

JOHN ON THE ISLE OF PATMOS

Revelation, chapter 1



It was the Lord's Day, but John was not in the Temple. No great crowds were listening to him speak. The reason was this. After his busy, busy, useful life, his enemies had sent him off to a lonely island where they thought he could not work for Jesus any more. Perhaps they said, "If God saved Peter from prison, why doesn't he save John from his prison island?"

But John, the gentle, loving John, was not having unkind or unhappy thoughts. He was sitting thinking of Jesus and of sweet and holy and heavenly things. He was remembering "the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

It was very quiet. Suddenly he heard a sound like that of a trumpet. When he looked to see where the sound came from, he saw a shining and a glory—and Jesus himself, who said, "Fear not."

Jesus had a message for his churches in the world, and he had come to ask his beloved, faithful John to write it. He would say the words, and John would write them down. It had seemed a sad and terrible thing to have a good man like John sent away to stay perhaps for the rest of his life on a lonely island far from his home and his friends, but it was