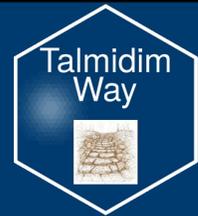


Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds

Introduction

Revelation 1:1



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they **received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD:: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).

Unless otherwise noted, images courtesy of the Satellite Bible Atlas and the Pictorial Library of Bible Lands (BiblePlaces.org)



2

Topics

- “Revelationnnnnn”
- What is an "apocalypse"?
- Seven Keys to interpretation
- The "Metadata:" who wrote it; where, when, how, to whom, and why was it written



3

“REVELATIONNNNN”



4

What is an "apocalypse"?

A biblical apocalypse communicates to the faithful, that although things on earth seem terribly unjust, a day is coming where God will pour out his wrath upon the wicked and reward the righteous.

19:11

5

Seven Keys to Interpretation

- 1. Follow the Talmidim Way!**
- 2. Be open to the Spirit**
- 3. Be a Berean**
- 4. The original intended audience had a Jewish context**
- 5. Revelation is a Jewish book**
- 6. Make sure interpretations fit the context**
- 7. No fear allowed!**

19:11

6

Keys to interpretation

Revelation is perhaps the most studied but least understood book in the new testament



7

Key #1 Follow the Talmidim Way



8

Key #2: Be open to the Spirit's leading



Doves at the traditional baptism site of Jesus

19:11

9

Key #3: Be a Berean!

Acts 17:11 (KJV)
These (Bereans) were more noble than those in
Thessalonica, in that they **received the word with all
readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily,
whether those things were so.**

19:11

10

Key #4: Understand the Intended Audience

The Bible, including the Book of Revelation, was written **FOR** us but not **TO** us

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable **for** doctrine, **for** reproof, **for** correction, **for** instruction in righteousness: 17. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*



11

Key #5: Understand Revelation is a Jewish Book



**"Revelation is a Jewish book. In fact, it's *really* Jewish. In fact, it's the most Jewish book in our New Testament."
Daniel Lancaster**



12

Key #5: Revelation is a Jewish book



Man with four species of Sukkot



13

Key #6: Remember the Original Audience

If an interpretation would not or could not have occurred to John or his audience, we should treat it with a degree of healthy suspicion.



14

Key #7: No Fear Allowed!



Assumption #4:

Fear is not from God



15

Avoid "Frontpage Exegesis"

WORLD'S NEWS
THE END!

WORLD REPORT
 This year has been a great year for trading all over the world. As you can see in the table, our expert economists have a great movement. Despite all bad economic crisis and other issues, our company achieved a great year — a record revenue. We are

IMPORTANT!
 The news tell like a bomb on the agenda. Actually this news has been great around the past couple of days. What are the latest news and expectations?

WORLD'S NEWS
 YOUR NUMBER ONE SOURCE FOR HEADLINES

THE SKY IS FALLING

RELIGIOUS LEADERS TO LOOK UP

TORONTO STAR
 WEATHER HIGH 4 C | WINDY WITH SNOW | MAP 58

The world was supposed to end at 6:11 a.m., but if you're reading this...
We're all still here

LONG SHOT: The odds are against a global apocalypse — but it could happen. **A33** | **SAY GOODBYE:** The world will be destroyed (sometime in the next five billion years). **A33** | **LIVE BLOG:** Follow us to the end of the world with coverage beginning at 6 a.m. at thestar.com

88 REASONS Why The Rapture Will Be In 1988
 The Feast of Trumpets (Rosh-Hash-ana)
 September 11-12-13
 Edgar C. Whisenant
 New Expanded Edition
 Two Books in One — See other Cover



16

"Revelation Metadata:" Who wrote Revelation? John the Apostle.

Revelation 1:1-2 This is the revelation which God gave to Yeshua the Messiah, so that he could show his servants what must happen very soon. He communicated it by sending his angel to his servant **Yochanan**, 2. who **bore witness** to the Word of God and to the testimony of Yeshua the Messiah, as much as he saw.



Apostle John painting, in Duc In Altum chapel in Magdala



17

When and where was Revelation written? Patmos, early 90s CE



Revelation 1:9 I, Yochanan, am a brother of yours and a fellow-sharer in the suffering, kingship and perseverance that come from being united with Yeshua. I had been exiled to the island called **Patmos** for **having proclaimed the message of God and borne witness** to Yeshua.

John's Exile



18

How was Revelation written? Signs!

Revelation 1:1b: **He communicated it** (σημαίνω signified, made known, *lit. rendered into signs*) by sending His angel to His servant Yochanan

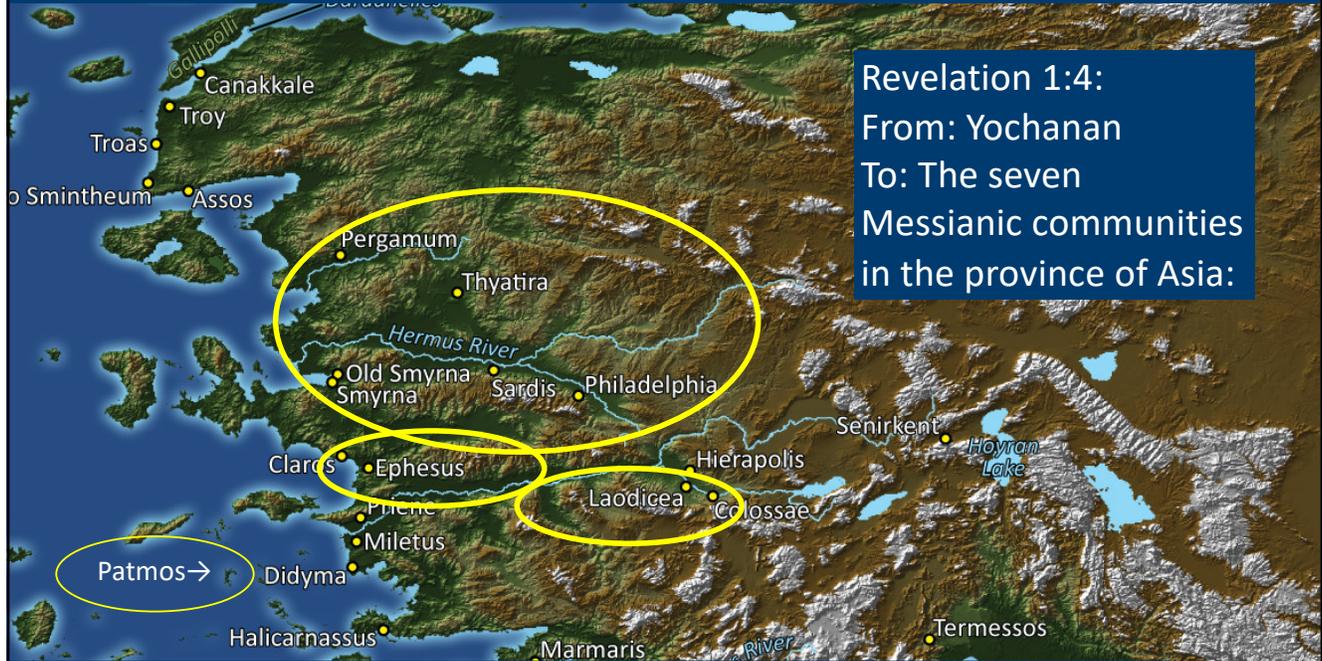


Priestly blessing during Sukkot at Western Wall



19

To whom was Revelation written? The seven messianic congregations in Asia Minor



Revelation 1:4:
From: Yochanan
To: The seven
Messianic communities
in the province of Asia:

The Seven Messianic Congregations in Asia (Minor)/Turkey



20

To whom was Revelation written? The seven messianic congregations in Asia Minor



21

Why? The Hope of His return and the Restoration of Eden

Revelation 1:7 Look! He is coming with the clouds! Every eye will see him, including those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the Land will mourn Him. Yes! Amen!



- Revelation reminds us, "victory depends on Christ's finished work, not on human circumstances (and) that the imminent hope of His return is worth more than all the world's goods." -- Craig Keener

Mount of Olives from Golden Gate

22



1. Follow the Talmidim Way!
2. Be open to the Spirit
3. Be a Berean
4. The original intended audience had a Jewish context
5. Revelation is a Jewish book
6. Make sure interpretations fit the context
7. No fear allowed!

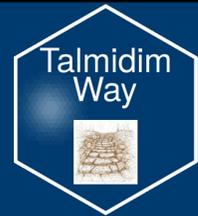
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Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds Supplement

Historical Prelude

Extra-biblical sources



1

Topics

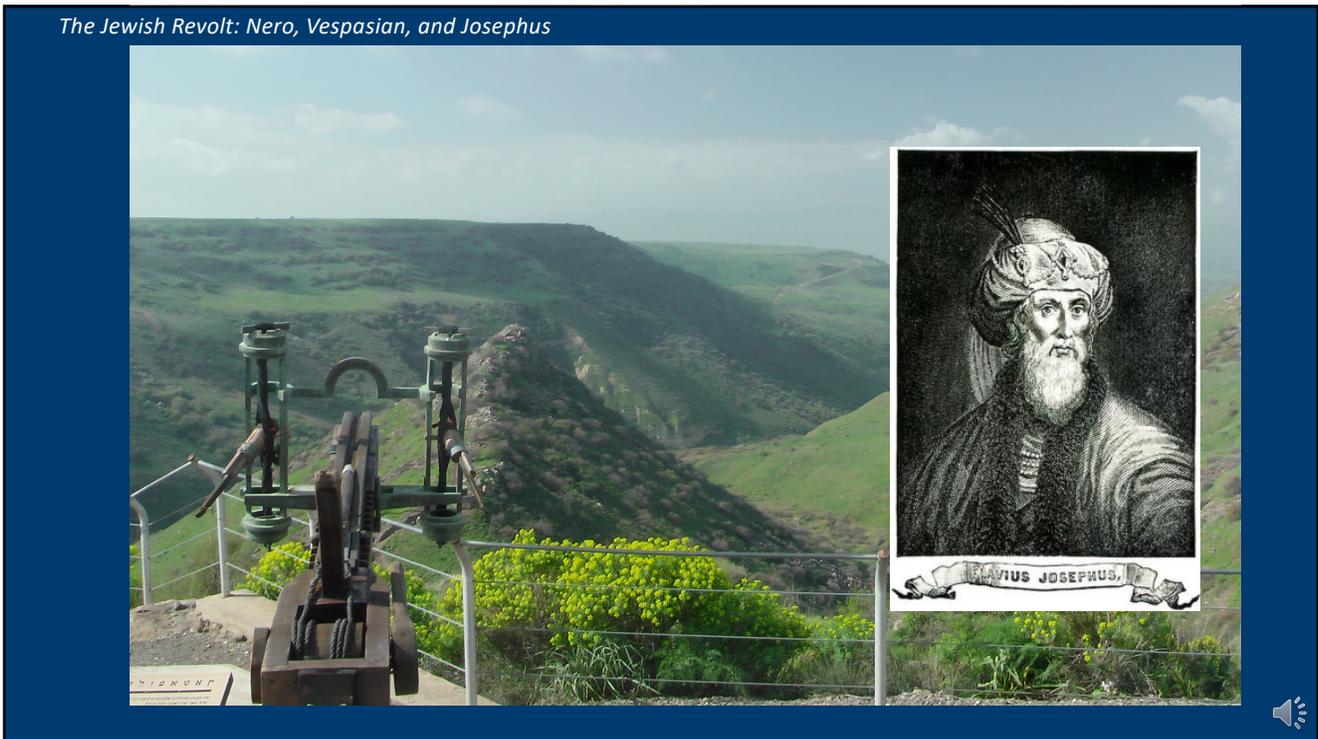
- The Jewish Revolt: Nero, Vespasian, and Josephus
- The Roman Aftermath: Vespasian and Titus
 - The destruction of the Second Temple fulfills prophecy
- Domitian and the widespread persecution
- Domitian, John the Apostle, and Patmos
- Conclusion: Relevance to Revelation



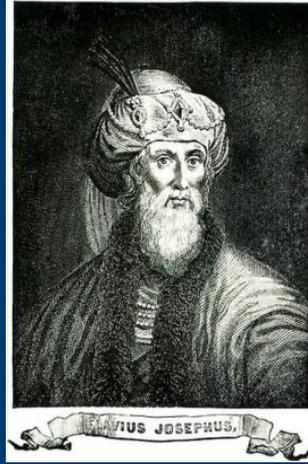
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3



4

Vespasian, Josephus, and Titus (Vespasian)

5

2nd Temple Destruction Fulfills Prophecy

Luke 19:41-44 As He drew near and saw Jerusalem, He wept over her, 42. saying, "If only you had recognized this day the things that lead to shalom! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43. For the days will come upon you when your enemies will surround you with barricades and hem you in on all sides. 44. And they will smash you to the ground—you and your children within you. And they won't leave within you one stone upon another because you did not recognize the time of your visitation."



6

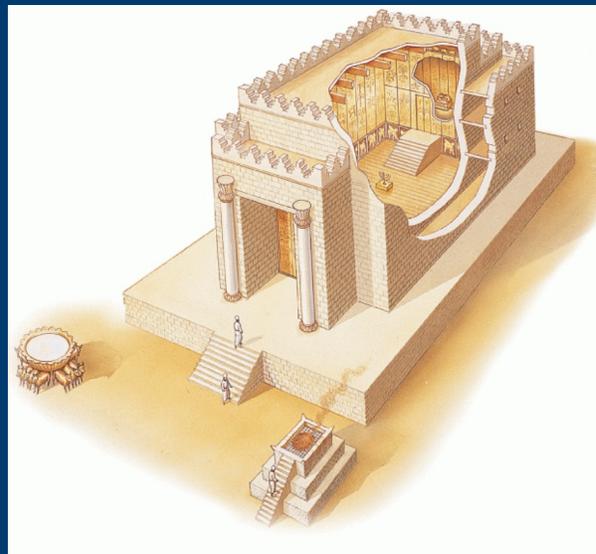
Aftermath



7

Jesus predicts the destruction of Jerusalem

Psalms 137:1-8 By the waters of *Babylon*, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered *Zion*. 2. On the willows there we hung up our lyres. 3. For there our captors *required* of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of *Zion*!" 4. How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land? 5. If I forget you, O *Jerusalem*, let my right hand forget its skill! 6. Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set *Jerusalem* above my highest joy! 7. Remember, O LORD, against the *Edomites* the day of *Jerusalem*, how they said, "*Lay it bare, lay it bare, down to its foundations!*" 8. O daughter of *Babylon*, doomed to be destroyed, *blessed shall he be who repays you with what you have done to us!*



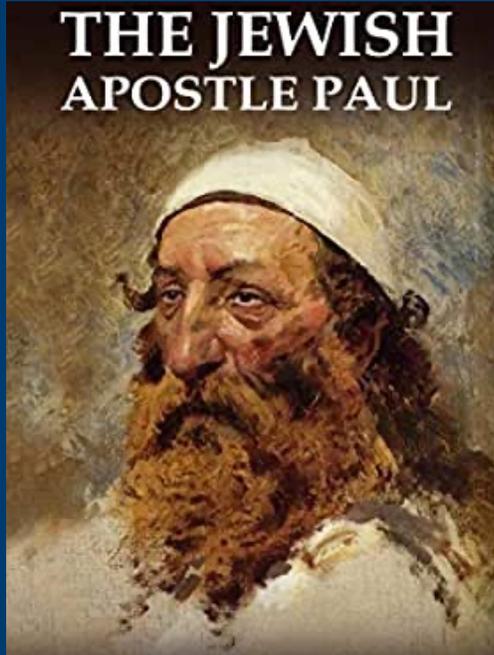
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Domitian



