

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
 - It 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 bare, 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instruction* 2a) *concerning things before unknown* 2b) *used of events by which things or states or persons hitherto withdrawn from view are made visible to all* 3) *manifestation, appearance*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: 1-8

- ❖ 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

CHAPTER 1: 8-20

Jesus and God are One – Vs. 8

- ❖ Alpha and Omega – Isa. 41:4, 44:6, 48:12; Rev. 21:6-7; John 7:37; Rev. 22:12-13, 16, 20-21

Vision of the Son of Man

- ❖ Vs. 9: John identifies with the believer's struggle instead of speaking to them and "their" struggles by calling himself their companion in tribulation and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ – Phil. 1:7; 2 Tim. 1:12
 - Vs. 9: Note how John got here: for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ
- ❖ Vs. 10: I was in the Spirit... (Acts 10:10) on the Lord's day (Acts 20:7)
- ❖ Vs. 11: John heard Jesus voice and was given command to write and send
 - Told to write what he saw 11 times in Revelation
- ❖ Vs. 12: What John heard caused him to pivot to see Jesus
 - 7 Golden candlesticks (lampstands) – Exo. 25:37
 - Lampstands require 2 things to show light: oil and fire – Mat. 5:14-16
- ❖ Vs. 13: Jesus standing in the midst of the 7 candlesticks – Son of Man: Dan. 7:13-14; Mat. 20:28; Mat. 26:24; Luke 9:58; Luke 19:10
 - Clothed in long garment – symbolic of person of great authority and dignity; priests (Heb. 4:14-16); Also look at Isa. 6:1
 - Golden band: high priest (Exo. 29:5, Exo. 39:1-5)
- ❖ Vs. 14-15: further description
 - Head and hairs – white like wool – Dan. 7:9
 - Eyes as a flame of fire – Dan. 10:6
 - Feet – Eze. 1:7
 - Brass is known for its ability to endure and is also associated with judgement and sacrifice (Exo. 27:1-6 Brazen altar)
 - Voice as the sound of many waters – Eze. 1:24; 43:2
- ❖ Vs. 16: 7 Stars in His Right Hand – 7 messengers for the 7 churches – Rev. 1:20, 2:1, 3:1
 - Note that the 7 were protected with special care in His Right Hand
 - Two-edged sword – Isa. 49:2; Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:17
 - His countenance – Mat. 17:2; Num. 6:24-26
- ❖ Vs. 17-18: Assurance
 - He touched me – Dan. 8:18, 10:10
 - No need to fear because of who Jesus is – Isa. 41:4, 44:6, 48:12
 - He lives forever more – Rev. 4:9
 - Jesus has the keys of hell and death – Psalms 68:20
 - Believers should not fear death – 1 Cor. 15:51-57; 2 Cor. 5:1-8; Phil. 1:21-23

CHAPTER 2

The Message to the church at Ephesus

- ❖ Ephesus was considered the mother church to these others and was connected to them by the same road. The name Ephesus means darling or love.
- ❖ Famous as a religious, cultural and financial center
 - Large temple to Diana, fertility goddess worshiped with immoral sex – Acts 19: 21-41
 - Place of various satanic practices, the melding of religions and the like – Acts 19:13-20
 - Church tradition teaches that John lived in Ephesus
- ❖ Vs. 1: To the angel of the church at Ephesus
 - Jesus holds the 7 stars in his right hand – Rev. 1:16
 - Jesus walks in the midst of the 7 golden candlesticks – Rev. 1:13
- ❖ Vs. 2: I know thy works, labor, patience – Psalms 1:6; 1 Thes. 1:3; James 2:14-26
 - Works: *ergon*: anything done or to be done; a deed, work, action (Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary)
 - Labor: *kopos*: trouble, difficulty, uneasiness, travail, toil (Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary)
 - Patience (steadfast endurance) – *hypomonē*: patient endurance, awaiting, frame of mind, perseverance (Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary)
- ❖ Vs. 2: You can't stand evil people – Psalms 1
- ❖ Vs. 2: You know a phony when you see it – Acts 20:29-31; 1 Cor. 9:1; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; Matthew 7:15-16
- ❖ Vs. 3: You've persevered and not become weary – Gal. 6:9

The Problem and Solution

- ❖ Vs. 4: You've left your first love – Jer. 2:2-13; Eph. 5:23-33
 - Decided to do something else, go another path, back away from the relationship –
 - Still wearing the ring but not sharing the heart
 - Sound in doctrine and actions but yet they left their first love of Christ
- ❖ Vs. 5: Remember (Luke 15:17-19), repent (Lev. 26:40-42; Mat. 4:17; Acts 2:38) and return and do your first works (Gal. 5:5-6; 1 Cor. 13:1-3)
- ❖ Refusing to follow the warning will result in the removal of their candlestick (light)

- ❖ Vs. 6: Jesus hates the deeds of the Nicolaitans
 - False teaching excusing loose living, self indulgence and immorality (Rev. 2: 14-15)
- ❖ Vs. 7: He that hath an ear – Mat. 11:15; Rev. 2:11,17,21,22; 13:9
- ❖ Vs. 7: to him that overcomes – John 16:33; 1 John 5:4-5
- ❖ Vs. 7: eat of the tree of life – Rev. 22:2,14; Gen. 2:9, 3:22