

‘TRIBULATION OR POWER’
Introduction to Revelation: 1:1-3
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Please note what verse three promises:

- Blessed is the one who reads
 - Blessed are those who hear “The words of the prophecy”
 - Blessed are those who obey (keep) “The things that are written in it”
- FOR THE TIME IS NEAR!

Note verse 11: **The inspiration of this book**—John is commanded to “write in a book [scroll]” what he sees and then to send it to seven churches—**direct command to use this book in our churches!**

NOTE, THAT JESUS IS SOVEREIGN OVER THE CHURCHES! He is in charge.

Therefore we must enter into this study with gravity, awe, and high expectation that God Himself, who gave us this book, will bless us and use it to build us, strengthen us, and encourage us in our walk.

INTRODUCTION

Patmos: Small, rocky island; no pasturage, no good places to live, forbidding terrain

John: lonely, a prisoner, suffering

What must John have done to deserve such treatment?

- A worldly life”
- Ashamed to witness for Christ?
- Weak faith?
- Was he out of fellowship with God?
- Was God too weak to deliver him?

The answers are: **NO!**

- John did not love the world—neither the things in the world (I Jn. 2:15-17).
- He was in Patmos for “the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus” (v. 9).
- He writes so that people may believe “that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God” and thus might have “life in His name” (John 20:31). He knows that Jesus is coming: certainty or immanency (22:20). His faith was not weak!
- He was not out of fellowship, but was “in the Spirit” on the Lord’s Day (v. 10)
- God is the **Almighty—v. 8**. In v. 10 we see the Lord’s voice **as a trumpet**.

John was in Patmos by divine appointment. There at Patmos God met him and gave him this book!

Too many Christians want the kingdom, but do not want the tribulation and are not willing to persevere.

YOU MUST ENTER THE KINGDOM THROUGH MUCH TRIBULATION.

I. KINGDOM

There are glories awaiting the believer. We do partake *of the shadows* of such even now.

Luke 12:32; 22:29-30; Mt. 19:28; Acts 1:6; I Thes. 2:12; Rev. 5:10; 20:4

II. TRIBULATION

John is the **brother** of these Christians, and also the **fellow partaker** in:

- Tribulation
- Kingdom ALL OF THESE ARE **IN JESUS** (V. 9)
- Patience

Acts 14:22; John 16:33; II Tim. 3:12

Note that Jesus traveled this path: I Pet. 2:20-21; I Pet. 4:13—fellow sharers of both His sufferings and glory! II Cor. 1:7; Phil. 3:10.

III. PERSEVERANCE (Romans 5:3)

It will be a while before we enter into the glorious kingdom

II Thes. 1:4-5; Lk. 21:19; Rom. 8:25; Rev. 2:2-3 (Church of Ephesus); 2:19 (Ch. Of Thyatira); Rev. 13:10; 14:12—**“Here is the perseverance of the saints.”**

II TIM. 2:12—ALL READ TOGETHER “If we endure we will all reign with Him.”

CONCLUSION

In this book we see the vision of the **risen Christ** in all of His power and majesty.

The promises of this book are for all those who persevere through trouble.

Revelation gives us a spectacular vision of things to come!

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