9

Gentiles Joining a Jewish Sect



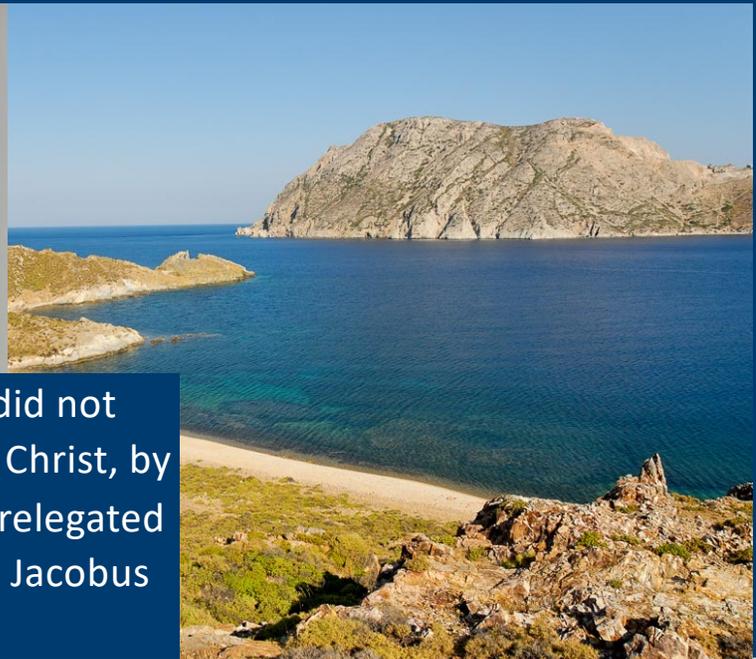
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Statue ("Image") of Domitian



11

Domitian, John, and Patmos



"When even the cauldron did not deter John from preaching Christ, by order of Domitian, he was relegated to the Island of Patmos." -- Jacobus de Varagine c. 1260

(L) Apostle John painting, in Duc In Altum chapel in Magdala (R) Patmos



12

Conclusion: Relevance to Revelation



God is in Control

- Babylon
- Nero/Nero Reborn/Antichrist/The Beast
- Synagogue of Satan (accuser)/Say they are Jews but are not
- Hold fast to His Name/Two witnesses

13

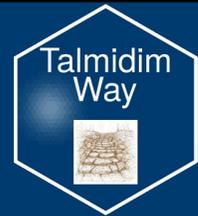
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14

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds

"Greetings"

Revelation 1:1-11



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

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Unless otherwise noted, images courtesy of the Satellite Bible Atlas and the Pictorial Library of Bible Lands (BiblePlaces.org)



2

Topics

- Opening and blessing
- Salutation
- Behold He Comes
- The Day of the Lord



3

Revelation 1	OT Allusions
1. This is the revelation which God gave to Yeshua the Messiah , so that he could show his servants what must happen very soon . He communicated it by sending his angel to his servant Yochanan,	1:1 Daniel 2:28 but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these: 29 To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be.

Pattern of Sevens: The word "Messiah" (Christ) appears seven times in Revelation

(talmidimway.org will catalog less obvious groupings)



4

This is the revelation which God gave to Yeshua the Messiah...His servant Yochanan



5

Revelation 1

1. He communicated it by sending his angel to his servant Yochanan,
2. who bore **witness** to the Word of God and to the **testimony of Yeshua** the Messiah, as much as he saw.

Dead Sea Scroll 4Q175 Testimonia ("Messianic Anthology"), 1st century BC



6

Revelation 1

3. **Blessed** are the reader and **hearers** of the words of this prophecy, provided they **obey** the things written in it! For the time is near!

There are seven blessings pronounced in Revelation



Jewish men gathered at the Western Wall for the Priestly Blessing on the Feast of Tabernacles



7

- **שָׁמַע** - shama - listen/hear/obey
- Rev 1:3 (Delitzsch Hebrew New Testament)
 - אֲשֶׁרִי הַקּוֹרֵא וְאֲשֶׁרִי הַשֹּׁמְעִים אֶת־דְּבָרֵי הַנְּבוּאָה
- Deu 6:4
 - **שָׁמַע** יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד:
 - “**Hear**, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD is one.
 - You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
- **שֵׁם** - shem - name/reputation



8

<p>Revelation 1</p>	
<p>4. From: Yochanan To: The seven Messianic communities in the province of Asia:</p>	

9

<p>Revelation 1</p>	<p>OT Allusions</p>
<p>4. Grace and shalom to you from the One who is, who was and who is coming; from the sevenfold Spirit before his throne;</p>	<p>1:4 Isa 11: 2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.</p>

Letter from Antonis to his mother, asking for blankets in winter, May 2, AD 101

10

Revelation 1	OT Allusions
<p>5. and from Yeshua the Messiah, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead and the ruler of the earth's kings. To him, the one who loves us, who has freed us from our sins at the cost of his blood,</p> <p>6. who has caused us to be a kingdom, that is, Cohanim for God, his Father—to him be the glory and the rulership forever and ever. Amen.</p>	<p>1:5 Gen 49: 11 Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes.</p> <p>Psa 89:27 And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.</p> <p>1:6 Ex 19:5-6 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."</p> <p>Isa 61:6 but you shall be called the priests of the LORD; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast.</p>

11

Pattern of Sevens - 1:5-6 - Description of Messiah

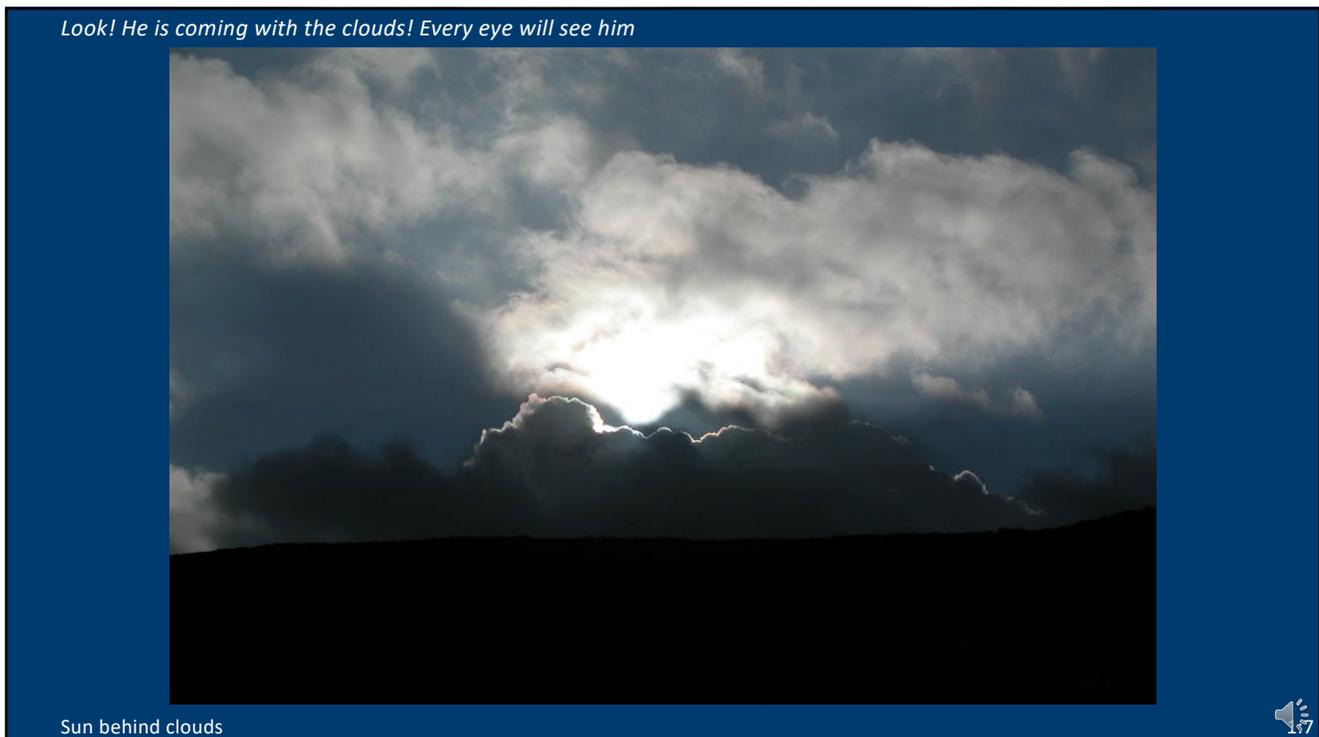
1. Faithful witness (faithful martyr)
2. Firstborn from dead
3. Ruler of earth's kings
4. One who loves us
5. Causes us to be freed us from our sins at the cost of His blood
6. Causes us to be a kingdom, a community subject to Him who loves us
7. Causes us to be priests for God, His Father

To all of this we can only reply "to Him be the glory forever and ever! Amen!"

12

Revelation 1	OT Allusions
<p>7. Look! He is coming with the clouds! Every eye will see him, including those who pierced him; and all the tribes of the Land will mourn him. Yes! Amen!</p>	<p>Dan 7:13-14 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. 14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.</p> <p>Isa 52:8 The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.</p> <p>Zech 12:10-12 "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. 11 On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. 12 The land shall mourn, each family by itself:</p>
<p>Patterns of Seven: Seven "amens." Amen is a Hebrew word that connotes "truth" or "may it be so." </p>	

13



14

Revelation 1	OT Allusions
8. "I am the 'A' and the 'Z,' " says Adonai , God of heaven's armies , the One who is, who was and who is coming.	1:8 Isa 41:4 Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? I, the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he.

Patterns of Seven: There are seven "Lord God Almighty," which CJB renders as "Adonai, God of heaven's armies."



15

Revelation 1	OT Allusions
9. I, Yochanan, am a brother of yours and a fellow-sharer in the suffering, kingship and perseverance that come from being united with Yeshua. I had been exiled to the island called Patmos for having proclaimed the message of God and borne witness to Yeshua.	



Patmos: acropolis and Skala harbor from south



16

Revelation 1

10. I came to be, in the Spirit, on the Day of the Lord; and I heard behind me a loud voice, like a trumpet,



Sunset over the Mediterranean

OT Allusions

Isa 2:12 For the LORD of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up—and it shall be brought low;

Joe 1:15 Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is near, and as destruction from the Almighty it comes.

Oba 1:15 For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head.

Mal 4:5-6 “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. (6) And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”



17

and I heard behind me a loud voice, like a trumpet,



Palm Sunday Procession



18

Revelation 1	OT Allusions
<p>11. saying, "Write down what you see on a scroll, and send it to the seven Messianic communities—Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea!"</p>	<p>Isa 30:8 And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever.</p>

Jewish Scribe



19

Conclusion

- Introduction part of the letter
- Next lesson we will taxi for takeoff!
- Verse 12 will contain a most unusual depiction of the Godhead
- Be sure to note "unusual" blessings that come your way - and also expect unusual challenges



20

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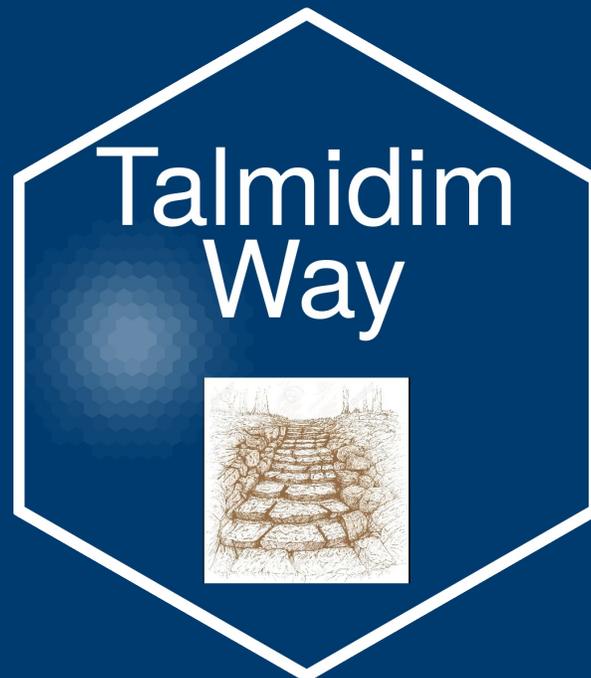
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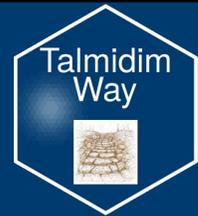
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21



22

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds

4. "One like a Son of Man"

Revelation 1:12-20 (Daniel 7, 10)



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD:: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).

Unless otherwise noted, images courtesy of the Satellite Bible Atlas and the Pictorial Library of Bible Lands (BiblePlaces.org)



2

Topics

- Read Daniel 7 and 10 to compare
- Messiah glorified
 - High Priest
 - Ancient of Days
 - Don't be afraid!
- Is this Jesus or an angel?
- Rev 1 and Dan 10 parallels



3

Revelation 1:12-20 (CJB)

12. I turned around to see who was speaking to me; and when I had turned, I saw seven gold menorahs; 13. and among the menorahs was someone like a Son of Man, wearing a robe down to his feet and a gold band around his chest. 14. His head and hair were as white as snow-white wool, his eyes like a fiery flame, 15. his feet like burnished brass refined in a furnace, and his voice like the sound of rushing waters. 16. In his right hand he held seven stars, out of his mouth went a sharp double-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. 17. When I saw him, I fell down at his feet like a dead man. He placed his right hand upon me and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last, 18. the Living One. I was dead, but look!—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys to Death and Sh'ol. 19. So write down what you see, both what is now, and what will happen afterward. 20. Here is the secret meaning of the seven stars you saw in my right hand, and of the seven gold menorahs: the seven stars are the angels of the seven Messianic communities, and the seven menorahs are the seven Messianic communities.



4

Daniel 7 (ESV)

In the first year of Belshazzar king of **Babylon**, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. (2) Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. (3) And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. (4) The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it. (5) And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.' (6) After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it. (7) After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. (8) I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them **another horn, a little one**, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a **mouth speaking great things**.



5

Daniel 7 (ESV)

(9) "As I looked, thrones were placed, and the **Ancient of Days** took his seat; **his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool**; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. (10) A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; **the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened**. (11) "I looked then because of the sound of the **great words that the horn was speaking**. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. (12) As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.



6

Daniel 7 (ESV)

(13) “I saw in the night visions, and behold, **with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man**, and he came to **the Ancient of Days and was presented before him**. (14) **And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed**. (15) “As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. (16) I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things.



7

Daniel 7 (ESV)

(17) ‘These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. (18) **But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.**’ (19) “Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet, (20) and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth **that spoke great things**, and that seemed greater than its companions. (21) **As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them,** (22) **until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.** (23) “Thus he said: ‘As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces.



