

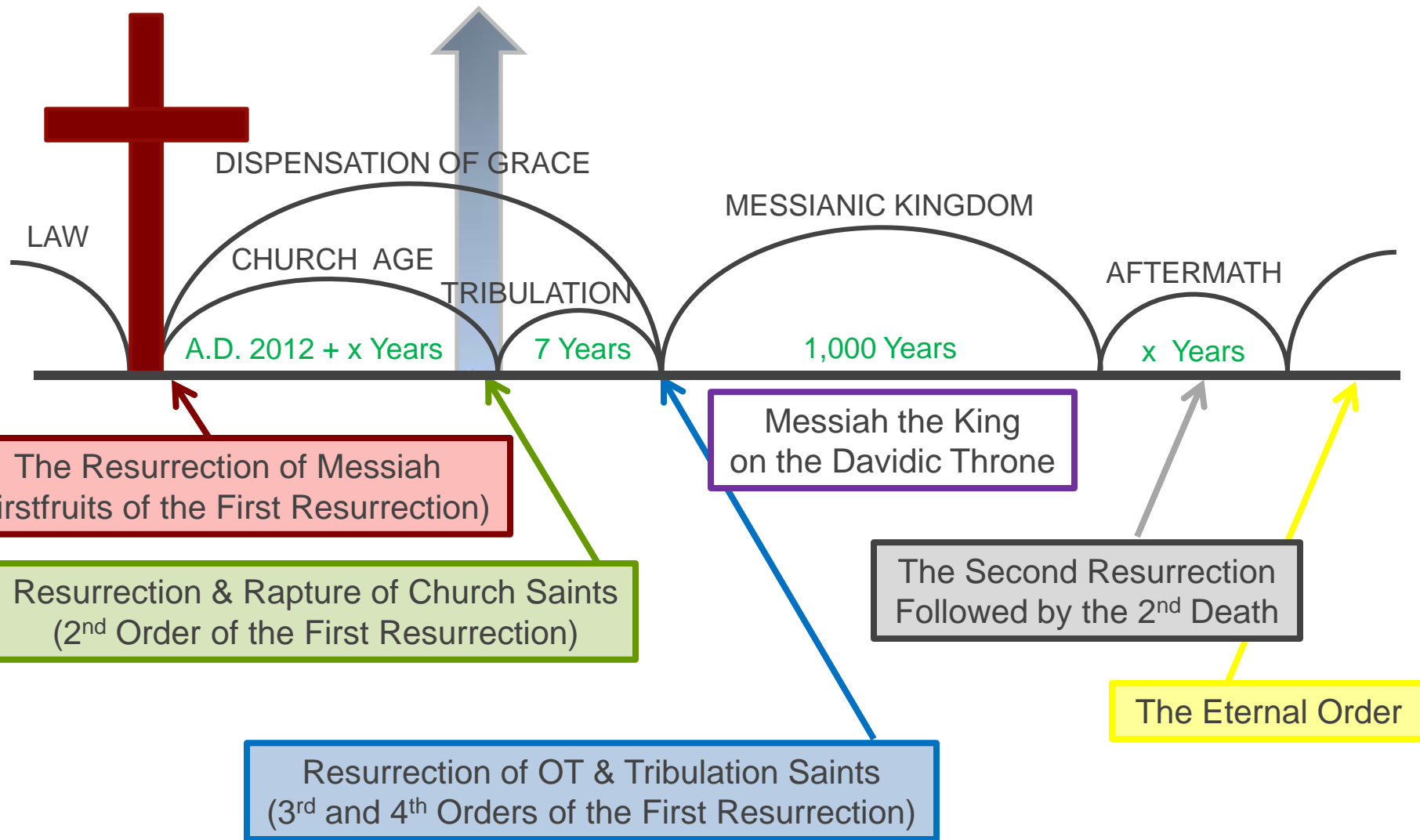
# REVELATION

## A Study of the Sequence of Prophetic Events

**The Commission – The Things that John Saw**  
Revelation 1:9-11 NET

# Introduction to the Book of Revelation

## The Outline of Eschatology



# The Salutation

## Revelation 1:1-3 NET

- 1:1** The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must happen very soon. He made it clear by sending his angel to his servant John,
- 1:2** who then testified to everything that he saw concerning the word of God and the testimony about Jesus Christ.
- 1:3** Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy aloud, and blessed are those who hear and obey the things written in it, because the time is near!
- 1:4** From John, to the seven churches that are in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from “he who is,” and who was, and who is still to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,
- 1:5** and from Jesus Christ – the faithful witness, the firstborn from among the dead, the ruler over the kings of the earth. To the one who loves us and has set us free from our sins at the cost of his own blood
- 1:6** and has appointed us as a kingdom, as priests serving his God and Father – to him be the glory and the power for ever and ever! Amen.
- 1:7** (Look! He is returning with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the tribes on the earth will mourn because of him. This will certainly come to pass! Amen.)
- 1:8** “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God – the one who is, and who was, and who is still to come – the All-Powerful!

# The Commission – The Things that John Saw

## Revelation 1:9-11 NET

- 1:9** I, John, your brother and the one who shares with you in the persecution, kingdom, and endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony about Jesus.
- 1:10** I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day when I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,
- 1:11** saying: "Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches – to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."

### Why does he start this paragraph with "I, John"? Why not just John?

- ❖ This verse begins with the Greek word **ego**. It is an emphatic identifying mark. John wants us to know that it is him speaking. The Lord God was speaking in verse 8.
- ❖ John was the only living apostle at this time. He had apostolic authority over these seven churches, unlike today where a pastor-teacher is over one local congregation. Everyone knew John, he was the final authority.

