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The GLORIFIED CHRIST ~ a Metaphorical Vision in Revelation 1:13-16

In John’s vision, he saw someone “like the son of man,” Jesus. This image is not meant to be taken as the physical appearance of Jesus, but as a metaphor that displays his glory, referenced to Old Testament images, leaving us in no doubt as to the overwhelming message: The One who died and lives, the Alpha and Omega who rules all things, who is in the midst of the churches, is Lord, King, Saviour, Protector, and Victor! Because John doesn’t give an explanation of these symbols *it is not intended that we find detailed meanings in the details!* Nevertheless, the related Old Testament images suggest the following themes that are consistent with John’s overall message, with the other books of the New Testament, and with what will follow in the rest of Revelation:

Image	Principal OT References	Discussion
Like the son of man	Daniel 7:13 (Mat 9:6; John 1:1; 13:9ff;)	Biblical sonship: nature of & representing a father, doing his work. Jesus used the title as man with divine authority. The Son of God is man and God
Wearing a long robe & a golden sash	Ezekiel 9:2; Daniel 10:5 (Rev 15:6)	Like a High Priest? But angels in Rev also have gold sashes; dignitaries had long robes & chest sashes & Daniel points to: The Son of God is exalted in dignity
White head and hair	Daniel 7:9; Isaiah 1:18 (Mark 9:3)	In that culture white indicated purity, white hair indicated the dignity and wisdom of old age. Daniel: “the Ancient of Days.” The Son of God is eternal & truly wise
Blazing eyes	Daniel 10:6 (Heb 4:13; Rev 2:18; & 19:11,12)	Here is penetrating, all-knowing sight, but in Daniel these eyes go beyond penetrating & knowing to flaming judgement: The Son of God sees all, judging with justice
Bronze feet	Daniel 10:6 (Rev 2:18; Ezek 1:7)	Feet portrayed one’s direction: unturning, stable and strong, and gleaming, as if still molten – ie refiner’s-furnace-pure! The Son of God is pure, unturning & strong
Mighty voice (like rushing water)	Ezekiel 1:24 & 43:2 (Rev 14:2; & 19:6)	This is the voice of the Almighty. Like the sound John knows of the Aegean Sea pounding the Island of Patmos? The Son of God speaks with the voice of God
Holds the stars in right hand	Psalm 110:1; Job 38:7	The right hand of authority holds (ie controls) God’s angels through whom he “messages” and by whom he rules. The Son of God rules through his messengers
Sword from his mouth	Isaiah 11:4 (2 Thes 2:8; Heb 4:12)	His word will judge like a sword! With the “breath of his mouth” he will destroy the man of lawlessness. The Son of God brings judgement by his word
Brilliantly shining face	Psalm 84:11; Isaiah 60:19; Malachi 4:1,2 (Mat 17:2)	As the sun gives life and light as well as fiery death, so he shines face-to-face with light for life and fire of judgement. The Son of God radiates life and judgement

cf G B Wilson, *Revelation*, Evangelical Press, Welwyn, 1985 & G O Osborne, *Revelation*, Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, 2002

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 Website: <https://www.michaelldrake.name/scattered> Email: mldrake@gmail.com (Please do not send unsolicited commercial email)

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