8

Daniel 7 (ESV)

(24) As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings. (25) He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. (26) But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. (27) **And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.** (28) “Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart.”



9

Daniel 10 (ESV)

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision. (2) **In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks.** (3) I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks. (4) On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris) (5) **I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. (6) His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude.** (7) And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision, but a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide. (8) So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength.



10

Daniel 10 (ESV)

(9) Then I heard the sound of his words, and **as I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground.** (10) And behold, **a hand touched me** and set me trembling on my hands and knees. (11) And he said to me, “O Daniel, man **greatly loved**, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you.” And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. (12) Then he said to me, “**Fear not**, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words.



11

Daniel 10 (ESV)

(13) The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, (14) **and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come.** (15) When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and was mute. (16) And behold, **one in the likeness of the children of man touched my lips.** Then I opened my mouth and spoke. I said to him who stood before me, “O my lord, by reason of the vision pains have come upon me, and I retain no strength. (17) How can my lord's servant talk with my lord? For now no strength remains in me, and no breath is left in me.” (18) Again **one having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me.** (19) And he said, “O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage.” And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.” (20) Then he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of **Persia**; and when I go out, behold, the prince of **Greece** will come. (21) But I will **tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth**: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.



12

Revelation 1	References
<p>12. I turned around to see who was speaking to me; and when I had turned, I saw seven gold menorahs;</p>	<p>Exodus 37:23 And he made its seven lamps and its tongs and its trays of pure gold.</p> <p>Zec 4:2 And he said to me, "What do you see?" I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it, and seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it.</p>
	

13

Revelation 1	References
<p>13. and among the menorahs was someone like a Son of Man, wearing a robe down to his feet and a gold band around his chest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Messiah taking on the mantle of God the Father." • "Jesus is the heavenly priest, fully prepared and qualified..." • "the risen Jesus is the greatest conceivable figure." 	<p>Exo 28:4 These are the garments that they shall make: a breast piece, an ephod, a robe, a coat of checker work, a turban, and a sash. They shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons to serve me as priests.</p> <p>Dan 7:13 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.</p> <p>Dan 10:5 I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist.</p> <p>Dan 10:16 And behold, one in the likeness of the children of man touched my lips. Then I opened my mouth and spoke. I said to him who stood before me, "O my lord, by reason of the vision pains have come upon me, and I retain no strength.</p>

14

one like a Son of Man, wearing a robe down to his feet and a gold band around his chest



The Holy Place / Tabernacle Model



15

Revelation 1

14. His head and hair were as white as snow-white wool, his eyes like a fiery flame,

References

Dan 7:9 "As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire.

Dan 10:6 His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, ...

Mat 17:2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.



16

Revelation 1	References
<p>15. his feet like burnished brass refined in a furnace, and his voice like the sound of rushing waters.</p> 	<p>Dan 10:6 ... his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude.</p> <p>Eze 1:7, 24 Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the sole of a calf's foot. And they sparkled like burnished bronze.</p> <p>24 And when they went, I heard the sound of their wings like the sound of many waters, like the sound of the Almighty, a sound of tumult like the sound of an army. When they stood still, they let down their wings.</p> <p>Eze 43:2 And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east. And the sound of his coming was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with his glory.</p> 

17

Revelation 1	References
<p>16. In his right hand he held seven stars, out of his mouth went a sharp double-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.</p> 	<p>Jdg 5:31 "So may all your enemies perish, O LORD! But your friends be like the sun as he rises in his might."</p> <p>Isa 49:2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away.</p> <p>Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart</p> 

18

Revelation 1	References
<p>17. When I saw him, I fell down at his feet like a dead man. He placed his right hand upon me and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last,</p>	<p>Dan 8:17-18 So he came near where I stood. And when he came, I was frightened and fell on my face. But he said to me, "Understand, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end." 18 And when he had spoken to me, I fell into a deep sleep with my face to the ground. But he touched me and made me stand up.</p> <p>Dan 10:9-10,12,15 followed by Dan 10:19 And he said, "O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage." And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me."</p>



19

When I saw him, I fell down at his feet



Abraham before the Angel of the Lord

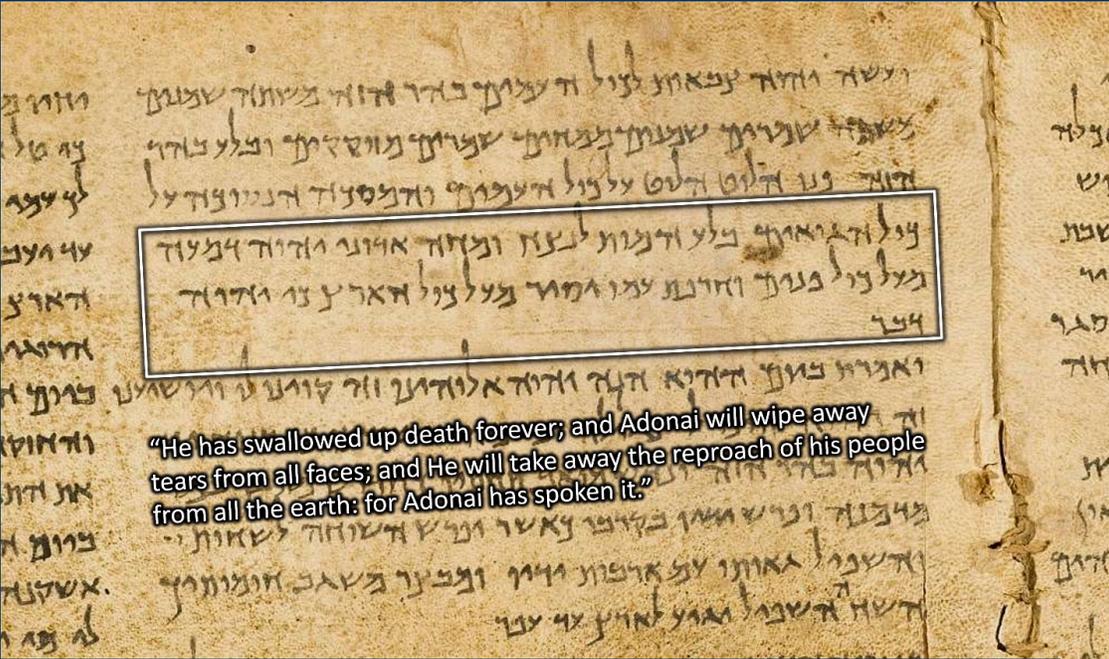


20

Revelation 1	References
<p>18. the Living One. I was dead, but look!— I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys to Death and Sh'ol.</p>	<p>Isa 25:8 He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. Hos 13:14 I shall ransom them from the power of Sheol; I shall redeem them from Death. O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting?</p>

21

I hold the Keys to Death and Sheol



“He has swallowed up death forever; and Adonai will wipe away tears from all faces; and He will take away the reproach of his people from all the earth: for Adonai has spoken it.”

Isaiah 25:8 on the Great Isaiah Scroll

22

Revelation 1	References
19. So write down what you see, both what is now, and what will happen afterward.	Isa 30:8; Jer 30:2; Hab 2:2 (see Rev 1:11)

ΜΕΤΑ
ΤΑΥΤΑ



23

Revelation 1	References
20. Here is the secret meaning of the seven stars you saw in my right hand, and of the seven gold menorahs: the seven stars are the angels of the seven Messianic communities, and the seven menorahs are the seven Messianic communities.	Zech 4: 2 And he said to me, "What do you see?" I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it, and seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it.



24

The seven stars are the angels of the seven messianic communities



Cuneiform star chart from the library of Ashurbanipal in Nineveh



25

The seven menorahs are the seven Messianic communities



Tabernacle Model golden menorah



26

Topic	Dan 10	Rev 1:9-18
Double introduction	2 In those days I, Daniel,	⁹ I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus
Location – both surrounded by water	4 was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris)	9 was on the island called Patmos
State of preparation	2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. 3 I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks.	¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day,
The listener notices	5 I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man	12 I turned around to see who was speaking to me;
The being's clothing	5 clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist.	13 clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.
Head/face	6 his face like the appearance of lightning, (Dan 7:9 the hair of his head like pure wool)	14 The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow.

27

Topic	Dan 10	Rev 1:9-18
Eyes	6 his eyes like flaming torches	14 His eyes were like a flame of fire,
Arms & Legs/Feet	6 his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze	15 his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace,
Voice	6 the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude.	15 and his voice was like the roar of many waters.
Reaction	⁹ as I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground.	17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.
Commission	¹⁰ And behold, a hand touched me	17 But he laid his right hand on me,
Assurance	¹² Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel,	17 saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, 18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades
Mission	^{14,19} and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come....I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth."	19 Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.

28

Conclusion

The New Testament is in the Old concealed;
The Old Testament is in the New revealed

One integrated message

That message is a love letter written in blood on a wooden cross



29

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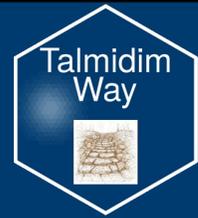
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30

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 5a

Seven Letters Intro

Revelation 2-3



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD:: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).

Unless otherwise noted, images courtesy of the Satellite Bible Atlas and the Pictorial Library of Bible Lands (BiblePlaces.org)



2

Seven Letters Topics

- Sevenfold outline
- Applications
 - Personal
 - Historical
 - Prophetic, including the "Church-age" conjecture



3

Sevenfold structure of each letter

- Name of the city
- Specific attributes of Messiah
- Praise - "I know..."
- Judgment
- Encouragement
- Promise to the Overcomer
- "He who has an ear..."



4

Sevenfold structure of each letter

1. Name of the city
(usually underlying meaning)

(1) "To the angel of the Messianic Community in Ephesus, write: 'Here is the message



5

Sevenfold structure of each letter

1. Name of the city
(usually underlying meaning)
2. Specific attributes of Messiah from Chap 1

(1) "To the angel of the Messianic Community in Ephesus, write: 'Here is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven gold menorahs:



6

Sevenfold structure of each letter

1. Name of the city
(usually underlying meaning)
2. Specific attributes of Messiah
3. Praise that begins with "I know."
— Except for **Sardis** and **Laodicea**

(1) "To the angel of the Messianic Community in **Ephesus**, write: 'Here is the message **from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven gold menorahs**: (2) "I know what you have been doing, how hard you have worked, how you have persevered, and how you can't stand wicked people; so you tested those who call themselves emissaries but aren't—and you found them to be liars. (3) You are persevering, and you have suffered for my sake without growing weary.



7

Sevenfold structure of each letter

1. Name of the city
(usually underlying meaning)
2. Specific attributes of Messiah
3. Praise
4. Judgment → Repent!
— Except for **Smyrna** and **Philadelphia**

(1) "To the angel of the Messianic Community in **Ephesus**, write: 'Here is the message **from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven gold menorahs**: (2) "I know what you have been doing, how hard you have worked, how you have persevered, and how you can't stand wicked people; so you tested those who call themselves emissaries but aren't—and you found them to be liars. (3) You are persevering, and you have suffered for my sake without growing weary. (4) **But I have this against you: you have lost the love you had at first.** (5) **Therefore, remember where you were before you fell, turn from this sin, and do what you used to do before. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your menorah from its place—if you don't turn from your sin!**



8

Sevenfold structure of each letter

1. Name of the city
(usually underlying meaning)
2. Specific attributes of Messiah
3. Praise
4. Judgment → Repent!
5. Encouragement
 - Except for Pergamum

(1) "To the angel of the Messianic Community in Ephesus, write: 'Here is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven gold menorahs: (2) "I know what you have been doing, how hard you have worked, how you have persevered, and how you can't stand wicked people; so you tested those who call themselves emissaries but aren't—and you found them to be liars. (3) You are persevering, and you have suffered for my sake without growing weary. (4) But I have this against you: you have lost the love you had at first. (5) Therefore, remember where you were before you fell, turn from this sin, and do what you used to do before. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your menorah from its place—if you don't turn from your sin! (6) But you have this in your favor: you hate what the Nicolaitans do—I hate it too.



9

Sevenfold structure of each letter

1. Name of the city (usually underlying meaning)
2. Specific attributes of Messiah
3. Praise
4. Judgment → Repent!
5. Encouragement
6. Promise to the Overcomer

(1) "To the angel of the Messianic Community in Ephesus, write: 'Here is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven gold menorahs: (2) "I know what you have been doing, how hard you have worked, how you have persevered, and how you can't stand wicked people; so you tested those who call themselves emissaries but aren't—and you found them to be liars. (3) You are persevering, and you have suffered for my sake without growing weary. (4) But I have this against you: you have lost the love you had at first. (5) Therefore, remember where you were before you fell, turn from this sin, and do what you used to do before. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your menorah from its place—if you don't turn from your sin! (6) But you have this in your favor: you hate what the Nicolaitans do—I hate it too. (7) Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities. To him winning the victory I will give the right to eat from the Tree of Life which is in God's Gan-'Eden." '



10

Sevenfold structure of each letter

1. Name of the city (usually underlying meaning)
2. Specific attributes of Messiah
3. Praise
4. Judgment → Repent!
5. Encouragement
6. Promise to the Overcomer
7. "He who has an ear..."

(1) "To the angel of the Messianic Community in Ephesus, write: 'Here is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven gold menorahs: (2) "I know what you have been doing, how hard you have worked, how you have persevered, and how you can't stand wicked people; so you tested those who call themselves emissaries but aren't—and you found them to be liars. (3) You are persevering, and you have suffered for my sake without growing weary. (4) But I have this against you: you have lost the love you had at first. (5) Therefore, remember where you were before you fell, turn from this sin, and do what you used to do before. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your menorah from its place—if you don't turn from your sin! (6) But you have this in your favor: you hate what the Nicolaitans do—I hate it too. (7) Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities. To him winning the victory I will give the right to eat from the Tree of Life which is in God's Gan-`Eden." "



11

Seven Layers of Application

1. Personal (he that has an ear...)
2. Local assembly (to the assembly at Ephesus)
3. All seven assemblies (hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies)
4. All congregations throughout history (again "assemblies" and "write the things to come")
 - We know that all seven types of churches existed in the 1st century

Possible additional parallels:

5. Pauline letter counterpart
6. Matthew 13 parable counterpart
7. Church Age Theory



12

Pauline Letter Counterpart

- Paul also wrote to seven cities (Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Colossae, Thessalonica)
- The themes in each of Paul's letters seem to broadly parallel the Seven Letters of Revelation
 - Ephesians 4:17-32 parallels Jesus' words to Ephesus
 - Eph 4:14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.
 - Smyrna - Philippians - Joy through suffering
 - Php 1:29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake / Php 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.
 - Pergamum - Corinthians - Married to the world
 - 1Co 5:1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans
 - Thyatira - Galatians - Religious externalism themes
 - Gal 1:6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel
 - Sardis - Romans - Don't know they are dead / don't walk the talk
 - Rom 3:10-12 as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; (11) no one understands; no one seeks for God. (12) All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."
 - Philadelphia - Thessalonians - praiseworthy fellowships
 - 1Th 2:19 For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?
 - Laodicea - Colossians - Lukewarm/told to exchange letters
 - Col 3:2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.



