

**Speaker : Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam**

**Title : God's Presence in Tough Times**

**Text : Revelation 1:9-10, 17-18**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Revelations 1:9-10, 17-18**

*9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

*10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,*

*17 "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.*

*18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.*

The apostle John lived an amazing life of service to Christ.

Towards the end of John's life, he faced what was the most severe testing and persecution of his life. John was exiled alone on the island of Patmos.

He was there because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

John had a choice to make in the midst of unjust act.

Would he be bitter or better through this ordeal? John chose to be better.

When difficult times come our way, when you have prayed every prayer you know, applied everything you have been taught and is still isolated on your island of Patmos. What do you do?

### **I. What John the Apostle did?**

#### **a) John maintained an attitude of deep conviction.**

The conviction that:

- \* His life was in His Master's hands. God works all things after the counsel of His will and for our good.

#### **Ephesians 1:11-12**

*11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,  
12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.*

- \* No matter what happened, John's conviction was to live a life of worship at all times. A life of worship is a life of consecration and service.

## In Worship John saw Jesus in the Spirit

### Revelation 1:17

*And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.*

Quote: \*What you see and who you see determines what you become.

Example – Isaiah was discouraged and felt lost when king Uzziah died.

### Isaiah 6:1

*In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.*

- 1) **The impact of the vision changed Isaiah forever.**

#### Isaiah 6:8

*"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."*

- 2) Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord.  
**It transformed Isaiah to be a willing prophet of his time.**

Two things you and I must do in our time of difficulties, heartaches or persecutions:

- a) **Maintain an attitude of trust** and continue doing what is pleasing to God.

#### Psalm 37:3

*Trust in the Lord and do good, dwell in the land and feed on His faithfulness*

- b) **Catch a vision of Jesus** and obey His voice.

A vision of Jesus causes 2 responses from us:

- 1) **We see ourselves unworthy** and inadequate.
- 2) **We see Him Worthy** and All Adequate.

## II. What did Jesus do?

**Jesus came to John on the island of Patmos in three ways:**

- a) Jesus came to John as a Comforter – Satan comes to **Condemn**, Jesus comes to **Comfort**.

\* **Jesus touched John with His right hand** (Revelation 1:17).

The **touch** of comfort, affection.

The **right hand** is the symbol of the hand of power, strength, authority.

It is also a communication of closeness without words.

**Jesus spoke to John:**

**“Do not be afraid...”** (Revelation 1:17)

Jesus identified John’s need and addressed it.  
Fear is a very real feeling in our times of trial/challenges.  
There are 366 passages in the Bible that addressed fear.

**“I am the First and the Last.”** (Revelation 1:17)

Here Jesus reaffirmed John that He was faithful to the End.  
He will never leave us nor forsake us.  
As He had been faithful to John from the beginning of their relationship.  
Jesus will be faithful to the end.

If your early days were productive, your latter days will be even more.

b) Jesus came as a **Conqueror**

When you are alone, when you are being challenged ... You need someone who is more powerful to help you.

**Revelation 1 :18a**

*I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen.*  
Jesus reminded John that He is the conqueror of death.

He is alive for ever and ever. Jesus is bigger than any problem we have.  
Only He has the power over death. Resurrection power belongs to God.

**Ephesians 1:20-22**

- 20 *which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,*  
21 *far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.*  
22 *And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church.*

**Romans 8:11**

*“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”*

c) Jesus came as the **Carrier** of keys

**Revelation: 1:18b**

*I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.*

Christ has the key to unlock every locked door/heart/problem.  
He has all power and authority.

**Matthew 28:18**

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*

Prayer is the key to binding and losing.

**Matthew 16:19**

*And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*

**CONCLUSION**

This morning you are in a perfect situation. It is the Lord's Day.  
You are in His Presence.

Let us catch a vision/revelation of Jesus as:

He is your **Comforter**

He is your **Conqueror**

He is the **Carrier** of the keys

A fresh vision of Jesus, something great happens. Impossible becomes possible.