

The book of Revelation

1:7-11

Welcome back to the study in the book of Revelation.
Make sure you pray before you start this, or any bible study.

I hoped you enjoyed our first study last week as much as I enjoyed doing it. I know we didn't get very far, but if you have followed the studies here, then you know sometimes we cover a lot, and sometimes we cover a little. But it's all directed by the Holy Spirit, so whatever pace He want's each week is how fast we move.

So let's continue on in chapter one of the book of Revelation.

✠ **Rev 1:7** *Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.*

So what is does **coming with clouds** mean?

I have heard some say that the clouds represent us as believers and that we will be coming with Jesus when He returns.

The only problem I have with that is that scripture does not teach that we are, or ever will be like clouds.

So what does the bible say about clouds?

We need to look at the Old Testament to find out.

- † **Ex 19:9** *And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever." So Moses told the words of the people to the LORD.*
- † **Ex 16:10** *Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.*
- † **Ex 40:34-38** *Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. For the*

cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

Just a few, of many verses that speak of God's awesome glory in the clouds. So here in the Old Testament it represents God's presence, glory and guidance.

Jesus also spoke about this time of His return in the gospels.

† **Matt 24:30** ***Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.***

Paul also wrote the same thing about Jesus' return.

† **1 Thess 4:16-18** ***For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.***

Notice it says that ***the dead in Christ will rise first***. How can we rise if we are there in the clouds? It's a mystery, but then there are a lot of things that we don't understand; yet it doesn't mean that it's not true because we don't understand it.

I don't understand how man can build a rocket that will fly to the moon, but just because I don't understand it, doesn't mean it can't or hasn't happened. Because it has, many times in fact, whether I believe it or understand it or not.

Sure, we will be there with Jesus in our spiritual bodies, but we will not "be" the clouds, at least I can't find anything in scripture that says we will be clouds.

✠ ***and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.***

One thing that caught my eye as I was reading this was, ***even they who pierced Him***. This is referring to Israel, because it was the Jews who had Jesus crucified. But I also thought about those who did the actual crucifixion of Jesus. You know, the ones who nailed Jesus to the cross. The one who whipped Jesus. The one who pierced Jesus' side with the spear after Jesus died and so on.

I always wondered if they ever believed that Jesus was the Messiah, after they saw Jesus on the cross, and hearing His words as Jesus was nailed to the cross.

We do know that one may have believed afterward.

† **Mark 15:39** ***So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!"***

Also the return of Jesus that John is talking about here in **Revelation** and Paul in **I Thess** is what's called the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, which will happen at the end of the Seven Year Tribulation period, and not at the rapture of the church, which happens before the Seven Year Tribulation. But more on that later as we get further into the book of Revelation.

✠ *And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him.*

So, is this speaking of the twelve tribes of Israel?

No, because it doesn't say that, but rather *all the tribes of the earth*, which would mean all the nations of the earth.

Also the Greek word for tribe here is: *phule*, which means "a company of people united by kinship or habitation, a clan, tribe," is used (a) of the peoples of the earth,"

Why will the earth mourn over the return of Jesus?

In the Living bible it puts it this way:

✠ **Rev 1:7 (Living)** *See! He is arriving, surrounded by clouds; and every eye shall see him--yes, and those who pierced him. And the nations will weep in sorrow and in terror when he comes. Yes! Amen! Let it be so!*

Basically, they will be scared to death. Remember as a child or even sometimes as an adult you had a bad dream that scared you so much that you woke up crying and shaking with fear.

The earth will think that it's having a bad dream, because they will find that all of the time they were wrong in their thinking, and the way that they treated Jesus and His followers. But by this time, most would have taken the mark of the beast and will be doomed to hell for all eternity (more on that later in this book as well).

Imagine that, for years you would reject Jesus, make fun of those Christians and use God's name as a swear word. Then all of a sudden you see Him in all His glory with His followers right beside Him, and realize how ignorant and blind you were to the truth, and realizing that you will now have to pay for your lifestyle and way of thinking here on this earth.

