***The Exalted Lord Jesus***

**Revelation 1.9-20**

**Canon City EFC 2-12-14**

**MAIN IDEA:** We must bow before the exalted Lord Jesus, and by His empowering grace, serve Him

with freedom and confidence as members of His Kingdom.

**SUPPORTING IDEAS:**

 We have ties with John; v.9 calls himself *John, your brother and companion*

* This is plural: “ours”; natural and necessary part of being “in Jesus”, v.9
* companion in the suffering - his exile on Patmos was an example (Jn 15.20; II Tim 3.12)
* companions in [His] kingdom even in exile, the Lord rules, the Lord speaks
* companions in patient endurance – we live today, anticipating all He has coming

 THE VISION – What (actually Who) He saw (vs. 12-16; parallel to Dan.7, affirmation of Jesus’ diety)

 What do with this vision? Don’t do anything; what He does to us; what seeing Jesus did to John

Overwhelmed as were others who caught a glimpse of God (cf *Ezk 1:28; Is 6:5)*

It was kindness, during His time on earth that veiled the full glory of the Lord Jesus

Jesus speaks He identifies himself, v.17-18

Reason we are able to worship, & not be destroyed is what happens next:

* Given grace – Jesus *“placed His right hand on me”, v.17*
* *He ”said, do not be afraid” -* being with Him is terrifying, till His gracious touch
* So much that’s different in this vision, yet so much that’s the same about our Savior

Another dual reminder of grace - Jesus in relation to His churches, v.20

*AMONG THEM -* Though we can’t see Him, He’s here – among us *(cf. Matt 28:20)*

*IN HIS RIGHT HAND* – what better place could there be?

RESPOND TO HIS GLORY - Fall in adoration and surrender

RESPOND TO HIS GRACE He stands among us; we are not alone

 He puts His hand on us: lifts us up, takes away fear & empowers as members of His Kingdom

 Stand and obey the One who is among us

**CONCLUSION / APPPLICATION**

Discuss together what you know about John, the human author of the Revelation. How well did he know Jesus? Why would this vision of one He knew so well affect him as it did, v.17?

What qualities or characteristics of Jesus do we tend to emphasize? How does that compare with what is revealed about Him here in chap 1? Why does John’s response make sense, v.17?

Have a member of the group read the vision of Jesus (vs.12-16), while others listen with eyes closed. Allow time for silent reflection; then if it seems appropriate, share impressions. How is the vision reinforced with how Jesus describes Himself, 20?

John is helpless, able to do nothing; what does the exalted Lord do? how is this reminiscent of what we know of Him from the gospels? Eugene Peterson speaks of “*St John exiled is now St John empowered”.* How can recognizing more about Jesus free us to live beyond today’s circumstance?

As you pray, ask the Holy Spirit to help all of us see more of who Jesus is and live accordingly.