

Awestruck By Jesus



One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So that disciple, **leaning back against Jesus**, said to him, "Lord, who is it?"

– John 13:23-25

I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea." Then I turned to see the voice that was

speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

– Revelation 1:9-20

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a **loud voice** like a trumpet...

his voice was like the roar of many waters
Revelation 1:15

Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I
have slain them by the words of my mouth
- Hosea 6:5

he thunders with his majestic voice,
and he does not restrain the lightnings when his
voice is heard.
– Job 37:4

The hairs of his head were white, like
white wool, like snow.

“You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

- Leviticus 19:32

Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.

– Proverbs 16:31

As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the **hair of his head like pure wool**; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire.

– Daniel 7:9

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one.

Isaiah 41:4

Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? **I, the LORD, the first, and with the last;** I am he.

Isaiah 44:6

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the **LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last;** besides me there is no god.

Isaiah 48:12

Listen to me, O Jacob, and Israel, whom I called!
I am he; I am the first, and I am the last.

Fear not, I am the first and the last,
and **the living one.**

Psalm 42:2

My soul thirsts for God, for the **living God**.

Psalm 84:2

My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the **living God**.

Isaiah 48:12

For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the **living and true God**

I died, and behold I am alive
forevermore

*I became dead and behold I am alive for
evermore.*

John 10:17-18

I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.

On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.” And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

A God-centered, gospel-fueled worship service is a service that leads people to conclude that Jesus plus nothing equals everything and everything minus Jesus equals nothing.

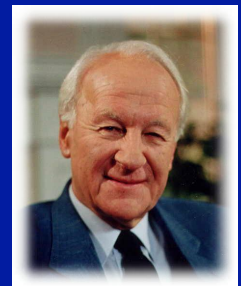
- Tullian Tchividjian



The fundamental basis of all Christian missionary enterprise is the universal authority of Jesus Christ, “in heaven and on earth.” If the authority of Jesus were circumscribed on earth, if He were but one of many religious teachers, one of many Jewish prophets, one of many divine incarnations, we would have no mandate to present Him to the nations as the Lord and Savior of the world. If the authority of Jesus were limited in heaven,

if He has not decisively overthrown the principalities and powers, we might still proclaim Him to the nations, but we would never be able to “turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God” (Acts 26:18). Only because all authority on earth belongs to Christ dare we go to all nations. And only because all authority in heaven as well is His have we any hope of success.

– John Stott



How did we end up so comfortable with God? How did our awe of God get reduced to a lukewarm appreciation of God? How did God become a pal instead of a heart-stopping presence? How can we think of Jesus without remembering His ground-shaking, thunder-crashing, stormy exit on the cross? Why aren't we continually catching our breath and saying, "This is no ordinary God!"

– Mike Yaconelli