### Does this structure remind you of anyone else in scripture?

- ❖ Daniel. Daniel was also a prophet who was writing a book of prophecy. He used the word I and his name after it (Dan 8:1; 10:2).

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### John uses the word “brother” to describe himself. Appropriate?

- ❖ The word brother is (ἀδελφός) **adelphos** in Greek. He is speaking as one of the members of the family of God. At the moment of salvation we are a part of God’s family. This is found throughout scripture.

### As a Christian brother what does he partake in with us (3 things)?

- ❖ The one who shares with you is συγκοινωνός – **synkoinōmos**; fellow partaker.
- ❖ Persecution – (θλίψει) **thlipsei** - pressure. A period of suffering.
- ❖ Kingdom - (βασιλεία) **basileia**. The royal family. By salvation we have entered a special kingdom.  
**Colossians 1:13 NET** He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son he loves,
- ❖ Endurance – (ὑπομονῆ) **hypomonē**. Patience, perseverance. John takes part in the hanging in there.

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### Where is John at the time of the receiving of the Revelation?

- ❖ He is on the island of Patmos, an island about 38 miles off the west coast of present-day Turkey.
- ❖ It is a rugged, volcanic island. It is about 10 miles long and 6 miles wide.
- ❖ He was exiled there from about A.D. 86 to 96 (10 years).

### What was the reason(s) for John's banishment to Patmos?

- ❖ Because of the word of God and the testimony about Jesus.
- ❖ The early church fathers say John was exiled to Patmos to work the mines. Remember that John would have been in his mid 80's when he was first exiled.

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### What is “isagogics”?

- ❖ Isagogics involves looking at the situation **politically**, it’s **historical context** and **background** to better understand a biblical book.
- ❖ Studying the book of the Revelation with this frame of reference is **necessary** to understand this book.

### Who ruled over the world at this time?

- ❖ Rome...the **Roman Empire** was in control.
- ❖ The Roman Empire would tolerate many, many, things but because it was an atheistic, godless and idol worshiping system, the one thing it would not tolerate was an authority greater than itself (particularly to the head of that government, the Emperor).
- ❖ John was proclaiming a **higher authority**.



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### Who ruled over the world at this time?

❖ Rome...the Roman Empire was in control.

