

Vision of John

by Stephen Kaung

Stephen Kaung's sermon explores the significance of John's vision in Revelation, emphasizing the church's role as a light holder in the world.

Duration: 1:19:17

Scripture: Matthew 16:16-17, John 1:29, Revelation 1:1-9

Topics: "Church Focus", "Godly Purpose"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker discusses the importance of the church and its relationship with God. He describes a vision that the apostle John had on the island of Patmos, where he saw seven golden landscapes representing the seven churches in Asia. The speaker emphasizes that the church should not be the center of attention, but rather God and His purpose. He highlights the need for the church to let the light of Christ shine without being covered by worldly concerns and distractions. The sermon encourages believers to focus on the true essence of the church and strive to align themselves with God's thoughts and desires.

Transcript

This is the last book of the New Testament, the book of Revelation, chapter 1. Right from chapter 9 to the end of the chapter. This is a very precious work of the Lord. We will read it slowly.

And after this, we will hand the meeting to Brother Stephen Tong. The book of Revelation, chapter 1, verse 9. I, John, wrote your brother a compliment in tribulation in the kingdom and places of Jesus Christ, but on the island that is called Patmos, for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I, John, wrote your brother a compliment in tribulation in the kingdom and places of Jesus Christ, but on the island that is called Patmos, for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

I was in the Spirit, and the Lord said, and I heard behind me a loud voice as of a thumper, saying, I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last. And what you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia, in Tushit, Nanyang, Pagoda, Teotihuacan, Tzadik, Teotihuacan, and Laodicea. What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia, in Tushit, Nanyang, Pagoda, Teotihuacan, Teotihuacan, and Laodicea.

Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me, and having turned, I saw seven golden lampstands. In the midst of the seven lampstands, one, as a son of man, saw his drumming down to the sea, girded about

the chest a golden band. His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes like a flame of fire.

His feet were like fine gold, as if he was walking on the sea, and his voice the sound of many waters. He had in his right hand seven swords, out of his mouth ran a sharp two-edged sword, and his countenance was like the sun shining in the sky. When I saw him, I smiled at his feet as he did, but he laid his right hand on me and said, say to me, do not be afraid, I am the first and the last.

I am he who lives, who is dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the key of freedom and of life.

Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, the things which are. Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are now, and the things which are in the future. When you see the seven stars in my right hand, and the seven golden lamps, and the Lord and His blessing to the women's world is clear.

Dr. Stephen Fong and I would like to share the Lord's Prayer with you. Dear Heavenly Father, we do praise and thank thee for giving us another opportunity. That we may meet together in the name of thy beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

We want to thank thee for thy precious words. Now we look to thy Holy Spirit to quicken thy word to our hearts. That we may not only read thy word, but we may hear thy word.

We do submit ourselves to thee. And trust thy Holy Spirit to do the work. And it is all for the glory of God the Father.

We ask in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen. It is written in the book of Hebrews.

Yet once, not only the earth was shaken, but the earth and the heavens will be shaken. That which is created will all be shaken away. Only that which cannot be shaken will remain.

Now brothers and sisters, we are living in a day of great shaking. We find that everything that is created is being shaken. All that belongs to the old creation will be shaken off.

Only that which is of the new creation. Only that which is of Christ. That will remain forever.

So when we are living in such a day of shaking. It is very essential for us to have that heavenly vision. Because without that heavenly vision.

We will not be able to distinguish what is of the old creation and what is of the new creation. We will not be able to see what can be shaken and what cannot be shaken. And without that heavenly vision.

We will not be able to let go that which can be shaken. And lay hold upon that which cannot be shaken. And without that heavenly vision.

We will not have the strength to press on towards the goal. It is therefore of extreme importance. That we touch that heavenly vision.

And also be obedient to it. So that is the burden that we have during these two evenings. We talk about the vision given to the Apostle Peter.

And we also share about the vision given to Paul. And this evening we would like to share together on the vision given to John the Apostle. It is that vision of the kingdom And then finally we find the Lord continue to reveal to people That the church in its initial state is just like a white sheet It is tied on four corners And it descended out of heaven upon the earth And eating in the scripture means fellowship In the church of God We receive all who have been received by the Lord Jesus Our fellowship is with all God's people And this is the vision given to people Therefore you find the Lord apprehended another man He apprehended Saul the Pharisee He appeared to him on the road to Damascus And there Paul caught the heavenly vision In the heavenly vision he saw a universal man The head is in heaven Represented by the risen Lord And the body covers all the earth Includes all who are believers, the followers of our Lord Jesus Jesus is Lord Completely to him and to his will So you find God said Lord who are you?

