

Revelation 1:13-16 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; 15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. 16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and **his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.**

“countenance” or “face”

G3799 *opsis*

Vulgate: *facies*

Wycliffe, Tyndale, Geneva, ESV, CSB: *face*

KJV, ASV, NKJV: *countenance*

As far as I can tell, the word “countenance” was chosen to express more accurately the look on the face or the appearance of the face rather than the face itself.

Genesis 1:16-18 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. 17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, 18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

- rules, and is the greater ruler
- gives light upon the earth
- divides the light from the darkness

2 Corinthians 4:5-6 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the **light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

This is true, of course, and beautiful! But I don't think it is the meaning of the symbolism in Revelation 1.

Judges 5:31 So let all thine enemies perish, O LORD: but let them that love him be **as the sun when he goeth forth in his might**. And the land had rest forty years.

MacArthur says this is where the language in Rev 1:16 comes from  
G395 *anatole* G2246 *helios* δυναστειαις

It never can be stopped or defeated, and is utterly beyond the reach of any.

Malachi 4:1-6 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. 2 But unto you that fear my name shall **the Sun of righteousness** arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. 3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts. 4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. 5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: 6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Matthew 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for **he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust**.

Matthew 13:5-6 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: 6 And **when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away**.

James 1:11 For the **sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth**: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

Jesus Christ, as the Sun, shines in such a way as to burn up and destroy those who have no faith in Him, but also as to sustain and grow those who have faith in Him.

Matthew 13:41-43 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Matthew 17:2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

Acts 9:3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

9:4 ...he fell to the earth...

9:6 ...trembling and astonished...

9:8 ...he saw no man...

Acts 26:13 At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.

Revelation 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

Revelation 22:5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

What was the reaction of those who saw Him shining brightly?

Knollys:

When the sun shineth in its strength it produceth various effects upon the earth; the trees, the corn and the grass, etc. grow and spring, so doth the countenance of the LORD Jesus Christ: I shall instance in three various effects,

first, the clear shining of the sun after rain, causeth the tender grass to spring out of the earth, {2Sa 23:4} so doth the clear manifestations of the love and grace of God in Christ (called the Light of his Countenance; Ps 11:7; 42:5), clear the hearts of sanctified believers, and doth make them exceeding glad, {Ps 21:6; Ac 2:28} yea those lights and shinings of Christ makes a spring of grace, joy, and peace of the Lord, and the excellency of our God.

2 Samuel 23:1-4 Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, 2 The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue. 3 The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. 4 And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain.

Secondly, the clear shining heat of the sun, when the rain and dews are withheld, scorcheth and withereth the grass, and burns it up, {Mt 13:6} so doth the rebukes of God, and his angry countenance. {Ps 80:15-16} The frowns of the Almighty are dreadful, so was his fiery countenance unto Pharaoh's host {Ex 14:24-25,28} Read Ps 2:9-12, Kiss the Son, lest HE be angry, and ye perish, etc.

Thirdly, the clear and bright-shining of the sun in its full strength dazzleth our natural eyes (especially if they before are weak sighted). So did the shining glory of Christ cause the prophet to cry out, Woe is me, for I an undone. {Isa 6:1,3,5; Joh 12:41} This shining glory of the sun of righteousness amazed Christ's three disciples, Peter, James and John, so that they fell on their faces and were afraid to look up. {Mt 17:1-2,6} And the like effect had this vision of Christ's glorious countenance upon the apostle, as is testified by him in the next verse.

