

REVELATION: AN OVERVIEW

New Testament Lesson #202

The wonderful book of Revelation begins with a clear description as to why it was written. It is a special message given by God to His son, so that Jesus could “show his servants what must soon take place “(v. 1). Jesus communicated this special message by sending his angel to his servant John.

Jesus is in heaven at the time he gives this message to John through the angel. Several decades earlier, Jesus had ascended into heaven to be at his Father’s side. Acts 1 records Jesus’ ascension into heaven. Before he departed, the apostles asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel “(Acts 1:6)? Jesus said now was not the time for this great event to take place. Prior to that day, Jesus had an assignment he gave to the apostles. He told them they were to be his witnesses. They were to go and preach the good news of the gospel message to those in “Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Now it is many years later. The apostles have been working long and hard doing what Jesus had asked them to do. So, now before all of the apostles have died, Jesus is sending a special message to his disciples to help them understand what was going to happen before he returns.

This revelation is given to John. He is instructed to write everything that he “has seen, what is now and what will take place later” (v. 19). Once the message is written, he is going to send it to seven different churches located in the province of Asia. These locations included: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea (v. 11).

A special blessing is associated with all who would hear this special message from Jesus and take it to heart. “Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near” (v. 3).

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- The blessing described in verse 3 is one of seven blessings listed in the book of Revelation. The others are found in Revelation 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7; and 22:14.
- The province of Asia is not what we think of as Asia today. It was a Roman province on the eastern side of what is present day Turkey.

- John was located on the island of Patmos at the time he received this message (v. 9). It was an island used by the Romans as a place of banishment for criminals. The prisoners were compelled to work in the mines of the island. It is believed John was banished there in AD 95 during the reign of the emperor Domitian. This places the time of writing shortly before John dies, around AD 95, 96.
- The word “revelation” is based on the Greek word “apocalypsis”, from which we get the English word “apocalypse”. The word means “an uncovering, a laying bare.” It describes a disclosure of truth, instruction, manifestation, or appearance. In 1 Peter 1:7 it is translated “revealed”. There it is describing a faith that has been refined by fire that will be found of great value when Jesus is revealed.

ANSWER KEY:



“I am the first and the last. I am the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever.”

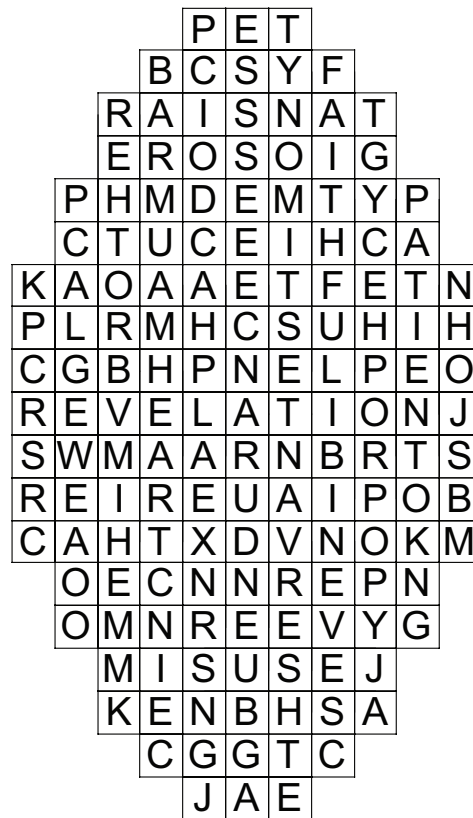
Those who read and hear and take to heart, things written in this prophecy will be blessed.

Find words from Revelation 1 in the word list in the puzzle. 



WORD LIST

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| Alpha | near |
| brother | Omega |
| Christ | patient |
| churches | Patmos |
| clouds | peace |
| coming | prophecy |
| companion | Revelation |
| endurance | servant |
| faithful | seven |
| grace | testimony |
| heart | time |
| Jesus | witness |
| John | |



What does the Lord Jesus reveal about Himself? (Found in Revelation 1: 17, 18) Fill in the blanks using the first letter, then the last letter, the second letter, then second from the last letter, etc.