Lord what shall I be? Seeing the vision God capitulated to the Lord Himself And by the building of the church local Identifying with one another We find that vision is continual With that vision given to John the Apostle The scripture we read in the beginning That is Revelation chapter 1 From verse 1 to...

From verse 9 to verse 20 We call this vision The Patmos vision Why is it so? Because John the Apostle was exiled to the island of Patmos We know that the Apostle John Was among the first who followed the Lord Jesus You remember in John chapter 1?

When John the Baptist said Behold this is the land of God Two of his disciples left him and followed Jesus And they stayed with Jesus that night And one of them was John And he did not name that disciple He named the other one Angel But we know that the other one was John himself So John was among the first who followed the Lord Jesus And he was one who was closest to the Lord And he was the one who lived the longest among the top apostles After Paul and Peter were martyred And we find that evidently John

moved from Jerusalem to Ephesus So he ministered to the churches in Asia Now the Asia is not Asia the continent It is Asia the Roman colony And it is Asia Minor And in Asia Minor there were a number of churches there And John he ministered to these churches while he was in Ephesus

But during the reign of Emperor Domitian He was arrested and exiled to Thessaloniki Now Thessaloniki was a barren rocky island And he was in the agency And most likely he was exiled there to be a slave laborer He would work in the mine there And he was exiled for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Now if we read it within the context Probably the word of God there refers to the Old Testament And he referred to Moses and the prophet That is the word of God at that time And the word of God prophesied about the coming Messiah You know our Lord Jesus after his resurrection He explained the disciples From Moses and the prophet and the song Because all these spoke of him So that composed the word of God And the testimony of Jesus And the testimony of Jesus referred to That our Lord

Jesus has come upon this earth And yet accomplished the work of salvation He is Lord over all things Now you find the apostle John He preached the word of God and he testified about Jesus John preached the word of God and he testified about Jesus You find all the early apostles did that They will quote the Old Testament And they will use the word of the Old Testament to prove to the people that Jesus is the Messiah They will use the word of the Old Testament to prove to the people that Jesus is the Messiah They will praise Jesus Christ and he crucified And because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus John was exiled to the island of Patna And he labored there in the mine Now most likely on the Lord's day He was free from labor And if we can visualize it If we can imagine When he

had that free time You can imagine what he would do Probably he would sit on a rock And we will look across the Asian Sea He will look across the Asian Sea To the continent there Because in clear day You can see the outline of the land across the sea And where the seven churches of Asia were located You know his heart was still with God's people there You know his heart was still with God's people there Because before he was exiled he was serving there He took care of the sheep there But now he was on an island He could no longer cater the flock But his heart was still with them So he must be looking across the sea And he was thinking about the churches in Asia He didn't know what happened to these people Who will take care of them What were their conditions now And as he was thinking

about these things Suddenly he heard a voice A loud voice like a trumpet voice And when he heard that voice He turned back to look at the voice You know brothers and sisters He was looking across the sea He was looking at the seven churches in Asia He was looking at them with his physical eyes He was thinking of them with his mind He was thinking of them in his heart But the voice came from behind So he turned back In other words He was not looking at the physical conditions of the land He was not thinking of the physical state of the church The voice turned him back And showed him a vision It is a heavenly vision Now what did he see As he turned back He saw seven golden lamps And in the midst of the seven golden lamps There was one like the Son of Man standing there Now this is the

Cosmos vision The seven golden lamps Is explained to us Because the Bible tells us The mystery of the lamps Is the seven churches in Asia So we do not need to try to find out What the lamp stands represent The lamp stands represent the churches in Asia There were seven churches in Asia Now as a matter of fact During that time there were more than seven churches in Asia Because we find there is a church that collapsed There is a church in Hyderabad And so you find actually there were more than seven churches in Asia But the Holy Spirit took out these seven churches And Holy Spirit took out these seven churches Because these seven churches represent the churches throughout Asia Now every church is represented

by a lamp stand The church in Ephesus Now Ephesus is a city in Asia There in that

