

The Patmos Vision

Revelation 1:9-13

⁹I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

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

¹¹Saying, 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.

¹²And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

¹³And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

Patmos, a picture of John's circumstances

The Greek word *patmos* means "my killing," and the island was used by the Romans as a penal colony, where they'd ship off their worst problems to be rid of them. The devil certainly had done his level best to get rid of John.

PATMOS.VISION - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.2, pp. 39-40

This series of visions of the Revelation of the Person of Jesus Christ was given to John while he was banished to the Isle of Patmos. This small island is thirty miles off the coast of Asia Minor in the Aegean Sea. **Being rocky and infested** with snakes, lizards and scorpions, it had little commercial value, so it was used by the Roman Empire for a **penal colony** where were housed the more desperate criminals, political prisoners, etc.

You will notice that John has addressed himself to the Christians as a brother in tribulation. It was at this time that the early church was going through great persecutions. Their religion was not only "everywhere spoken against" but the people themselves were imprisoned and killed. John, like multitudes of others, was now suffering imprisonment for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. **When arrested, they tried in vain to kill him by boiling him in oil for twenty-four hours. The enraged and powerless officials then sentenced him to Patmos as a witch.** But God was with him, and he was spared to leave the island and return to Ephesus where he again continued as pastor until the time of his death.

The visions that John received covered a period of two years, A.D. 95-96. They are the most remarkable of all visions in the Word. The entire book is set forth in symbols, and therefore is the target of much criticism and dispute. However, it does have the seal of God upon it. That makes it authentic and of tremendous value to all who read or listen to its sacred pages.

The demonic power behind John's persecution is also behind our persecution.

In the Book of Daniel, God gives Nebuchadnezzar a dream showing the future of civilization. In the dream, there are only four powers that will control the world: Babylon, the Medo-Persians, the Greeks, and finally a mysterious fourth kingdom. The Roman emperor Domitian persecuted John, but the power of this fourth kingdom did not end with the fall of Rome.

In Daniel 2, this fourth kingdom doesn't just fade away into history as the preceding three did.

Daniel 2:40-42

⁴⁰And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

⁴¹And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

⁴²And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

Daniel 7:7, 23-25

⁷After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

²³Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

²⁴And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

²⁵And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Revelation 13:3

And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

Revelation 17:8

The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

THE.SEVENTIETH.WEEK.OF.DANIEL_ JEFF.IN DA 89-141 SUNDAY_ 61-0806

182 Now, we know beyond any shadow of doubt who that beast was, that power that had the deadly wound that did live. **It was when pagan Rome was killed and papal Rome took its place: when pagan power was killed and papal power took its place.**

The day John lived in (and we, too) is the day of man. The day of the Lord is coming!

THE.PATMOS.VISION_ JEFF.IN ROJC 69-130 SUNDAY_ 60-1204E

131 Now, John was transmitted from the Isle of Patmos, in the Spirit, over into the Lord's day. This is the day of man, men are fighting, but the day of the Lord will come when these kingdoms will become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, then there'll be the great millennium. The Lord's day, the day of His coming, His judgment, that'll be the Lord's day.

This is the day of man; that's the reason they slam you around and do what they want to with you, but there'll be a time... Call you... They call you now holy-roller and fanatic, but there'll be a time come (See?), that they won't do that. They'll scream and wail and fall at your feet. The Bible said, Malachi 4, you'll even walk out on the ashes after they're burnt up: leave them neither root nor branch. That's exactly what the Bible says; "The righteous shall walk upon the ashes of the wicked." That's exactly. They'll not be left root or branch, nothing to come back to. And they'll be done.

Now, this is a man's day, man's doings, man's works, man's church, man's ideas, but the day of the Lord is coming.

Our challenge is to be in the Spirit of the Lord while living in the day of man.

THE.GOD.OF.THIS.EVIL.AGE_ JEFF.IN V-4 N-9 SUNDAY_ 65-0801M

82 Notice what this fellow will do now. This fellow, "He will set in the temple of God," that is, the church, "revealing himself to be God." Now if you want to read that, that's Second Thessalonians 2:3 and 4, and Revelation 13:4, 11 and 12; where spoke, both prophets, both John and Paul, of what he would be in the last days. Now you read it, because I've got wrote down here. But I... to save time now.

83 **The day we are living is called, in the Bible, "the day of man," man's day. This is not God's day.** God is not the god of this earth; the Bible says He isn't. He's the God of Heaven. But this is not God's day.

This is choosing day. Either, live for today, and die; choose God, and live. And God is the Word, and the Word is the Word manifested for the hour and the day.