13

Kingdom Parable (Mat 13) Counterpart

- Jesus also gave seven parables in Matthew 13
- The themes in each parable seem to broadly parallel the Seven Letters of Revelation
 - Ephesians - Four soils - identify believers from unbelievers
 - Smyrna - Tares and the wheat - Suffering by the children of the wicked one
 - Pergamum - Mustard Seed - Becomes something it was never intended to be; the birds of the air (ministers of Satan) can nest inside
 - Thyatira - Woman with Leaven - Only letter/parable that mentions a woman
 - Sardis - Treasure in the field - a few in Sardis will have treasure in heaven
 - Philadelphia - Pearl of Great Price - A pearl is an item of adornment
 - Laodicea - Dragnet - spew/cast out the unwanted



14

Church Age Theory

- Ephesus - Apostolic - 70-170
- Smyrna - Persecuted - 170 -311
 - 311 edict of toleration ended official Roman persecution
- Pergamum - Compromised/Licentious (married to the world) - 313 - 606
 - What Satan couldn't destroy by persecution, he tried to destroy by erosion from within
 - Edict of Milan 313 legalized Christianity - Constantine the Great mixed his prior paganism with his new "faith"
 - Became state religion under Constantine II - went from pacifist to conquering
- Thyatira - Papal (Catholic) Church - 606- Present
 - Boniface II first universal Pope in 606
 - Tolerate Jezebel - pagan/non-biblical practices infiltrate
 - Medieval period
- Sardis - Protestant Church - 1517-Present
 - NAME (deNOMination) that they are alive but are dead
- Philadelphia - Missionary/Faithful - 1750-Present
 - Tends to be "the church I attend"
- Laodicea - Comfortable/Lukewarm - 1900-Present
 - Short sermons in comfy chairs
 - Conforms to society, which is fickle
 - Tends to be "the church anyone I don't agree with attends"



15

Conclusion

The seven letters are the most relevant part of Revelation for the 21st-century believer

Align our views with Jesus' expectations

The most important takeaway for each letter is to check our personal behavior (not whether another conjecture is true)



16

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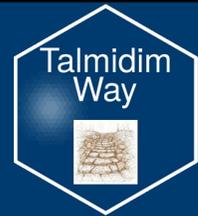
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17



18

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 6

Ephesus

Revelation 2:1-7



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).

Unless otherwise noted, images courtesy of the Satellite Bible Atlas and the Pictorial Library of Bible Lands (BiblePlaces.org)



2

Topics

- Ephesus
 - Geography
 - Secular History
 - New Testament History
- Sevenfold structure of each letter:
 - Name of the city
 - Specific attributes of Messiah
 - Praise - "I know..."
 - Judgment
 - Encouragement
 - Promise to the Overcomer
 - "He who has an ear..."



3

Revelation 2:1-7 (CJB)

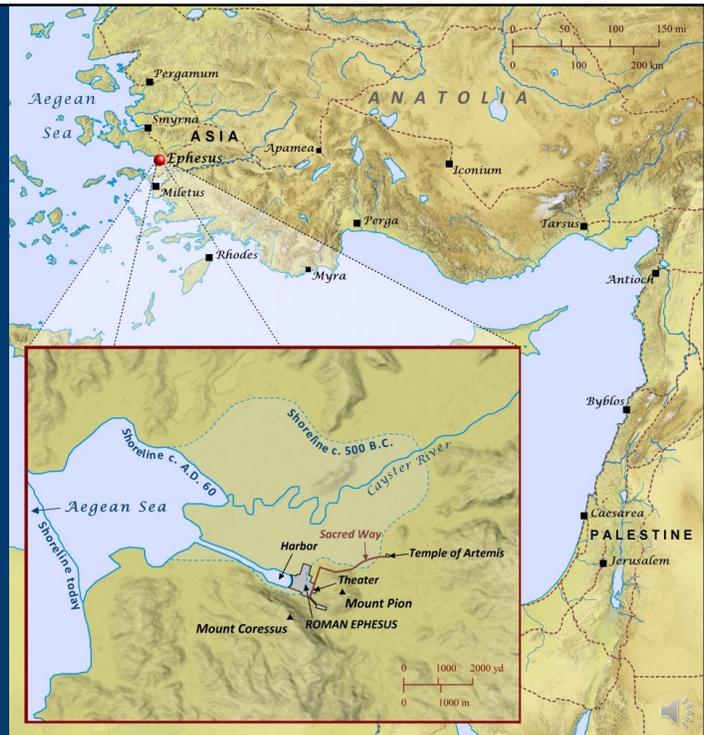
(1) "To the angel of the Messianic Community in Ephesus, write: 'Here is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven gold menorahs: (2) "I know what you have been doing, how hard you have worked, how you have persevered, and how you can't stand wicked people; so you tested those who call themselves emissaries but aren't—and you found them to be liars. (3) You are persevering, and you have suffered for my sake without growing weary. (4) But I have this against you: you have lost the love you had at first. (5) Therefore, remember where you were before you fell, turn from this sin, and do what you used to do before. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your menorah from its place—if you don't turn from your sin! (6) But you have this in your favor: you hate what the Nicolaitans do—I hate it too. (7) Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities. To him winning the victory I will give the right to eat from the Tree of Life which is in God's Gan-`Eden." '



4

Ephesus Geography

- Western Turkey
- "Queen of Asia"
- Significant harbor connected to Roman road system connected Rome to the rest of the known world to the east
- Constantly silting harbor a significant factor leading to the eventual decline of the city



5

Roman Ephesus



6

And they came to Ephesus



Harbor Street (Arcadian Way) in Ephesus, from the Great Theater

18:19

7

And they came to Ephesus



Commercial agora at Ephesus

18:19



8

- Founded by Hittites
 - Remains of an early city that later morphed
- Repeatedly picked over during Roman wars
- Under Rome it became a major city
- Queen of Asia - Iphigeneia (thanks in part to her sacrifice)
- Temple to Artemis - one of the Seven Wonders - 4x bigger than the Parthenon in Athens (lead's us to Paul's sermon)



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Asian, Persian, and
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ow silted over)
nders - 4x bigger
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9

Ephesus - Secular



"Eph 2:1-3 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins (2) in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— (3) among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind."



10

Ephesus - New Testament

John ~ 40-100

- Epistles and Gospel from Ephesus
- Revelation from Patmos



Ephesus St. John's Basilica



11

Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus



Arcadian Way (from the west)

Paul late 50s

- Acts 18-20
- Apollos, Aquila, Priscilla
- Ephesus
 - - ground zero for missionary activity
 - - riot by followers of Diana/Artemis
- Wrote 1st Corinthians from Ephesus

Acts 19:11

12

Great is Artemis of the Ephesians



Silver cistophorus of Claudius with a statue of the Ephesian Diana, AD 41–54

19:28

13

Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock

- Ephesian elders were to guard against divisions and false teachings (Acts 20)
 - Internally: Acts 20:29-31 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you, and they won't spare the flock. (30) Even from among your own number, men will arise and teach perversions of the truth, in order to drag away the talmidim after themselves. (31) So stay alert!
 - Externally: "Paul's proclamation of the one and only one God threatened the city's very identity and its claim to fame, not to mention the livelihood of the concessioners like Demetrius whose trade depended on the worship of Artemis." David DeSilva
 - Remember the "beast's" economic and religious system when we get to later chapters

Flock of sheep with their shepherd at Ephesus

Acts 20:28

14

Revelation 2	References
<p>(1) "To the angel of the (ecclesia) Messianic Community in Ephesus, write: 'Here is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven gold menorahs</p>	<p>Mat 18:20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.</p>

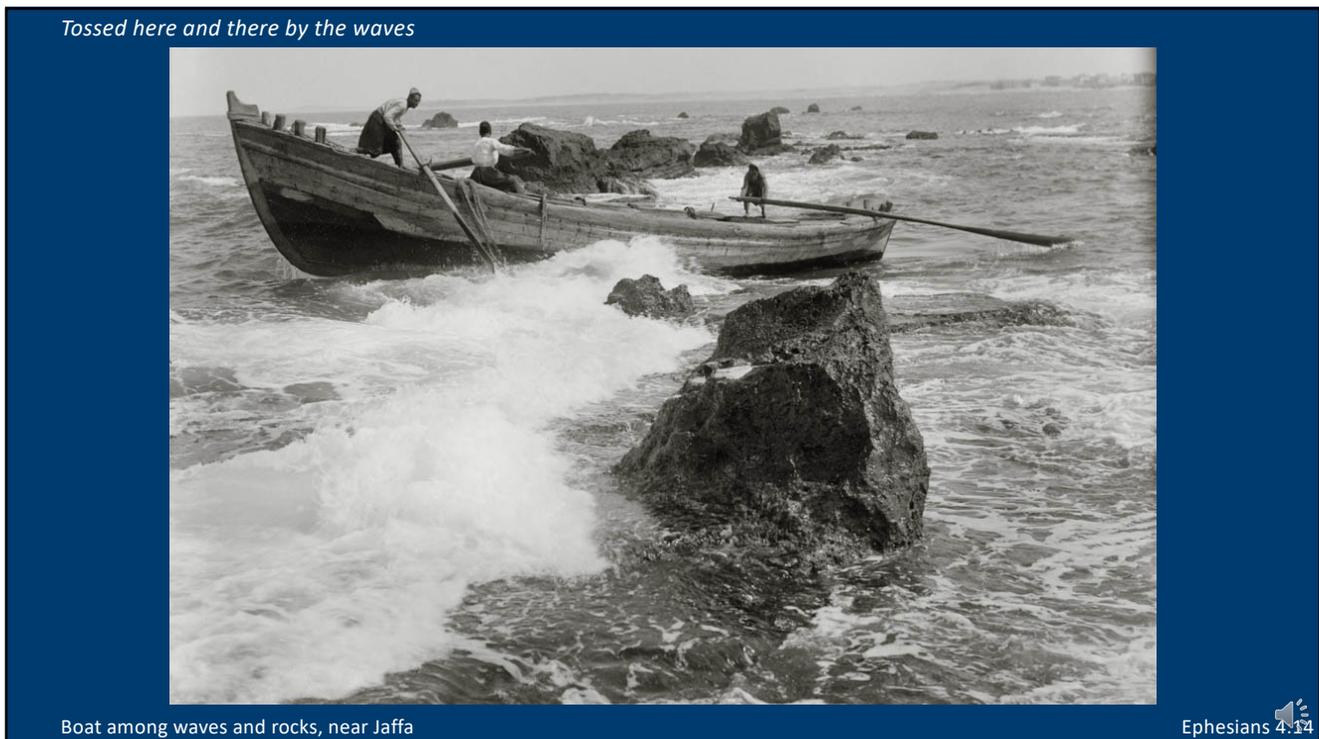
15

Revelation 2	References
<p>(2) "I know what you have been doing, how hard you have worked (or "<i>I know your works and your labor</i>)</p>	

16

Revelation 2	References
<p>(2) ...how you have persevered, and how you can't stand wicked people; so you tested those who call themselves emissaries but aren't—and you found them to be liars.</p> <p>(3) You are persevering, and you have suffered for my sake without growing weary.</p>	<p>Mat 7:23 Then I will tell them to their faces, 'I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness!'</p> <p>Eph 4:14 We will then no longer be infants tossed about by the waves and blown along by every wind of teaching, at the mercy of people clever in devising ways to deceive.</p> <p>1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.</p> <p>2 Cor 11:13-15 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.</p>

17



18

Revelation 2	References
<p>(4) But I have this against you: you have lost the love you had at first.</p> <p>(5) Therefore, remember where you were before you fell, turn from this sin, and do what you used to do before. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your menorah from its place—if you don't turn from your sin!</p>	<p>Jer 2:2 “Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the LORD, “I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown.</p> <p>Eph 1:15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints,</p>

19



Ephesus Terrace House 2, room with mosaics and wall paintings

20

You have lost the love you had at first

"The Ephesian Christians lost their first love by allowing the silt of spiritual indifference to accumulate over the years. It can happen, can't it? Love for Jesus is the hub from which every other activity (including deeds and doctrine) should flow." – Wayne Stiles



Ephesus Harbor



21

Revelation 2

6 But you have this in your favor: you hate what the Nicolaitans do—I hate it too.

14 But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, **so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality.**

15 So **also** you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.



22

Nicolaitans νικολαιτων

- Conjecture #1: An early type of clergy that ruled the people (laity) with a heavy hand
 - Rationale: νικολαιτων comes from νικαω (to rule, conquer) and λαος (people, laity)
- Conjecture #2: A Gnostic cult founded by Nicholas, one of the original Acts 6:5 deacons that held that open sex was allowed
 - Rationale: νικολαιτων comes from νικολαον, and means "the people of Nicholas" νικολαον
- Conjecture #3: A heretical sect that claimed the Jewish dietary laws were done away with
 - Rationale: νικολαιτων comes from a "Hebraism": a transliteration into Greek of the Hebrew word נֹחֵל nochel - let us/we will eat!
- #2 and #3 relate directly to Rev 2:14 and Acts 15:29; #1 does not.
- #2 and #3 are not necessarily mutually exclusive - they are linked in Rev 2:14



23

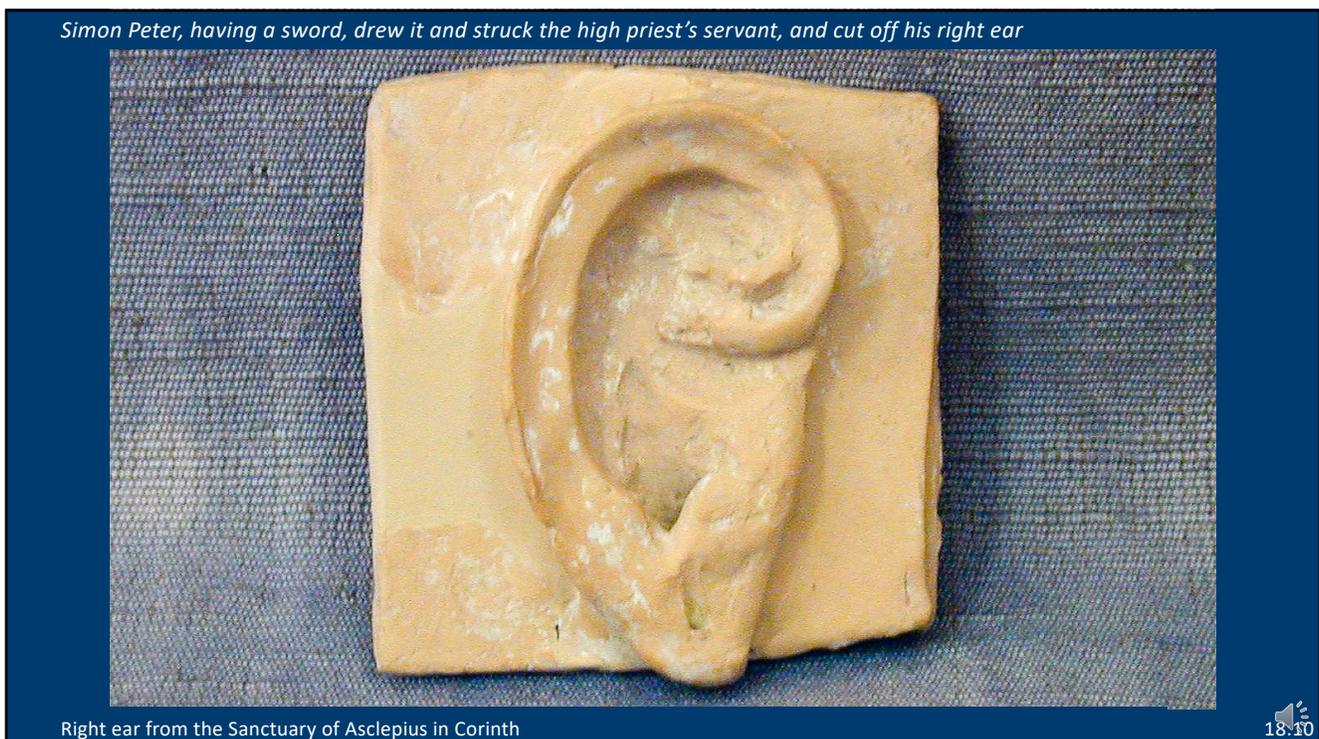
Nicolaitans - Doing it their way (and assuming God would approve)



24

Revelation 2	References
<p>(7) Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities. To him winning the victory (or "him who overcomes"),...</p>	<p>Joh 16:33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."</p> <p>1Jn 5:2-5 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. (3) For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (4) For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. (5) Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?</p>

25

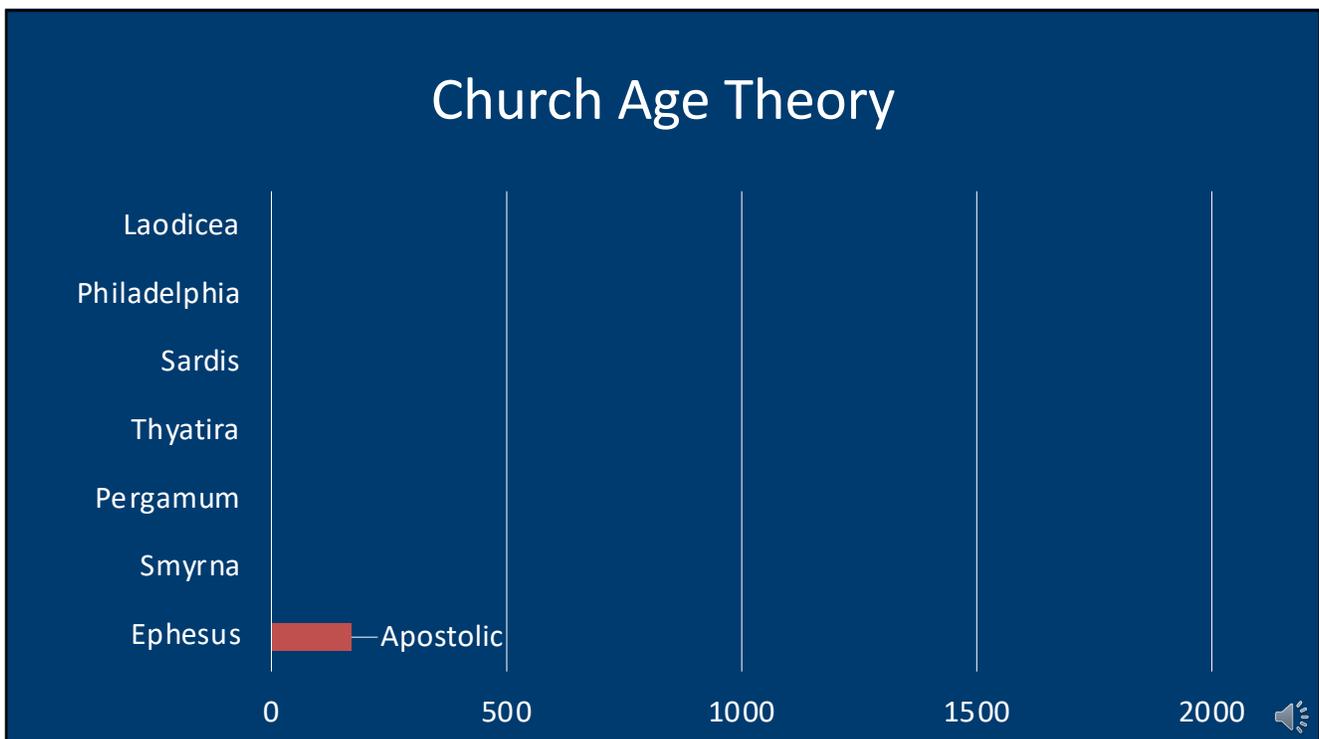


26

Revelation 2	References
<p>7. To him winning the victory (or "him who overcomes"), I will give the right to eat from the Tree of Life which is in God's Gan-`Eden."</p>	<p>Gen 3:22-24 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. 24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.</p>



27



28

Possible Parable Connection

Revelation 2	References
(2) ...how you can't stand wicked people; so you tested those who call themselves emissaries but aren't —and you found them to be liars. (3) You are persevering, and you have suffered for my sake without growing weary .	<p>Mat 13:3-9 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. (4) And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. (5) Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, (6) but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. (7) Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. (8) Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. (9) He who has ears, let him hear."</p> <p>Mat 13:18-23 "Hear then the parable of the sower: (19) When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. (20) As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, (21) yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. (22) As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. (23) As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." </p>

29

Possible Paul Connection: Ephesians

- Eph 1:15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and **your love toward all the saints**
- Eph 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, (9) not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (10) For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
- Eph 4:1-3 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, (2) with all humility and gentleness, with patience, **bearing with one another in love**, (3) eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- Eph 4:14 We will then **no longer** be infants tossed about by the waves and blown along by every wind of teaching, **at the mercy of people clever in devising ways to deceive**.
- Eph 4:31-32 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all **malice**. (32) Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another**, as God in Christ forgave you.
- Eph 5:1-5 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. (2) And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (3) But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. (4) Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. (5) For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.
- Eph 5:11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 

30

Possible Paul Connection: Ephesians

- Eph 6:10-18 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. (11) Put on the whole armor of God, **that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil**. (12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (13) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. (14) Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of **truth**, and having put on the breastplate of **righteousness**, (15) and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the **readiness given by the gospel of peace**. (16) In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can **extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one**; (17) and take the helmet of **salvation**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word of God**, (18) praying at all times in the Spirit, with all **prayer and supplication**. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints



31

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamum	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
To	Darling; desired						
From	Holds 7 stars/ walks among lampstands						
+	Don't tolerate evil; Persevered; Acts 17:11						
-	Lost love they had at first						
+	Hates deeds of people who do things their own way instead of God's						
Ear	Before promise						
Promise	Eat from Tree/Life						
Age	Apostolic (70-170)						
Parable	Four Soils						
Paul	Ephesians						

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies."



32

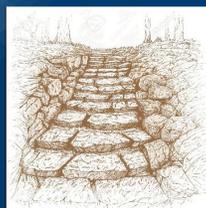
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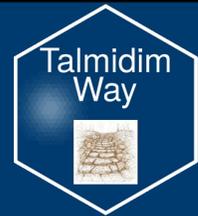
33

Talmidim Way



34

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 6b

Nicolaitan Conjectures

Revelation 2



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

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2

Revelation 2

6 But you have this in your favor: you hate what the Nicolaitans do—I hate it too.

14 But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might **eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality**.

15 So **also** you have some who hold the **teaching of the Nicolaitans**.

20 But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and **seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols**.

21 I gave her time to repent, but **she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality**.



3



4

Now therefore why . . . put a yoke on the neck of the disciples?

Act 15:28-29 For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: (29) that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.”

Plow reconstruction

Acts 15:40 

5

Lev 18:29-30 (29) "For everyone who does any of these abominations, the persons who do them shall be cut off from among their people. (30) So keep my charge never to practice any of these abominable customs that were practiced before you, and never to make yourselves unclean by them: I am the LORD your God."



6

Three categories for things potentially edible (Lev 11:46-47)

1. **Unclean animals = Not Food** (scavengers, bottom-dwelling sea creatures, and unexplained "chew cud+split hoof" rule)
2. **Food = OK to eat** (vegetation, beef, and other land mammals meeting the requirements, fish, and fowl (unless otherwise excluded))
3. **Unclean Food = Not OK to Eat** (items in category #2 prepared or slaughtered improperly, including strangled, found dead, mixed with lifeblood or offered to foreign gods)

Items in category 1 are not "unclean food." They are not food at all.

A careful reading indicates the Acts 15 council is imposing the whole yoke of the Jewish dietary restrictions and sexual boundaries upon gentile believers.



7

That they abstain . . . from what has been strangled and from blood

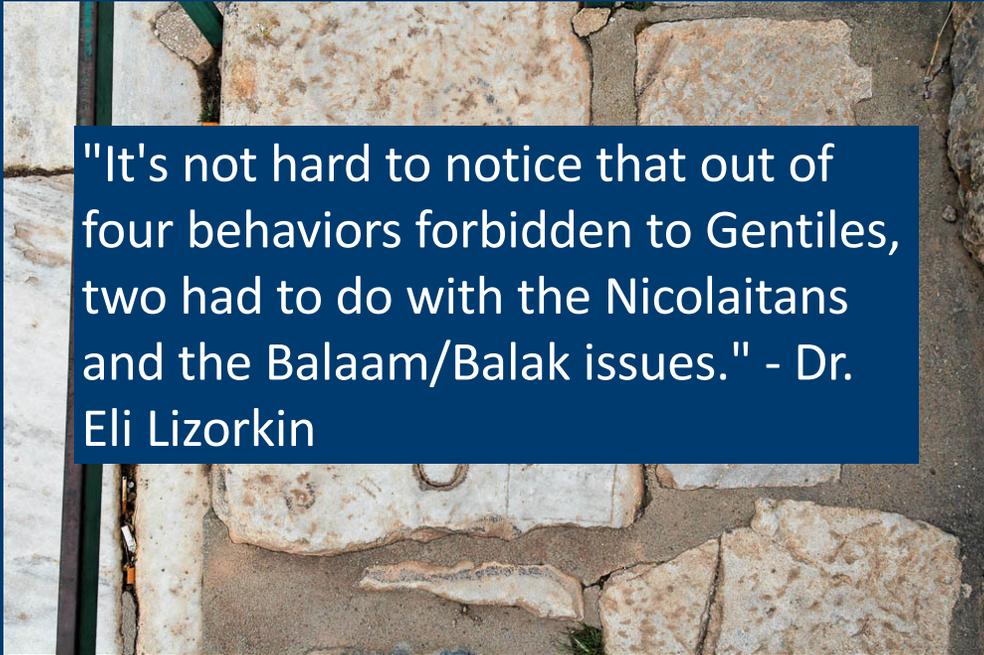


Men collecting blood in bowls, from the Tomb of Meketre in el-Asasif, circa 1980 BC



8

That they abstain . . . from fornication



"It's not hard to notice that out of four behaviors forbidden to Gentiles, two had to do with the Nicolaitans and the Balaam/Balak issues." - Dr. Eli Lizorkin

Advertisement for a brothel on the sidewalk of Ephesus

15:20

9

Nicolaitans: an early clergy that ruled the people with a heavy hand

Rationale: the word "Nicolaitans" νικολαιτων comes from νικαω (to rule, conquer) and λαος (people, laity)

*It sounds like it's an anachronistic dig against the Catholic system versus anything Jesus would be warning 1st-century believers about
This is the current prevailing theory among very respected Protestant commentators*

It doesn't fit the context of Rev 2:14 - sexual and dietary misconduct



10

Nicolaitans: a Gnostic cult supposedly founded by Nicholas, one of the original Acts 6:5 deacons

Rationale: Nicolaitans νικολαιτων means "the people of Nicholas" νικολαον

This is the view of the Nicolaitans documented by Iraneus and others (2nd century-after the fact)

These Nicholas-followers believed all acts of the flesh were eternally meaningless (so why not indulge?).

Gnostics said they had "secret knowledge"

Paul and John directly refute Gnosticism in many of their writings.

*Nicholas: "**anyone** who desires her may have her."*

*Gnostic Nicolaitans: "**everyone** who desires her may have her" (all the while professing Jesus as Messiah)*



11

Nicolaitans: a heretical sect that claimed the Jewish dietary laws (Acts 15) were done away with

Rationale: Nicolaitans νικολαιτων is a "Hebraism": a transliteration of the Hebrew word "נָחַל" (nochel - we will eat!)

First mentioned by Lightfoot in mid-1600s.

This view is consistent with the connection to Balaam and Balak and Jesus' other multiple references to food in the seven letters.

They were the "we will eat anything because we have freedom in Christ" people. They rationalized unbiblical behavior and expected God to approve.

Jesus hates these deeds

This view is the only one of the three that preserves a natural Jewish context for Revelation



12

- Rev 2:14 But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might **eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality.**
- Rev 2:20 But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to **practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.**
- Rev 2:21 I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her **sexual immorality.**
- Rev 9:21 nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their **sexual immorality** or their thefts.
- Rev 14:8 Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her **sexual immorality.**"
- Rev 17:2 with whom the kings of the earth have committed **sexual immorality**, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk."
- Rev 17:4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her **sexual immorality.**
- Rev 18:3 For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her **sexual immorality**, and the kings of the earth have **committed immorality** with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living."
- Rev 18:9 And the kings of the earth, who committed **sexual immorality** and lived in luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning.
- Rev 21:8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, **the sexually immoral**, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."
- Rev 22:15 Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the **sexually immoral** and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.



13

Nicolaitans - Doing it their way (and assuming God would approve)



14

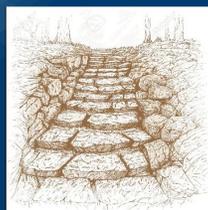
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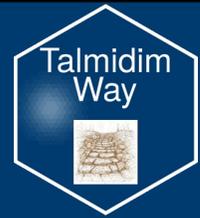
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Talmidim Way



16

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 7

Smyrna

Revelation 2:8-11

1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

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2

Topics

- Smyrna
 - Background
- Sevenfold structure of each letter:
 - Name of the city
 - Specific attributes of Messiah
 - Praise - "I know..."
 - Jews who say they are not
 - ~~Judgment~~
 - Encouragement
 - Promise to the Overcomer
 - "He who has an ear..."

