

06172024 Maybe bring up Paul going to heaven...and seeing what John did...but he was not allowed to tell ...The work of salvation is the work of God in Christ. It began with the Incarnation, the Cross, and the Resurrection, and is in motion towards its ultimate goal. The crucified and resurrected Christ is already the Lord. He has received every authority in heaven and on earth (Mt. 28:18-20), and invisibly, in the Holy Spirit, He reigns through the Church and guides the world toward the end ... the works of Satan, namely sin and death, will be completely destroyed and the perfection of the kingdom of God. This is the purpose of God's divine plan for our salvation. This is what the faithful anticipate.

We know God and His plans only to the extent that they are revealed to us, But we shall see everything face to face when they actually come to pass before us. Christians must know now that Christ will come as king and judge (Mt. 14:62). He will come at a time when we do not expect Him. This is why we must always be on guard, awake, and vigilant as sons and daughters of the light and of the day (Mt. 24:42; 25:13; Mk. 13:33-37; 1 Thess. 5:4-11; 2 Thess. 2:2; 3:11). We are challenged to live with the hope of His return as did the early Christians who prayed: "Maranatha Come, Lord" (1 Cor. 16:22; Rev. 22:20; 1 Pet. 1:3-12).

John writes differently in the Book of Revelation because he received the truth differently. He is not just writing a book based on certain sources. He writes what he has seen in visions or received through special inspiration. As we pick up his message today in Revelation ...John says this is what happened....

*ESV Rev 1: 9* I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

**John knew his readers and they knew him. He calls himself Your brother and partner....**

- **In his Gospel John calls himself** NIV John 21:24 <sup>24</sup> This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.
- In his three letters John refers to himself as an Elder NIV 3 John:1 The **elder**, To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth

He is the brother and partner to the seven churches he will be speaking to..... **in 3 ways...** he has suffered with them in their times of trouble...He is a member with them in the Kingdom of God ...and he has learned patience and endurance along with them by holding onto Jesus no matter what... he is their brother and partner!

The three epistles of John, which were written at Ephesus a while before his banishment, probably about 80 or 85 A. D., the gospel of John probably written around 90 AD and the Revelation, which was composed while in exile on Patmos about 95 or 96 A. D. by Domitian, who was the Roman emperor (AD 81–96),

Domitian was known chiefly for the reign of terror under which prominent members of the Senate lived in fear during his last years. cruelty and ostentation were the chief grounds of his unpopularity, rather than any military or administrative incompetence. Not many were safe from his cruelty to get what he wanted...he would often take the possessions of those he killed for himself..and his last years were the worst.. it was under his authority John was arrested.

Through extra biblical sources and church tradition holds John was arrested in Ephesus and faced martyrdom when his enemies threw him in a huge basin of boiling oil. However, according to the tradition, John was miraculously delivered from death. The Under Domitian authorities then sentenced John to banishment at Patmos. It is A small island off the coast of Southern Turkey about forty miles from Ephesus. The island is about 10 miles long and 6 miles wide.. though commonly referred to as a penal

colony it was more... it had a Roman garrison or fort , it had a race horse track, excavations revealed a temple to Artemis and another one probably to Apollo. Two large Gymnasiums which functioned as a training facility for competitors in public games And also a place for socializing and engaging in intellectual pursuits.....so in many ways it was also a regular Roman pagan community . Those political dissidents banished to Patmos were isolated from contact and influence with their followers which was a primary goal and part of Domitian’s cruelty...separate those in disfavor from everything they have and everyone they know...and then punish with hard labor...yet allow them to also have a taste of normal life... to reeducate them...

- Church tradition teaches that after Domitian dies in 96AD ...Nerva the new emperor...allowed John to return to Ephesus possibly due to old age, and he returned to what is now Turkey. He died as an old man sometime after AD 98, the only apostle to die peacefully. Catholic tradition teaches he continued to take care of Mary until her passing.
- So here lives John ...supposedly isolated from influence BUT God is not hindered at all...

