

John's Commission to Write

Revelation 1: 9-11

Re-cap:

Last week we looked at part of this verse.

Particularly the five words:

Brother, Companion, Tribulation, Kingdom and
Patience.

Tonight we want to move on to consider the rest of
this verse and verses 10-11.

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Outline:

1} Verse 9

The person of the writing

2} Verse 9

The place of the writing.

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1} Verse 9
The person of the writing

Rev 1:9
“I John”

There is no serious debate that it was the apostle John who wrote this book.

At this point he was the sole remaining Apostle.

It was written about 95AD.

John himself a very old man, probably about 90 years of age.

2} Verse 9

The place of the writing.

“was in the isle that is called Patmos”

{ ISBE }

Patmos

A Turkish island of the group Sporades, Southwest of Samos, mentioned once in the Bible, Rev 1:9

The island is 10 miles long, and about 6 broad along the northern coast. It is for the most part rocky. The highest part is Mount Elias, which rises to a height of over 800 ft.

As in Greece, and in the adjacent mainland of Asia Minor, the land is treeless. Near the city of Patmos there is a good harbor.

The population of the island numbers 3,000, almost entirely Greek.

In Roman times Patmos was one of the many places to which Rome banished her exiles.

In 95 AD, according to a tradition preserved by Irenaeus, Eusebius, Jerome and others, John was exiled here - in the 14th year of the reign of Domitian - whence he returned to Ephesus under Nerva (96 AD).

The cave in which he is said to have seen his visions is still pointed out to the traveler.

3} Verse 9

The background of the writing

“for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

In other words, John was sent to Patmos not for being a common criminal but for his devotion to God’s word and Jesus Christ.

As Paul wrote to Timothy:

2Ti 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution

Some have distinguished between the terms:

“the word of God” = OT

“the testimony of Jesus Christ.” = NT

4} Verse 10a

The Context of the writing.

“I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day”

“the Lord’s day”

Albert Barnes notes:

"The term was used generally by the early Christians to denote the first day of the week. It occurs twice in the Epistle of Ignatius to the Magnesians (about 101 a.d.), who calls the Lord's day "the queen and prince of all days." Chrysostom (on Ps. 119) says, "It was called the Lord's day because the Lord rose from the dead on that day."

Consider:

The proper observance of the Lord's day is not so much about "dents" but about the practice of being in the Spirit!

Q. What does it mean to be "in the Spirit"?

It is a fairly common phrase in scripture.

Mentioned 28 times.

{Some general scriptural examples}

(Eze 37:1) The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,

This was not a literal valley. Therefore this takes on a spiritual and metaphorical meaning.

There are 3 refs. In Galatians which show what we might call the Antithesis idea concerning being “in the Spirit”.

(Gal 3:3) Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

(Gal 5:16) This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

(Gal 5:25) If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

It is connected with prayer in Ephesians

(Eph 6:18) Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

With Worship in Philippians

(Php 3:3) For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

With Love in Colossians

(Col 1:8) Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.

We have four examples in Revelation itself.

(Rev 1:10) I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

(Rev 4:2) And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

(Rev 17:3) So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

(Rev 21:10) And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

5} Verse 10b-11a
The Cause of the writing.

Rev 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Rev 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last:

The great cause of writing this book of revelation was John's encounter with the Living Christ!

Consider:

John heard Christ before he saw him.

App.

Our greatest need is to hear Christ! Hear his word!

Compare:

Joh 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

“a great voice, as of a trumpet”

Why a Trumpet?

Adam Clarke notes:

"This was calculated to call in every wandering thought, to fix his attention, and solemnize his whole frame. Thus God prepared Moses to receive the law."

Compare:

Exo 19:16 And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, **and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.**

Exo 19:17 And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount.

Exo 19:18 And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.

Exo 19:19 **And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.**

6} Verse 11b **The commission of the writing**

"What thou seest, write in a book"

Note:

It was not “what thou hearest” but “What thou seest”

So this is a book of recorded visions.

Consider also:

The importance of this book considering the manner in which it was communicated.

7} Verse 11c **The recipients of the writing.**

*Rev 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the **seven churches** which are in Asia; unto **Ephesus**, and unto **Smyrna**, and unto **Pergamos**, and unto **Thyatira**, and unto **Sardis**, and unto **Philadelphia**, and unto **Laodicea**.*

Seven churches which represent the whole church, not just in Asia minor but, throughout the whole world!