3

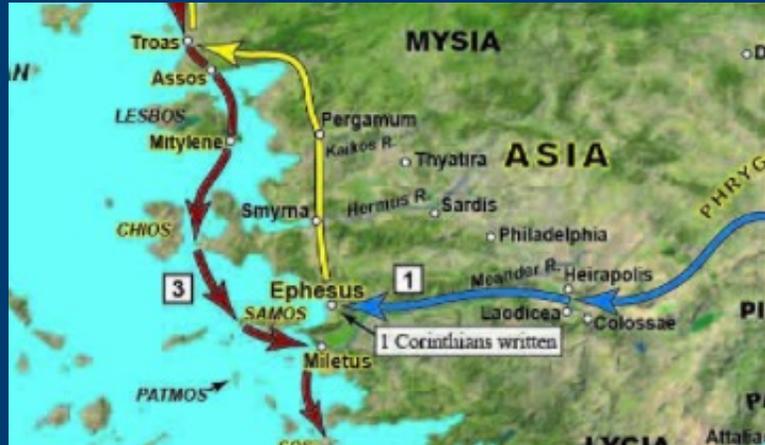
Revelation 2:8-11(CJB)

"To the angel of the Messianic Community in Smyrna, write: 'Here is the message from the First and the Last, who died and came alive again: (9) "I know how you are suffering and how poor you are (though in fact you are rich!), and I know the insults of those who call themselves Jews but aren't—on the contrary, they are a synagogue of the Adversary. (10) Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. Look, the Adversary is going to have some of you thrown in prison, in order to put you to the test; and you will face an ordeal for ten days. Remain faithful, even to the point of death; and I will give you life as your crown. (11) Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities. He who wins the victory will not be hurt at all by the second death." '

4

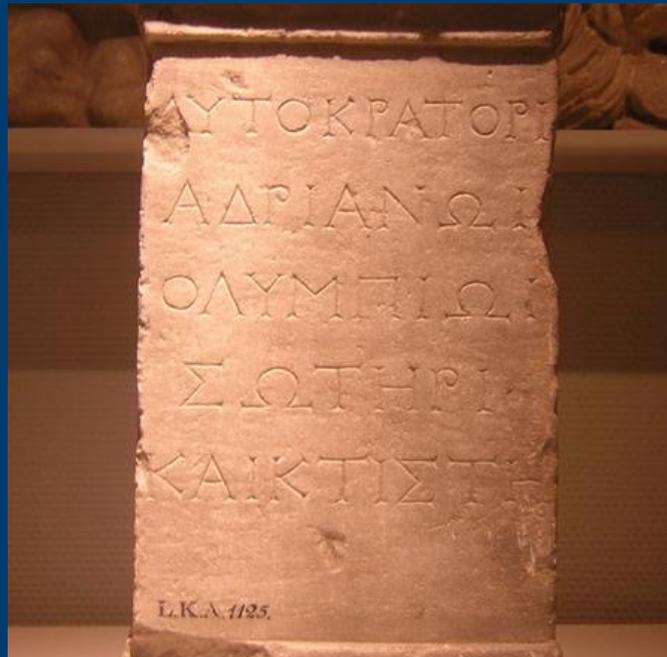
Smyrna Geography

- Harbor town
- Competed with Ephesus but never matched the commercial success of their southern rival (the harbor also silted eventually)
- Destroyed by earthquake and rebuilt multiple times
- Fiercely loyal to Rome



5

Hadrian Olympian, Savior Founder



Inscription to Hadrian at Smyrna - 128 CE

6



Smyrna agora arches

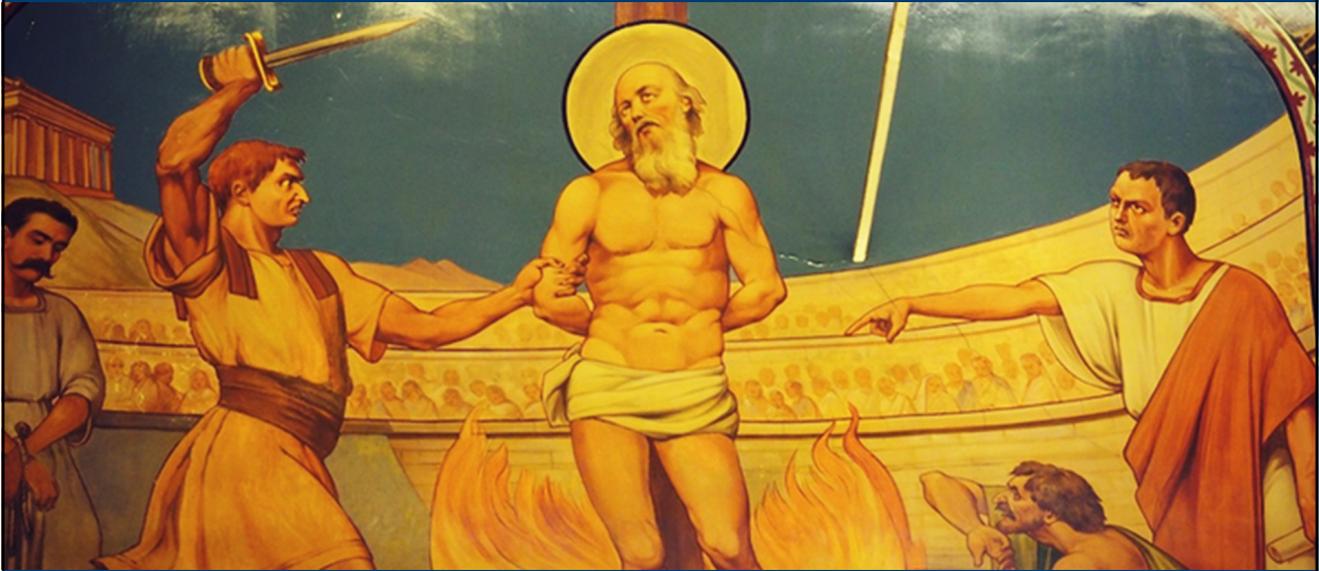
7



Smyrna Shalom synagogue

8

The Martyrdom of Polycarp



Commercial agora at Ephesus

18:19

9

Revelation 2

(8) "And to the angel of the (ecclesia) Messianic Community in **Smyrna**, write: 'The words of **the first and the last, who died and came to life.**



References

Isa 41:4 Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? I, the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he

Joh 19:39 Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight

Isa 60:6 A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD. (note: no Myrrh)

10

Revelation 2	References
(9) “ I know how you are suffering and how poor you are (though in fact you are rich!)	Jas 1:2-3 Regard it all as joy, my brothers, when you face various kinds of temptations; (3) for you know that the testing of your trust produces perseverance.

Tribulation – θλιψιν (thliphsis)

11



12

Revelation 2	References
(9) “ I know the insults of those who call themselves Jews but aren't—on the contrary, they are a synagogue of the Adversary (Satan).	John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. 2Sa 12:14 (KJV) Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

Primary Rule of Bible Interpretation: When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense (or you'll end up with a pretense that is likely nonsense).

13

He is a liar and the father thereof



Palestine viper at Yad HaShmonah

John 8:44

14



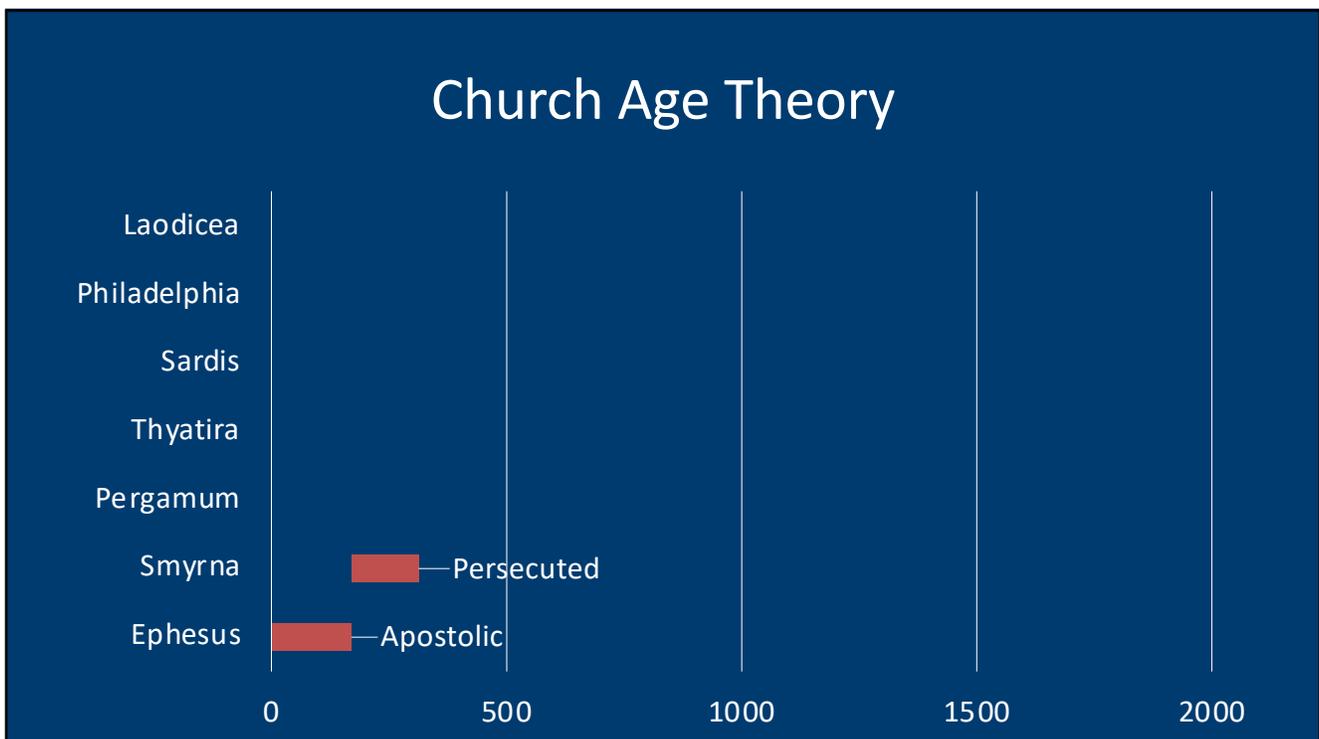
15

Revelation 2	References
<p>(10) Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. Look, the Adversary is going to have some of you thrown in prison, in order to put you to the test; and you will face an ordeal for ten days. Remain faithful, even to the point of death; and I will give you life as your crown.</p>	<p>"Fear not" ~150x</p> <p>2Ti 3:12 And indeed, all who want to live a godly life united with the Messiah Yeshua will be persecuted,</p> <p>Jas 1:2-3 Regard it all as joy, my brothers, when you face various kinds of temptations; (3) for you know that the testing of your trust produces perseverance.</p>

16

Revelation 2	References
(11) Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities. He who wins the victory will not be hurt at all by the second death." '	<p>Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.</p> <p>Rev 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.</p> <p>Rev 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.</p>

17



18

Possible Parable Connection: Smyrna = wheat/tares

Matthew 13	Explanation
<p>24 Yeshua put before them another parable. "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while people were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, then went away. 26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads of grain, the weeds also appeared. 27 The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?' 28 He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants asked him, 'Then do you want us to go and pull them up?' 29 But he said, 'No, because if you pull up the weeds, you might uproot some of the wheat at the same time. 30 Let them both grow together until the harvest; and at harvest-time I will tell the reapers to collect the weeds first and tie them in bundles to be burned, but to gather the wheat into my barn.' "</p>	<p>Enemy: Accuser/adversary Weeds: those who look like faithful but, on the contrary, are imposters Weeds appearing: time of persecution</p> <p>Let them grow together: the wheat will have to suffer from the weeds for a time Weeds: pulled from the ground then burned - 2nd death Wheat: pulled from the ground, then gathered into the Master's House (no second death)</p>

19

Possible Paul Connection: Philippians

Joy through Suffering

- **Php 1:6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.**
- Php 1:12-13 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, (13) so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.
- Php 1:14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.
- Php 1:18-21 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, (19) for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, (20) as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. (21) **For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.**
- Php 1:27-28 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, (28) and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.
- **Php 1:29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,**
- **Php 2:2-4 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. (3) Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. (4) Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (speaks to the importance of being who you say you are – if say we follow God, we need to act like it).**

20

Possible Paul Connection: Philippians

Joy through Suffering

- **Php 2:7-8** but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (8) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
- **Php 2:15-16** that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, (16) **holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. (and get your crown!)**
- **Php 2:17** Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.
- **Php 3:7** But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.
- **Php 3:10-11** that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, (11) that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.
- **Php 3:14** I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
- **Php 3:20-21** But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (21) who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

21

Possible Paul Connection: Philippians

Joy through Suffering

- **Php 4:4-8** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. (5) Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; (6) do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (7) And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (8) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
- **Php 4:13** I can do all things through him who strengthens me.
- **Php 4:22** All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.

22

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamum	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
To	Darling; desired	Myrrh; death					
From	Holds 7 stars/ walks among lampstands	First/last dead/alive					
+	Don't tolerate evil; Persevered; Acts 17:11	Suffering (pressing, tribulation) and insults					
-	Lost love they had at first	N/A					
+	Hates deeds of people who do things their own way instead of God's	Do not fear suffering; remain faithful					
Ear	Before promise	Before					
Promise	Eat from Tree/Life	Not taste 2nd death					
Age	Apostolic (70-170)	Persecuted (170-312)					
Parable	Four Soils	Wheat/tares					
Paul	Ephesians	Philippians					

23

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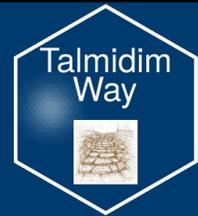
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24

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 8

Pergamum Part I



Revelation 2:12-17

1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).

Unless otherwise noted, images courtesy of the Satellite Bible Atlas and the Pictorial Library of Bible Lands (BiblePlaces.org)



2

Topics

- Pergamum
 - Background
- Sevenfold structure of each letter:
 - Name of the city
 - Specific attributes of Messiah
 - Praise - "I know..."
 - Judgment
 - ~~Encouragement~~
 - Promise to the Overcomer
 - "He who has an ear..."
- Cryptic references
 - Where Satan dwells / Antipas / Nicolaitans / Hidden Manna / White Stone
 - Not a cryptic reference: Balaam and Balak



3

Revelation 2:12-17(CJB)

Rev 2:12-17 "To the angel of the Messianic Community in Pergamum, write: Here is the message from the one who has the sharp double-edged sword: (13) "I know where you are living, there where the Adversary's throne is. Yet you are holding onto my name. You did not deny trusting me even at the time when my faithful witness Antipas was put to death in your town, there where the Adversary lives. (14) Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: you have some people who hold to the teaching of Bil`am, who taught Balak to set a trap for the people of Isra'el, so that they would eat food that had been sacrificed to idols and commit sexual sin. (15) Likewise, you too have people who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. (16) Therefore, turn from these sins. Otherwise, I will come to you very soon and make war against them with the sword of my mouth. (17) Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities. To him winning the victory I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone, on which is written a new name that nobody knows except the one receiving it."



4

"Today there is a false god for anything and everything, and they offer immediate satisfaction. But they are not the truth."

