① PARTAKER IN THE TRIBULATION & KINGDOM

v.9 I, John, both your brother and companion in THE Tribulation and Kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ.

- Your brother and partner
  - συγκοινωνός: partaking jointly
  - companion - KJV, NKJV, NIV
  - partner - ESV, NLT
  - fellow - partaker - NASB
  - Sharer - LEB, NET, NRSV
- John seems to be fully aware that he, along w/ all Believers - were concurrently in Τῇ θλίψει καὶ βασιλείᾳ καὶ ὑπομονῇ
- ★ NOTICE the nouns are in the Dative case ending (Belongs to the other noun in the sentence)
  - which is ... of Jesus
- in other words, the Defining article "THE" is applied to all Dative nouns
  - "THE Tribulation and THE Kingdom and THE Patience of Jesus" ESV, NRSV, KJV,
- John is beginning this letter by stating that him and all current Believer have entered into THE TRIBULATION AND THE KINGDOM AND will NEED THE Patience ὑπομονῆς: perseverance, endurance ESV, NET, NASB of Jesus TO BE VICTORIOUS

- The Teaching of the Kingdom concurrent to the Tribulation has always been the case
  - Moses was to advance the Nation/Kingdom through Pain.
  - scriptures always use Nation & Kingdom interchangeably - Ex. 9, 1 Pt. 2
- David and Solomon as well
- Advanced the Nation during Trib
- EZRA, NEhemiah rebuilt the NATION DURING TRIBULATION
- John the Baptist preached the Kingdom while it suffered violence - Matt 11:12
- Jesus built the New Temple and new Kingdom while suffering Tribulation & Death
- Barnabas and Saul "were scattered after the tribulation θλίψις that arose over Stephen..." Acts 11:19
- John was on the Island of Patmos suffering tribulation for advancing the Kingdom
  - v.1 "through the word of God and his testimony of Jesus" Rev. 1:9
- The church of Thyatira is warned from Jesus that He will "give them time to repent... or be cast into great tribulation" (given over to their enemies) Rev. 2:22
  - Tribulation θλῖψις, Biblically is persecution from enemies
  - has always happened and will always happen, and some experience "GREAT" tribulation
    - Jesus said Israel will experience Great Tribulation (Matt. 24) ... which occured in 70 A
  - ★ and this will especially happen as one advances & increases the Kingdom of Christ
- To say a futuristic "specific" seven year span will be "THE" tribulation, w/ the 2nd half being "GREAT" seems to be at odds w/ the
  - The TORAH (Moses)
  - The Nation of Israel (David/Solum)
  - John the Baptist
  - Jesus
  - 1st century Christians
  - ★ ACTS 11 AND Rev. 2 specifically mention Christians in a "Great Tribulation" μεγάλη θλῖψις
- ★ Why does every generation say the tribe is happening, or about to, or people always say "The End is near" or Jesus' coming has to be close"... Because it is true every Generation!
- Challenge for those who do NOT think the Tribulation began at the CROSS
  - Study Christian persecution throughout History - Foxe's Book of Martyrs
  - Shine as bright as possible and see what happens
  - OR go to N. Korea, OR Afghanistan, OR Somalia and see if you experience GREAT TRIBULATION
- As christians "endure" like christ, we show our Kingship and Reign over our enemies by being a
  - faithful witness (πιστὸς μάρτυς) in the face of deadly trials (2:9-11, 13; 3:8, 12:11)
  - By defeating sin in our lives
  - by ruling over Satan's tactics
- ★ we show we are victorious warriors and conquerors during this epic battle of The Kingdom : The Tribulation (enemies) persecution, people, state, Nations

② A VOICE, AS OF A TRUMPET SPOKE

v.10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day

- The "Lord's Day" most likely means Sunday
- Some flip the word order, which is possible at times in the Greek
  - to say Day of the Lord
  - meaning the season or "age"
  - as if John was transported in the Spirit to the final "Day of Judgment" and saw all the events he was to write

However, the Greek reads simply The LORD's Day (ἡμέρᾳ)

- AND Sunday was called consistently "The Lord's Day" in 1st- 2nd century Literature
- ★ Also, the "Final" Day of Judgment is typically called The Day of Wrath - Rev. 6:17 OR The Great Day of God Almighty 16:14 OR Day of Judgment - 1 Jn 4:17 ... Never is it called: The LORD's Day

v.10 I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet

- the voice had power and got ones attention like a trumpet
  - this is similar to Ex. 19:6 when God called Israel to be a royal priesthood and sounded a Trumpet 19:16

- the voice identifies Himself AND gives John a command

v.11 say, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last

- ★ This identification is found only in the Textus Receptus manuscripts
  - So it is only in the KJV, NKJV
- This does link v.11 w/ v.17 though clearly making the speaker Jesus
- ★ The 'commond' is in all MSS

v.11 What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia...