While there he was visited by the Lord who commanded him to write the book we know as [The Revelation](#) and then took him to the end of the age to witness all of it unfolding.

*ESV VERSE 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet <sup>11</sup> saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."*

**John writes first I was in the spirit...what does that mean?...he was in a different sort of spiritual condition. Something different was happening, spiritually...making him receptive in a unique way to a revelation from God**

## Very much like what Peter said happened to him:

*NLT Acts 10: 9 The next day as Cornelius's messengers were nearing the town, Peter went up on the flat roof to pray. It was about noon,<sup>10</sup> and he was hungry. But while a meal was being prepared, **he fell into a trance.**<sup>11</sup> He saw the sky open, and something like a large sheet was let down by its four corners.*

*and Paul NLT Acts 22:17 "After I returned to Jerusalem, I was praying in the Temple **and fell into a trance.**<sup>18</sup> I saw a **vision of Jesus**<sup>[c]</sup> saying to me, 'Hurry! Leave Jerusalem, for the people here won't accept your testimony about me.'*

- **John is in the position spiritually to receive and it will be about a particular day to come... the Lord's day...or **The Day of the Lord**...**

*VERSE 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet*

- **so it appears John will be projected to the future day of the Lord...**
- **Jesus resurrection is referred to only as on the first day of the week...never the Lord's day...except when it is said of His coming in Judgment to establish his Kingdom...the day of the Lord...**
- **We think of Sunday as the Lords ...but no where in scripture is that term used for a day of the week... it is always stated the first day of the week...**
- **However later in the church...Sunday was spoken of as the Lord's day ...and since this letter is written sixty years after the church was established... it could mean either or both...**

**John is in the position spiritually to receive and it will be about a particular day to come...the Day of the Lord... so it appears John will be projected to the future day of the Lord...**

- In the contemporary sense Rome will get theirs it will take a few hundred years but Rome will fall...so be strong seven churches...
- But there is more moving forward ...as we will see...the point is what we also are brothers and sisters and partners with all of Gods church in our generation...
- God is in charge and he is coming back...and John gives us this message...in **in the same 3 ways...** he has suffered with them in their times of trouble...He is a member with them in the Kingdom of God ...and he has learned patience and endurance along with them by holding onto Jesus no matter what...

**He is spiritually ready, the time he is aware of.. And then the voice speaks to him! And it sounds like a trumpet...**

*ESV Rev 1: 10* ..., and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet

- *A voice behind him... but is not in shock at the sound...as if it was a piercing scary sound...more like an introductory voice...*
- As if to make a grand pronouncement, like the entrance of royalty, for example. this trumpet sound is no different –

*ESV Rev 1: 11* saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

The announcement is a command to write down what he will see...it is the second of twelve commands in Revelation to write down what he sees...so there appears to be twelve particular visions to wrote down...in contrast Revelation 10:4 he is told not to write down what he sees...

- The message of the entire book will be written to these seven churches along with particular messages for each church individually by Jesus himself...which we will begin to study next week in chapters twa and three

- **One other note the order given here is the same order the messages are given to each church.**

**After this John turns to see who is speaking....**

*NLT REV 1:12* *When I turned to see who was speaking to me, I saw seven gold lampstands. When he turned he saw seven single lampstands...arranged in a circle.. with a man in the middle...*

- **In the tabernacle and later in the temple...there was a candle stick seven branched candle stand ...a single lampstand with gtree branches on each side...here is seems there are seven single lamp stands and Jesus in the middle stands...**
- **Verse 20 tells us what the lampstands and stars represent... it means**

*ESV REV 1:20* .... *the seven lampstands are the seven churches.* Read the description...