The Sabbath rest is not the keeping of a certain day, but the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

There is no amount of keeping any Law that will provide rest. God revealed the true rest on the day of Pentecost. (See CAB, pp. 42-44. The NT Sabbath isn't in keeping a certain holyday (Col. 2:16). Jesus told the best Sabbath observers in his

day to come to Him, and he would give them rest (Mt. 11:28-30). Isaiah 28:8-13 describes the rest that was to come, that it would come with stammering lips and another tongue, which was fulfilled at Pentecost (Acts 2). When we enter into true rest, we cease from our own works and trust fully in the work of Christ (Heb. 4)

The day of man puts our focus on man's works ... note the thousands of self-help books to show you how to solve your problems. But we don't find rest anywhere except Jesus Christ.

PATMOS.VISION - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.2

Oh, that people might come unto Him and find that rest. There is a cry in all hearts for that rest but the majority don't know the answer. So they try to still the cry by a religious process of keeping certain days or accepting denominational creeds and dogmas. But failing in that, many try drinking, carousing, and every physical excess, thinking that by worldly pleasures there can be some satisfaction. But in such there is no rest. They smoke and take pills to quiet their nerves. But there is no rest in earthly potions. They need Jesus. They need the heavenly remedy, the rest of the Spirit.

Then the most of them go to church on Sunday. That is good but even there they have no idea of how to approach God and how to worship Him. Jesus said that true worship was in Spirit and in truth, John 4:24. But what kind of worship can you get in a church that knows so little of God it puts up a Santa Claus at Christmas and bunnies at Easter? Where did they get that? They got it from the pagans and made it a part of the church doctrine. But when one turns to the Lord and is filled with the Holy Ghost he ceases from all such things. He has a rest in his soul. He really begins to live, and love God and worship Him.

John wasn't on Patmos for a vacation, **yet his very negative circumstances didn't keep him from getting in the Spirit.**

Getting in the Spirit

Revelation 1:10

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

Until we're in the Spirit, we can't see our circumstances as they truly are (or ourselves!). When John finally got in the Spirit, the voice of God sounds behind him ... our circumstances get us all turned around. But the Spirit of God points us again in the right direction. *(Example of occasionally needing to recalibrate a joystick in the old days of flight simulators in the 1990s)*

Neither John's trial nor our trials are worthless experiences. I Peter 1:6 says that we rejoice in God's salvation, "though now for a season, **if need be**, we are in heaviness through manifold temptations." God doesn't waste pain and trials: we only experience them **if need be**. And we can be assured that He will be speaking to us in these times.

Matthew 10:27

What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.

C.S. Lewis: "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

THE.PATMOS.VISION_ JEFF.IN ROJC 69-130 SUNDAY_ 60-1204E

90 Now, the 10th verse:

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me the... voice,... of a trumpet,

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day,...

Now, you can't do any good until first you get in the Spirit; God can't use you. You're--you're--you're--you're... All your efforts are--are in vain until first you do it in the Spirit. "If I will sing, I will sing in the Spirit. If I'll pray," said Paul, "I'll pray in the Spirit." And then if there is anything that comes through you that's any good, it has to be revealed to me by the Spirit and confirmed by the Word, made manifest by the results it bears.

The vision of 7 lampstands, a picture of getting in the Spirit

Revelation 1:12-20

¹²And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

¹³And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

¹⁴His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

¹⁵And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

¹⁶And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

¹⁷And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

¹⁸I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

¹⁹Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

²⁰The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Little light during day of man.

THE.PATMOS.VISION_ JEFF.IN ROJC 69-130 SUNDAY_ 60-1204E

165 The end of this verse, let's read it.

... And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

And in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks one like... the Son of man,...

My. Did you notice? Stars, candlesticks, lamps, what does it mean? **What does this mean? That the dispensation that we're living in is nighttime; candles and lights and stars mean night.**

And what does a star do? It reflects the light of the sun until the sun returns. Blessed be the Name of the Lord. And a true minister of God don't reflect some flashlight, some match stem, some shuck a-burning; he reflects the golden rays of Christ to the church, that "He's the same, and He's alive, and He shine on me." Amen. That's the Light he reflects. The star reflects the light of the sun (See?), so we're reflecting the Light of the Son of God, doing the same thing He did, giving Light. What kind of light? Gospel light to those...

The source of our light is the Holy Ghost, and its oil is inexhaustible

Zechariah 4:1-6

¹And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep,

²And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof:

³And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof.

⁴So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord?

⁵Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.

⁶Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

PATMOS.VISION - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.2, pg. 48

³²Here is another lamp of pure gold. It is burning brightly because it has plenty of oil which it is getting from the two olive trees, which stand on either side. The two trees represent the Old and New Testament, and of course the oil typifies the Holy Ghost, Who alone can give the light of God to the people. The angel who spoke to Zechariah was as much as saying "this what you see means that the church cannot accomplish anything by its own might or power, but by the Holy Ghost."

