

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 07 June.....	1John 1
2) 14 June.....	1John 2
3) 21 June.....	1John 3
4) 28 June.....	1John 4
5) 05 July.....	1John 5
6) 12 July.....	2 nd John & 3 rd John
7) 19 July.....	Rev 1
8) 26 July.....	Rev 2-3
9) 02 August.....	Rev 4-6
10) 09 August.....	Rev 7-13
11) 16 August.....	Rev 14-17
12) 23 August.....	Rev 18
13) 30 August.....	Rev 19-22

INTRODUCTION

- **Who wrote it and where?** Internal evidence and Church tradition says John the Apostle wrote it while exiled to the penal colony on Patmos
- **When was it written?** Most scholars date the book c. 95 during the latter part of Domitian's reign as Caesar of Rome
- **Why was it written?** Encourage believers not to lose hope during troubling times, but to endure until Christ returns, even unto death
- **Key Doctrines.** God wins, Satan loses, Jesus reigns supreme, repentant sinners reign with Christ while unrepentant sinners go to Hell, and though many of God's people may suffer martyrdom, the record books will be opened to reveal His fairness, justice, mercy, and rewards
- **Literary Form.** Apocalyptic – highly symbolic of futuristic events (1st Century descriptions of things to unfold in the last century)
- **Common Interpretive Styles:**
 - 1 Preterists – Most events took place during the 1st century
 - 2 Historicists – Long chain of events from Patmos to the end of time
 - 3 Idealists – Timeless truths of good trumping evil seen in symbolism
 - 4 Futurists – Most events occur in the end times
 - **Pre-Tribulation/Pre-Millennial** – Christ raptures His Saints before the Tribulation and returns before His Millennial reign
 - **Mid-Tribulation** – Rapture occurs in middle of the Tribulation
 - **Post-Tribulation** – Saints go through the Tribulation
- **Distinctive Feature.** The number seven (7) occurs 52 times. There are 7 beatitudes; 7 churches; 7 spirits; 7 golden lampstands; 7 stars; 7 seals; 7 horns; 7 eyes; 7 trumpets; 7 thunders; 7 signs; 7 crowns; 7 plagues; 7 golden bowls; 7 hills; 7 kings; 7 mountains, 7 thunders, and other 7's.

Passage	Comments
Rev 1:1-3	<p>We are Blessed if we Read Aloud, Hear, & Obey this Book</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How would you introduce Jesus Christ to a friend, a relative, or to a boss or a co-worker? This is how Steve Harvey would do it (submitted by Jack Wood from Shawnee, KS): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfCL54hmj5U • v1. God, Jesus, and an angel were involved to divulge to John the unfolding of the end of man's reign on earth • v3. How would we be blessed by reading aloud, hearing, and obeying this Book as compared to reading silently? With cash? With other prosperity? With heavenly riches? With deeper understanding? With increased faith? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ "...for the time is near." How should we take this phrase since it was penned 2000+ years ago? How do preterists, historicists, idealist, and futurists interpret this phrase?
1:4-8	<p>Greetings to the 7 Churches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv4-5. Why introduce Jesus with a lot of titles? • v6. If we are kings and priests, what should we be doing? Like a king, should we be bold in our faith? And like a priest, should we be reconciling people to God? Other analogies? • v7. How will EVERYONE see Jesus when He comes? Visibly? Electronically? And why would some wait?
1:9-20	<p>Awesome Vision #1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does God still grant such visions today? Why or why not? Consider this. If such visions do happen, then God's word can still grow beyond 66 books. • v10. What does it mean to be in the Spirit? • vv17-20. "Fear Not!" How would this passage alleviate any fear and anxiety from being incarcerated for your faith, or waiting for your execution, or suffering persecution?

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- **Remember.** God told John and Daniel not to reveal everything about what they saw in their visions of the last days. **Therefore**, only the generation that lives in and around Israel during the Great Tribulation period will fully perceive the truths of all the prophecies written in this formidable book.
- **Hope.** But, the real purpose of this great Book is to instill hope of better days and of great things to come for those who endure to the end

NEXT WEEK: Revelation 2. We are introduced to 7 churches. Are they symbolic of successive church ages or are they representative of churches seen throughout all ages?

