A Pastor's View

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John says here that Jesus' eyes were like a flame of fire! Fire burns; it pierces; it searches. The Pharisees likely got a sample of those eyes in Matthew 9, when Jesus told the paralyzed man his sins were forgiven, and "*some of the scribes said to themselves, 'this fellow blasphemes.*" Verse 4 says "*And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, 'Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?'* "*He knew their thoughts"*! His eyes saw right through them!

Jesus sees through our hypocrisies; through our lies. He sees through our excuses. He sees through everything we try to cover up. He sees when we attempt to make ourselves appear better than we are. *"His eyes are a flame of fire!"*

Verse 15 says: "*His feet were like burnished bronze when it has been made to glow in a furnace.*" Just as metal refined in the furnace is purified and strengthened, so Jesus came to earth and went through the furnace of affliction. He was "*tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin"* (Heb. 4:15). He went through the "fire" of every trial and persecution and experience. Yet He emerged from the fire of those trials, perfect and pure and strong. He's not a King who remained behind while His troops went out to battle; no, He Himself went through the battle; through the fire, and came out glowing and strong and perfect.

You need never wonder if Jesus knows what you are going through. He has been through it all. And just like Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, He will be "the fourth man in the fire" with you; He Himself went the fire, and came out glowing — and He will help YOU to do the same!

In:15-16 we see His Weapon:

:15*b "His voice was like the sound of many waters*

:16 "and out of His mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword"

Both of these refer to His word. If it sounds odd that "out of His mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword," remember that the short, Roman sword which was their primary weapon, was tongue-like in shape.

God shows us here that Jesus' word is His weapon.

- Ephesians 6:17 "*the sword of the Spirit is the word of God"*
- Hebrews 4:12 "*the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword."*

Jesus' WORD is His weapon. He needs only speak a WORD to accomplish anything:

— In the beginning, He said "*Let there be light*," and there was light! He merely SPOKE and everything came into being.

— When the centurion met Jesus in Matthew 8, asking Him to heal his servant, he said, "*just speak the word and it will be done*" — and He did!

— In Mark 4:39, Jesus said "*Hush, be still"* to the sea— and instantly it was!

— II Thessalonians 2 says that when the Antichrist appears, the Lord will slay him "*with the breath of His mouth, and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming."*

— Revelation 19 says when Jesus returns "*From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron."*

Jesus will triumph with the word of His mouth. His word is His weapon; His sword. And His word is OUR sword, too! Use it to witness to others, and to repel the attacks of the enemy.

Finally, verse 16b tells us of His Glory: "His face was like the sun, shining in its strength." It's like the song "Days of Elijah," proclaims: "Behold He comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the SUN"! This refers to Jesus' glory, shining like the sun!

The sun is our source of life. We need it to live. Many of us know how good it feels to walk in the sunlight — or to bask in the rays of the sun on the beach. You can almost understand why many ancient peoples worshiped the sun. The sun actually symbolizes our relationship with God. We were created to bask in His glory as a sunbather basks in the sun; to drink in His glory and receive pleasure and joy from it.

But our sin cut us off from the rays of His glory. Romans 3:23 says "*For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God.*" Our rebellion separated us from Him, so we could not even stand in the presence of His glory. We'd be consumed, like a leave would be instantly vaporized on the surface of the sun. That's what Romans means when it says we've "*fallen short of the glory of God."*

But Jesus "emptied Himself" of that glory, Philippians 2 says and came to earth as a humble man we could look upon. He died on the cross to pay for our sins, so that as II Thessalonians 2:14 says, we could "*gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."* So now, once these sinful bodies are put away, we will be able to stand in His presence, and "*see Him face to face," as I* John 3:2 says, and BASK forever in the glory of His face, which John says shines like the sun!

Taken together, these characteristics in Revelation 1 show us who Jesus is: that He is the Messiah, and He is GOD! When John calls Him "*one like a Son of Man,"* he links Jesus with the prophecy of the Messiah in Daniel 7:13-14. And when he says His vesture and hair are white, like wool, it also links Jesus with the description of The Ancient of Days Himself earlier in Daniel 7:9. John was indicating that this Jesus is not just some angel who appeared to him, or anyone else. He is the Messiah, and God Himself. Near the end of the Gospel of John, Thomas, who had been doubting, fell before Jesus and called Him, "*My Lord and my GOD"*! And that is exactly what WE should do before Him, as well!

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