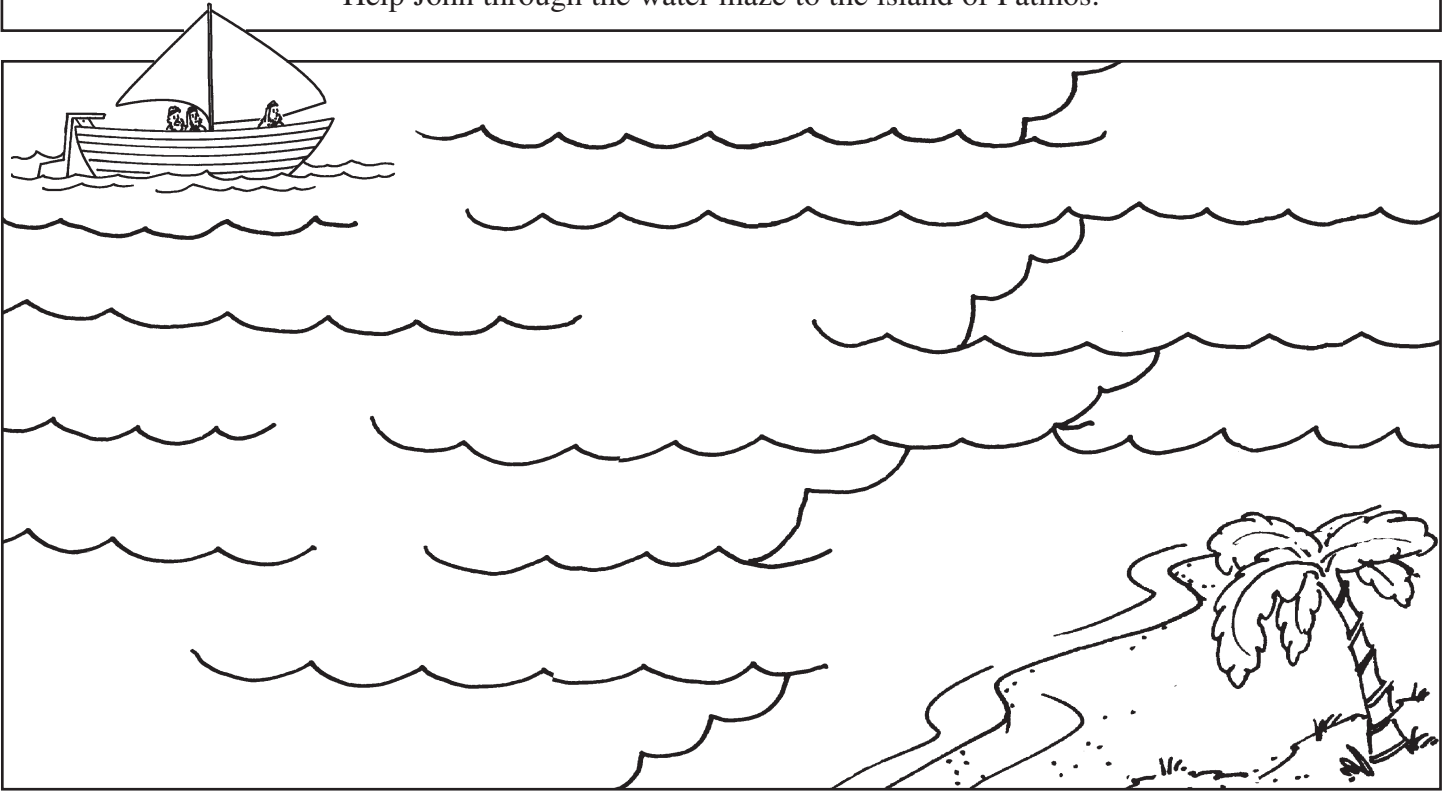
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Name _____

Those who hear God's word will be blessed.

Help John through the water maze to the island of Patmos.



Count the churches, trumpets and bowls. Trace the correct number.

6 or 7 ?

7 or 8 ?

5 or 7 ?

Name _____