



# Citadel Of Faith Covenant Church

July 13, 2016



The Apostle John was exiled to the island of Patmos (a rocky deserted island which served as a penal colony for Rome. He was exiled in about 95 AD which is when he penned the Book of Revelation. Chapter 1:7&8 shares John's statement about what will happen ...the Lord will return how he left (coming with the clouds (vs. 7) and every eye will see him (even those who pierced him (both those who physically doubted his deity and denied him while crucifying Him along with those who metaphorically do and will do the same (vs. 7). All the people of the earth will mourn because of him...(everyone who have not received Jesus as Lord will mourn. (Romans 14:11) As Romans states, every knee will bow and EVERY (*italics mine*) shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to God. Then the declaration is made, "So shall it be! Amen" Literally this is what shall happen and "It is so!" The next logical question is who is making this statement and this will greatly determine if we can believe it or accept it. Vs. 8 I am the Alpha and the Omega (this means the first and the last (it would be our A and Z). Who is, who was and who is to come, the Almighty. Well, anyone who is the beginning AND the ending and who is currently, was in the past and is to come ...is someone who is almighty. God stands in the present and shakes hands with the past and the future as though they are best friends....this is what almighty looks like.

John then opens in verse 9 declaring who he is. I, John, a brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom. He states that although he's been entrusted with this amazing revelation of Jesus Christ, he describes himself as a brother and companion in suffering. Not the prophet or apostle of revelation, a brother and suffering companion. Wouldn't it serve believers to learn from John in showing humility and not arrogance when given secrets and gifts from God. He further describes himself as one who has patient endurance that are ours in Jesus. He reminds us that his isolation on the isle of Patmos as endurance that is filled with patience ...IN JESUS. Can we find patient endurance on our Patmos places? Where we are in Christ speaks to our ability to have patient endurance. He then goes on to say that he was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. He was in a tough place because of his love for the Word of God and his testifying of Jesus. Could your Patmos be because of your love for God and testimony of Him and not just the devil? John obviously had such a deep relationship with God that his location did not stop his devotion. Often our comfort, convenience determines our worship. It's too hot outside, I don't think I can worship. Sabbath was not convenient for him. Rev. 1:10, on the Lord's Day (this is the Sabbath, I was in the Spirit. Wow, what a statement, in prison, alone and on the Sabbath, in the Spirit!



Vs. 10b says that John heard a voice like that of a trumpet. Numbers 10:1-10 speaks of God's ordering of both how to construct the trumpets as well as what their uses were. The use of trumpets always symbolized an official announcement of proclamation. Well it's appropriate for what is getting ready to be revealed that there be the sounding of trumpet to precede this great announcement and revelation of Jesus Christ. This voice (which sounded like a trumpet) informs John to write what he sees to the seven churches, Ephesus, Smyrnia, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea. It's important to note that since the resurrection of Jesus the gospel has spread in such away that there are communities of believers in many of that days critical cities. The urgency to do what Mark 16:15 states is being fleshed out by the forming of these churches in many of these cities. How many of us have the burden to take the gospel outside of the four walls of the church to those who need to hear it the most. What communities of faith are we building outside of our "Jerusalems"?

Vs. 12 shows what John saw when he turned in the direction of the trumpet like verse. He saw seven golden lampstands. This is a representation of the church. Matthew 5:14-16 reminds us that we are the light of the world. We can't put our light under a bowl, but instead on a lampstand so that all could see. Well, we see 7 lampstands made of gold (the seven churches is who this first conversation is being addressed.). Sometimes we have to be reminded who God sees us as before he reminds us of who we've become outside of His perfect will. These seven churches has many challenges, but God sees seven gold lampstands. But we are not alone. IN the midst of these seven lampstands is someone like the son of man (Daniel 7:13 read).

Next time we will get a glimpse of the resurrected Christ in how his appearance, stance and voice speaks of His great power.

Questions for contemplation:

- 1) How do you handle your Patmos places?
- 2) What do you do on your Sabbath?
- 3) How do you handle persecution?
- 4) What do you do with the testimony of Jesus which you've been given?
- 5) How does John's life speak to you? (His imprisonment, his attitude, his worship?)
- 6) How does your church look? (lampstand or bowl hiding the light)?
- 7) How do YOU LOOK...(lampstand or hidden light under a bowl?)