city There is the church of God And in that church we have all God's people there But the church in Ephesus on earth Represents the heaven before God as a golden lamp stand Now you have a church in Smyrna And yet before God it is represented by another golden lamp stand And these seven churches in Asia In the sight of God they are seven golden lamps No matter what are the conditions of the seven churches in Asia Before God they are represented by seven golden lamps Now we remember when Moses built the tabernacle You remember God commanded him to build the tabernacle And to build everything according to the pattern of the map And one of the vessels in the tabernacle is a golden lamp stand Now if you read Exodus chapter 25 Or Exodus 37 You will find how this golden lamp stand was built But

in the tabernacle You find there is only one golden lamp stand With seven branches Because it speaks of the unity You know seven is a perfect number And these seven form one lamp stand So it speaks of the unity But here you find there are seven separate lamp stands Why?

Because here it speaks of responsibility Here it speaks of responsibility Every church is directly responsible What is the church? Before God the church is a lamp stand Now remember the church is not the light The church is a light holder Because Christ is the light He said I am the light of the world But that light is being held up by the church So remember the church is not the end The church is a means to an end The church is a vessel It is a vessel that holds the light God permits Christ Jesus the testimony of Jesus to the church And it is the responsibility of the church to hold the testimony of Jesus It is very interesting Because when you notice all the different furniture in the tabernacle You find that most of the furniture are made of wood And overlaid with gold You know in the Holy of All You have the ark Ark is made of wood But it is overlaid inside and outside with pure gold But the mercy seat is of pure gold There is no wood in that mercy seat Now when you come to the holy place You find the golden altar of incense And it is also made of wood But overlaid with gold And you come to the golden table of silver It is also made of wood But overlaid with gold And yet you find it is very interesting Because that lantern is made of pure gold There is no wood in it Now you know wood in the scripture represents human nature Gold represents the nature of God Now we will say If the lantern is of the church And then it should be made of wood Because the church is composed of people like you and me And thank God overlaid with gold Now we will think that is what the church is Now when you ask a person What is the church?

Now those who are ignorant Older would say Well on the second corner of the square there is the church In other words it points to a building So people say now we go to church Now what do you mean by go to church? You go to a building Where the church meets And so we know that that is not the church The building with stone or with wood or whatever is not the church And I think we know that The church is not an organization And we know that We know that the church is an organism And it is composed of believers Not just people gather together But people who believe in the Lord Jesus And they gather together Now that is the church Because the word church in Greek And they gather together In the name of the Lord Jesus Now we find that this is the church So in other words The church is composed of people like we are tonight Then it should be wood Because we are all wood And they overlay the gold That should be the lampstand But strange to say We find in typology We find that in reality In the eyes of God The church is a golden lampstand There is no wood in it Now what does it mean?

It means that in the church All that is of the old creation All that belongs to Adam All that belongs to the flesh All that originally we were All these will be dealt with by the cross Passed off by the cross And what

remains is Christ and Christ alone So it is golden It is pure gold There is no wood in it Unfortunately Today we find in the church Man, man, man Man's idea Man's opinion Man's way Man's method Everything is just man That is wood But in the sight of God What the church really is Is none other but Christ himself That is the reason why in 1 Corinthians 12 It says the body is one But there are many members Even though the members are many But the body is one Now notice What the Holy Spirit says So also is the Christ Now we will say So also is the church Because the church is one body With many members And yet the Holy Spirit says So also in the church Does the Christ Because the church is Christ himself It is a function of Christ It is Christ in you Christ in me That forms the church So if you will forgive me I will give you a simple formula You know spiritual things can never be put into a formula Because if you put it into the formula It becomes mechanical For the sake of explanation Now let me try to explain it You forget the formula But you remain the explanation Those on this earth Supposing Singapore There are only Three believers One is Peter One is Paul And one is John Now suppose in Singapore There are only three believers Now what is the church in Singapore Well the church in Singapore Is made up of Peter, Paul and John Now these men Are holy men These men are apostles They are the queen Of believers Now surely If the church is composed of these three men Now that church will be a glorious church Now if the church is composed of these three men They will have no problem whatsoever But is that true You will find Peter He always likes to be the first And you remember John And when our Lord Jesus was going to Jerusalem All the disciples thought that the Lord was going to be crowned king And you find John and James They asked their mother To come and ask for them They want to sit on the right and the left of the Lord Jesus And the other ten disciples were indignant about it Because everyone wants to have the top place You know John He is called a son of thunder And when the thunder strikes He is terrified So you find Paul Again is a very strong willed person You find that he even opposed Peter At the face He wasn't compromising anyway Now if these three men Form the church Everyone wants to be the top And you will find the church will be broken into three churches You have a teaching church You have the Pauline church You have the Johannes church Brothers and sisters You find what is the church The church is the Christ in Peter Plus the Christ in Paul Plus the Christ in John Ego to the church Is that correct?

