



Lessons from the End of the Book

Week 4 – Keep Persevering!

Revelation 1

1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, 2 who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. 3 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. 4 John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne 9 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. 10 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, 11 which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

Reasons for the Persecution in the 1st Century

1. Christians were arrested for refusing to engage in _____ worship.
2. Christians were suspected of anti-government plots because they met privately _____. (*Acts 12:12*)
3. Christians were denounced as _____ because they rejected Roman gods and worshipped an invisible God, not an idol. (*Acts 17:29*)
4. Christians were victims of misunderstandings, being accused of _____. (*Matthew 26:26*)
5. Christian were viewed as encouragers of slave rebellion by teaching the _____ of all peoples. (*Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:11*)

6. Christians were seen as a _____ by the numerous priests, craftsmen, and merchants who profited from idol worship. (*Acts 19:23ff*)

Reasons why John was probably discouraged

1. Tremendous persecution had broken out against the church; John mentions that he was _____. (*Revelation 1:9*)
2. It had been nearly 60 years since Jesus had ascended into heaven; perhaps John had expected Jesus to return _____.
3. Jerusalem had been utterly destroyed in 70 A.D. – the city that both Christians and Jews loved was now _____.
4. The church was losing its first love, tolerating sin, and becoming powerless; perhaps John felt like the entire cause was _____. (*cf. Revelation 2 and 3*)
5. All the other apostles were now dead; John was the _____.

Reasons why John regained great hope

1. When life and circumstances spun out of control, John was assured that God is still _____ and accomplishing His _____.
2. For John, the greatest source of comfort, hope, and encouragement was the _____.