

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S INVITATION

"COME" (Revelation 22:17; John 16:7-11)

As we come to the very last Chapter of the Holy Bible, we hear the Holy Spirit's invitation, His call to repentance.

Many have read and heard the call. Now the Holy Spirit pleads with the lost in the world to take heed to the truth of this Book and avoid the Great Tribulation to come.

1. When Jesus said in John 16:8 that the Holy Spirit would reprove the world of sin what did he mean? _____

2. In that same verse the Holy Spirit would reprove the world of two other things.
 - (a) What are they? _____
 - (b) Do you connect Judgment in this verse to the Holy Spirit's invitation to "Come" in Revelation 22:17? _____
 - (c) Explain. _____

SEVENTEENTH STUDY

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND REVELATION

WE CANNOT HIDE (Psalm 139)

As we come to the end of this study on The Holy Spirit, we realize He has been involved in our lives from the beginning of time and He definitely is working in the present and future events of our lives and that of the world.

There is nowhere we can go from the Holy Spirit of God (Psalm 139:7). What God has begun He will complete.

IN THE SPIRIT ON THE LORD'S DAY (Revelation 1:1,10,11)

John, being banished to the Isle of Patmos ... *for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ* (Revelation 1:9), received ... *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass* (Revelation 1:1).

1. Revelation 1:10 says John was in the Spirit on the Lord's day. Explain in your own words what you think he meant by that he was in the Spirit.

John declares, that when he received this great revelation, he was in the Spirit. Translators say he was "in a trance" (20th Century NT); "inspired by the Spirit" (Weymouth); "rapt in the Spirit" (Mof-

fatt); "Spirit possessed" (Berk); "in the Spirit's power" (C. B. Williams); "caught up in the Spirit" (NEB). Commentator, Lange, explains the phrase as: "transported out of the every-day consciousness, and placed in the condition of prophetic ecstasy." The explanation I think fits best is the idea of miraculous ecstasy, a rapturous state that was produced directly by God Himself.

Unless one has experienced the depth of this kind of vision and encounter, it is hard to explain or define.

This lofty spiritual experience came to John **on the Lord's day**. Some have taken this as meaning "the day of the Lord," a prophetic phrase common in both the Old and New Testaments. They think that the seer was transported in spirit to the time of the Second Coming.¹

But the Greek form of the expression here rules out that interpretation. **Lord's** is an adjective, not the usual genitive phrase "of the Lord." It occurs only once elsewhere in the New Testament (I Cor. 11:20--"the Lord's supper"). It means belonging to the Lord," or "consecrated to the Lord."¹

The setting is not difficult to reconstruct. In exile on Patmos, John was deprived of the privilege of meeting with the saints on Sunday. Looking across the open sea, he was doubtless thinking of the Christians at Ephesus gathered together for

worship. He may well have been meditating on the Resurrection. Moffatt suggests: "With his mind absorbed in the thought of the exalted Jesus and stored with O. T. messianic conceptions from Daniel and Ezekiel, the prophet had the following ecstasy in which the thoughts of Jesus and of the church already present in his mind are fused into one vision."¹

The Holy Spirit in charge, and John prepared in heart and mind to receive, makes a wonderful setting for John's Revelation of Jesus Christ to begin.

2. In Revelation 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22, to Whom are the churches supposed to be listening?

SEVEN SPIRITS (Revelation 1:4; 5:6)

1. Do you believe the seven Spirits mentioned in Revelation 1:4 means there are seven different Holy Spirits? _____

The Lamb with 7 horns and 7 eyes is a symbol of Christ, and the 7 lamps of fire (Revelation 4:5), and 7 horns and 7 eyes are symbolic of the one Holy Spirit and can only represent the Holy Spirit's fullness and power upon the Lamb and before the throne. Therefore we know there is only one Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:4-6).

The Holy Spirit, seven fold in His operations (ch. V. 6).²

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, Volume 10, p. 479.

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2. The Pulpit Commentary, Vol. XXII, Revelation, p. 3.