



## JOHN THE REVELATOR ON THE ISLE OF PATMOS



This first lesson in this series on the Book of Revelation begins with our taking a mental trip to Patmos, a small Greek island in the Aegean Sea. From one of the highest points on the island we can see the landscape.

The entire island is about seven miles in length and at its widest point about six miles. The population of Patmos today is about 3000 people, but in Bible times its population was very different.

**D**uring the time when ancient Rome ruled the world the isle of Patmos was the place where the emperors would exile anyone, they believed to be a threat to the empire. The island of Patmos holds biblical significance because it was the place where John was given his prophetic vision.

### *Why was John exiled on Patmos?*

Emperor Domitian was the ruler in the late First Century AD when John was preaching in Ephesus against pagan and emperor worship. Domitian disapproved of John's preaching and ordered John exiled to Patmos, a mountainous and rocky isolated island, used as a penal colony.

### *What did John experience during his exile on Patmos?*

While living in exile on Patmos, God revealed to John a series of visions what would happen at the end of time. There is a place called the Cave of the Apocalypse, where it is believed John received the visions, which are recorded in the Book of Revelation.

You probably have a lot of questions: *Why did God give John these visions? Why are there so many weird signs and symbols in Revelation? Is this world really going to end the way John says in Book of Revelation?* During this series we are going to answer these questions and many more.

To properly understand the Book of Revelation, let's start at the beginning.

The word Revelation, *apokalypsis* (translated *The Revelation*), means the uncovering of something hidden, making known what we could not find out for ourselves.

**Revelation 1:1** "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:" tells us that:

- Jesus Christ came from the Father because of the Father's great love for us, 1 John 4:7-8.
- God sent us these visions as a warning, Amos 3:7 (Remember when you were a kid and you were warned to stay away from the hot stove?) Throughout the Bible, God sent prophets to warn people about the consequences of their choices.
- The visions are for believers, those who accept that we are saved by grace through faith—salvation it is the gift of God, Ephesians 2:8.

God has a record of "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done" (Isaiah 46:10), so that we can know that He is God. Consider the dream given to King Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2. The interpretation of the statue made of different metals outlined successive kingdoms of the world and the nations appeared just like God said they would.

The Old Testament prophecies about Jesus were precisely fulfilled as recorded in the New Testament.

PROPHECY	OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY	NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1-6
Born of a Virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18-23
Of David's Lineage	Jeremiah 23:5	Revelation 22:16
Betrayed by friend	Psalms 41:9	John 13:18, 19, 26
Sold for 30 pcs silver	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:14-16
Crucified	Zechariah 12:10	John 19:16-18, 37
Cast lots for His coat	Psalms 22:18	Matthew 27:35
Buried in a rich man's tomb	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60
Predicted the year of death	Daniel 9:26	Matthew 27:45-50

The prophecies of scripture can be trusted. God has sent us a sure word of prophecy.