Because that will mean The landscape will be made of wood Overlaid with gold You find the man is still there But fortunately overlaid with gold So what will be the formula? The formula will be this The Christ in Peter Minus Peter Plus the Christ in Paul Minus Paul Plus the Christ in John Minus John Now It equals to The Christ Go brothers and sisters Before the Lord The church is a golden landscape Because in the church there is nothing but Christ himself All that is man Is crossed out by the cross Only that which is Christ remains It is a golden landscape You know the light You do not put the light Under the bush You do not put the light Under the couch And you do not Put the light In the secret place That you find in Matthew Mark And Luke Mark You know Bushel What is bushel?

Bushel is a measurement You measure the wheat Or the grain With a bushel It means that the light Cannot be put under the bushel Because the bushel Will cover the light Now brothers and sisters How Christ the light Is covered By bushel today The anxieties Of this life What shall we eat What shall we drink What shall we do clothes with This is like a bushel And it covers the light Because we are Hidden after the things Of this life Therefore the light of Christ Is hidden And what do you mean By the couch The couch is a place Where you lie down And relax In other words If we seek For the meaning Of life Then you find The light of Christ Is being hidden Now you do not Put the light In a secret place You have to put The light On the lamp You have to put The light On the lamp And the church Is

the lamp Now if you will Allow me to describe More You know if you go Back to Exodus Chapter 25 You know how is This lamp stand built It is built Of one talent Of pure gold In other words It is built of one piece Of gold Because that piece Of gold represents Our Lord Jesus It represents The divine light And out of That piece Of gold The lamp stand Is built Now how is it built You find that It is decent work You know you do not Melt the gold And pour it into a mold Then you can Reproduce it Everywhere No you find that The church is not Built that way You find that It is one piece Of gold That is beaten Beaten Beaten We do not know How many Beaten Beats That gold will be With us And so finally A beautiful Form Of a lamp stand Is built So brothers and sisters You find that Even though The

Christ in us And the Christ in you It will build up the church Not only Our old man Ourselves Needs to be beaten away Now this we understand You know our own opinion Our own feeling Our own practice Our own wisdom Our own strength Now all these things Has to be beaten away This we understand But even the life Of Christ In each one of us Also needs to be beaten Now it is killed gold Why should the killed gold Be beaten It is not for the sake Of beating off the refugees It is to be beaten Into a form Brothers and sisters How we need to go Through this together You know in the church There will be problems Now you cannot find A church that has no problems Now thank God for problems Because when there are Problems Then we will go Through it together We all like the gold That is being beaten

Into form And finally The lamp stand Then the lamp stand So it is a piece of work And you find it is Exquisite It is beautiful You find that there is The base And there is a stalk And if you read 1 Timothy 3 Verse 15 Now what is the church The house of God Is the church of the living God It is the base and pillar Of these three So here you find The church has a base And it has a stalk The church is the base And the pillar of the tree And then you find There are seven branches And the branches are made of Cups Knobs And flowers The cup Is like an element Now if you read Psalm 16 It says the Lord Is the portion Of my inheritance And of my cup So we find the cup The seeds of that Which is still in it And it is shaped like an almond Because the almond flower Is the first flower That comes out

after winter So it speaks of resurrection So you find the church Is filled with the resurrection life Of the Lord Jesus And then upon the cup There is a knob And the knob Is the concentration of life So it speaks of Life abundance And then out of the knob Comes out a flower It is the beauty Of the life of Christ There you find The fruit of the Holy Spirit As you find in Galatians 5 So what is the church The church is a golden lantern And it is full of the life of Christ It manifests the beauty of Christ It holds up Christ As the light of the world That is what the church is Before God Now when you look at the church On earth today Now even when you look At the seven churches in Asia You read chapter 2 And chapter 3 of Revelation You find that most of the churches Need to repent The

conditions are Not very good That is the condition you find In the churches on earth And yet the churches Before God It is a glorious church Now what is What measures The success and the failure Of the church on earth You know people today Measure the success Or the failure of the church By the numbers And if you increase In great numbers Then the church is successful And if the number is small Then the church fails But brothers and sisters God measures The success and the failure Of the church According to the golden lantern According to the golden lantern How close you are To the golden lantern How close you are To the thought of God Concerning the church How much in the church Is truly Christ That measures the success Or the failure Of the church on earth But thank God You find that

