

The 1st Message
Revelation 1:1-11
Al Gascon | February 4, 2024

Quote of the Week

They (those who worship Caesar) could surrender their faith in Christ, but for John, this would be to surrender “the crown of life.” They could lie about their loyalty to Christ, but John reserved a place in “the fiery lake of burning sulfur” for liars. They could try to change the laws, but this was not possible since Rome was not a democracy and Domitian would never accept a rival “Lord.” They could fight the Roman government, but this was not practical. They could “adjust” by confessing Caesar as “god” without meaning it, but John rejects even feigned idolatry as unworthy of Christ. Finally, they could die, as Jesus himself had died. John affirms death for Christ’s sake as the only true Christian response. There is no other way. —Eugene Boring

⇒ The book of revelation is a crisis letter that responded to the severe persecution of Christians as well as strengthening the church for the near future martyrdom of her leaders.

Revelation 1:1-16

⇒ Nothing is out of God’s control, and God is sovereign in the midst of any crisis or tragedy.

Discussion Questions

- a. Is the book of Revelation a book in the Bible that you have always stayed away from or have desired to know more about?
- b. Have you ever heard that the revelation of John was a response to crisis? Does this change the way you view the book?
- c. Has there ever been a tragedy or a time of great suffering that God has brought you or someone close to you out of?
- d. When you are suffering or in turmoil, what reminds you of God’s faithfulness?
- e. Homework: I’d like for you to try to eavesdrop on at least three conversations this week where you can only hear one party speaking. Trying to piece back together with that conversation was about based on you only hearing one side of the conversation.