³³Now examine this lampstand. You will notice that it has a large bowl, or reservoir, that is central to seven arms that come out of it. This bowl is filled with olive oil which flows through seven wicks which are placed in the seven arms. It is the same oil that burns and makes a light at the end of the seven pipes. This light never went out. The priests just kept pouring oil into the bowl.

Jesus Christ walks in the midst of the 7 lampstands: John wasn't alone in his trial, and neither are we!

Revelation 1:20

The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

When John got in the Spirit, his attention was taken from his snake-infested island of exile to the glory of Christ.

As we read the Patmos Vision, we are getting a glimpse of the end of the story, even as we are just embarking on the beginning of our quest through the church ages. While Emperor Domitian proclaimed himself a god and persecuted the Christians, John catches a glimpse of Jesus Christ, the true God, coming to judge the world. In the middle of the ups and downs of the plotline of John's own life, Jesus Christ comes to him—and to us—to assure us of ultimate victory. That's why we can rest even in the midst of trials when we see Jesus with us.

Truly, Revelation 1 gives us a setting for the entire book of Revelation. That's why we're seeing Jesus already in this chapter returning as the Judge.

The vision of Christ's 7-fold glory reveal Him coming as a Judge.

- Hair as white as snow (like a judge would wear)
- Eyes as flames of fire
- Feet like unto fine brass (the metal connected to judgment in the Bible)
- Voice as the sound of many waters (the voices Gospel ministers over the ages warning of oncoming judgment)
- Seven stars in his right hand (revealed in verse 20: the stars = the messengers of the seven churches)
- A two-edged sword coming out of his mouth (a metaphor for the Word of God, Heb. 4:12)
- His face shining like the sun (in Mal. 4 the sun of righteousness rises after Great Tribulation with healing in his wings)

In this vision, Jesus Christ speaks to all seven churches, to all believers in the Gentile Dispensation.

His first words are **Fear not**. He is the first and the last: he who started the work in us will also complete it.

He is the Amen: he will always have the last word in our trials. The devil will never have the last word over us. He is Lord over all history, the present and the future. John, make sure the churches know this because difficult times are coming, but they will never be alone. I am walking with them through it all, even as I walked with the Hebrew boys in that fiery furnace long ago.

PATMOS.VISION - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.2, pg.65

"Don't fear, John. Don't fear, little flock. All that I am, you are heir to. All my power is yours. My omnipotence is yours as I stand in your midst. I have not come to bring fear and failure, but love and courage and ability. All power is given unto Me and it is yours to use. You speak the Word and I will perform it. That is My covenant and it can never fail."

Where do we have our wick?

In what spirit are we immersing ourselves on a daily basis? (*Illustration of osmosis and capillary action*)

The Patmos Vision beautifully illustrates the realms of spiritual possibilities for the believer. The blessing of getting in the Spirit promised to the messengers is for every believer.

Matthew 10:40-41

⁴⁰He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

⁴¹He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

PATMOS.VISION - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.2, pg.50

⁴¹How thrilling it is to think of those seven lamps drawing life and light from the resources of that main bowl because they had their wicks dipped therein. Each church age messenger is depicted here. His life is on fire with the Holy Ghost. His wick (life) has been immersed in Christ. Through that wick he is drawing the very life of Christ, and by it gives out light to the church. What kind of a light is he giving? The very same light that was in the first lamp that was lit. And right on down the ages to the present time of the last day messenger the same life and the same light is manifested by a life that is hid with Christ in God.

⁴²**Not only can we speak thus of the messengers, but every true believer is dramatically depicted here.** They are all drawing from the same source. They have all been dipped into the same bowl. They are dead to themselves and their lives are hid with Christ in God. They are sealed in by the Holy Ghost. Ephesians 4:30, "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." No man can pluck them out of His hand. Their lives cannot be tampered with. The visible life is burning and shining, giving light and manifestations of the Holy Ghost. The inner, invisible life is hidden in God and fed by the Lord's Word. Satan cannot touch them. Not even death can touch them, for death has lost its sting; the grave has lost its victory. Thanks be unto God, they have this victory in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen and amen.

PATMOS.VISION - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.2, pg.59

⁷¹**And this comfort [of being in his right hand] is not for the seven church age messengers only. Every true believer is in the hand of God** and can draw from His love and power, and receive the full benefit of all that God is to the believer. What God gives the messenger, and how He blesses and uses the messenger, is an example to all believers of His goodness and care to ALL members of His body. Amen.