

“How Can I Fear?”
Revelation 1:17-20

Introduction:

1. Do You Have A Phobia?
 - Even If You Don't Think You Have One, You Probably Do, According To Most Psychology Reference Books!
 - “The Phobia List” Is A Resource That Has Tried To Compile A Complete List Of Actual Phobias “Found In A Reference Book Or Medical Paper!” (www.phobialist.com)
 - Come Up With 530 So Far – Here Are A Few:
 - Motorphobia - Fear Of Automobiles
 - Ballistophobia - Fear Of Bullets
 - Ecclesiophobia - Fear Of Church
 - Pediophobia - Fear Of Dolls
 - Octopophobia - Fear Of The Number 8
2. Of Course, Christians Have Phobias Also!
 - Even Spiritual Phobias!
 - Especially In “Spiritually Harsh Environments!”
 - Some Are More Legitimate Than Others!
 - Fear Of Trials! Temptations! Tribulation!
 - Whatever Phobia / Fear You Have – The Strong Christian & The Strong Church Looks To Jesus!
 - Who Says: “Fear Not!”
 - When Jesus Called Peter, James & John, They Were Afraid When Jesus Miraculously Provided Them A Huge Catch Of Fish, Jesus Said: “Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men!” (Luke 5:10)
 - When Jairus' Daughter Was Dead, Jesus Said: “Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole!” (Luke 8:50)
 - And When John Saw The Vision Of Jesus In All His Glory, And “Fell at his feet as dead” – Jesus “Laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not!” (Revelation 1:17)
3. John Was Afraid! What Name Would They Come Up With For His Phobia?
 - But Look What Jesus Did!
 - John Felt His Tender Touch!
 - “Laid His Right Hand Upon Me!”
 - Previously, John Had Seen 7 Stars Held In This Right Hand, Symbolizing His Great Power! Now, The Hand Of Control Became The Hand Of Concern & Care – For John!
 - What Happened To The 7 Stars?
 - It Never Says They Were Moved! They Probably Remained In Jesus' Hand – But Now, John Was Included With Them!
 - Only Jesus' Hand Could Calm John's Fear!
 - John Heard His Tender Voice!
 - “Fear Not!”
 - Stop Being Afraid! Because Of John's Relationship With Jesus, He Did Not Need To Fear!
 - Only Jesus' Voice Could Calm John's Fear!
4. And The Lord Jesus Can Calm Your Fear Also!
 - How?
 1. ***Through His Great Identity!***
 - 1:17-18 - “I am the first and the last; / I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death!”
 - One Of The Main Reasons For Fear Is Uncertainty!
 - Uncertainty About Life!
 - Uncertainty About Death!
 - Uncertainty About What Happens After Death!
 - John & His Churches May Have Been Experiencing Uncertainty In These Areas Also! So Jesus

Removed This Uncertainty, By Identifying Himself As The One Who Has The Answers / Solutions To These Age-Old Questions / Problems!

- He Is The Source Of All Purpose!
 - “I Am The First And The Last!”
 - Teaches That There Is No One Greater Than Him!
 - He Is Identified With The One True God!
 - Isaiah 44:1 - “I the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am He!”
 - And As God, He Is The:
 - “First” - The Preeminent One! Colossians 1:18 - “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence!”
 - And As God, He Is The:
 - “Last” - The Perfect One!
 - Similar Idea: “Second” – There Is No Third!
 - Second Appearance / Covenant / Veil / Man!
 - Jesus Alone Can Calm The Fear Of Uncertainty About Life – When You Find Your Purpose In Him!
- He Is The Source Of All Life!
 - “I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen!”
 - Teaches His “Ever-Abiding Life!” (Thomas)
 - He Is Life!
 - “He That Liveth!” – Present Tense
 - He Alone Can Create Life, Sustain Life, Renew Life! Because He Is Life!
 - He Did Die!
 - “And Was Dead!” – Past Tense
 - His Death Was Actual, Historical, But Temporary!
 - Life Died! This Is The Gospel! Jesus Died Voluntarily, As A Substitute For Us!
 - He Is Alive!
 - “Alive For Evermore!”
 - This Speaks Of His Resurrection & Our Hope!
 - He Will Never Die Again! No Need To!
 - John 10:17-18 - “Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. / No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father!”
 - Jesus Alone Can Calm The Fear Of Uncertainty About Death – When You Find Your Life In Him!
- He Is The Source Of All Salvation!
 - “And have the keys of hell and of death!”
 - Two Keys: Only Jesus Holds These Keys!
 - The Key Of Death!
 - Death Is Fearful, Final, Hopeless & Unknown!
 - Opens The Door Of Fear!
 - Jesus Unlocked This Door For Himself, So That Others, Through Him, Need Not Fear!
 - The Key Of Hades!
 - The Place Of The Dead – The Grave – What Happens After Death? Annihilation / Reincarnation / Deification?
 - Opens The Door Of The Future!
 - Jesus Alone Can Calm The Fear Of Uncertainty About What Happens After Death – When You Find Your Salvation In Him!

2. ***Through His Great Intelligence!***

- 1:19 - “Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter!”
- Another Source Of Fear Is The Uncertainty Of Events In Life! But The Lord Jesus Can Calm

- This Fear Also!
 - Because He Knows & Is In Control Of:
- The Past!
 - “The Things Which Thou Hast Seen!”
 - Jesus Commands John Here To Write These Things, Because They Are True! Most See Here An Outline To Revelation – But It Also Shows What God Knows & Reveals To John!
 - Everything John Heard & Saw Up Until Now!
 - Mostly A Description Of Jesus!
 - He Is The Reason We Can “Fear Not!”
- The Present!
 - “The Things Which Are!”
 - Most Likely, What Is Going On In The Churches – Back Then & Now! Their Current Situation & Condition!
- The Future!
 - “The Things Which Shall Be Hereafter!”
 - Probably Everything After Revelation 4:1 - “After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be *hereafter!*”
- Only Jesus Could Calm These Fears!
 - He Knows What Is Has Happened!
 - He Knows What Is Happening!
 - He Knows What Will Happen!
 - Because He Is In Control Of All That Happens!
 - And There’s No Need To Fear!

3. ***Through His Great Illumination!***

- 1:20 - “The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches!”
 - There Are Many Secrets & Mysteries In This World!
 - And A Great Fear Of The Unknown!
 - But, Through The Lord’s Illumination, He Can Calm This Fear As Well!
 - He Illuminates That Which Is Concealed! Mark 4:22 - “There is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad!”
 - “Mystery” - Secret - Something “Beyond The Reach Of Natural Human Understanding And Can Only Be Grasped Through Special Revelation Through God’s Spirit!”
(Thomas)
- For The Christian!
 - “Seven Stars” = “Angels Of The Seven Churches”
 - “Angel” - Messenger - Either A Pastor / Leader / Messenger Of These Churches!
 - They Are In His Hand! No Need To Fear!
- For The Church!
 - “Seven Candlesticks” = “The Seven Churches”
 - They Are In His Presence! No Need To Fear!

Conclusion:

1. What Is Your Phobia?
 - The Lord Jesus Alone Can Calm Your Fears!
 - He Places His Hand On You, And Says: “Fear Not!”
 - Trust Me! “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. / Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. / For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light!” (Mark 11:28-30)
2. So, How Can I Fear?

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