

REVELATION

VISIONS OF VICTORY

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A Vision of the Exalted Christ

(Revelation 1:9-20)

Revelation 1:9–20 (NKJV) – Bible passage [my explanatory notes]

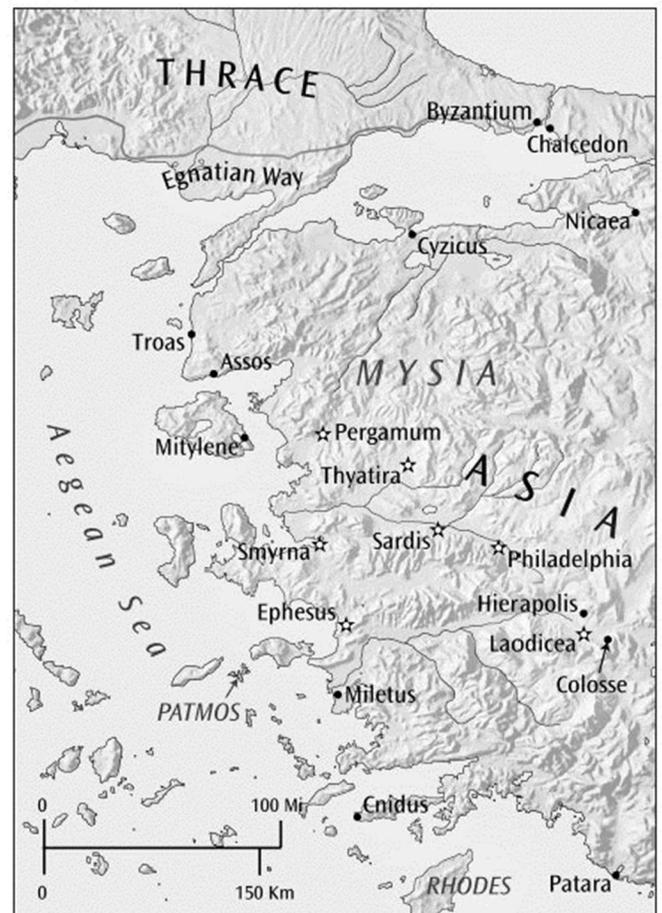
⁹I, John, both your brother [they are spiritual family members] and companion in the tribulation [all of them are experiencing persecution for their faith] and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ [they are all enduring the persecution while waiting for Jesus' kingdom to be established on earth], was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ [his persecution is because of the preaching of the Gospel].

Patmos - "Located in the Aegean Sea off the coast of Asia Minor (modern Turkey) and part of a group of about fifty islands, Patmos is a barren, rocky, crescent-shaped island that is about ten miles long and less than six miles at its widest point. It served as a Roman penal colony. According to the early Christian historian Eusebius, the emperor Nerva (a.d. 96–98) released John from Patmos."¹

¹⁰I was in the Spirit [controlled or overwhelmed by the Spirit] on the Lord's Day [refers to Sunday, not "the Day of the Lord" – the word "Lord" is an adjective], and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet [trumpets express that a great announcement is to be made],

¹¹saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, [Jesus is eternal and beyond time]" and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

¹²Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands [according to v. 20 – each lampstand represents a church, from which



¹ John MacArthur, *Revelation: The Christian's Ultimate Victory*, MacArthur Bible Studies (Nashville, TN: W Publishing Group, 2001), 11.

the light shines. Jesus said in John 8:12, "I am the Light of the world," but Matthew 5:14 says Christians are, too.],

Extra Notes:

- ¹³ and in the midst [in the middle] of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man ["Son of Man" is Jesus' preferred title that He uses of Himself. According to Daniel 7:13, it refers to His deity and messiahship. It also reflects that He is fully man, identifying with man], clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. [this refers to Christ's role as high priest]
- ¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow ["white" refers to Christ's holiness and purity], and His eyes like a flame of fire; [lit. "His eyes shot fire" symbolizing His penetrating ability to see everything.]
- ¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass [Brass in Scripture is a symbol of judgment. Exodus 38:1-7 explains that the altar and utensils were covered in brass], as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters [like the roar of a waterfall – His voice drowns out all other voices];
- ¹⁶ He had in His right hand seven stars [the "stars" refer to the messengers who represent the seven churches – see verse 20. The significance of the "right hand" means a place of honor. Jesus controls the church and the pastor], out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword [Hebrews 4:12 – this is His Word, which can save or judge, depending on how you respond], and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength [though He comes to Israel, the rest of the world will view His brilliance and light].
- ¹⁷ And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid [though overwhelming to behold, a child of God should not be afraid in His presence]; I am the First and the Last.
- ¹⁸ I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death ["death" is the condition, while "Hades" is the place of the dead. In the Old Testament, it is referred to as Sheol. Jesus is even in charge of those who have died and where they are in eternity – heaven or hell].
- ¹⁹ Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. [this is the overarching outline of Revelation – "things which you have seen" (chapter 1); "things which are" (chapter 2-3); and "things which will take place after this" (chapter 4-22).]
- ²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels [messengers – actually, these are the pastors] of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.