### Who was the Roman Emperor? Who was on the throne at this time?

- ❖ Domitian was the emperor. He reigned from A.D. 81-96. He was the last in a line of emperors called the Flavian dynasty.
- ❖ The Flavian dynasty had only 3 emperors, encompassing the reigns of Vespasian (69-79), and his two sons, Titus (79-81) and Domitian (81-96).
- ❖ The whole dynasty only ruled for 27 years.

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### Who preceded this dynasty? What is he known for?

- ❖ The notorious Nero.
- ❖ He had burned Rome to the ground in order to give himself the elbow room he needed to exercise the grandiose building projects that he had in mind and for which he blamed Christians.
- ❖ It was Nero who brought Christianity into the category of being an illegal religion and therefore anybody who practiced it was liable to the death penalty.
- ❖ It was on this basis that Nero was able to behead the apostle Paul. It is Nero who executed Paul. Nero reigned from about 54 to 68 A.D.

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### Who was the first ruler of the Flavian dynasty?

- ❖ After Nero, the Flavian dynasty came into full power with Vespasian.
- ❖ Vespasian was the man who began the siege against the Jews in Palestine and who had successfully operated that campaign to the point where the Jews were restricted now in siege within the city of Jerusalem itself and where thousands upon thousands of Jews were being killed.
- ❖ Vespasian in the midst of this campaign and as the siege was mounting in intensity, received word from Rome that Nero was dead.
- ❖ Then there was a little jockeying of power for taking the position of Emperor. Vespasian was ordered back to Rome to take the position of Emperor, which he did.

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### Who was Vespasian's eldest son?

- ❖ Vespasian becomes Emperor and so he turned over the campaign in Palestine against the Jews to his oldest son **Titus**.
- ❖ It was Titus who finished the campaign as you know in 70 A.D. **He tore the city of Jerusalem apart**, destroyed the temple and then carried all the sacred objects from the temple as well as rounding up hundreds of Jews and transporting them back to Rome.
- ❖ There having his great **victory parade** as was the custom in that day. The word had gone back of the great victory and they prepared a reception and this consisted of **Titus riding in the chariot before his troops**. His troops marching in full military array and then coming after them the various items of the plunder that they had captured, the various things that they had secured from the temple.

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### Domitian followed Titus. What do we know about the emperor Domitian?

- ❖ As the youngest, Domitian grew up seeing the military victories of his father and brother.
- ❖ After one of Domitian's military victories and the parade that followed, the crowd called him "master" and "god". He liked that...
- ❖ He started proclaiming himself a god/monarch. Some in flattery offered sacrifices to Domitian. He liked that as well.
- ❖ Oaths in public documents were sworn to Domitian the emperor/god.
- ❖ Domitian required his subjects to offer sacrifices once a year to himself. This was considered an act of patriotism and was to unite the empire. If any refused, the charge of atheism was brought about and you were considered a traitor to both the emperor and the Roman empire.
- ❖ Now the god-monarch Domitian rose to such power under this arrangement where he was looked upon as the living god that all the nation worshiped that he actually did need a Roman Senate which had been so powerful in the past in Roman history. So he simply disbanded them because his lust for power was so great that he could not tolerate any kind of legislative body above himself and he announced his rise to deity status by the coins which he issued and the remains that we have, the archaeological discoveries of coins, which were minted in Domitian's time clearly declare that he is God Emperor.

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### How were the first century Christians handling all this?

- ❖ Many were punished/executed for not acknowledging Domitian as god.
- ❖ Domitian saw Christians as his only major problem in keeping the Roman Empire from being a united empire. Many refused to make the required sacrifice and he proceeded to destroy them.
- ❖ So he made this a point of national policy, that Christians as a whole were to be persecuted.

### What is the reason 1st century Christians were persecuted?

- ❖ Not only because they worshipped Jesus, but mainly because they refused to worship the emperor/god Domitian. It was a matter of patriotism.
- ❖ Other religions would worship their own gods and pledge their allegiance to Domitian at the same time.

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### How did Domitian die?

❖ Domitian was so hated and so despised by Romans as well as by Jews and Gentiles because of his mounting brutality and because of his rejection and destruction of the Roman Senate that Domitian was assassinated.

