

Narration of Revelation Chapter I:1-10

The book of the Revelation opens with an introduction of the purpose of the book, the revealing of Jesus by His Father, the only one who can reveal Jesus. (Matt. 16:17) The Father gave this revelation to Jesus to give to believers, with an addendum; that these things will take place soon.

The Apostle John is chosen to receive this revelation. John was the only Apostle who didn't desert Jesus during the crucifixion. (The three women were also there.) This made John the only Apostle who could accurately give eyewitness testimony to Jesus' message of Salvation; having seen His death and having witnessed His resurrection. Near the end of his life, John can testify about the things which will take place at the end of time and beyond. What an honor. This essential message given to John comes with a sense of urgency, as verse three concludes, "the time is near."

In Rev. 1:9, John confirms who he is and why he is on the island. The Revelation is written to bond servants or believers, and John describes himself as our "brother and companion/partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus." This infers that if you are a believer, you "will have tribulation." (John 16:33). This is not referring to the Great Tribulation, but to the suffering that belongs to everyone who names the name of Jesus as Savior.

John is on the Isle of Patmos, similar to an Alcatraz, because he would not stop preaching the Word of God and the Gospel. There had been many attempts made to silence John, due to the hostility that still existed from the Romans, especially towards those who were of the lineage of King David and those who believed in "the Way." The Emperor Domitian had John boiled in oil, but John did not stop proclaiming the Gospel, the testimony of Jesus. John's faith set him apart from the other Apostles and brought about the honor of receiving this amazing Revelation.

Note: The Apostle Paul had a unique experience when he met Christ. There is no other testimony like his recorded in the Bible. Like John, Paul too was granted special revelation regarding the end times. II Cor. 12:1-6, tells us about his experience being "caught up in the 3rd Heaven" and "caught up into Paradise." Additionally, we find Ezekiel's revelation in Ezekiel chapter one. (We will study this more when we get to Rev. chapter four.)

John is "caught up." He states that he is "in the Spirit on the Lord's Day." This means that he is in worship, a deep and earnest worship and this is occurring on a Sunday, the Lord's Day, the first day of the week. (Acts 20:7; John 20:19)

John is given instructions to write to seven churches in Asia Minor modern-day Turkey. He writes this message on behalf of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. John is a scribe for the Trinity. This is a highly esteemed, extremely important assignment. John will be given information that isn't found anywhere else in scripture, to this extent. John embodies the words of the Apostle Paul in II Cor. 4:3-6: *"If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. You see, we don't go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let there be light in the darkness,' has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ."*

John gives a salutation to Jesus, the one who loves us so, that He died for us, freeing us from our sins by His blood. Jesus' death and resurrection made us a kingdom and priests. In the Old Testament the Jews were told that if they obeyed, they would become a "Kingdom of priests and a holy nation." (Ex. 19:16) This meant that they were to act as mediators representing God to the nations and being a model of holiness for the world

In the New Testament, this same theme applies. In I Peter 2:9, believers are described as a "royal priesthood, a holy nation." This emphasizes that all believers are called to participate in God's priestly work. God's people are called to communicate God's grace and truth to the world. We are not to behave as we used to behave, but to represent God in the Earth as His chosen ones.

"... for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

"Once you had no identity as a people;

now you are God's people.

Once you received no mercy;

now you have received God's mercy."

Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior; and they will give honor to God when he judges the world." (I Peter 2:9-12)

As we read through this prophecy, we must not lose sight of who we are. We are very important in the revealing of this message; therefore, we must not disassociate ourselves from the prophecy but look for ourselves in it; always being mindful that “God is speaking.”

While in worship, John receives a vision from the Lord. He hears a voice “like the sound of a trumpet.” This is a reference for a loud, clear and powerful voice. This is a sign of authority and a call to attention. Instructions are given and John turns to *see* (Greek know) the voice speaking. John turns and sees the glorified Christ.