

Reflections From Revelation_Episode5_ Patmos | Rev 1:9 (Jon Courson)

“Following a failed attempt to boil John alive, Domitian (DOUGH-MISH-IN) banished John to the Rocky, Barren, seemingly godforsaken island of Patmos. And it is here on Patmos that John was given the revelation of Jesus Christ.”
Jon Courson

Rev 1:9 “I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.”

Patmos an example of God working in trials

The Bible says much about trials, suffering and hardship

- Jesus warns us of trials but gives us hope, **John 16:33**
- Blessings found in suffering, **Matt 5:10**

“Precious saint, the tribulation you may be going through even now is for one purpose; to bring you a full revelation of Jesus.” Jon Courson

- God can work even in our pain, suffering and trial.
- What the enemy intended for evil, Good can use for good.
- Suffering can lead us to Jesus that we may become more like Jesus.

Rom 8:28-29 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Biblical view of suffering:

- We live in a broken whole (**Romans 6:23** - sin leads to death)
- Jesus is our example as a suffering servant. Jesus first suffered before there was glory...the same with us.

John 13:16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

- We are warned in scripture of suffering in this life

1 Peter 4:12-13 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

John suffered on Patmos as a faithful good servant of God

“John was exiled to the island of Patmos because God had a special message to give him. God had to get him in a quiet place, away from the disturbances and pressures of the church in Ephesus.” Chuck Smith

- God allowed John to go to a secluded place to see these visions
- God brings you to rely on Him in the desert where He gives you living water that you appreciate for your soul
- Sometimes we just need to be taken out of our normal context, to see things clearly, **Jer 18:2**

“Read your Bible, and you will discover that every time someone has fresh vision, new understanding, clear revelation of the Lord, it was received like John, they were on Patmos” Jon Courson

Hebrews 11- other biblical examples where God met people in their Patmos

“Banished to Patmos, the Word put him where he was. But the Word also made him who he was. John is a giant of Christianity because he was a man of the word.

John turned to see what he heard and found it led to a deeper understanding and renewed appreciation of Jesus Christ.”
Jon Courson

The way we grow is in looking to Jesus and His Word in our trials

- John got strength because he heard God's voice and turned to it and then he received a great revelation of Jesus
- Looking to and waiting upon the Lord gives us strength, **Isa 40:31**
- We can turn to Him no matter what the situation is

Physically, John was on the island of Patmos (**Revelation 1:9**) but God transported him to heaven (**Revelation 4:1**), to the wilderness (**Revelation 17:3**), and to the mountain (**Revelation 21:10**) that he might witness these events and record them for us. Warren Weirsbe

John was at the time in Patmos, upon a lonely and desolate island. But neither seas, nor kings, nor ages, can sever the bonds by which Christians are united to each other and to Christ their Lord. David Guzik

God walks with us in our trials: Psalm 23:4, Mat 28:20.

*“John, in the mist of the dullness of his island exile, found that the presence of Christ was with him. The Lord had promised to be with his own (**Matt 28:20**), and he promised that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit should take up there abode within the heart of every believer (**John 14:17;23**). No human courts, and no divine, can ever remove that life from us.”* Donald Barnhouse

Out of our pain, God gives purpose:

He gives comfort to us so we can comfort others, **2 Cor 1:3-5**

Growth in endurance and patience encouraged, James 5:7, 2 Peter 3:8-15, 1 Thessalonians 1:10

Trust God by faith in our trials:

- First comes suffering and then comes glory
- This is not the end
- God is working and loves us no matter what we face in this life
- God wants to comfort us

“And that is what this book before us is all about. Revelation is not given primarily to give information about Bible prophecy, but to bring us a revelation of Jesus Christ personally.”

Jon Courson