

The Patmos Vision Devotional Lessons

Part 1

Introduction and Review:

We will continue our study on the Seven Church Ages with the second message Brother Branham preached in the series called The Patmos Vision. As we have learned, Saint John the divine was the scribe of Revelation. There was a time when John was banished to the Isle of Patmos.

Lesson:

- This was a small island off the coast of Asia Minor in the Aegean Sea. It was rocky and infested with snakes, lizards, and scorpions. It was an island used by the Roman Empire where they housed the more desperate criminals, political prisoners, etc.
- At this time, everyone was against their religion, and the people themselves were imprisoned and killed. Like others, John was now suffering imprisonment for the Word of God. When he was arrested, they tried to kill him by boiling him in oil for 24 hours! They did not succeed, so the angry officials sentenced John to Patmos as a witch.
- But God was with John, and he was eventually able to leave the island and return to Ephesus where he again continued as pastor until the time of his death.
- Now, while on the Isle of Patmos, John received a series of visions of the Revelation of the Person of Jesus Christ. The visions that John received covered a period of two years, A.D 95-96.

John will tell us about these visions. Let's begin by turning to and reading Revelation 1:10-11.

10 † I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

11 † Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

- While on the Isle of Patmos, John was not talking about being in his own spirit, that would not have brought these visions. It had to be the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit. What happened was that John was caught up in the Spirit and transported into the Lord's Day, which is yet to come. The Lord's Day is in the future, the day of His coming, His judgment, and John is now seeing the things of that future day.
- The future was about to unfold for God was about to teach him. So this Voice was as urgent as a trumpet; clear, strong, startling and awakening. John was commanded to write in a book and send it to the seven church ages which were named here for us in verse 11.
- In verse 12, John lets us know he turned to see the Voice and saw seven golden candlesticks. They were lampstands. When a candle burns it then dies. Lampstands possess a lasting quality not found in candles.
- If we examine this lampstand, it has a large reservoir that is central to seven arms that come out of it. The bowl is filled with olive oil and flows through the seven wicks. The same oil that burns makes the light at the end of the seven candlesticks.

- The lamp is lit in a special way too! First, the priest took fire from the sacred altar that was originally lighted by the fire of God. Then he lit the first lamp. The second lamp then got lit from the flame of the first lamp. The third gets it from the second, the fourth from the third, and so on. The holy fire from the altar passed from lamp to lamp is a type of the Holy Spirit in the Seven Church Ages! The original outpouring is being passed down through all the seven ages! Through each wick, dipped in Jesus Christ, drawing from the life of Christ then gives out light to the Church. They are all drawing from the same source! It's the same light all the way through!

Now let us turn to and read Revelation 1:20.

20 † The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

- Here it is revealed that the seven stars are the messengers of the seven churches, and the candlesticks are the seven churches.

He interprets it for him so there'd be sure to be no mistake. An angel for each church age. Oh, that's going to be beautiful, this week, when we go back yonder in history and pick up them angels and see the very ministry they had. They had the same ministry. Exactly the same all down through the age in that little Church.

Sometime ago, someone said, "You know, the Catholic church, there's a good saying, that, 'It's the real church because it stood all down through the ages.'"

I said, "That's no mystery, when it had all the government and everything else behind it, and how it stood and waved the storms. But the mystery to me is how that little, bitty minority could ever wave the storm, that was sawed asunder, and thrown into lions, and put on stretchers, and eat, and burnt, and by lion...and killed and everything else, and how they survived it." It shows that the hand of God was with them. That's all. And still today her Light's still burning. Amen! Yes, sir!

Now, "The seven stars that was in My right hand." He had seven stars in His right hand, which means the seven ministers of seven ages. Oh, it's—it's beautiful. How we go back and get the—the minister that brought the Message to the Ephesian church. And the minister who brought the Message and held with It until death, right down to the Smyrna church, and to the Pergamos church, the Thyatira, and on down through the age, even into this age now. The ministers that kept and brought the Light, and held It back like the original at the beginning, and brought the Light through him.

"He held them in His right hand." Think! Right hand doesn't exactly mean like Christ setting on God's right hand. It doesn't mean that God has got a right hand, because God is a Spirit. But Christ was the right hand of power. Your righthand man, the fellow—fellow stands by you, the closest to you.

And, remember, the seven stars was in His right hand. Just think, they were drawing their current, their Light from Him. They were completely under His control, in His right

hand. Oh! Every true servant of God is the same way. Held in...Who can harm them? Who can harm them? As one of the angels cried back there in the beginning. Remember a angel means "messenger." We get into those deeper things later in the week. A angel means "messenger." 60-1204E - The Patmos Vision, para 204-209

- In the darkness, we use lampstands for light. The light of the star still shines through. The Church is walking by faith in the darkness, shining its light! (Show the kids on the seven church age moons the light versus the darkness in each age.)