There are seven golden lanterns And at the front Of the seven golden lanterns There was one light The standard man Brothers and sisters The seven golden lanterns Form the background And the one Like the

standard man Is actually the center Of the picture What God wants us to see Is to see The center And the church Is just the background Of the picture He tries to Push forth To make Christ More prominent You know when you are doing A painting You need to paint The background But The thought of the painter Is not the background He uses the background To try to make The thing that he wants you to see More prominent So never make the church The foreground The church is only a background Is it hidden In a sense And it is To make Christ more Manifest So here you'll find He saw one Like the son

of man Now why does the bible Say like son of man We know he is The son of man As well as the son of God But at that time When John saw the Lord He saw the Lord In a very different manner You know John knew The Lord very well He even leaned upon The breast of the Lord He knew the Lord so well He was so close to the Lord And yet when he saw In the technical vision He saw the Lord In a different light He saw the Lord As like the son of man Why?

Because he saw The risen Lord He saw the Lord in heaven He saw the Lord As the great high priest You know as our Lord Was risen And ascended to heaven He was anointed By God the Father And God anointed him As the high priest According to the order Of Maltheus the god So here you'll find The risen Lord In the glory Of the great high priest So here When our Lord was on earth He was the apostle Chained by God But now he is in heaven He is the anointed Great high priest Of the church Brothers and sisters Please listen to me What is our Lord Doing today You'll find that He is walking Among the seven churches He is like the high priest Who is tending The lantern He is looking After the light Of the seven golden lanterns If you see that The light is getting dim Then he'll pour More oil into it So

here you'll find He was attending The lantern Trying to restore The testimony of Jesus In these churches Because by the description Of the son of God We know that he is there As the great high priest Because his garment Reached to the ground You know that is the garment Of the high priest And garment Of righteousness He is full of righteousness He is the righteous one He is our advocate Before the father And then you'll find He has a golden girdle Across his back You know you usually Girdle across your waist Because in the orient You'll find people Were flowing down So when you want to work You girdle it up But here you'll find It is a golden girdle Across his breast Breast speaks of love And sympathy He is full of divine love And sympathy He never gives us up And you'll find his hair Is

white as wool It speaks of wisdom He is full of wisdom And you'll find his eyes Like a flame of fire He is full of discernment And people look at the appearance But he looks into our very heart And it speaks Like fine brass Is burning in a furnace It speaks of judgment He is full of judgment What he sees He judges And his voice Is the voice of many waters It speaks of full of power And in his right hand Seven stars In other words He holds the message Of the church's responsibility And right hand speaks Of support He will supply Those who are responsible Spiritually responsible For the church With grace And out of his mouth I stop to explore Going forth In other words His words are full of authority And his countenance Is the sunshine of his power It speaks of his inner beauty Because if

you are healthy You have rosy cheeks So it speaks of his inner beauty Full of beauty Brothers and sisters Thank God we have a great high priest Not only for each one of us Individually He is able to save us To the uttermost But thank God He is also the great high priest Of the church And he is there Trying to recover The church to its original glory As our Lord Jesus Never gives any one of us up So our Lord never gives us His church He is there doing The work of recovery And he is calling Those who overcome In the different sects Of the church In different situations There will be people Who will respond to the Lord What the Lord has revealed Himself to them They will not They are not disobedient To the heavenly vision And

these are the overcomers And through the overcomers The Lord is

going to get His glorious church To be the bride of the land So this is the testimony It is the consummation Of the heavenly vision So may the Lord Have mercy upon us That in spite of What we see on earth May we see What God has Before us That this is our faith This will enable us To press on Towards the goal Dear Heavenly Father We want to thank thee Even though men May fail And men always fail But Lord thou Never fail How we praise and thank thee That once thou Has apprehended us Thou will never let us go But thou will continue To recover us To what thou Has destined us to be It is all thy worship It is all of grace How we praise and thank thee That thou hast never given us up Not only individually But even together So Lord once again We humble ourselves before thee And allow thee to

work with us Until thy work is done Thy purpose is fulfilled And Christ is glorified We ask in the name of our Lord Jesus Amen

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