**Jesus is portrayed as standing in the midst...giving light to the seven churches...Son of Man...Jesus often referred to in the Gospels...and only one other time in Revelation...signifying His Humanity and Messianic character...Man and God**

***John describes his clothing...***

*ESV Rev 1:13* *And standing in the middle of the lampstands was someone like the Son of Man. He was wearing a long robe with a gold sash across his chest.*

**His clothing harkens back to the clothing God gave in his directions of how the High Priest...would dress**

*NLT Ex 28:2* *Make sacred garments for Aaron that are glorious and beautiful.* <sup>3</sup> *Instruct all the skilled craftsmen whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom. Have them make garments for Aaron that will distinguish him as a priest set apart for my service.* <sup>4</sup> *These are the garments they are to make: a chest piece, an ephod, a robe, a patterned tunic, a turban, and a sash.*

- **The clothing..designed for his glory and beauty...Thus showing Christ as the High Priest ...the mediator between God and humans...and the Judge**

- **Now he describes him...**

*Verse 14 His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow. And his eyes were like flames of fire. 15 His feet were like polished bronze refined in a furnace, and his voice thundered like mighty ocean waves.*

***except bronzed...victory as the sacrifice for sin ..as the braxen altar was used for the sacrifice..***

***He looks like his Father...The ancient of Days...***

*NLT Dan 7:9 I watched as thrones were put in place and the Ancient One sat down to judge. His clothing was as white as snow, his hair like purest wool. He sat on a fiery throne with wheels of blazing fire, <sup>10</sup> and a river of fire was pouring out, flowing from his presence.*

**So...John sees the Father in Jesus...and Jesus in the Father his absolute divinity!!**

**As Jesus explains to Phillip when he tells the disciples he is going to die ...like**

*ESV John 14:8 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me,*

***And later on after the Resurrection***

*NLT Matt 28:18 Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.*

## **Daniel saw a similar vision of Jesus....when The Son of Man Is Given Dominion...by his Father**

*NLT Dan 7:13* “As my vision continued that night, I saw someone like a son of man<sup>[d]</sup> coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient One and was led into his presence. <sup>14</sup> He was given authority, honor, and sovereignty over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey him. His rule is eternal—it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed.

### **Lets look at what John wrote again...**

*ESV Verse 14* His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow. And his eyes were like flames of fire. <sup>15</sup> His feet were like polished bronze refined in a furnace, and his voice thundered like mighty ocean waves.

**When John saw Jesus standing in the midst of the churches...feet bronzed as the one who was sacrificed...as on the brazen altar for sin.. conquering it by his blood and conquering death by his resurrection...now stands in the midst of his churches...and judge of the world..... to much for John he died...for he saw God and Jesus as he is!!**

*NLT REV 1: 17* When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.

- **John had seen Jesus as the one he loved in the flesh...seen him in his resurrected body...but when he saw him in Majesty and Glory...he fell dead...**
- **Fear not you are mine...I have all authority...over physical death...eternal death...I am alive so you will live...**

*....But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup> and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. **All authority is given to me.***



**He revives and is immediately told what to do... for th third time...**

*<sup>19</sup> Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. <sup>20</sup> As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.*

A three fold command...write down what you have seen...Chapter one....The glorious Jesus ...King of Kings Alpha and Omega...the one in absolute charge... 2) the things going on now...which will pertain to the seven churches...to whom this book is written. 3) those things to take place after this or the now....the rest of the Revelation...

Oh by the way the seven stars are the angels or messengers helping the churches... in the NT angels consistently means angels...is has the sense of messenger...some view it as leaders...but in context there are angels watching over the churches ...angels help the leaders guide the church...

And the seven lampstands are the churches... Jesus is in the midst of the lampstands...

This first Chapter reveals Jesus as King of Kings and in absolute authority...and the rest of the book shows his progressive moving to the fulfillment of the plan of God ...to establish this authrotiy over

*NLT EPH 1:19 I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power <sup>20</sup> that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. <sup>21</sup> Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. <sup>22</sup> God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church.*

*All Hail King Jesus*