

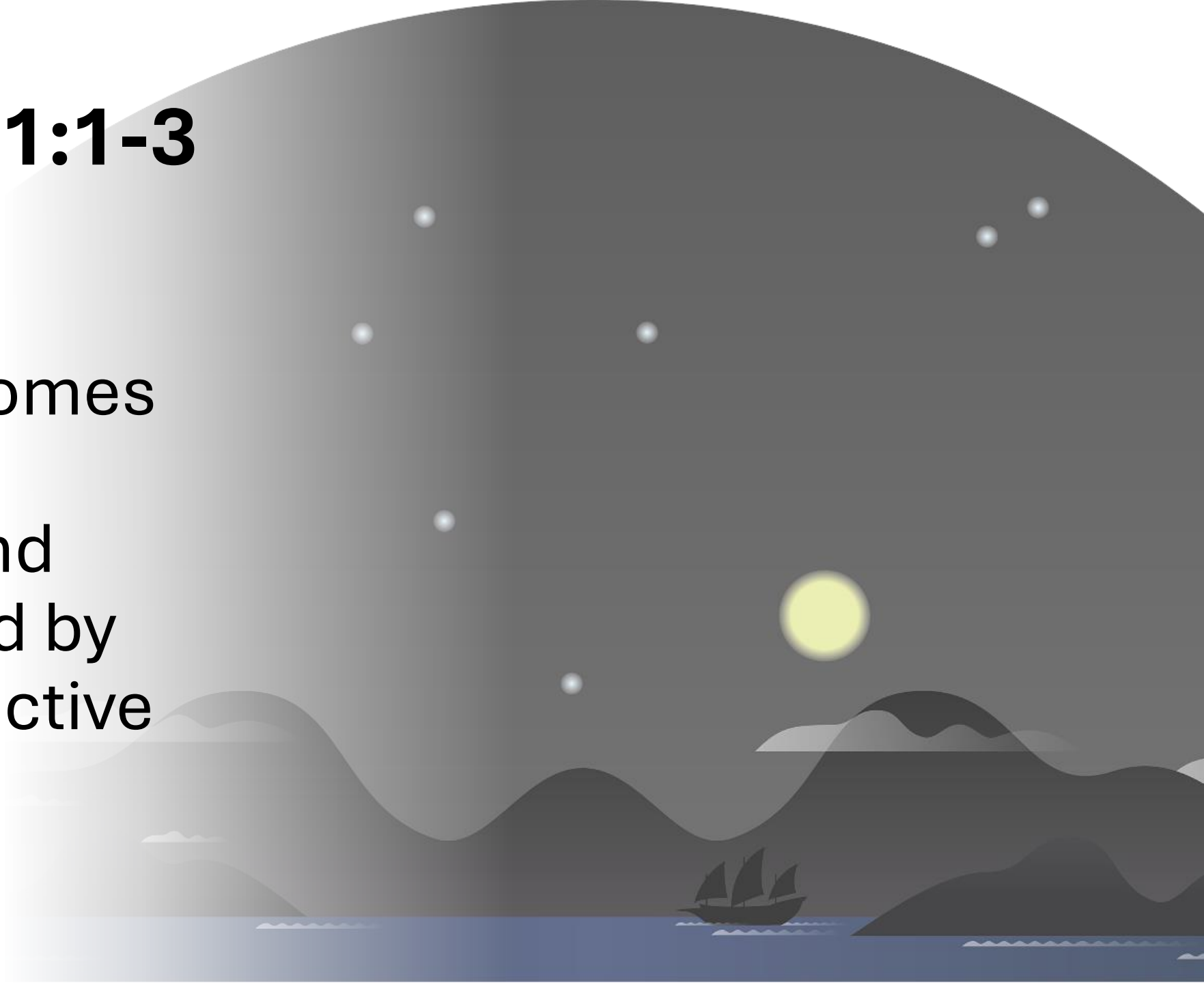
# A Holy Happiness in History

A stylized night landscape illustration. The sky is dark with a large, glowing yellow moon and several small white stars. The foreground shows dark, rolling hills and a body of water. A small, dark boat with a single sail is visible on the water. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

# Revelation 1:1-3

## Message

Happiness comes  
by living  
obediently and  
wisely, guided by  
God's perspective  
on history



# Revelation provides two things that make all the difference

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1. It reassures us that God has ordered how history will unfold (Eph 1:11)
2. Jesus unfolds history to carry out God's plan





# Revelation 1:1-3

- I. Jesus transmitted this essential information to His people (1)
- II. John testified to receiving this divine message (2)
- III. John provided an incentive for internalizing this divine message (3)

# Who wrote Revelation?

## The apostle John

- Justin Martyr (c. 100 – c. 165), Irenaeus, Clement, Origen, Tertullian and Hippolytus
- “Indeed they assume it without discussion. So strong is this evidence that it is difficult to believe that they all made a mistake” (Donald Guthrie, *NT Introduction*, p. 935)

## Not the apostle John

- Dionysius (died c. 264)



# Who wrote Revelation?

## Key similarities between the Gospel of John and Revelation

Both books call Jesus:

- The Word (Logos, only in John's writings)
- The Lamb
- Shepherd
- Son of God

Both quote the LXX for Zech 12:10  
(Jn 19:37; Rev 1:7)



# When was Revelation written?

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**Before AD 70, around Nero's reign**

**or**

**AD 90-95, around Domitian's reign**

Early witnesses in the church heavily support the late date (AD 90-95)



# When was Revelation written?

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## Late Date (AD 90-95)

**Irenaeus** said Revelation “was seen no such long time ago, but almost in our own generation, at the end of the reign of Domitian” (quoted in Donald Guthrie, *New Testament Introduction*, p. 956)

**Irenaeus** (c. 130 – c. 200) had ties to Asia Minor and knew Polycarp who knew the apostle John



# History of Church at Ephesus

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- Church plant in AD 52
- Paul taught there 53-56
- Paul wrote Ephesians around 60-61
- Paul wrote 1 Tim to Timothy in Ephesus in 62
- Paul wrote 2 Tim in 67
- Church deteriorated by 68-69?
- Would Paul have pulled Timothy out of Ephesus (2 Tim 4:9) if the Nicolaitans were that well established (Rev 2:6)?



# When was Revelation written?

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G. K. Beale explains that “the firm tradition stemming from Irenaeus” and “the cumulative weight of evidence points to the late date” (AD 90-95)

*(The Book of Revelation, pp. 4, 27)*



# Revelation 1:3 “Blessed”

Seven “beatitudes” – Rev 1:3; 14:13;  
16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7; 22:14  
(Robert Thomas)

**Blessed** refers to biblical happiness,  
joy, and shalom (Thomas Schreiner)



# Revelation 1:3 “Keep”

*Blessing on the Reader and  
the ‘Heeder’*

(Grant Osborne, *Revelation*, p. 57)



# Revelation 1:3

## “Hears...keeps”

**Hearing and keeping** Revelation means that the person “receives and internalizes the worldview and theological perspective communicated in the book”

(Thomas Schreiner, *Revelation*, p. 77)



# Revelation 1:3

## “Prophecy”

- Authoritative, divine revelation given directly to the prophet
- **Foretelling:** predicting future events
- **Forth-telling:** a message to someone (repent, obey, etc.)
- Biblical prophecy is always a message received from God



Revelation is prophecy (Rev 1:3; 22:7, 10, 18, 19)

# Revelation 1:3

## “For the time is near”

- *Accountability is always just around the corner*
- The time to obey is NOW
- Our King is coming back!

