

STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR

MAY 31, 2020

READ REVELATION 1:1-20

AN EXCERPT

¹ The Revelation¹ of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated *it* by His angel to His bond-servant John, ² who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even* to all that he saw. ³ Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near...

Continue reading through verse 20.

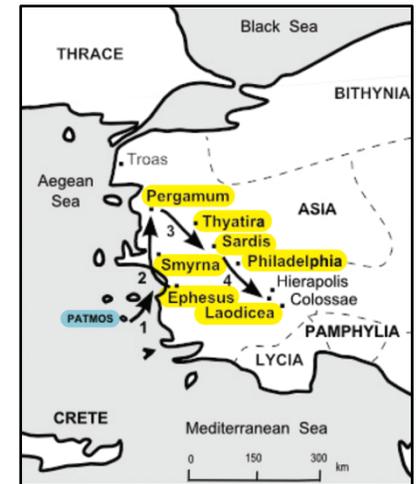
STUDY IT

- Why are members of Jesus' church called servants/bond-servants? (v.1)
- In verse 3, John blesses the reader by reminding them that the "time is near." What does this mean?
- Related to the above, what is going on in the church at the time of this prophetic message?² What hope might this bring?
- Who are the seven churches that Jesus is writing to? With all seven being in Asia (modern-day Turkey/see map), what might be the significance of these churches?³ (v.11)
- How does John describe the One who is speaking these words? How does this vision demonstrate Jesus' majesty and power? (vs.12-16)
- What does John do when he sees this Voice? (v.17)

¹ The word Revelation (v.1) is from the Greek word for Apocalypse. This is a word that describes a type of Jewish prophetic literature that uses "symbolic visions to describe heavenly perspective on history in light of its final outcome." ([The Bible Project](#))

² Emperor Nero's persecution of Christians had likely ended. A *worse* persecution was now ravaging the Church under Domitian.

- When Jesus commands John, "do not be afraid," what does he want of John? (v.17b) What promise is being communicated to John...or anyone who beholds God's glory and presence?



- Verses 8 & 17 describe the Lord as "Alpha and Omega," "the first and the last." What does it mean that Jesus is *both* "beginning and end?"
- John's vision includes (and will increasingly include) seven: the heavenly number of perfection (vs.12-16). What do these sevens represent? (v.20)
- What might be the role of an *angel of the church*? (v.20)

APPLY IT

- How can we remain faithful at times that feel really uncertain?
- What difference does it make that God gave this final prophecy to his people?
- What does the command "Do not be afraid"⁴ mean to you? How can you obey both commands, *fear God* and *do not fear*?
- Imagine being a recipient of a letter from Jesus. Knowing that he is about to encourage, rebuke, and realign you in your faith, what would you expect to hear from him?

³ Notice John's exile location, Patmos, is in close proximity to Asia Minor and the seven churches. ([Map](#) – The Bible Journey)

⁴ The most common commands in Scripture: *Praise the Lord, Rejoice, Give Thanks, and Do not Fear*. (<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-most-repeated-command-in-the-bible>)