

# John of Patmos's Lesson

Week of Mar. 2 - 8, 2020

## Introduction

John, an apostle of Christ, has spent his life building up the church of Christ. Now, in his old age, he has been exiled to the island Patmos off the coast of Asia in the Medtranean Sea. He continues to receive the Lord's prophecies and communicates with the seven main churches through his letters. In this week's lesson, we begin reading his letter to the churches - relaying a message of His final promise sent from an angel of the Lord - the return of Christ to bring us home.

## Lesson Revelation 1:1-11

**1** The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, **2** who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. **3** Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

**4** John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, **5** and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, **6** and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

**7** "Look, he is coming with the clouds," and "every eye will see him, even those who pierced him"; and all peoples on earth "will mourn because of him." So shall it be! Amen.

**8** "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

#### John's Vision of Christ

**9** I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. **10** On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, **11** which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

## Questions

- 1.** John begins his letter to the churches by first reminding them of the character of God - He is, He was, and He is to come. Through His son He has shown again His love, commitment and promise to us. What attribute of God resonates most deeply with you?
- 2.** Many scholars first thought that during the time John wrote his letters, Christians were being persecuted by the Roman Empire, but there is little evidence in history to show this. Some scholars now think the church was being too accommodating toward Rome - going along with the injustice, idolatry and violence. As we look at our world and our lives today, how is the church being too accommodating? Not accommodating enough?

3. How as a church community can we bring forth the acceptance and love of Christ? What do you think God had planned for the church?
4. In your life, have you ever felt too accommodating to the injustice around you? Is God a part of your life that comes out when the time is right for you, or is God the thread that holds your life together?
5. The prophecy of the second coming of Christ can bring about a wide range of emotions. As we look forward to this ultimate promise from God, to spend eternity with Him in heaven, what feelings does this bring you?
6. In vs. 9 John connects with his reader in the suffering and patient endurance that are 'ours in Jesus'. What sufferings have you had to endure? Were you able to see God in them? Or were they because of your faithfulness to God?

## **Prayer**

Holy Lord, we know too often our hearts have become too accommodating to the world, we become numb to the pain of others and often only think of ourselves. Give us the faith to remain faithful in you; the strength to turn away from the ways of the world; and the courage and love to be Your light for the world. Hold us in your arms Lord until your final promise is revealed and we see you face to face. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen.