

The Patmos Vision

Revelation 1:9-20
July 3, 2022

I. Introduction and Review

A. Purpose for writing

1. Roman authorities at this time were beginning to enforce the cult of emperor worship. Christians who held that Jesus, not Caesar, was Lord were facing increasing hostility. Some in the church were advocating a policy of compromise. This had to be corrected before its subtle influence could undermine the determination of believers to stand fast in the perilous days that lay ahead.

B. Another outline: Zondervan, NASB reference edition

1. Jesus Among the Seven Churches (1:1-20)
2. Letters to the Seven Churches (2:1-3:22)
3. The Throne, the Scroll and the Lamb (4:1-5:14)
4. The Seven Seals (6:1-8:1)
5. The Seven Trumpets (8:2-11:19)
6. Various Personages and Events (12:1-14:20)
7. The Seven Bowls (15:1-16:21)
8. Babylon: The Great Harlot (17:1-19:5)
9. The Marriage of the Lamb (19:6-10)
10. The Return of Jesus (19:11-21)
11. The Thousand Years (20:1-6)
12. Satan's Doom (20:7-10)
13. Great White Throne Judgement (20:11-15)
14. New Heaven, New Earth, New Jerusalem (21:1-22:5)
15. Conclusion (22:6-21)

II. The Patmos Vision

A. The Circumstances of the Vision – vs. 9-11

1. The physical circumstances – v. 9
 - a. Patmos:
 - i. One of about 50 islands in the Aegean Sea, SW of Ephesus and between Asia Minor and Greece.
 - ii. 10 miles long, 6 miles wide
 - iii. Very rocky - known as the Alcatraz of the Roman Empire

b. John sent there because he was faithful

- i. *Foxes Book of Martyrs* says he was sentenced to death by Domitian but did not die when cast into a cauldron of burning oil.
- ii. Domitian sent him to Patmos to labor in the mines
- iii. John persevered in his faith.

2. The Spiritual Circumstances – vs. 10, 11

a. "I was in the Spirit"

- i. By the power of the Holy Spirit, John saw God's present & future agenda
- ii. John was near to God, thus heard from God. Psalm 25:14

b. "On the Lord's Day"

- i. i.e., Sunday – used this way in future Christian literature.
- ii. Or, a picture of the events leading up to the Second Advent

c. To the Seven Churches

- i. The command to write (first of 12 times)
- ii. Asia Minor is current day Turkey
- iii. The order is that of an old postal route

B. The Content of the Vision – v. 12-16

1. Jesus: His apparel – vs. 12, 13

- a. He is standing in the middle of the seven lamp stands, thus demonstrating His authority over them.
- b. "Like the Son of Man"
 - i. First used in Daniel 7:13
 - ii. Son of God: divine name; son of David: Jewish name; Son of Man: human name
 - iii. Son of Man used 80 plus times – Jesus' favorite
- c. "*Clothed in a robe reaching to the feet . . .*"
 - i. "His clothing is that of a priest and judge, which are the relationships of authority, which He sustains to the local churches." C.C. R.

- d. See Daniel 10:5
- 2. Jesus: His Appearance – vs. 14-16
 - a. Head and hair white like wool and snow. This points to His eternity, and the wisdom and purity of His judgments
 - b. Eyes like a flame of fire - perfect knowledge, infallible insight
 - c. Feet like polished brass - brass is a type of judgment, thus His role as Judge
 - d. Voice of many waters - majestic, awesome, and mighty.
 - i. See also verse 10b
 - e. He held seven stars in His right hand
 - i. Seven stars - seven angels, or pastors, of the churches.
 - Luke 9:52; James 2:25
 - ii. This speaks of His possession/ownership/power/control.
 - See I Corinthians 6:19-20
 - f. Mouth - the sword is the Word of God. Hebrews 4:12
 - g. Face like the sun - dazzling splendor; the glory of His deity
- C. The Consequences of the Vision – vs. 17-20
 - 1. The identification of the Christ – vs. 17, 18
 - a. One to fall down before
 - i. See Ezekiel 1:28; Matthew 17:6
 - ii. A different response: John 13:23
 - b. The First and the Last, the self-existent, eternal One.
 - i. See Isaiah 44:6
 - c. The Living One: The One who conquered death.
 - i. See I Corinthians 15:25, 26
 - d. The One who controls Hades & death.
 - i. See Revelation 20:14
 - 2. The Instruction of the Christ – v. 19
 - a. Write the things which you have seen (Chapter 1)
 - b. Write the things which are (Chapter 2, 3)
 - c. Write the things which shall be (Chapter 4-22)
 - 3. The interpretation by the Christ – v. 20
 - a. Seven stars - the angels of the seven churches
 - b. Seven lamp stands - seven churches

