

# Rev 1:1-11

## Passage

1 The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John

△ v1

## Revelation - Apocalypse

Word Apocalypse has been hijacked - it just means revelation

Not doom and gloom

destruction of the earth, etc

What we now associate it with

Why: to show what soon must take place

Early church - saw Jesus returning soon

For them Revelation time horizon may be further out then they expected!

And may have been a disappointment

For us?

## FOR US ?

We have tried to put these stories against the backdrop of history

Some have tried to calculate dates when Jesus will return

But maybe soon for us - the end of our lives ...

When we see Jesus ourselves

Time is relative

But the horrors portrayed in Revelation

Have happened time and time again

In every generation

## Imagery

An image speaks more than a 1000 words

Emotional not clinical or analytical

The heart of God

Echoes from images of Daniel, Ezekiel and others

God uses the images he has given OT prophets to show the new future!

Prayer language

<sup>2</sup> who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of

# Jesus Christ.

## Why John?

As he has been working tirelessly

testifying to the word of God & Jesus Christ

And even what he witnessed himself

Allusion that he was one of the apostles?

**3** Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

## Reading and hearing

The original recipients would have listened to someone reading

They would not have had time to study all the stories in detail

Instead they needed to remember as much as they could

Images help with remembering!

4 John,

To the seven churches in  
the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you  
from him who is, and who  
was, and who is to come,  
and from the seven spirits  
before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and  
from Jesus Christ, who is  
the faithful witness, the  
firstborn from the dead, and  
the ruler of the kings of the  
earth.

Fomal letter introduction

Blessings

Introduction of the Father

who is, who was and is to come

Alpha and Omega

First and the last and in between

## Of the Spirit

Seven spirits before his throne

First seven - sign of completeness

Possible allusion to Isaiah 11:2

The Spirit of the Lord (1) will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom (2) and of  
understanding, (3)  
the Spirit of counsel (4) and of might, (5)  
the Spirit of the knowledge (6) and fear  
of the Lord— (7)

Seven attributes of the Spirit of God

## Of Jesus

witness, firstborn, rulers

To him who loves us and  
has freed us from our sins  
by his blood, <sup>6</sup> and has  
made us to be a kingdom  
and priests to serve his God  
and Father—to him be glory  
and power for ever and  
ever! Amen.

Jesus loves us and frees us  
from our sins

by his blood

Makes us into a kingdom and  
priest

prout

Glory to him!



7

“Look, he is coming with  
the clouds,  
and “every eye will see  
him,  
even those who pierced  
him”;

and all peoples on  
earth “will mourn because  
of him.”

So shall it be! Amen.

This Jesus will return

all all for see him - even those  
who put him on the cross

And they will realise what they  
have done to him

repentance

Basis outline of Revelation!

Jesus will return!

People will be judge - judge  
themselves

## In his light

8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

9 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

## The content of the letter starts

John identifies himself further

Brother and companion

Patient endurance - persecution ?

On Patmos because of Jesus testimony

Was he evicted, imprisoned there?

Or was he called to evangelise?

10 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard

behind me a loud voice like  
a trumpet,

### The vision starts

On Sunday - the day of the Lord's  
ressurrection

John was in the Spirit

What does that mean?

### He hears a voice that instructs him

It is the justification and the  
purpose of this letter

Write what you see!

Imagery again!

Send it to the Seven Churches

And so came to book into being

## I was in the Spirit

This was the introduction to  
Revelation: Mine and John's

But I want to pause with the  
phrase that John uses:

"I was in the Spirit"

^ v10

He does not feel the need to  
explain what this is



Like, I was in the house, or the garden or the bathroom

I was in the Spirit

A natural and common occurrence

## Reminds us of

<sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

<sup>^</sup> Eph 6:19

It was common for Christians at that time to be in the Spirit

They knew what John meant and experienced!

## But what does it mean?

Praying in tongues?

Possibly - helpful, but may be a 'side effect'

## Inviting the Spirit to inhabit us

As a means to get closer to God

Some practice meditation

But the early Christians knew the power of the Holy Spirit also upon them

And intentionally they invited the Spirit to come into them

And allow him to take over

loosing control

allowing the master of the universe to be the master of our lives, our minds and our bodies

Not very Dutch or English!

**But: it was when John "was in the Spirit"**

That John received this vision, and the instructions

Being in the Spirit allows God to speak to us

Last week: practice/teach the presence of God

Includes intentionally 'being in the Spirit'

**Shall we practice together?**