I still remember the worst dream I ever had, which was many, many years ago. It was about the rapture, as my friends and family were taken but I wasn't.

I pray that none of you reading this study will be left behind when the rapture happens. If you are unsure if you are going to heaven, then you can e-mail me and ask me any questions, or better yet, ask the Lord to show you in His word.

✠ **2 Peter 3:9** *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

According to what you just read in God's word, God does not want anyone to be left behind during the rapture. But He will not force anyone to be where he or she doesn't want to be, or with someone they don't want to be with.

So by rejecting Jesus, you are telling God that you don't want to go to heaven, and/or that you just don't want to be with Jesus for all eternity in heaven.

He's offering this to you right now. But once again the choice is yours!

✠ **Rev 1:8** *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."*

Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet, and **Omega** is the last letter of the Greek alphabet.

You have heard the term, "It's all Greek to me" well, actually this term **the Alpha and the Omega** is Greek, and the translation would be, **the Beginning and the End**

"who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

What does this mean?

Jesus is saying that He is the Almighty God at this very moment **"who is"**.

That He has been for all eternity past **"who was"**.

And that He always will be **"who is to come"**

the Almighty

There is none like our God, and there never ever will be one like our God, He truly is **the Almighty!**

✠ **Rev 1:9-10** *I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,*

So why was John on the island of Patmos and where is this island?

John tells us why: **for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ**

Fox's book of Martyr's explains what happened to John here.

The "beloved disciple," was brother to James the Great. The churches of Smyrna, Pergamos, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea, and Thyatira, were founded by him. From Ephesus he was ordered to be sent to Rome, where it is affirmed he was cast into a cauldron of boiling oil. He escaped by miracle, without injury. Domitian after wards banished him to the Isle of Patmos, where he wrote the Book of Revelation. Nerva, the successor of Domitian, recalled him. He was the only apostle who escaped a violent death.

Can you imagine that, being boiled in oil, and since you didn't die, nor were even harmed, you are sentenced to live your life out on a deserted island. Now this was no

island like you would think it would be with palm trees and coconuts and bamboo huts that you would live in. No, this was a desert island.

Here is a part of what the *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*'s definition of the island.

A Turkish island of the group Sporades, Southwest of Samos. The island is 10 miles long, and about 6 broad along the northern coast. It is for the most part rocky. The highest part is Mount Elias, which rises to a height of over 800 ft. As in Greece, and in the adjacent mainland of Asia Minor, the land is treeless. In Roman times Patmos was one of the many places to which Rome banished her exiles. In 95 AD, according to a tradition preserved by Irenaeus, Eusebius, Jerome and others, John was exiled here -- in the 14th year of the reign of Domitian -- whence he returned to Ephesus under Nerva (96 AD). The cave in which he is said to have seen his visions is still pointed out to the traveler.

Would this be someplace you would want to go?

So, you are boiled in oil for telling others about Jesus. You don't die so they send you into exile on this deserted rocky island. What would you do?

"Oh God, why are you doing this to me. I tell others about Your Son Jesus and this is what I get for it?"

We are so quick to complain if just the littlest thing goes wrong in our lives. We tend to think that God doesn't care about us anymore or doesn't love us. We look at our lives and wonder what we did so wrong that we would be punished like this?

"Things are not good. I don't make enough money. I need more stuff. My house is too small. My neighbors are too loud. My boss doesn't appreciate me. My spouse doesn't treat me like he or she used to. My kids won't listen to me. Worship at church is too loud. Worship at church is too old fashion. I need, I need, I need, NOW! God, where are you?"

Any of these sound familiar to you?

How many, or even more that you can think of, sound just like you?

Remember Jesus said:

† **Matt 5:10** *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Or as the NLT puts it:

† **Matt 5:10 (NLT)** *God blesses those who are persecuted because they live for God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.*

We use this verse as a verse of comfort when things go bad, but you must read what Jesus is saying.

who are persecuted for righteousness' sake

or

who are persecuted because they live for God

Are things going bad because you are doing what God wants, or is it because you just aren't getting what you think you should be getting, or what you want?

