

# The Book of Revelation

## The Setting

- ❖ John the beloved
- ❖ Christians under tremendous persecution by Roman emperors...
- ❖ Earthly authority of the time, Domitian (around A.D. 95), exiled John the Apostle to Patmos
  - Domitian was a cruel man who desired to be worshipped and when Christians wouldn't worship him, he demanded leader of the Christians be put to death
    - Believed that John the Apostle was put in boiling water or wax but did not die and afterward was banished by Domitian to Patmos
- ❖ Patmos was a barren place during this time that people sent to die
  - Was a place of isolation, rocky with harsh conditions
  - **Yet, in the midst of great trial, John hears clearly from God –**
    - Show me someone that has gone through great trials because of their faith and I will show you someone with a word from God – What have you learned from your Patmoses? Gen. 22:14; Gen. 28:16; Exo. 15:23-27; James 1:1-4
- ❖ The word revelation: apokalupsis:
  - 1) *laying bear, making naked* 2) *a disclosure of truth, instruction* 2a) *concerning things before unknown* 2b) *used of events by which things or states or persons hitherto withdrawn from view are made visible to all* 3) *manifestation, appearance*
  - Thayer's Greek Definitions*

## CHAPTER 1: 1-5

- ❖ It is not John's revelation but The Revelation of Jesus Christ – vs. 1 – John 1:18
  - It was given by God – John 3:32
- ❖ Why was the revelation given? Vs. 1
  - To show his servants things which must shortly (swiftly, speedily) come to pass:  
*"Shortly come to pass?" you say. "This book is over two thousand years old!" The Greek word translated "shortly" is **en tachei**, meaning "must come to pass with rapidity." It's the same Greek word from which we get the word "tachometer"—the instrument used to determine the speed of an engine. Thus, the Lord is telling us in this verse that when end-time events begin to happen, they'll increase their rpms and happen with greater rapidity.*  
*Jon Courson's Application Commentary – New Testament*
  - God's people, Christians are represented as His servants – Rev. 2:20; Rom. 1:1; Tit. 1:1
- ❖ Vs. 1: he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John
  - Signified: *sēmainō*: to give a sign; to make known (*Thayer's Greek Definitions*)

- Why with signs?

❖ Vs. 2: Who bare record... 1 Cor. 1:6; 1 John 1:1-4; John 19:35

### **The Blessing the enemy wants you to avoid – Vs. 3**

- ❖ The blessing demonstrates that Revelation should be read and shared with others and those who hear and receive it will be blessed – Luke 11:27-28
- ❖ The blessing is also in keeping the word – Psa. 19:7-11
- ❖ The time is at hand – James 5:7-8; Rev. 1:1

### **Greetings to the seven churches – Vs. 4-8**

- ❖ Vs. 4: The seven churches in Asia
  - From him:
    - Which is – Exo. 3:14
    - Which was – John 1:1
    - Which is to come – Rev. 1:8
  - From the seven Spirits which are before his throne – Isa. 11:2; Zech 3:9, 4:10
- ❖ Vs. 5: Jesus is:
  - The faithful witness – John 8:14; Isa. 55:4
  - The first begotten of the dead – Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 15:20
  - The prince of the kings of the earth – Rev. 17:14
  - He loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood – John 13:34; Heb. 9:14
- ❖ Vs. 6: He has made us kings and priests unto God
  - Kings: royalty
  - Priests: representatives, intercessors, Heb. 13:15, Rom. 5:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9
- ❖ Vs. 6: The glory and dominion are due God forever – 1 Tim. 6:16; Rev. 5:10
  - We allow God to get glory or be seen in and through us
  - God has dominion or rule in and over us
- ❖ Vs. 7: Jesus is coming – Mat. 24:29-31; 42; John 14:3
  - With clouds – Acts 1:9-11; also, of believers figuratively (Heb. 12:1)
  - Clouds represent God's presence and glory – Exo. 13:21-22
  - Every eye shall see Him – won't be done secretly – Mat. 24:26-27
  - They also that pierced Him – Zech. 12:10-14
  - All kindreds of the earth – Rev. 7:9; Mat. 24:30

### **Who Jesus is – Vs. 8**

- ❖ Alpha and Omega – Isa. 41:4
- ❖ The Almighty – Isa. 9:6