Part 2

Introduction and Review:

Let's do some review on what we learned so far on The Patmos Vision.

- John was banished on the Isle of Patmos. This was a small island off the coast of Asia Minor in the Aegean Sea. It was rocky and infested with snakes, lizards, and scorpions.
- When he was arrested, they tried to kill him by boiling him in oil for 24 hours! When they didn't succeed, they sentenced John to Patmos as a witch.
- Now, while on the Isle of Patmos, John received a series of visions. John was caught up in the Spirit and transported into the Lord's Day, which is yet to come. And as revealed to our Prophet, the Sabbath, which means rest, is eternal life, His rest.
- He heard a voice as a trumpet and was commanded to write in a book and send it to the seven churches.
- John turned and saw seven golden candlesticks. They were lampstands.
- It was revealed that the seven stars are the messengers of the seven churches, and the candlesticks are the seven churches.

Lesson:

Now, after having seen the golden candlesticks, let us read the sevenfold glory of His Person and find out what John saw next!

Read Revelation 1:13-16.

13 † And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

14 † His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

15 † And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

16 † And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

John saw Jesus standing there as the coming JUDGE! Imagine, John was exiled for the cause of the Word, and here is the appearing of Jesus unto him! He saw the sevenfold glory of His Person.

- His hair as white as snow: John first notices and mentions the whiteness of His hair. White as snow. White hair doesn't signify age, but experience, maturity, and wisdom. God doesn't age! It signifies wisdom! Even in ancient times, the judge would appear in court with a white wig that signified his complete authority.
- His Eyes as Fire: Imagine Jesus' eyes getting to see visions. They looked deep into the heart of men and read their very thoughts. Those fiery flaming eyes of the Judge (Jesus) are even now recording the lives of all. There is nothing hidden from God! He's standing there with flaming eyes to mete out judgement.
- The Feet of Brass: Brass is known for its remarkable hardness. Imagine, His feet have even stood the test of the fiery furnace. Brass signifies Divine Judgement. Someday those feet of brass will stand upon the earth!
- His Voice was as the Sound of Many Waters: What does waters represent? His Voice was as the sound of multitudes speaking. It is the judgment. Voices of the multitudes of witnesses who have testified to Christ. The voice of man rising in judgment against the sinner. The voices of the seven messengers will be heard loud and clear. Listen to His voice, the voice of His servants.
- In His Right Hand were Seven Stars: These were the angels, the messengers. These messengers lived to serve the Lord and obey His Word.
- The Two-edged Sword: The WORD OF GOD! Out of His mouth came the Word of God. Those who heard and wouldn't listen will be judged.
- His Face like the Sun: Because of His presence, we no longer will need the sun to rise. He is the Light! Imagine Jesus shining upon us with His warming rays of Love.

Now, after John saw Jesus as the Judge, let us read what happened next!

Read Revelation 1:17-19.

17 † And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

18 † I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

19 † Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

John's strength was all gone. He fell at His feet as if he were dead! But the hand of the Lord with love touched him! He told John not to fear and was so encouraging! The promise is ours! His Power is ours! Don't fear little flock! We must believe! We are such privileged people to have God's prophet reveal all these secrets to us in the last days! John saw the coming of the Lord, and we must be ready! Believe and follow the Word! Raise your hand if it's your heart's desire to follow the Word of God and believe it!

Let us all stand to our feet and bow our heads as Brother Branham prays for us in this closing prayer:

Now, Heavenly Father, standing on their feet is many who wants to receive You. They're tired of this drifting around, not knowing where they're going, out on the life's tide; and know maybe before daylight the heart will stop beating, then the great cataract, falls, ahead of them, a drifting soul. They've been like themselves, they've been like the world, but they want to be like You now, Lord. Receive them into Thy Kingdom, they are Yours, Father, because You know their

hearts and the intents of their hearts. And You've so written it, and said it with Your own lips, "He that heareth My Words, and will believe on Him that sent Me, has Eternal Life." You also said, Lord, "Blessed is he that readeth and he that heareth the words of the prophecy of this Book, for the time is at hand." They realize that time is at hand. They can't drift no longer, Lord. Throw out the lifeline, pull them into Thyself, Lord. May they go forth from this night, reflecting the Light of Jesus Christ. I commit them to Thee, Father God, in the Name of Jesus Christ. May they humbly follow the Lord in baptism here at the church; put on the Holy Spirit in their life so that they can be like Jesus the rest of their days. We ask it in His Name. 60-1204E - The Patmos Vision, para 262