

4 Patmos

Names (also known as)

Greek: Πάτμος; Patino, Patimo
Italian: Patmos

Etymology

Patmos: “my killing”*.

Location/Description

Patmos is one of the Sporades Islands about 28 miles (45 km) SW of the island of Samos and about the same distance from the coast of Asia Minor in the Aegean Sea (the Island is actually part of Greece’s territory today).

It is about 8 miles (13 km) in length and its greatest width is 6 miles (10 km). It is a rocky, desolate and barren landscape. The highest point is Profitis Ilias (883 ft) 269 metres above sea level.

Today it has a population of approx. 2,998. The main communities are Chora (capital city) and Skala, the only commercial port. In 1999 the island’s historic centre Chora, along with the Monastery of St John the Theologian and the Cave of the Apocalypse were declared World Heritage sites by Unesco. Patmos is also home to the Patmian School, a notable Greek seminary.



Famous characters

- Apostle John
- Christodoulos
- Patriarch Jeremias 3 of Constantinople
- Patriarch Neophytus 4 of Constantinople

Scriptural references

New Testament

Rev. 1:9



Brief history

The earliest settlements date to the bronze age (circa 2000 BC) found in pottery shards from Kastelli.

Patmos is seldom mentioned by ancient writers, it is felt the inhabitants were Dorians descending from families of the Argos, Sparta and Epidaurus mingling with people of Ionian ancestry. 3rd Century BC the island acquired an acropolis. The Romans used the Islands desolate and barren landscape as a place to banish prisoners. The prisoners were compelled to work in the mines.

The Emperor Domitian sent John to this Island (AD 95) and it was here John received the Apocalypse (Rev.1:9) from Christ. The landscape itself helped John to visualize the message from the Lord; e.g. “I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea...” (Rev. 13:1).



Muslims raided the island in the 7th to 9th centuries. In the 11th century, the Byzantine Emperor Alexios 1 Komnenos gave Christodoulos permission to build the monastery starting in 1101.

Many fled to the island after the fall of Constantinople in 1453. The island was controlled by the Ottoman Empire for many years.

In 1912 Italy controlled the island after the Italo-Turkish war and occupied the island until Nazi Germany took over in 1943.

In 1945 the Germans left the island and eventually Patmos with the rest of the Dodecanese Islands joined Greece.

Religion

Greek mythology states the islands original name was “Letois” after the goddess Artemis, daughter of Leto.



Sources:

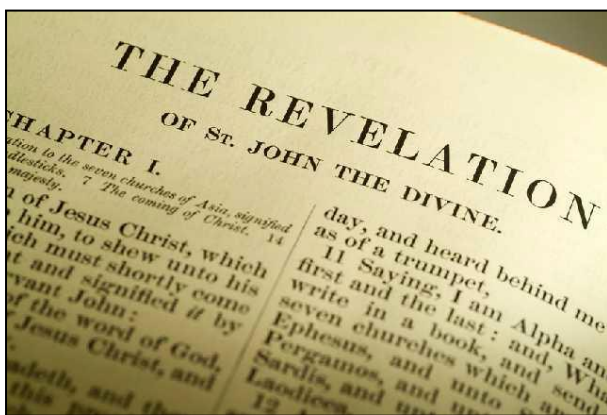
Guide Book to the NT – HP Mansfield

New Smiths Bible Dictionary- 1979

Wikipedia – Patmos

*Dictionary of Scripture Proper Names –JB Jackson

(Compiler – Ian Macfarlane)



I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation (“pressure, compression, straitness; hence, pressure from evils, affliction, distress” - Bullinger’s Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the English and Greek New Testament), ***and in the kingdom and patience*** (“a remaining under, a bearing-up under; hence, patient endurance, holding out, enduring” - Bullinger’s) ***of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God and for the testimony*** (Greek word is “marturia” from “martus” meaning “a witness, martyr” - Strong’s) ***of Jesus.*** (Rev. 1:9)