Two interesting points:

1) a couple of times, what he hears is different than what he sees
   - Ex: in 7:12 He hears a voice, but sees a Golden lampstand and one like the Son of man
   - Ex: in 7:4 John hears a number of 144,000 who are to be sealed... but then looks (7:9) and sees a great multitude which no one could number of all nations and people clothed in white w/ Palm Branches standing w/ Jesus
2) 2nd interesting point: this commission and verbaige to write is NOT uncommon
   - Moses was told to write Ex. 17:14
   - Isaiah was told Is. 30:8
   - Jeremiah was told as well Jer. 30:2
   - Habakuk was told to write Hab. 2:2
   - AND all such commissions to the prophets were told to write about upcoming Judgments of Israel
   - we shall see this theme continue as Revelation speaks of Judgment of Nations and those in the church who compromise w/ the ways of the world
   - The seven churches to receive the letter in Asia are:

v.11 to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos (Pergamum), to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea

- Remember though, each church was to "hear what the Spirit says to all the churches"
- these churches make a horseshoe shape over Asia minor
  - a common traveling route of major churches in the area
- There were more than 7 churches and it seems 7 represents all churches collectively/universal
- ★ what we find in these 7 churches is relevent for all churches everywhere and throughout time

③ THEN HAVING TURNED, I SAW... "The 1st VISION"

v.12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me and having turned I saw...

- This now will be the first "vision" of the apocalypse
- and what he sees is amazing and beautiful!

v.12 I saw seven golden lampstands

- John sees the church!
  - he hears a voice, but sees "seven Golden lampstands"
- Jesus will later tell John "The seven Golden lampstands which you saw are the seven churches." 1:20

This vision represents the churches

7 = universal/complete

Gold = pure faith

"Genuine Faith is more precious than gold, though tested by fire..." 1 Pt. 1:7

"Let your gold be refined in the fire" Rev. 3:18

- Believers have gold crowns - 4:4
- City has streets of gold - 21:21

Lampstands

- church is to be the light of the world a city that cannot be hidden - Matt. 5:14
- The Tabernacle and Temple had a Lampstand to represent God's presence
- Zechariah had a vision of a Gold Lampstand w/ seven lights that were fueled by two olive trees

★ This vision described the building of the New Temple (2nd) which would be accomplished by the Spirit (4:6) despite resistance/tribulations

- The church Jesus builds is to be the light, expand God's presence and push back the Kingdom of Darkness!
  - common misunderstanding of a common verse:

"on this rock/pebble (one means confession of faith) I will build My church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" Matt 16:18

- most people interpret this as whatever the demonic realm does, it will NOT prevail over the church (Right Doctrine, wrong verse)
  - however, Read it again!

The Gates of Hell cannot withstand or prevail over the advancement of the church

- the church will invade the Darkness and its "gates" will not hold
- ★ The Church is the new spiritual Temple (1 Pt. 2) and is advancing... Like Light pushing out Darkness

v.13 in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man

- in the middle of the church is a Man
- He looks like a Man (Son of Man)
- But also nothing like a man...
- hence "like" the Son of Man

v.13 He was clothed with a garment/robe down to His feet

- a long robe that a King or Priest would wear
- David and Aaron had long Robes
- ★ The priest would be responsible for the lampstand
- remove old wicks and old oil, add new oil for the lamps, relight those who had gone out, etc

"command the children of Israel to bring in pure olive oil and to never allow the light to go out, but burn continually" Ex. 27:20 Lev. 24:2

- CHRIST DOES this for the church

v.13 and girded around His chest with a golden band

- ★ This attire describes both Kings and priests
  - this was worn by victorious & conquering soldiers from battle
  - Priests would also have a sash Is 22:21-22... Eliakim gets the priestly garments and Robe and given the Keys to open and shut

v.14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow

- This is exactly how God, the Ancient of Days, is described:

"I watched till thrones were put in place and the Ancient of Days was seated - His garment was white as snow and the hair of His head was white as wool" Dan. 7:9

- The description speaks of purity and holiness

v.14 His eyes were like a flame of fire

- speaking of judgment
  - Fire is almost always judgment 1 COR. 3 TESTED BY FIRE
- His eyes see all and will judge all things righteously

v.15 His feet were like fine brass, as refined in a fire

- your version might say burnished bronze
- meaning, His feet tread the fire of purity
- OR that His feet portray strength and stability
  - He goes wherever He wants, where no man can tread

v.15 and His voice was like the roar of many waters

- God's voice is described the exact same way

"Behold, the glory of God came from the way of the East. His voice was like the sound of many waters..." Ezek. 43:2

- speaks of power
- water also speaks of the Holy Spirit

v.16 In His right hand He held the seven stars

- this can get complicated
- the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches
- ★ Either speaks of heavenly/angelic Realm
  - so in one hand, the 7 churches (earthly Realm)
  - In the other, the 7 angels (heavenly Realm) - stars do represent angels
- ★ all in the hands and controlled by Jesus
  - OR the angels could be the church leadership/pastors (As the letters are actually addressed to the angels of the churches)
  - Again though, stars do = Angels of times

v.16 from His mouth went a two-edged sword

- This confirms this man is the Messiah as prophecied:

Is 11:1-3 the messiah will have the sevenfold spirit

Is. 11:4 the messiah will strike the earth w/ the rod/sword of His mouth

Serv. Song #2 Is. 49:2 My mouth is a sharp sword

- the christian's weapon is also the "word of God" as OUR sword Heb 4:12

v.16 and His face was like the sun shining in full strength

- last description
- this shows Jesus as a victorious warrior

Judges 5:31 speaks of the victorious warriors shining like the sun after battle

- Also, Daniel speaks of those "who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament
- and lastly, but best of all, Jesus returned to His state that He only momentarily revealed at the mount of Transfiguration!

"Jesus was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun and His clothes became as white as light" Matt 17:2

- ★ Jesus, now back in His Glorified state!
  - AND John got to see it
  - ... and so can we!!