

## **Revelation 1:10** **I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day....**

John's Revelation is a vision like the Old Testament prophecies. OT prophecies primarily were warning people of their sins and advising of what was coming (as in the judgment of God on men). These prophecies used symbolic images to convey these truths.

John states that he received this vision on the Lord's Day. What is "the Lord's Day"? Is it the "Day of the Lord", as some believe? In our language, the term "Lord's Day" and "Day of the Lord" are synonymous. Is it the Sabbath, as some believe? The Sabbath was a special day of the week in the Law of Moses. Is it the First Day of the Week, something mentioned often in the New Testament? We can find the answer through study to what Day is the Lord's Day.

### **The Day of the Lord**

What is the Day of the Lord? It is a term used 25 times in the Old Testament and 5 times in the New Testament. Generically, the term is used any time the discussion in Scripture speaks of divine judgment. Examples of this include Jeremiah 46:10 (Judah), Obadiah 1:15 (all of the nations), and Matthew 24:1-35 when Jesus describes the destruction of Jerusalem (Acts 2:20). In the New Testament, it more specifically refers to the day of the Lord's return. That day is described as the Resurrection Day in 1 Thessalonians 4-5, the Judgment Day in Matthew 25, and the End of All Things in 2 Peter 3. Clearly, John does not mean the day of God's wrath or the end of time.

### **The Sabbath**

The word "Sabbath" literally means rest; it is the day of rest. The Sabbath Day was given exclusively to Israel (Exodus 31:16). Jesus states that the Sabbath was made for man, (Mark 2:27), so it could not be described as the Lord's Day. Finally, for those in Christ, our Sabbath is not on earth, but the True Sabbath is heaven (Hebrews 4:1). The Sabbath Day could not be the Lord's Day.

### **The First Day of the Week**

How about the first day of the week? On this day Light was created (Genesis 1), and John 1 tells us that Jesus is the Light of the World. On this day Jesus arose (Matthew 28, etc.), and that means that it is the day that all authority was given to Jesus (Matthew 28:18). It is the day the church was opened (Acts 2:1-47), which is the body of Christ. Finally, we are told in Acts 20:7 that this is the day Christians assemble to observe the Lord's Supper, a memorial to the Lord. Clearly, the First Day of the Week is the Lord's Day.

Once we see that, we can consider this to be a prophecy of that day:

*The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD'S doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. **This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.***

Psalm 118:22-24

### **What Does It Mean to Be In the Spirit**

The Spirit of God is manifested to us today by the Word of God. His purpose today is no different than it was for John; to bring to our minds the knowledge of the things of God (John 14:26 etc.). Being "in the Spirit" would refer to spiritual understanding; thus it might include seeing the importance of this day. The Spirit reveals that this is the day Christians assemble to worship God. Being "in the Spirit" with the assembly would mean a worship in spirit at truth – John 4:23. That includes partaking of communion (1 Cor. 11:20), praying, singing and studying (Acts 2:42, Eph. 5:19), and setting aside a collection (1 Cor. 16:1). Being "in the Spirit" without the assembly cannot be forsaking it (Hebrews 10:26). However, if someone

is unable to participate (as John may have been, if in fact he was a prisoner on the island of Patmos), then we can sing, pray and study alone. But whether together or alone, we should understand the day's meaning.

Our Mindset as Christians needs to be that this is a special day. This is the Lord's Day; it belongs to our King. That does not mean we cannot do anything else, but we must first and foremost give Him this day, and honor Him as He has commanded.