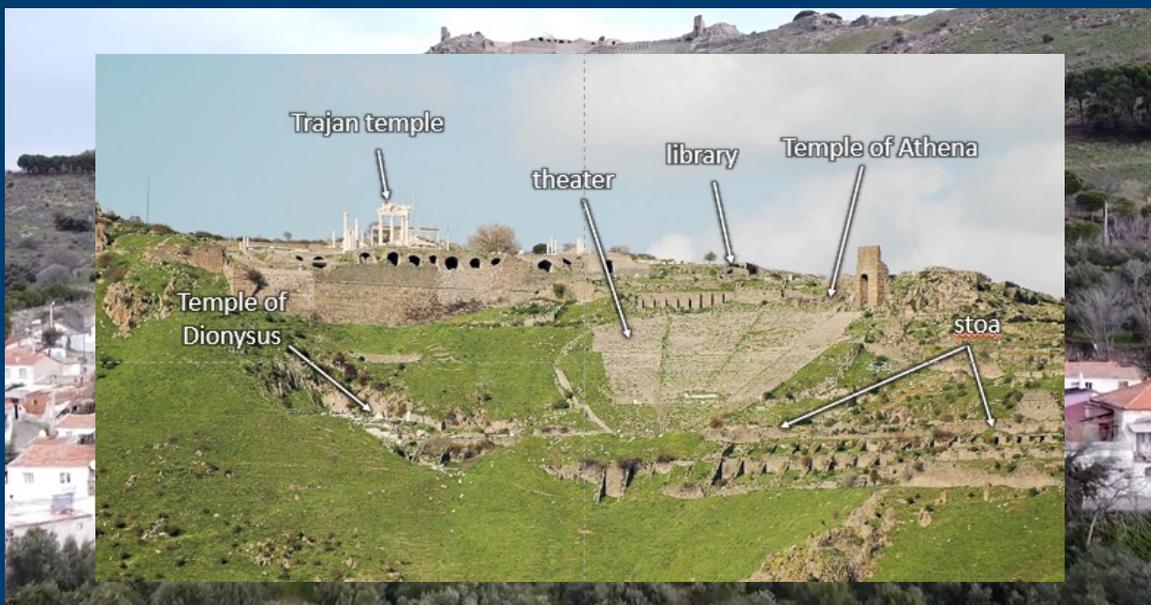
In contrast, Jesus doesn't always offer immediate satisfaction. He requires trust, faith, and obedience.

Believers must be willing to exchange a comfortable, instant-gratification life today for the promise of not just greater rewards but eternal rewards whose significance we can't yet understand.



5

Pergamum Acropolis



6

"Pergamum became the center of the official religion of emperor worship."



Pergamum acropolis Trajan temple aerial



7

"where Satan has his throne" (?)



Pergamum acropolis great altar of Zeus



8

"where Satan has his throne" (?)



Pergamum Asclepion snake on column base



9

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness

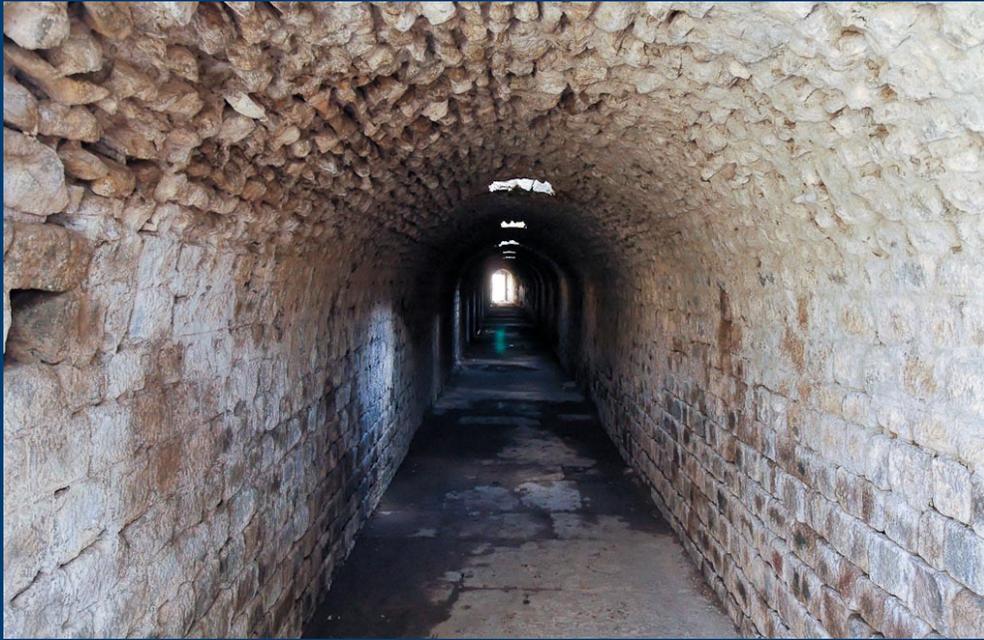


Serpent symbol on Mount Nebo

John 3:14 

10

"Where Satan has his throne" (?)



Pergamum Asclepion Sacred Passageway



11

Modern Bergama



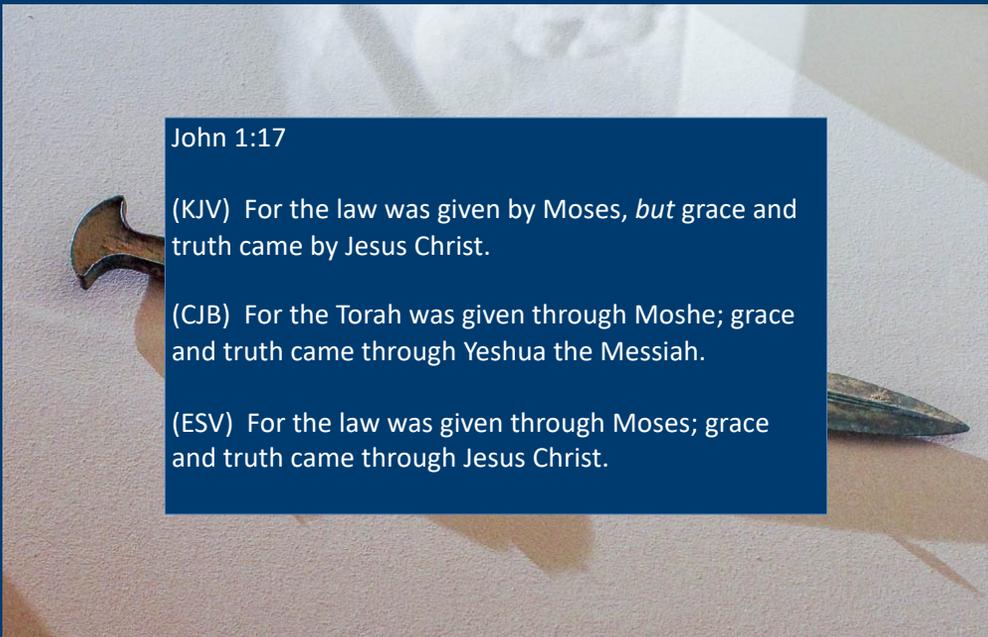
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Revelation 2	References
<p>(12) "To the angel of the Messianic Community in Pergamum, write: 'Here is the message from the one who has the sharp double-edged sword:</p>	<p>Rev 1:16 In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.</p> <p>Joh 1:17 For (just as) the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Isa 11:4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.</p> <p>Isa 49:2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away.</p> <p>2 Th 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.</p>



13

The one who has the sharp double-edged sword:



John 1:17

(KJV) For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

(CJB) For the Torah was given through Moshe; grace and truth came through Yeshua the Messiah.

(ESV) For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

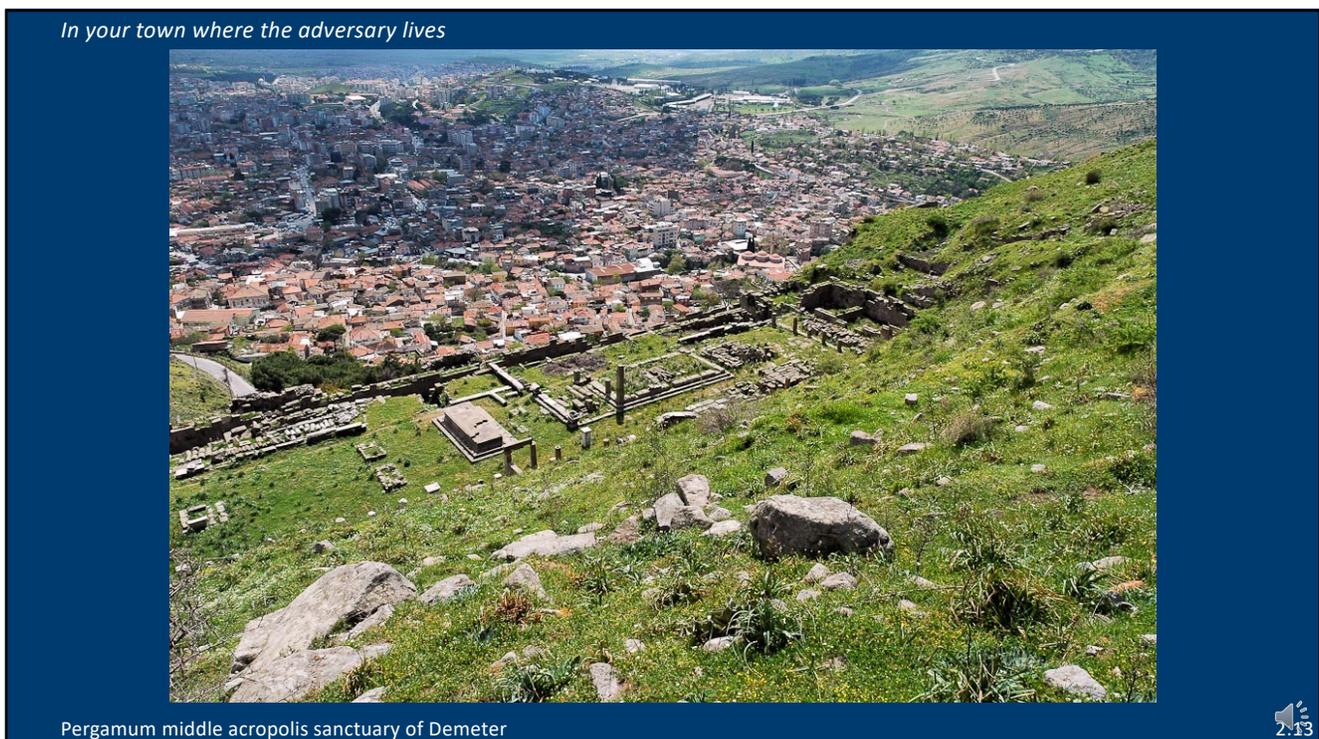
Bronze sword, circa 1200–600 BC



14

Revelation 2	References
<p>(13) "I know where you are living, there where the Adversary's throne is. Yet you are holding onto my name. You did not deny trusting me even at the time when my faithful witness Antipas was put to death in your town, there where the Adversary lives.</p>	<p>Luke 21:17 You will be hated by all for my name's sake. Jude 1:4 For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. 2 Ti 2:12 if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;</p>

15



16

שֵׁם

(SHEM) NAME, CHARACTER, REPUTATION



17

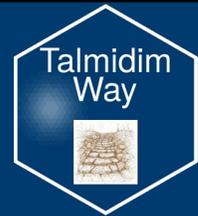
And King Herod heard of it



Bronze coin of Herod Antipas, AD 30/31, from the Tiberias mint

Mark 6:14 

18



Revelation Backgrounds 8

Pergamum Part II



Revelation 2:12-17

1

Revelation 2	References
<p>(14) Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: you have some people who hold to the teaching of Bil`am, who taught Balak to set a trap for the people of Isra'el, so that they would eat food that had been sacrificed to idols and commit sexual sin. (15) Likewise, you too have people who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.</p>	<p>Num 22-25, 31 Josh 13:22 Balaam also, the son of Beor, the one who practiced divination, was killed with the sword by the people of Israel 2 Pe 2:15 Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing</p>

2

And the border of the children of Reuben was the Jordan



Northern end of the Dead Sea (aerial view from the west)

Joshua 13:23

3

And Beth-peor, and the slopes of Pisgah, and Beth-jeshimoth, and all the cities of the plain

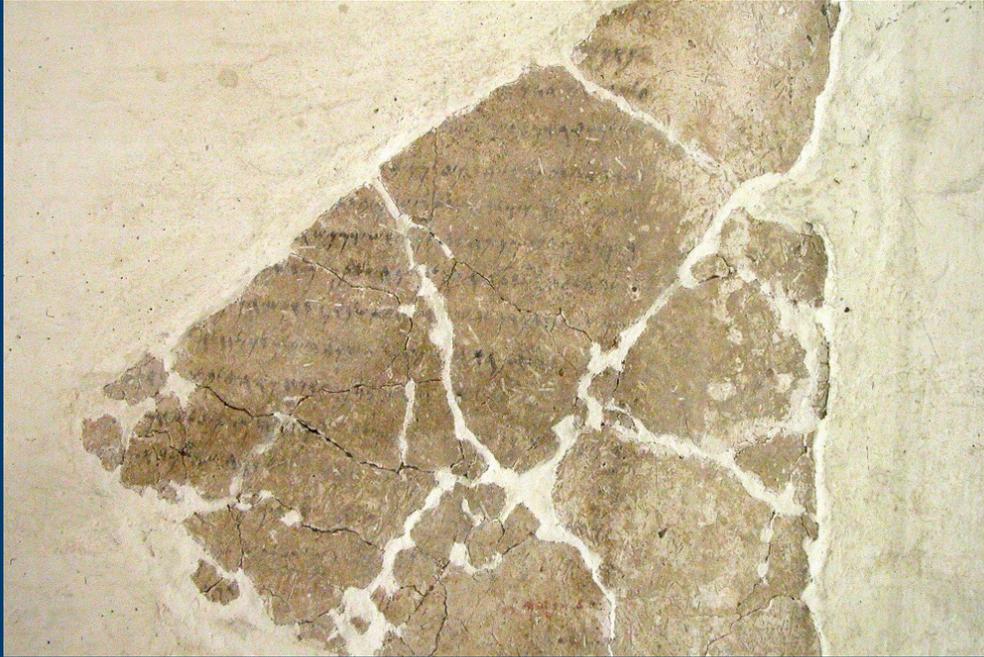


Jordan River and the Plains of Moab (aerial view from the west)

Joshua 13:20-21

4

Balaam the son of Beor, the soothsayer, the children of Israel killed with the sword