### Who succeeded him?

- ❖ Nerva. The first thing Emperor Nerva did was to rescind all that Domitian had done.
- ❖ Well that included the banishment of John the apostle and as a result of the death of Domitian and the rescinding of his orders John was able to leave Patmos and probably return to Ephesus.
- ❖ This is interesting...Domitian died in A.D. 96. Believed to be the same year that John wrote Revelation. Perhaps shortly after the Revelation was completed God was ready for this book to be distributed to the seven churches.
- ❖ The Lord moved in his sovereignty and He removed Domitian from the scenes so that John could return

# The Commission – The Things that John Saw

## Revelation 1:9-11 NET

**1:10** I was in *the Spirit* on the Lord's Day when I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

### What does John mean by “I was in the Spirit”?

- ❖ The words “I was” is the Greek verb is (γίνομαι) **ginomai**, and it does not mean “was.” It means “to become.”
- ❖ It is in the **aurist** tense which means it's in a point in time when John entered this condition of being filled with the spirit. It is in the **middle voice** but it has an active meaning which means he had the status of being filled with the spirit.
- ❖ Literally, “I came to be in [the] Spirit.” John came into a certain condition which are going to see here in a moment as that of being filled with the spirit.

### What did John's condition need to be in order for him to be “in Spirit”?

- ❖ John has made **confession** of all known overt and mental sins. (Verse?)
- ❖ John perhaps sat down that Sunday in order to **spend time in a personal worship service**. He was all alone, there were probably no other believers with him on the island Patmos. And he was there in the status of spirituality, sins confessed and therefore in the state of being filled with the spirit. His status of being filled with the spirit of course was prerequisite to his being able to ever receive any divine viewpoint communication



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### What does he mean by “on the Lord's Day”?

- ❖ Lord is not a noun here. “Lord” is the Greek (**κυριακός**) **kuriakos**, an adjective meaning “belonging to the Lord, lordian.” One translation says it was a “lordy day.” A special day in which John fell under the control of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ In all likelihood what he was referring to is the day that we call **Sunday**. Because in the New Testament church Sunday had become the day on which the believers gathered for fellowship and worship and for the study of the word of God. **Why?**
- ❖ The reason they did this was because Sunday was **the day Jesus Christ was resurrected from the dead** and also Sunday was the day that the church began, on **the day of Pentecost**.

### Could this be referring to the Day of the Lord?

- ❖ The Day of the Lord refers to **the Tribulation period plus the Millennium**. It is a very specific, identifiable period of time. It begins the period of darkness, the tribulation seven year period, then it ends with a period of light the period of the thousand year reign of Christ on the earth.

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**So, on Sunday morning, John is on the island of Patmos in meditation and personal worship. What happens?**

- ❖ John heard a magnificent voice so great that he compared it to a trumpet.
- ❖ “Heard is the Greek word (ἤκουσα), ēkousa means intelligible sounds.
- ❖ John understood the words he heard. When Jesus Christ spoke **John could understand** what he was saying.
- ❖ God **always** speaks the words which can be understood by those who are to receive the communication.
- ❖ Only Satan communicates in gibberish because **Satan's purpose is to move the emotions** - not convey information. Satan wants to control emotions to move people emotionally to perform his will. He does not need to convey intelligible information and he doesn't.
- ❖ Now you can search through the Bible and you will discover that God never, never, **never speaks in unintelligible sounds.**
- ❖ Loud voice...(φωνήν) Phōnēn – it is a **human voice** that John hears.

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### What does the voice sound like?

- ❖ A trumpet. John did not actually hear the Tijuana Brass playing behind him at Patmos. But he is sitting there thinking about the things of the Lord and suddenly there is a blaring sound like a blast on a trumpet.

**1:11** saying: "Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches – to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."

### What two commands is John given?

- ❖ To write in a book what you see. John is told this twelve times.

### What does this indicate?

- ❖ John was to write after seeing each vision.
- ❖ Send it to the seven churches.

### What is God's intention for this book?

- ❖ For the church to have and know the contents of the book of Revelation.

**What does John see when he turns around? ...Next week 😊**