

“Letters From The End of The World”
Revelation 1:9-20

~ LETS PRAY ~

I’VE TITLED TODAY’S MESSAGE:

- “Letters From The End of the World”

~ STUDY ~

TODAY...

- John takes us right into his vision from the island of Patmos.

AND WE GET...

- Our first taste of symbolic language...
 - As John describes Jesus in His glory.

POINT #1 – GOD’S DIRECTION: (vv.9-11)

(v.9)

JOHN LAYS OUT...

- Why he was on Patmos.

(NLT) says...

“I was exiled to the island of Patmos for preaching the word of God and for my testimony about Jesus.”

THIS IS INTERESTING...

- Because there are moments...
 - Where God leads us into making tough decisions...
 - And no matter how delicate you are there’s pain!

JOHN WAS SUFFERING...

- Because he had been faithful to do the Lord’s will.

A. W. Towzer said,

“It’s doubtful God can bless a man greatly, until He has hurt him deeply.”

HERE’S A TAKE AWAY FOR US:

THERE ARE SEASONS...

- Where God strips away life as we know it...

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- To get us alone with Him...
 - Because He has more to say to us.

- Even when He leads me into a valley I can't see thru.

NOW... JOHN USES THE WORDS – *Patience endurance* (NLT)

- Describing a person who **counted the cost**...
 - And decided to remain faithful...
 - No matter what the outcome was!

(v.10) “*The Lords Day*” ...

- This is Sunday or the first day of the week...
 - John was worshipping & God spoke to him.

REMEMBER...

- John was the disciple that would lie on the Lord's chest...
 - But by this time it had been 60-years...
 - Since John had heard Jesus' voice.

- Think about a voice you haven't heard in a long time.

I CAN REMEMBER...

- My grandfather Leland Cramer.
 - His voice replays clearly in my head to this day...
 - He would call me “Jeffrey boy.”

WE'LL... JOHN KNEW...

- The voice of Jesus & he heard Him in a powerful way.
 - “*as of a trumpet*” = clear / distinctive / powerful.

(v.11)

JESUS TELLS JOHN TO WRITE WHAT HE SEES...

- And send it to the seven churches across Asia.

Church that's your call as well.

- Go and tell other what you've heard & seen.

POINT #2 – GOD'S GLORY: (vv.12-16)

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(v.12)

NOW...

- He turns to see the voice & in an instant he “*saw*”...
 - Literally = He perceived & fully understood...
 - Example: (John 20:8) at the tomb.

- John saw seven golden lampstands...
 - (v.20) gives interpretation...
 - These are the churches!

(v.13)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE...

- Of the churches is “*One like the Son of Man*”...
 - This is a **messianic title** taken from (Dan. 7:13) NKJV...
 - And used in the gospels about (81x).

NOW WE GET INTO A...

- Description of Jesus in His glory.

AGAIN (v.13)...

- A Garment that reaches His feet = majesty & greatness!
 - (Isa. 6:1) “*the train of His robe filled the temple...*”

WE UNDERSTAND THAT...

- Those who wear long robes hold authority OR are given honor:
 - Think of a Judge in the Court of Law...
 - OR a college graduate during graduation.

THIS PICTURE...

- Is said to point to the priestly duties of Christ...
 - And one of the duties of the OT priest was to **daily tend** to...
 - The golden lampstands **in the tabernacle**.

- The priest would clean the vessel, trim the wicks, & fill the oil.

SO THE IMAGERY...

- Is amazing when we think about it this way...
 - Because Jesus is in the midst of the lampstands – churches!

(vv.14-16) Is focused on a description of Jesus’ majesty!

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1. *Head & hair like wool & white as snow* = Christ’s Holiness (Isa. 1:18)
2. *Eyes like a flame of fire* = Christ’s all-knowing (Heb 4:13) NKJV
3. *Feet like fine brass, refined in a furnace* = Christ bore the sins of the church – the bronze altar (Exodus 27:1-6) & (John 12:32) NKJV.
4. *Voice as the sound of many waters* = Christ’s voice of authority.
5. *Right hand holding seven stars* = Christ’s control of church leaders.
6. *Out of His mouth a sharp two-edged sword* = Christ judgment on His enemies.

THIS IS NOT...

- The little sword we often talk about in (Heb. 4:12)...
 - **That sword** is known as a (*ma-khi-ra*) small sword.
- This one is a (*rhom-fi-a*) a massive gladiator sword.
 - This sword is so powerful that a full swing...
 - Will cut a man from head to groin in one blow.

POINT BEING...

- Gods word is penetrating & powerful... unstoppable!

LAST ONE (v.16b)...

7. *Countenance like the shining sun* = Christ’s glory

POINT #3 – GOD’S MESSAGE: (vv. 17-20)

(v.18)

KEYS OF DEATH & HADES...

- This implies authority to open a door and give entrance.
 - He alone can give entrance into eternal life...
- So, death is the condition & Hades is the place of the dead.
 - (Luke 16:19-31) *The rich man & Lazarus.*

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(v.19)

ONCE AGAIN...

- Is the outline of the book: Past / presence / future.

(v.20)

Seven Stars = angels of the churches = The pastors of the churches.

Seven Golden Lampstands = These are the churches.

~ IN CLOSING ~

MAY WE RECOGNIZE...

- That God is much closer than we realize.
 - And He is intimately concerned about the details...
 - Of the church & your life!

WILL YOU TRUST HIM?

~ LETS PRAY ~