John had every right to complain, but he didn't. And because he didn't, John was blessed by God to be able to see heaven and the things he saw concerning the future here on the earth, as well as in heaven.

Read verse 9 again here in the book of Revelation: ***I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.***

John doesn't write these things so that you would feel sorry for him, but rather so that you would see the grace of God in his life.

Remember when we were in school and how we would have to take tests? We hated them, but they were not to punish us, but rather so that we would learn; and we did learn from them.

God doesn't allow the things to happen in our lives because we are being punished, but rather so that we can learn and help others.

Tests are not always fun, but they help us to grow from little children (spiritually) to adulthood.

✠ ***I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,***

So, when is the Lord's Day?

It's actually Sunday, the day our Lord and Savior, Jesus rose from the dead.

✠ ***Mark 16:9 Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons.***

The first day of the week is actually Sunday, not Monday. Even our calendars represent this, and the church has been celebrating this day ever since.

✠ ***Acts 20:7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.***

✠ ***1 Cor 16:2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.***

✠ ***John 20:19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."***

"But what about Saturday, isn't that the day we are commanded to worship the Lord?"

† Col 2:16-17 *So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.*

† Matt 12:6-8 *"Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple. But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."*

† Mark 2:27-28 *And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath."*

The Sabbath day was not to be a burden upon us, and the Sabbath day was taking a day of rest from our weekly job's or work. Let's look at the actual command from God in the book of Exodus.

† Ex 20:8-11 *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.*

This is my own thinking and I may be totally off base on this one, but as I read this it says to work six days and to take the seventh day off. But it doesn't say that Saturday (the last day of the week) is that seventh day. The word Saturday does not even exist in the bible, except for the Living bible and only in the New Testament in the Living bible.

† Luke 4:16 (Living) *When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on Saturday, and stood up to read the Scriptures.*

So if you think about it, if your first day of work happened to be on Wednesday, then you should work until Monday (your sixth day) and take Tuesday off (your seventh day). We worry so much about which is right, Saturday or Sunday, but in actuality if you were to follow what scripture says, you should be working six days, which would mean no weekend or two days off as we are accustomed to.

So if you want to take Saturday off, cool, but go to work from Sunday through Friday straight time (no over time for working 8 hours each day) I'm sure your boss would be happy for you to do this.

✠ *I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,*

So, here it is Sunday and John is on the island called Patmos, possibly spending time in prayer and worship as was customary for the disciples to do, even when they were persecuted.

† **Acts 16:23-25** *And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.*

So John is singing away, when all of a sudden he hears the voice of Jesus, and this wasn't a little whisper but a loud voice.

✎ **Rev 1:10 (NLT)** *It was the Lord's Day, and I was worshiping in the Spirit. Suddenly, I heard a loud voice behind me, a voice that sounded like a trumpet blast.*

Imagine just sitting there minding your own business when all of a sudden someone blows a trumpet right behind you. If it were me, I would jump 50 feet off the ground. But this wasn't a trumpet blast, but rather ***a voice that sounded like a trumpet blast.*** This means that it was loud. And what was it that John heard?

✎ **Rev 1:11** *saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."*

Jesus reveals to John that He (Jesus) is God by saying ***"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,"***

No one can make that claim other than God.

† **Ex 3:13-14 (KJV)** *And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.*

I AM, always has been, and always will be, ***the Alpha and Omega.***

✎ ***"What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."***

Jesus is about to reveal some awesome things to John, which he is instructed to write down for the seven churches in Asia.

✠ **Rev 1:3 *Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.***

We read this in our last study. So it's not just for the seven churches, but for us as well. Are you ready to hear what Jesus has to say to us?

Next week we will see what John saw when he turned around after hearing the voice of Jesus. And you will be surprised to find out that it wasn't a tall Caucasian man, with long straight brown hair, like we are used to seeing in those so called pictures of Jesus. So what does Jesus look like?

Come back next week to find out, or just read ahead in chapter one of Revelation.

May the Lord richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy and may you see Jesus for Who He is, and not what the world makes Him out to be.