

## Why Did John Bow?

*How It All Ends*

By William J. Sturm

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**Bible Text:** Revelation 19:9-10

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### **Berean Baptist Church**

517 Glensford Drive

Fayetteville, NC 28314

**Website:** [www.bereanbaptistchurch.org](http://www.bereanbaptistchurch.org)

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2 Peter 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ... 15. I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. 19. We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Prophets spoke prophecy by the Holy Spirit. “Moved along” there is a nautical term and it has the idea of being moved along like a sailboat when the wind blows through the sail and so Peter says prophets in the old time, you could say in the Old Testament, verse 21, “Prophecy came in the old time not by the will of man but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” Then it might make sense to you when you look at the next verse in the next chapter which starts talking about false prophets so it must be that he’s about to tell us about people that don’t agree with what he just said.

Revelation 19:9 And he saith unto me. Who is the “he”? Well, probably the voice out of the throne in verse 5. “He said unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.” Notice what we have: we have someone saying, “Write, Blessed.” So, he’s saying, “John, write a blessing for some people. Write, Blessed are they which are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said, “These things are the true sayings of God.”

Verse 10, “And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus.” So, we have

testimony of Jesus. That word “testimony” there, anyone want to take a stab, no pun intended, at to what the Greek word is there? It comes from the word “martyr.” So, let’s read it with that idea there. Verse 10, “I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the martyrdom of Jesus: worship God: for the martyrdom of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

So, what does it mean when it says “the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy?” Let’s think this through. The witness of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. Look at chapter 1 of Revelation with me. We’re going to do a little comparison here so maybe we can get an idea. 1. What is the martyrdom of Jesus that is the spirit of prophecy? 2. Why would John have fallen down to worship someone who wasn’t God?

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John. Who bare record of the word of God, and of the **testimony** of Jesus. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written. 4. John to the seven churches which are in Asia, Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the **testimony** of Jesus Christ. 10. I was in **the Spirit** on the Lord's day.

So, we have John writing prophecy in two different places and we’re told in two different places it is the spirit of prophecy that is teaching him to do this.

Revelation 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man ... 18. I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore.

So, we could say a witness is someone who has seen the resurrected Lord. Right? The apostles had to see the resurrected Christ to become apostles, isn’t that true? Even Paul did. He said, “Have I not seen the Lord? Am I not an apostle?” So, we understand that being a witness of the testimony of Jesus or having the witness of Jesus is the same. The word “testimony” there is the same word used in Acts 1:8, “For you shall receive power after the Holy Ghost has come upon you and you shall be witnesses.” Well, who is in that crowd of 11 that day? John. John was told in Acts 1:8, “You will be witnesses of the

resurrected Christ,” and the Spirit of God is going to help you do it. 2 Peter 1: who spoke to people about prophesying of the Christ that should come? The Holy Spirit carried them along as like a wind does a sailboat.

We’re getting close to a good answer here and that is, remember Revelation 19:10, the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. Now, that is a little confusing. As a matter of fact, I’ve thought about that verse for about eight days now because I’m like, “Well, it’s not like the Spirit of God is an inanimate object. What does it mean? What does it mean to say the spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus?” Well, the Spirit of God comes from the word *pneuma*. What word do you see there that we use a lot today? Do any of you work on cars? Pneumatic tools. Air powered tools, right? Well, the Greek word behind “spirit” is *pneuma* and the study of the Holy Spirit is known as pneumatology, therefore, the study of the Holy Spirit is the study of the breath of God, the wind of God. The Holy Spirit is a person who is the embodiment of the breath of God.

When we say in Revelation 19:10 the spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus we’re saying that the knowledge of a resurrected Christ drives the prophecy train. In other words, out of all the things that John could have talked about, look at 1:7, what does he talk about? He’s given you the whole purpose of the book of Revelation. That Jesus is coming and so if he’s coming, that must mean what? That he went away. The fact that he went away must mean what? In order to go away, don’t you have to actually be here. And if you’ve already died, don’t you have to actually come back from the death?

To say that you believe in the Second Coming of Jesus, when you say, “I believe in a physical, visible, bodily Second Coming of Jesus,” you’re saying, “He got up from the dead.” So, when we say that the testimony of Jesus or the eye witness accounts of the apostles that saw the resurrected Christ and, by the way, they’re not the only ones. Paul said 500 brothers saw Jesus resurrected but the testimony of people who saw a living Jesus, Revelation 1:18, that is what drives the belief into the Second Coming of Christ. If he’s alive, that means he’s coming back again.

So, you understand that the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. What is prophecy? Telling what’s going to happen, right? So, knowledge of a resurrected Christ is the breath behind prophecy. Do you all see that? The spirit of prophecy is the knowledge of a resurrected Christ. In other words, John is saying this and the man who is talking to him in Revelation 19 is saying this: if Jesus wasn’t alive, you’d have nothing to talk about. Isn’t that true? Think through that phrase with me: the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy or the martyrdom of Jesus is the breath of God that drives prophecy or the eye witness accounts of a living Christ who was dead is what drives the train for us to talk about a Second Coming.

Revelation 14:11. And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. 12. Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die

in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith **the Spirit**, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Who does he see immediately after he hears that voice? Verse 14, Son of Man.

Revelation 19:10. I'm going to ask both questions once again and then we're done. Does everyone see the gapping hole here? Questions 1: what does it mean to say that the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy? The Spirit of God blows the prophecy sailboat because there is a living Christ. There is no Second Coming to talk about if he's not alive. That's what that phrase means.

The second one is: why do you think John bowed to him? Think of Revelation 1, think of Revelation 14, now Revelation 19. The third time that this sort of scenario happens: why do you think that John bows to this voice? He thought it was who that was speaking to him? He thought it was the Son of man. It's only happened two other times and both times he looks up and sees Jesus. So, in 19:10 he has to be told, "No, no, no, no. I am of thy fellowservant, of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus." Wow, there's a third question there that we don't have time to answer today.