

INTRO: The setting—94-96AD. 60 or so years after Jesus' resurrection.

Most (all other?) apostles...most people who knew Jesus were dead. A "mad-man" is now emperor in Rome. He believes he is God-incarnate—likes to be addressed as "our Lord & God." If people won't worship Him, they may lose their job, home, even their life.

The church is facing pressure from gov't, carnal Christians who want control, & the religious who hate the Church.

1. Some of the church were accused of gov't subversion...their loyalty would be tested by a demand of worship to Ceasar.
2. The "religious" would falsely accuse church leaders, which led to harsh treatment.

The world's system back then, with its deceptive, authoritarian governmental/political leadership, combined with a religious system that was corrupt, stood against the real church. That's how it was then—and will be today!

Revelation 1:1-20 (NLT2) This is a revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants the events that must soon take place. He sent an angel to present this revelation to his servant John, ² who faithfully reported everything he saw. This is his report of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. ³ God blesses the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for the time is near.

Revelation NOT REVELATIONS = Gk. **Apokalypsis the unveiling!** Something that was there all the time... but now, the curtain is opening and you (His servants) will be able to see.

SOON TAKE PLACE: The early believers were looking for Jesus soon return

To God, who lives in the eternal realm... even 2000 years is nothing (1000 years as a day?)

An angelic messenger was sent to give John the message—THIS IS HIS REPORT!

BLESSING ON THOSE WHO...

...Reads the words of this prophecy to the church.

...All who listen to its message.

...all who obey what it says.

FOR THE TIME IS NEAR!!!

⁴ This letter is from John to the seven churches in the province of Asia. Grace and peace to you from the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come; from the sevenfold Spirit before his throne;



This revelation is given in form of a letter to the Seven churches in Asia (modern day Turkey) Why?

- They are representative of all churches of the Lord Jesus Christ throughout the world.
 - Suggested they represent 7 ages of the church, with the Laodicean church as "last days church."
- Seven is the number of completion...perfection

Jesus is the One who is... always was... who is still to come

God is eternal and He is unchangeable. He is the infinite God, the only living and true God. He is today as He was, and He shall be the same in the ages to come.

He is as all-knowing...as all-powerful... as ever-present as He always was... and always will be!!!

THE SEVENFOLD SPIRIT BEFORE HIS THRONE. The *seven spirits* – the Holy Spirit before the throne of God in all of His perfection and fulness. Therefore, the believer is to find grace and peace in the fulness of the Holy Spirit.

⁵ and from Jesus Christ. ^{5b} He is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the ruler of all the kings of the world. All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us.

Here's who He is!

Faithful witness

First to rise from the dead – with a new body, immortal, incorruptible, never to decay or deteriorate—destined to live forevermore!

Ruler of all the kings of the world.

The Roman Emperor claimed to rule the earth—but John states Jesus is the ruler of all kings!

All glory goes to the Lord—Roman emperor didn't free us from sin—the King of Kings did!!!

Roman emperor temporary king/temporary kingdom. Jesus – eternal king!

VIDEO: THAT'S MY KING <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKsN-AeqJP0>

⁶ He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

In Christ, thru spiritual birth, we have become part of a Kingdom – there is a bond, wherever in the world you meet.

In OT, the priests (don't think Catholic priest) stood before God... offered prayers/incense, helped connect people to God. Jesus made us all a kingdom of priests – you and I can stand before God, enter His holy presence.

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NLT2) "...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. ¹⁰ "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."

⁷ Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see him— even those who pierced him. And all the nations of the world will mourn for him. Yes! Amen!

Daniel 7:13-14 (NLT2) "As my vision continued that night, I saw someone like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven... ¹⁴ 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.

Acts 1:9-11 (NLT2) "After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. ¹⁰ As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

ALL THE NATIONS WILL MOURN? Jesus said in Matthew 24:30 (NLT2) And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Everyone who rejected Him...refused to believe and submit to Him... who knew about Him, but didn't know Him, all who were NOT born again will experience the dread that comes, knowing they blew their chance...that Jesus...what His Word says in REAL—and they missed it!

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 (NLT2) ⁷ And God will provide rest for you ... when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven. He will come with his mighty angels, ⁸ in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power. ¹⁰ When he comes on that day, he will receive glory from his holy people—praise from all who believe. And this includes you, for you believed what we told you about him.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end," says the Lord God. "I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One."

These are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. He is eternal – no beginning... and no ending!

⁹ I, John, am your brother and your partner in suffering and in God's Kingdom and in the patient endurance to

which Jesus calls us. I was exiled to the island of Patmos for preaching the word of God and for my testimony about Jesus. The Lord calls us to patient endurance in suffering for His kingdom.

https://www.google.com/search?q=island+of+patmos+map&tbm=isch&ved=2ahUKEwj4vaX6_IGBAXuNN4AHYmJCC0Q2-cCegQIABAA&og=island+of+patmos+map&gs_lcp=CgNpbWcQAzIFCAAQgAQyBggAEAgQHjIHCAAQgBCABD0ECCMJQz0HCAAQigUQQ1DZCFjwC2DbDWgAcAB4AIABUYgB4gKSAQE1mAEAoAEBggELZ3dzLXdpei1pbWfAAQE&scient=img&ei=4PLtZPjNO-7p-LYPiZOi6AI&bih=875&biw=1745&rlz=1C1RXQR_enUS946US946#imgrc=JIXnA67iOoZUMM



Exiled (pic1) to the island of Patmos – Historians say that John had been arrested for not burning incense in honor/worship of Emperor Domitian. Being the last living apostle, John was summoned before Domitian himself, who had him cast into a cauldron of boiling oil.

