

Recap

- **Author-** the apostle John
- **Date-** 90's
- **Audience-** 7 churches in modern day Turkey
- **Occasion-** under Emperor Domitian Christians are experiencing greater degree of persecution; some are responding faithfully in midst of hostility and some are compromising



What is Revelation?

Revelation – a prophetic apocalyptic letter

- **Letter-** written to address the situation ‘on the ground’ in 7 churches in Asia Minor in the 90’s AD; has to make sense to them
- **Prophecy-** gives word from God to His people telling them how He expects them to act in their current situation; promises future deliverance to faithful and future judgment to compromised/enemies of God
- **Apocalyptic-** an ‘unveiling’ of God’s work in history; highly symbolic

Central message

Regardless of how things look on the ground:

- God is at work overcoming Satan/evil and establishing His Kingdom
- God expects His people to remain faithful to Him and His purposes even to the point of death
- God will win in the End and will reward His people and punish all of His enemies



Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea

Patmos

ANATOLIA

Suffering

- *Thlipsis* - ‘pressure/pressing together;’ tribulation – suffering brought on by outward circumstances, used to describe everyday difficulties brought on by faithfulness to Jesus
- Matthew 13:21 But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When **trouble** (*thlipsis*) or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.
- John 16.33: In this world you will have **trouble** (*thlipsis*.) But take heart! I have overcome the world.”
- Acts 14.22: "We must go through many **hardships** (*thlipsis*) to enter the kingdom of God," they said.
- 2 Thessalonians 1.4: Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and **trials** (*thlipsis*) you are enduring.



Vision of Jesus

One like a son of man

- **Daniel 7.13-14** In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was **one like a son of man**, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Robe reaching down to His feet/golden sash around His chest

- **Exodus 28.4** These are the garments they are to make: a breastpiece, an ephod, **a robe**, a woven tunic, a turban and a **sash**. They are to make these sacred garments for your brother Aaron and his sons, so they may serve me as priests.

Vision of Jesus

- **Hair was white like wool, as white as snow-** wisdom (Daniel 7.9)
- **Eyes were like blazing fire-** penetrating insight; 'true sight' – He is not fooled by appearances (Daniel 10.6)
- **Feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace-** strength and stability (Daniel 10.6)
- **Voice was like the sound of rushing waters-** powerful (Daniel 10.6)
- **Coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword-** His word; His judgments are exact/precise
- **His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance-** Mt of Transfiguration (Matthew 17.2)

Peter walks on water

- **Fear:** When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. It's a ghost, they said, and cried out in fear.
- **Faith:** Lord, if it's you tell me to come to you on the water.
- **Fear:** But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"
- **Key move:** changed his focus from Jesus to wind

