

DRAGONS, JOHN, AND EVERY GRAIN OF SAND

The Heavenly High Priest, Revelation 1:12-18

The first portrait of Jesus is so striking that it knocks John to the ground (1:17). The portrait is drawn from the well of OT imagery. As the following chart shows, it is a composite of the visionary figures of Daniel 7:9-14 and 10:5-6:

The Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. . . there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. (Dan 7:9,13-14)

I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of the finest gold around his waist. His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude. (Dan 10:5-6)

The figure has the accoutrements of a priest (robe, sash, and candlesticks)<sup>5</sup> but the face, eyes, hair, and voice of Yahweh.

Image from Rev 1	Old Testament Source(s) of the Image	Attribute of:
Seven Lampstands (cf. 1:20; 2:1)	Num 8:2, the seven lampstands gave light in front of the temple	Priest
<b>EPHESUS</b>	Zech 4:2, describes an apocalyptic lampstand with seven lights directly connected to the olive tree.	Priest
Son of Man	Dan 7:13-14, He approached the ancient of days and was given all power and authority and was worshiped.	Man: <b>PHUMAN BEING</b>
Robe (rothnng)	The Linen Ephod of the High Priest: Exod 25:7; 28:4,31; 29:5; 35:9; Zech 3:4; Wis 18:24; Sir 45:8.	Priest
Golden Sash	Ezek 9:2,3,11, an apocalyptic harbinger of the city's destruction. With his writing kit he marked those in the city not to be destroyed.	Angel = <b>HEAVENLY COUNCIL</b>
	High Priestly Vestments: Exod 28:4,39,40; 29:9; 36:36; Lev 8:7,13; 16:4 [DAN];	Priest
	<b>SEE REV 15:6</b>	

IMAGES OF JESUS IN REVELATION

Hair white like wool	Dan 7:9, "the hair of his head like pure wool"	God
Eyes of fire (cf. 2:18; 19:12)	Dan 10:6, "His body was like beryl, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the roar of a multitude."	Angel OF THE LORD
<b>THYATIRA</b> 1:14-15	Dan 10:6 [see above], also the four living creatures of Ezek 1:7,24,40-3	Angel
Voice like rushing water (cf. 1:10, "like a trumpet")	Dan 10:6 "his words like the roar of a multitude"; God's voice is like many waters (Ezek 43:2) and like thunder (Job 40:9). The voice of the four living creatures is also like thunder (Rev 6:1) and the mighty angel has a voice like a lion roaring. (Rev 10:3). <b>EZEK 1:24</b>	God / Angel OF YAHWEH OF HOSTS PSALM 29
Right hand held seven stars (cf. 1:20; 2:1; 3:1) <b>1216</b>	It may refer to the seven stars of the constellation of Pleiades (Amos 5:8, KJV).	God
Double-edged sword (Strolog of Rev 2:12; Heb 4:12) <b>REVSAMOS</b> 1216	"The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword" (Heb 4:12). In the OT it was both literal (Judg 3:16; Ps 149:6) and metaphorical (Prov 5:4; Sir 21:3).	Prophet
Face shining	Moses' face shone from God's presence (Exod 34:30,35; 2Cor 4:6); in a similar fashion, Jesus' face shone at the transfiguration (Mt 17:2/Mk 9:3/Lk 9:29). 2Esd 7:97 (cf. 7:125), the 6 <sup>th</sup> of 7 levels of exalted souls have shining faces. Zion allegorically appears as a woman with a shining face (2Esd 10:25).	Prophet APOSTLE
First and Last (cf. 1:8; 21:6) <b>SMVKNA</b>	Isa 44:6; this is a title for Yahweh, which Jesus assumes in 22:13.	God YAHWEH
Living One (cf. 4:9; 10:6; also 7:2) <b>SMVKNA</b> 1217e	A title for God in 1:4,8; 4:8 (cf. Deut 5:26; Josh 3:10; 1Sam 17:36; 2Kgs 19:4; 3Macc 6:28; Acts 14:15; 2Cor 3:3; 6:16; 1Thes 1:9; 1Tim 3:15; 4:10; Heb 3:12; 9:14; 10:31; 12:22).	Saints
Keys of death and Hades <b>PHIA DELPHIA</b> (REV 6:10 & 19:11)	The sole prerogative of God (Deut 32:39; 1Sam 2:6; Tob 13:2; Wis 16:13). They were not given to any delegate according to the Rabbis (b. Taan 2a) or any creature (PesiqR 42.7, 178a).	God & 40

FAITHFUL & TRUE WITNESS (REV 1:5; 3:14) LAODICEA 197 AMEN (REV 1:6, 7 & 18:3-7) BEGINNING (REV 1:8; 2:16; 22:13) CREATION (REV 4:11; 10:6)

REV 1:6  
22:13