

## JOHN'S FAITHFUL REPORT ... HIS NARRATIVE ...

**A narrative is** a spoken or written account of connected events--a story. The Revelation of Jesus Christ begins with Christ commissioning John to write a narrative, a detailed account, of everything that he saw. John did not choose when, where or what. In fact, John chose nothing except to obey Christ and faithfully report what he saw.

**And that is what he did.** In Revelation in the ESV John wrote "I saw" 35 times ("then I saw" 13 times) and "I looked" another 11 times ("then I looked" 4 times).

- (Revelation 1:1-2 NLT) This is a revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants the events that must soon take place. He sent an angel to present this revelation to his servant John, who faithfully reported everything he saw. This is his report of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

**It is very important to understand that** everything we read has been scripted to reveal Jesus Christ. The entire panorama that was unfolded before John--the scenes, the timing and placement of events, everything--was under the direction of God. John was not to give his perspective, or seek out a unique angle or pursue his own storyline.

### **His commissioning was simple and straightforward.**

Write down what he saw. Why is this important? Timing and perspective. Knowing that God is directing the sequence of events that are revealed to John, we now know **what** God thinks is most important to share and **when** it is important to share that information. For instance, chapter one gives us the purpose of the book: to reveal Christ and in revealing Christ to show us what is yet to come. The focus on the seven churches in chapters 2 and 3 tells us that God's plan begins with business at hand before he directs our attention to heaven and the things to come. He dictates evaluations to seven actual churches in Asia. These evaluations contain God's counsel as to the things each church needs to do to be found blameless and at peace before the presence of Christ.

**All in all, John was told to write 13 times**, and on one occasion in Revelation 10:4, he was told not to write, which is interesting because it was not something that he had seen that he wasn't to report on but something that he had heard.

- (Revelation 10:4 ESV) And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down."

So John was **commissioned** to write in 1:3, and then he was **commanded** to write what he saw.

- (Revelation 1:11 ESV) Write what you see in a book and send it ...
- (Revelation 1:19 ESV) Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.

**These two commands encompass the entire account** of the Revelation; general commands to write down everything he saw from beginning to end, and both came from Christ.

**John was next commanded to write to the seven churches** in 2:1, 2:8, 2:12, 3:1, 3:7, 3:12 and 3:14.

### **Two times John was commanded to write concerning specific blessings.**

- (Revelation 14:13 ESV) And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"
- (Revelation 19:9 ESV) And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

**Chapter 4 begins** with John being called up to heaven into the presence of God, and then viewing and recording the

amazing panorama of future events that unfolded before him. Over and over he says "I saw" and faithfully writes everything down.

**Now, back to the importance of timing** and God's direction of the panorama of events that John was to record. The "First Voice" called John to heaven, and **immediately John found himself before the throne of God**. So what was the first thing that God wanted John to see and write down? **God on his throne**.

So then what is the first thing that God wants to impress on our hearts? **God is on his throne**. God knows that we have **a monumental battle before us**, to live as light in a world of darkness, to share the gospel of Jesus Christ as we contend with the forces of darkness.

### **So what is our first "need to know"?**

- Our God is holy, holy, holy;
- Our God is on his throne;
- Our God reigns and rules supreme.

**And our second "need to know" from this text?** What does John see next? The ongoing worship of God by the heavenly beings--the elders and the living creatures--as they proclaim God's holiness and declare him worthy to receive glory and honor and power.

**G**od is worthy of every acknowledgement of praise and glory and honor.

**G**od is worthy of all power, as he is the only One who can handle absolute power.

**G**od is God and there is none like him.