

John the Revelator

By Tom Stephens

Text: Revelation: 22:20 “He that testifieth these things saith, surely I come quickly! Amen. Even so, Come Lord Jesus.”

INTRODUCTION: Several times during their ministry with the Lord Jesus, His disciples questioned Him concerning the times and the seasons. In Matthew 24:3, they said, “*Tell us when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?*”

Because Jesus was always quick to teach them His Kingdom is not of this world, but it is in the heart of man, they would often wonder exactly what the Saviour meant (Acts 1:1-8)

Though the Holy Spirit was given in order that men would have the power in witnessing, this is not the major point of this portion of scripture. The Holy Spirit helps us; That’s correct; he helps us grow and become the giants for the Lord He invisioned while praying at Gethsemane that evening; that can only happen when the church of Jesus Christ becomes unified.

But wait. His disciples were asking a question. They didn’t ask about living an overcoming life, the power to witness, or learning to intercede for their nation. They were saying, “*Lord, will you at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?*” And you and I have been asking that same question all through the ages, Lord, How long?”

Jesus answered and said, “*It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. That’s powerful.* Sounds to me like the Lord was saying, “*Lord, will you at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?*” And you and I have been asking that same question all through the ages. “*Lord, How Long?*”

Jesus answered and said, “*It is not for you to know the times of the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power*”. “*That’s powerful. Sounds to me like the Lord was saying, “Do not worry about the future. Rather be focused on the words I give you for today, For you will receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth*

Jesus is not trying to hide His coming. That’s the reason soon after (the same day) the resurrection Jesus opened the minds of all His disciples that they might understand the scriptures. In Psalm 46:10, The Lord proclaims to us, “*Be still, and know that I am God.*”

1. JOHN, FROM SON OF THUNDER TO APOSTLE OF LOVE—(Mark 3:13-17)

John and his brother, James were fishermen. Jesus called John as one of the 12 to become a fisher of men. He named Son of Thunder, Maybe humorously...but meaningly, and John was to live up to this name over and over.

A. Jesus refused the hospitality of a Samaritan village (Luke 9: 49-56)

B. It was John who stood among the disciples to tell Jesus, “Master, we saw one casting out devils in your name, and he followed not us: and we forbade him because he followed not us” (Mark 9:38) Note: Jesus must have wondered many times about the disciples because he often, in some anger, ask them if they would ever catch on. Yet, we later see a man named John who truly loved. He had learned to hold the vehemence of his spirit in check, and to see the Spirit of the Lord minister through Him in the love called agape.

C. John and James came together once to make an ambitious request of the Lord (Mark 10:35-40). Again Jesus rebuked the proud spirit within the hearts of these brothers and promised suffering to interfere with their walk soon if they continued to follow Him. Of course, the brothers continued with Jesus.

At least five times in his own book, John referred to himself as that “disciple whom Jesus loved (John 19:26; 20:2; 21:7; and 21:20)

II. JOHN THE EXILED

In the 14th year of Domitian, John was banished to the Isle of Patmos. Yet, he was in the Spirit on the Lord's day. This is remarkable, as he was at this time well advanced in years. He had been exiled from friends and loved ones. He lived through the deaths of his fellow workers in Christ, banished to a windswept and rocky Grecian Island, where he found dissidents of all kinds residing there. They had also been exiled, but not because they preached the words of Jesus, but because they had broken the Law.

III. JOHN THE REVELATOR

A. John's greeting: "John's greeting: "John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace and peace from Him which is, and which was, and which is to come and from the 7 spirits which are before the throne.

B. From Jesus

1. The faithful witness
 2. The first begotten of the dead
 3. The prince of the kings of the earth
- "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood: (Revelation 1:4,5)

C. "and hath made us to be kings and priests unto God and His Father; to him be glory and domination forever and ever. Men (Verse 6)

D. "Behold, he

1. Cometh with the clouds;
2. And every eye shall see him,
3. And they also which pierced him
4. And all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, amen" (verse 7)

E. Jesus said, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." (verse 8)

F. "I, John:

1. Am your brother and companion in tribulation,
2. And in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ,
3. Was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God
4. And for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

G. "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet..."

CONCLUSION: The key verse of the book of Revelation is 1:19: "Write the things which thou hast seen and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

A. "Which thou hast seen" – Revelation, Chapter one

B. "The things which are" – Revelation, Chapters 2&3

C. "The things which shall be hereafter" – Revelation 4-22.