

WHEN THEY SAW HIM

John the Revelator had a face-to-face encounter with Jesus Christ on the little island of Patmos. He wrote, "I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me"(Revelation 1:12). John went on to describe the one he saw. John saw him clothed in a robe, not naked on the cross (v 13). He saw Jesus with a golden sash, indicating his priesthood (v 13). He saw him with hair like white wool, as a sign of purity (v 14). He saw his penetrating eyes that were like a flame of fire (v 14). He saw Jesus holding seven stars, showing his royal command (v 16). He saw a sharp sword, not in his hand, but coming out of his mouth, indicating the power of his word (v 16). Jesus's face was like the sun, shining in all its brilliance, as the Light of the World, and the Bright and Morning Star(v 16).

Now, remember that John knew Jesus very well. He lived and traveled with him. John was one of Jesus' original 12 disciples. He was the only one of the 12 disciples that is recorded as standing right at the cross when Jesus died. Yet, when John saw Jesus this time, he "fell at His feet like a dead man" (Revelation 1:17).

The last time John had seen Christ was with a group of 10 other disciples, just before Jesus' ascension into Heaven. Matthew records it this way, "when they saw Him, they worshiped Him" but that "some were doubtful". Obviously, some of the disciples did not see Jesus like the others did. They saw, but were not moved to worship.

The Psalmist wrote, "to You I lift up my eyes, O You who are enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God" (Psalm 123:1,2).

Some day, all will see Christ and will fall before him in reverence and recognition of who he is. (Philippians 2:10) No one will be forced to bow and worship. When humanity sees Jesus in all of his glory, just as John did in Revelation, worship will be the natural response. Doubt will flee.

True worship takes place when we see just who Jesus is.