Lesson 8: Praise



Introduction

Long ago, a Christian named John wrote about the visions God had shown him. God revealed to him many important things about the past, present, and future and showed to him how multitudes from across the world will one day praise the Lord together!

Read: Revelation 5:1-14

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?



Where in the Bible?

The Book of Revelation is the last book in the Scriptures.

The New Testament: Revelation

The last book of the Bible is a vision given to John, with symbolic picture images describing events of the past, present, and future, and God's final victory. The Book of Revelation tells how God will fulfill his promises, and in the age to come, will dwell with us!

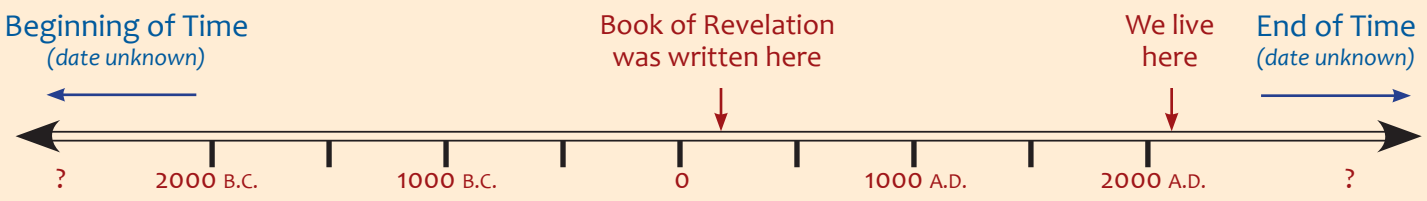
Biblical Background

Many people assume the last book of the Bible is only about the future, but the Revelation to John describes events and themes from the beginning of creation to the end of time. Using symbolic picture language, the Book of Revelation shows how God continues to be at work fulfilling his promises in Jesus — the victorious "Lamb who was slain."

Along with the faithful angels of heaven, we too are God's messengers in a world filled with danger and evil. But we have the assurance that God's victory is certain. We have nothing to fear!

When in Time?

The Book of Revelation was written during the time in the first century when Christians were being persecuted by the Roman Empire, as was the case during the reigns of emperors Nero (54-68 A.D.) and Domitian (81-96 A.D.). But the book gives hope in Jesus to those who are living in the difficult struggles of *every* age and time — including us!



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Discuss: Revelation 5:1-14

1. The full name of the last book in the Bible is "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" (1:1). The word *revelation* is singular, not plural. Why do you think that is? In what sense is this book not simply pointing us to future events, but to a Person?

2. Chapter 5 of Revelation continues John's vision of the heavenly throne room from the previous chapter. What are some of the things you find most strange or disturbing in John's vision?

3. Who would you say is the central focus of Chapter 5? What are some of the things said about this Being?

4. The image of the Lamb of God calls to mind how John the Baptist first described Jesus, in John 1:29 and 1:36. Biblically speaking, what does the image of the lamb symbolize? How does it foreshadow Jesus' mission and the promise he gives us?

5. A scroll is a long, rolled-up piece of paper and was the form taken by "books" in biblical days. What do you think was written on the scroll John saw? Who do you imagine had originally written this scroll?

6. John said that no one in heaven or on earth was worthy to open the scroll or look into it — except the Lamb. Why? Why would the *death* of the Lamb qualify him alone to reveal the promise of God? What does this tell us about Jesus?

7. According to verse 10, what two things has the Lamb made out of us? In what sense do all Christians share that citizenship and perform that function in our present lives?

8. According to what Jesus says in Matthew 19:28-30, on the last day, who will come to sit upon his glorious throne? Who will sit with him? What does it mean that all who follow Jesus will "inherit eternal life"?

Where in the World?

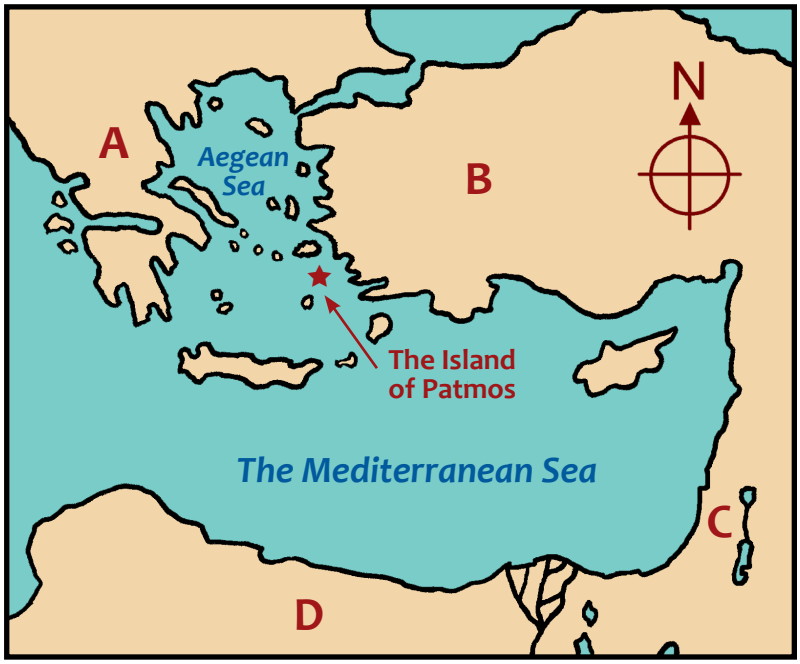
Near the end of his life, the Apostle John had been exiled to the small island in the Aegean Sea called **Patmos** (marked with a star on the map). There, John was given a vision from God.

From what you have learned in previous lessons, can you correctly name the lands around the Mediterranean Sea? (If you're having trouble, look at a map in your Bible.)

A: _____ C: _____

B: _____ D: _____

To which of these regions is the island of Patmos closest?



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