That would normally burn off the flesh and the “meat” of a person fall off. Multiple early historical writers state that when they put a hook in the oil to pull out the skeleton, John came out unscathed. Domitian was so freaked out that he banished John to the island of Patmos. **Patmos, a small**

island in the Aegean Sea 24 miles from the coast of modern Turkey, and about 60 miles southwest of Ephesus and between Asia Minor and Greece. According to several early church fathers (Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria, and Eusebius), John was sent to this island (pic 2) as a prisoner following his effective pastorate at Ephesus. Patmos was a rocky island that had been stripped of all its trees/timber. John may have worked as a prisoner in the mines on this small island, or as a political offender, just banished there...to fend for himself (in his 90’s). Since there were many political prisoners there, including whole families, it is said that John quickly shared the gospel of Jesus and started the church on Patmos. An ancient Temple of Artemis was on the island of Patmos, and it is written that John found a cave in a mountain below the Temple of Artemis, where he lived, and where God gave him the tremendous revelation embodied in this final book of the Bible.



<https://www.bibleplaces.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Patmos-view-of-island-south-from-Mount-Elijah-tb061706520.jpg>

10 It was the Lord’s Day, and I was worshiping in the Spirit. Suddenly, I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet blast.

After all the trauma of recent life events, John could still find God, in worship. **THIS IS THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO HEAL US, SUSTAIN US, KEEP US!**

11 It said, “Write in a book everything you see, and send it to the seven churches in the cities of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.”

<https://davidjeremiah.blog/seven-churches-of-revelation-bible-study/>

Spoken of in a circular progression, the message was to be spread.



12 When I turned to see who was speaking to me, I saw seven gold lampstands.

For a quick interpretation of this... down in v20 John writes “the seven lampstands are the seven churches.”

13 And standing in the middle of the lampstands [churches] was someone like the Son of Man.

Jesus was standing in the middle of the lampstands (the churches). Even though persecuted, Jesus stood in the midst, and pressure from the world (political system) could not snuff out the light, the warmth, the power of the Holy Spirit through His Church!

He was wearing a long robe with a gold sash across his chest.

This is representative of His priestly garments, dignity and royal office.

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.

Jesus stands as the Priest and King! His white hair is NOT age, it is His purity & holiness.

His flaming eyes speak of His penetrating wisdom and righteous judgment. People will melt in His Presence!
REMEMBER, 1ST COMING WAS AS THE LAMB OF GOD---NOW... THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH—TRIUMPHANT!
1ST COMING WAS IN MERCY. 2ND COMING, FOR JUDGMENT AND MAKING ALL THINGS RIGHT!
Remember the bronze altar in the OT temple related to sacrifice for sin and divine judgment on sin. Feet that were like “polished bronze refined in a furnace” speaks not only of His strength, and the “fire” He endured to bring us the good news! Isaiah 52:7 (NLT2) “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns!”

¹⁶ He held seven stars in his right hand,

Rev. 1:20 says “The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches.”

Angels is a word that speaks of messengers. While it could be speaking of angels (spirit beings), most believe the 7 “messengers” were the pastors of those 7 churches. In other words, He’s got the pastors in His protective right hand—the hand of power and action. Therefore, no persecutor, no enemy of the Church, will be able to stop them from leading the churches to do the will of the Lord and win victories for Him.

Isaiah 41:10 (NLT2) “Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.”

and a sharp two-edged sword came from his mouth.

The sharp 2-edged sword is the Word of God! Hebrews 4:12-13 (NIV) For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. He speaks truth... reproof and punishment, judgment, which the Scripture says begins in the house of God.

And his face was like the sun in all its brilliance.

As Moses face was “brilliant” when the glory of God lit him up after being on the mountain with God, so Jesus, when He returns will come in the full glory of God...a glory too bright for ordinary human eyes to endure.

Saul/Paul experienced this during his rebellious days on the road to Damascus: Acts 9:3-6 (NLT2) As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?” ⁵ “Who are you, lord?” Saul asked. And the voice replied, “I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! ⁶ Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

When a human being encounters the blazing eyes of Jesus in all His glory, even the most rebellious fall before Him!

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, “Don’t be afraid! I am the First and the Last. It’s as if Jesus is saying... John, don’t be afraid. I’ve got this. I preceded everyone, and I will be the One standing at the end... and I will bring you through to the end.

¹⁸ I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.

I hold the keys—I’m not dead! I’m alive! I am in full control!

Now, as Jesus touches John, he not only revives him, comforts him., He commissions him.

¹⁹ “Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.

Three things in John’s commissioning. Write down:

1. What you have seen (past).
2. What is now (The present message of Christ to seven churches ([chaps. 2-3](#))).
3. What will take place later (the main purpose of the book being prophetic, he was to introduce the events preceding, culminating in, and following the second coming of Christ ([chaps. 4-22](#))).

²⁰ This is the meaning of the mystery of the seven stars you saw in my right hand and the seven gold lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.