

I. THE VENUE WHERE JOHN WAITED

- A. Exiled FOR the Word of God
 - 1. John had a FIRM stand on the Bible as God’s Holy Word
 - 2. If John only spoke modern English, he’d come to church with a KJV
 - 3. Bible training, Bible institute, formal Bible school... ALL about the BIBLE!
- B. Exiled FOR the testimony of Jesus Christ
 - 1. Witnesses speak the truth in TESTIMONY at a trial
 - 2. The purpose of a testimony is to convict the guilty!
 - 3. Give your TESTIMONY and the Holy Spirit will convict!
- C. Exiled from Rome but NOT from God
 - 1. On the Lord’s Day
 - 2. In the Spirit
 - 3. Can we say that John lived not in exile but in the Holy Spirit?
 - a. Rather than live weighed down by this wicked world...
 - b. Rather than fret over the state of politics
 - c. Rather than concerns over worldly things
 - 4. Let US wait upon the Lord in the venue where John waited!

II. THE VOCATION THAT JOHN LIVED

- A. John is our brother and companion
 - 1. Tribulation – serving God through it not blaming God for it!
 - 2. Kingdom
 - a. COL 1:13 – “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: (14) In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”
 - b. ROM. 14:17 – “ For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”
 - 3. Patience – not a natural characteristic of man
 - a. 2 COR. 6:3 – “Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: (4) But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses...”
 - b. Patient to not give offence (not often seen today)
 - c. Patient to not TAKE offence (rarely if ever seen today)
- B. John was a minister of the Gospel throughout his life
 - 1. When the Lord called those fishermen and made them fishers of men

2. Throughout the Gospels! JOHN 21:24 – “This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.”
 3. When Peter preached on the day of Pentecost and 3000 were Saved
 4. To the Revelation delivered to him on Patmos
 - a. Notice the two “amens” in REV. 1:6 & 7
 - b. Amen means a “solemn ratification or a hearty agreement”
 - c. The first is easy the second more difficult!
- C. John was a humble and beloved disciple
1. The disciple that Jesus loved who leaned upon His breast
 - a. The one trusted to take care of Mary His mother
 - b. The one who followed a little too closely for Peter...
 - c. The one who wouldn’t even use his own name in the Gospel
 2. Can we take on the vocation that John lived?
 - a. Rather than waste our time in earthly pursuits
 - b. Rather than focusing on our next paycheck
 - c. Rather than trying to keep up with the Joneses
 3. Let US serve the Lord in the vocation that John lived!

III. THE VOICE THAT JOHN HEARD

- A. A Voice as of a Trumpet
1. Turn in your Bibles briefly to 1 COR 15:50-58
 2. Before an orchestra plays, they tune their instruments and warm up
 3. I’m telling you, that trumpet is warming up right now
 4. And that TRUMPET is going to sound!
- B. A Voice with a Command
1. The voice of Jesus Christ
 - a. The Great I AM
 - b. Before Abraham was, I AM
 - c. A Person of the Triune Godhead
 2. With a Three-Fold Command
 - a. “What thou seest” – He was to be an eyewitness
 - b. “Write in a Book” – He was to chronicle (the Book of Revelation)
 - c. “Send to the Seven Churches which are in Asia”
- C. A Voice with a Message
1. Churches located in Asia Minor that really existed
 2. But show representative church conditions
 - a. Throughout the ages
 - b. And all at that same time
 - c. And recorded here for our example!
 3. Shall we obey the voice that John heard?
 - a. He speaks with Authority; He speaks like no one else speaks!

- b. He receives glory in the church, throughout all ages, world without end!
 - c. He speaks with the VOICE of a trumpet!
4. Let US hear the Voice that John heard!

IV. THE VISION THAT JOHN SAW

- A. Seven Golden Candlesticks
 - 1. Representing each of the seven churches
 - 2. Jesus is in the MIDST of His Churches
 - 3. Not universal! That would only need ONE candlestick
- B. A Seven-Fold Description of Jesus
 - 1. His HEAD was white (His purity)
 - 2. His EYES were piercing (He sees and knows all)
 - 3. His FEET were like brass (Signifying His coming judgment)
 - 4. His VOICE as the sound of many waters (Denotes His power)
 - 5. His HAND held seven stars (Representing the Pastors of the Churches)
 - 6. HIS MOUTH was a sharp sword (His Word – HEB. 4:12)
 - 7. His COUNTENANCE was bright as the sun (Showing His perfect light!)
 - a. He shall light the Holy City – REV. 21:23
 - b. Look to Jesus and reflect His light
 - 8. Notice another “Amen” in REV. 1:18
 - a. Remember it means a hearty agreement
 - b. But also, a solemn ratification – PUT INTO ACTION
- C. Shall we look upon the vision that John saw?
 - 1. Let us apply the seven-fold vision to ourselves!
 - a. Take our minds off the impurities of this world
 - b. Take our eyes off the filth of this world
 - c. Keep our feet upon the paths of righteousness
 - d. Make our voice an engine of the gospel
 - e. Put our hands to the plough and work for Him
 - f. Control our tongues (that little member that kindles fires!)
 - g. To WALK in the light, as He is in the light!
 - 2. How will we do that?
 - 3. Only through this BOOK will we see the vision that John saw!

V. THE VERDICT THAT JOHN REPORTS

- A. Because He has washed us, we have NOTHING to fear
 - 1. REV. 1:5 – He washed us in His own blood
 - a. Not our blood – without Him it would be on our own heads!
 - b. His perfect blood washes away our sins!
 - 2. REV. 1:17 – I was dead in my sins, but He touched me!
 - a. If you are Saved, if HE is your Savior, you have NOTHING to fear!

- b. But if not, there is MUCH to fear!
 - 3. REV. 1:18 – Fear death and hell!
 - a. That is part of the context of Christ’s words to “fear not.”
 - b. We must conclude that without Him, we MUST fear!
 - B. He has complete dominion for ever and ever – REV. 1:6, 16
 - 1. And His word is a sharp sword!
 - 2. HEB. 4:12 – “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”
 - 3. This book DIVIDES! This book JUDGES!
 - a. People don’t like that today
 - b. All will be judged, every knee will bow, every tongue will confess!
 - c. “Judged according to truth” and “thy word is truth”
 - 4. And there is only one verdict possible in our human strength!
 - a. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God
 - b. And the wages of sin is death (ROM. 6:23)
 - C. But the GIFT of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord
 - 1. HE, and HE alone, has the keys of hell and of death!
 - a. Not the catholic church, not baptism, nor some religious system
 - b. Only Jesus Christ our Lord
 - 2. Come to Him: He loves you, He wants to save you!
 - 3. Be saved today!