

“VOICE OF JOHN” SERIES

(Gospel of John, 1st John, 2nd John, 3rd John, Revelation)

JESUS—THE GOD OF ALL LIFE AND LOVE ITSELF—IS HIMSELF THE VERY BEGINNING AND VERY ENDING OF YOUR INTENDED STORY

study #10:

7 LAMPSTANDS: “God Dictates a Massive Letter for John to Transcribe”

— covering **Revelation chpts. 1-3** —

ACTION 1. Here is the SITUATION when John wrote **Revelation** in 95AD. The Roman emperor Domitian had “exiled” John (the last remaining apostle) to Patmos Island, but other than that, there was a temporary “lull” in of Christians suffering severe levels of persecution. NOW was the time for Christians to wrap up *other matters*—like **Fixing Deceptive Teachings**, and like **Getting Ready for Tough Times**—and John was busy praying these things for his friends and churches back in Asia Minor. Read **Revelation 1:1-8** and then each person pick just one phrase (3-7 words long) from these verses that you feel is most important for these folks to hear.

ACTION 2. Read **Revelation 1:9-20** and then discuss:

- in your own words re-describe what all is going on in these verses
- describe the details of “exactly what Jesus looks like” in these verses
- notice this whole book is straight from God Himself and John is merely “recording” what he sees and hears?... how would you say that makes this book different than the other NT books John wrote?

ACTION 3. Here is a super important key to studying the book of **Revelation**. Basically, the book works like a “puzzle” with a constant mixing of these 3 ingredients: **(1) extraordinary earth events**, **(2) symbols-&-numbers**, and **(3) scenarios in Heaven**. The “puzzling” thing is you never know which of these 3 ingredients is being mentioned. Read **Revelation 1:20** again and then discuss:

- how exactly are the 7 lampstands, 7 angels, 7 stars, & 7 churches “interrelated” or same/different?
- do you think this verse is being used to “train” readers how to read the rest of this book...how so?

ACTION 4. There is *another* huge key to studying the book of **Revelation**! Read **Revelation 1:19** and then discuss: according to this verse’s formula, what TYPES OF CONTENT is the rest of this book going to be broken down into and in what order?

ACTION 5. The next 2 chapters are short notes to each of the 7 major churches in Asia Minor with either (or both) an *encouragement* or a *warning* they each need to zero in on. Each person in your group—on your own—browse silently through **Revelation chapters 2 and 3** for just one minute, and then discuss:

- which church warning or encouragement stands out to you as most interesting?
- (after hearing what others shared)... do any of these 7 churches remind you of *your* church experience?

EXTRA... FOR THOSE MOTIVATED, DEVOTED, & WITH SOME SELF-COMMAND:

GOLD CHALLENGE ...read ahead (& maybe journal about) for next study: **Revelation chpts. 4-7**

PENGUIN CHALLENGE ... read **GC** + Torah-Law during series: **Numbers 1-10** (*God Moves Israel Forward*)