsemane fall to ground when Jesus says "I am"; Paul - A 9:3-4
2. If we know nothing of this experience, have we really met Jesus?
3. Rv 1:17a - expect Jn to fall - but Jn adds *like a dead man*.
 - i. Guards at tome [Mt 28:3-4] *shook for fear & became like dead men*.
 - ii. A death-like experience - Jn on ground, looks dead.

2nd: Jesus Revives John - v17b

1. Jesus physically touches & revives & then speaks [Dan 8:18; 10:10]
2. Recall Jesus touching - healing as picture of resurrection.
3. Rv 1:17 before Jn is given visions, he experiences a kind of resurrection.
4. Lesson - we must be recipients of resurrection life if we are to hear & understand Jesus' words - Lk 24:45
5. *His right hand* - sov'ty, rule; authority [Isa 43:13]

3rd: Jesus Alleviates John's Fear - v17c

1. What would this terrifying Person have to say? *Do not be afraid* = "stop being afraid". [Dan 10:12; Mat 17:7]
2. Jn had good reasons to fear but Jesus' words give reason to stop being afraid. Fear in Jesus alleviates fear - Ps 56:3-4; Ps 23:4-5.
3. Jesus removes our scariest threat: death. He has just given Jn an experience of resurrection triumph over death. The resurrected Jesus says *Do not fear*.

4th: The Fearsome Jesus Dispels Our Fear - v17d-18

1. By fearing Jesus more than all else, He delivers us from bondage to fear.
2. *I am the 1st & the last*: v8; 22:13 before, after, above created time: Isa 44:6
3. *the living One*: contrasted w/ dead idols; Jesus *living* is resurrection life.
 - i. *I was dead* - there is no extremity of human experience of which Jesus is unaware - Gethsemane; Calvary; tomb: Jesus died.
 - ii. *behold*: look at Jesus
 - iii. *I am alive forevermore* - 1stborn from dead - 1st fruit of harvest
 - iv. *I have the keys of death & Hades*: authorized power; *Death & Hades* - are personified & cast into lake of fire [Rv 20:14].

Applic #1: What is Our Posture in the Presence of Christ & His Word?

1. Rv 1 unveils Jesus as He is now. What is the posture of our hearts?
2. Should we experience what John experienced in Jesus' presence?

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3. Posture of heart - various physical postures: crux = heart: [Isa 66:2]

Applic #2: Fall in Fear Before Jesus Alone

1. Rv 19:10; 22:8-9 Jn *falls down* - an angel: *Do not do that, worship God.*
2. Angels - worship creature: imminent not ultimate transcendence = pagan - violation of IInd - [Col 18-19].
3. Demonic deception: men fall down in false worship. Only fall before Jesus

Applic #3: Only Jesus Alone Can Resurrect Us into Life Without Fear.

1. Rv 1:5b you see Jesus' love on cross - v17a-c see Jesus' love here?
2. 1Jn 4:18 When Jesus says, *Do not be afraid*, He is loving us. When we believe His words as more real & true than our speculations, situations & emotional sensations, we are loving Him b/c we are justified [*no punishment*]. Throw fear away - 1Ptr 5:6-7.
3. Since Fall, people misinterpret Jesus' approach. Do not fear as to run from Him. Fear Him w/ reverence. Hear Him w/ faith. The resurrected Lord & King says: *Do not fear.* Believe Him. Live in His love.