

Shelemiah Baptist Church

Bible Study January 4, 2017 “Being Exiled for the Sake of the Gospel”

To be in **exile** means to be away from one's home (i.e. city, state, or country), while either being explicitly refused permission to return and/or being threatened with imprisonment or death upon return. It can be a form of punishment and solitude.

John of Patmos

Revelation 1:9-11

John is considered to be exiled to [Patmos](#), undergoing a time of persecution under the Roman rule of [Domitian](#). Revelation 1:9 states: "I, John, both your brother and companion in tribulation... was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ." John was suffering. He was living in the patience of Jesus Christ ~ not his own! (That is something far beyond what we can muster up of ourselves.) Patmos was no picnic! He was subject to the wicked taunts of evil, Christ-rejecting men! Men in authority had banished him to that island, to make him suffer for his pricking their consciences through the preaching of the mighty Word of God!

Revelation 21: 1-8 King James Version (KJV)

21 And I saw a **new** heaven and a **new** earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

² And I John saw the holy city, **new** Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

³ And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

⁴ And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

⁵ And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things **new**. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

⁶ And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

⁷ He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

⁸ But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

YIELD TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

The true way for a Christian to rise above the trials and testing of life is to continually seek to yield to the Holy Spirit. He is living within us and He is far greater than any obstacle man or the devil can bring against us! If John could rise to such great heights in the Spirit in the midst of tribulation, suffering and despair, then surely we can too.

Thank you for coming to Bible Study and have a blessed day...

Rev. Terry B. Land, Pastor