"Balaam son of Beor" inscription from Tell Deir 'Alla, 9th century BC

Joshua 13:22 

5

2nd Peter 2

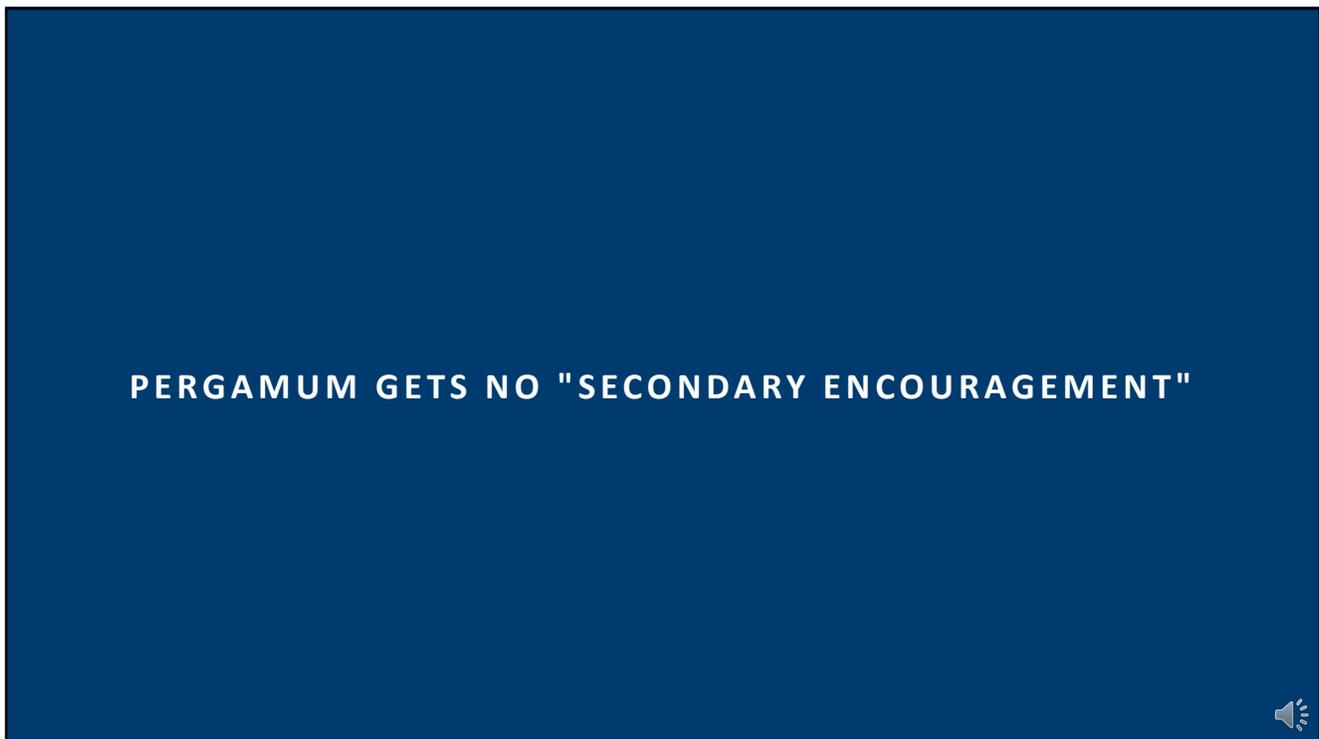
- 2 Pe 2:12-15 But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, (13) suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. (14) They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! (15) Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. **They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing**
- 2 Pe 2:1-3 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be **false teachers among you**, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. (2) **And many will follow their sensuality, and the way of truth will be blasphemed because of them.** (3) **And in their greed, they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.**
- 2 Pet 2:20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and **overcome**, the last state has become worse for them than the first.



6

Revelation 2	References
<p>(16) Therefore, turn from these sins. Otherwise, I will come to you very soon and make war against them with the sword of my mouth.</p>	<p>Josh 13:22 Balaam also, the son of Beor, the one who practiced divination, was killed with the sword</p> <p>Rev 19:15 And out of his mouth comes to a sharp sword with which to strike down nations—"He will rule them with a staff of iron." It is he who treads the winepress from which flows the wine of the furious rage of Adonai, God of heaven's armies.</p> <p>Rev 19:21 The rest were killed with the sword that goes out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.</p>

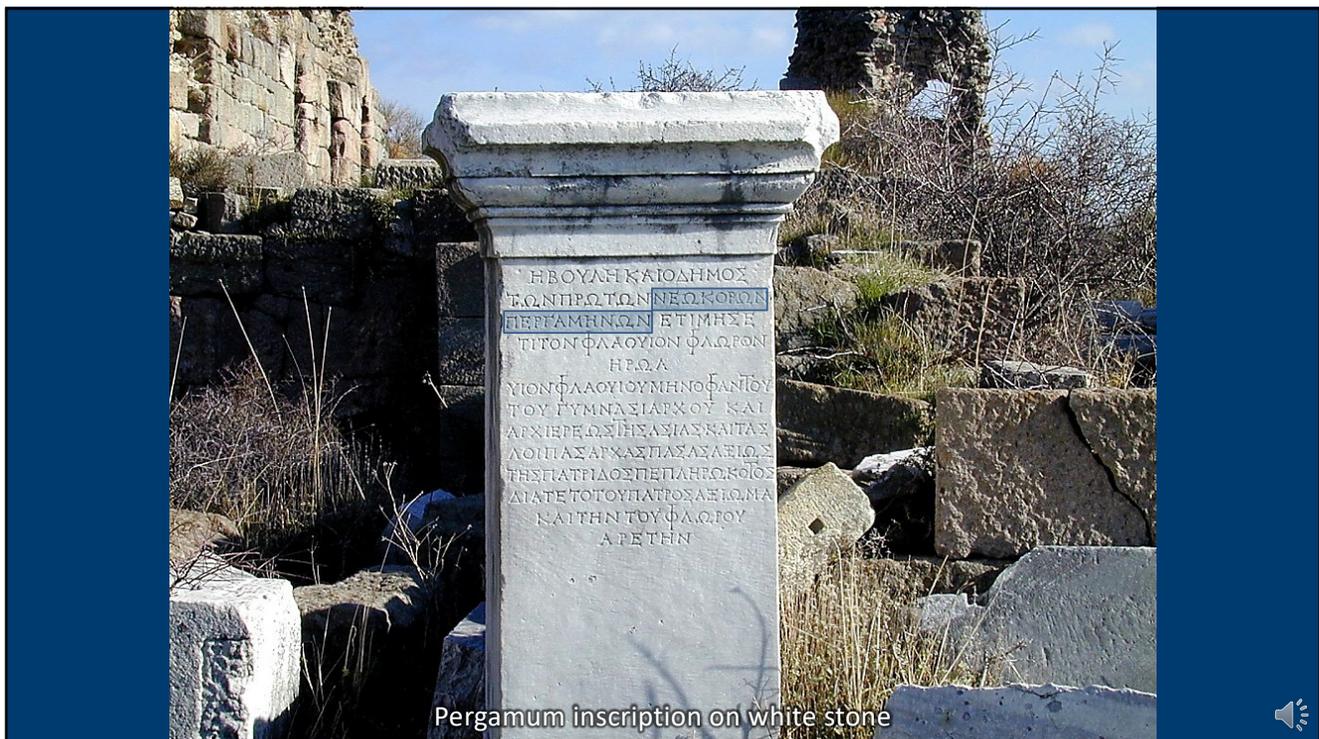
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8

Revelation 2	References
<p>(17) Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities. To him winning the victory, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone, on which is written a new name that nobody knows except the one receiving it."</p>	<p>Exo 16:31-35 Now the house of Israel called its name manna. It was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. (32) Moses said, "This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Let an omer of it be kept throughout your generations, so that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.'" (33) And Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar, and put an omer of manna in it, and place it before the LORD to be kept throughout your generations." (34) As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the testimony to be kept. (35) The people of Israel ate the manna forty years, till they came to a habitable land. They ate the manna till they came to the border of the land of Canaan.</p> <p>Joh 6:31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"</p>

9



10

שם

(SHEM) NAME, CHARACTER, REPUTATION



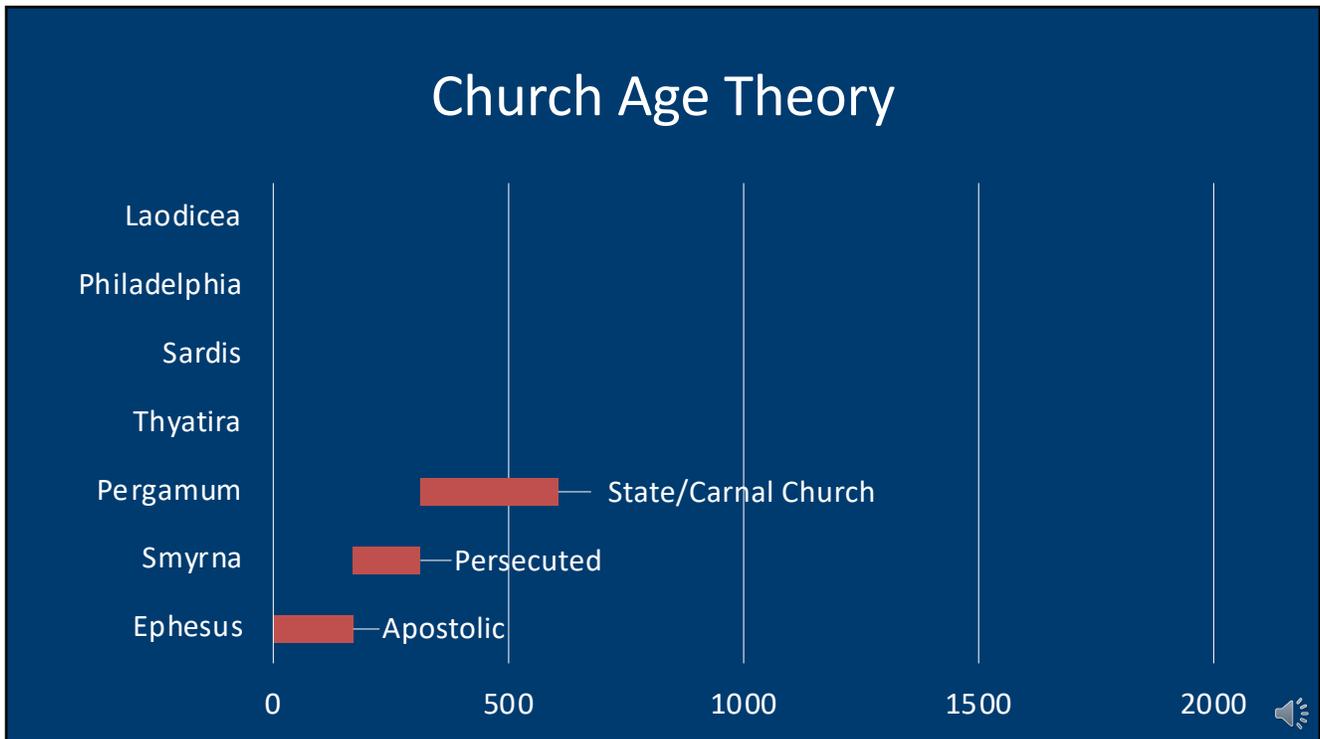
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Conclusion

- Didn't directly deny Jesus, but they didn't directly deny false gods either - "no one can serve two masters"
- Do an "audit" for any idols in our lives
 - A thing does not have to be sinful to become an idol
 - "Today there is a false god for anything and everything, and they offer immediate satisfaction. But they are not the truth." Wayne Stiles
- Believers must be willing to exchange a comfortable life now for tremendous rewards later
- "He who has an ear, let him hear"



12



13

Possible Parable Connection: Pergamom = Mustard Seed

Matthew 13	Explanation
<p>Mat 13:31-32 He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. (32) It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."</p> <p>Birds of the air = Evil one</p> <p>Mat 13:4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them.</p> <p>Mat 13:19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.</p>	<p>While they can grow large, a usual mustard plant is usually no more than 4' or 5'.</p> <p>The "birds of the air" from the first parable are ministers of Satan; it would be most unusual if Jesus changed the symbolism.</p> <p>The suggestion is that what started small and was supposed to be a plant has become a monstrosity. It has become something it was never intended to be. It is so large that ministers can not just land but make nests, i.e., make a home, in its branches.</p> <p>Jesus said to carry a weapon for defense only, and even this was unusual. When He was arrested, He told the disciples to put their swords down. For all intents and purposes, Jesus' earthly ministry was a model of pacifism.</p> <p>Now with the advent of Constantine, we see the church as a conqueror, both politically and militarily.</p>

14

Possible Paul Connection: Corinthians Carnal Church

- 1Co 2:12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.
- 1Co 3:1-3 **But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.** (2) I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, (3) for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?
- 1Co 3:4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?
 - Greek culture divinized heroes into gods.
- 1Co 3:16-17 **Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? (17) If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.**
 - This pertains to the dietary and fleshly fornication happening at Pergamum.
- 1Co 4:2 **Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.**
- 1Co 4:5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.



15

Possible Paul Connection: Corinthians Carnal Church

- 1Co 5:1 **It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife.**
 - Chapter 5 is all about sexual immorality
- 1Co 5:11 **But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.**
 - Who one ate with was a big deal in the early apostolic movement
 - I thought Paul taught "freedom in Christ" Are we sure the historical Paul is the same Paul we have been taught?
- 1Co 6:12-13 **"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.**
 - The ESV does an excellent job of setting off the quotes.
 - Despite people who like to attribute these quotes to Paul, he is not saying these directly.
 - He is quoting the arguments of his opponents.



16

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamum	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
To	Darling; desired	Myrrh; death	Height, or abnormal marriage				
From	Holds 7 stars/ walks among lampstands	First/last dead/alive	Two edge sword				
+	Don't tolerate evil; Persevered; Acts 17:11	Suffering (pressing, tribulation) and insults	Living with Satan yet holding His name				
-	Lost love they had at first	N/A	Balaam / Nicolaitans				
+	Hates deeds of people who do things their own way instead of God's	Do not fear suffering; remain faithful	N/A				
Ear	Before promise	Before	Before				
Promise	Eat from Tree/Life	Not taste 2nd death	Hidden Manna, white stone, new name				
Age	Apostolic (70-170)	Persecuted (170-312)	Carnal-political (312-606)				
Parable	Four Soils	Wheat/tares	Mustard Seed				
Paul	Ephesians	Philippians	Corinthians				

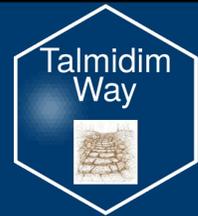
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18

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 9

Thyatira I



Revelation 2:18-29

1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).

Unless otherwise noted, images courtesy of the Satellite Bible Atlas and the Pictorial Library of Bible Lands (BiblePlaces.org)



2

Topics

- Thyatira
 - Background
- Sevenfold structure of each letter:
 - Name of the city
 - Specific attributes of Messiah
 - Praise - "I know..." - longest list of praises of any letter
 - Judgment - Jezebel
 - Encouragement
 - Promise to the Overcomer
 - "He who has an ear..."
- Does it fit? Church age / Woman & Leaven / Galatians



3

Revelation 2:8-11(CJB)

Rev 2:18-29 "To the angel of the Messianic Community in Thyatira, write: 'Here is the message from the Son of God, whose eyes are like a fiery flame and whose feet are like burnished brass: (19) I know what you are doing, your love, trust, service and perseverance. And I know that you are doing more now than before. (20) But I have this against you: you continue to tolerate that Izevel woman, the one who claims to be a prophet, but is teaching and deceiving my servants to commit sexual sin and eat food that has been sacrificed to idols. (21) I gave her time to turn from her sin, but she doesn't want to repent of her immorality. (22) So I am throwing her into a sickbed; and those who commit adultery with her I am throwing into great trouble, unless they turn from the sins connected with what she does; (23) and I will strike her children dead! Then all the Messianic communities will know that I am the one who searches minds and hearts, and that I will give to each of you what your deeds deserve.



4

Revelation 2:8-11(CJB)

Rev 2:18-29 (24) But to the rest of you in Thyatira, to those who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some people call the 'deep things' of the Adversary, I say this: I am not loading you up with another burden; (25) only hold fast to what you have until I come. (26) To him who wins the victory and does what I want until the goal is reached, I will give him authority over the nations; (27) he will rule them with a staff of iron and dash them to pieces like pottery, (28) just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star. (29) Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities." '



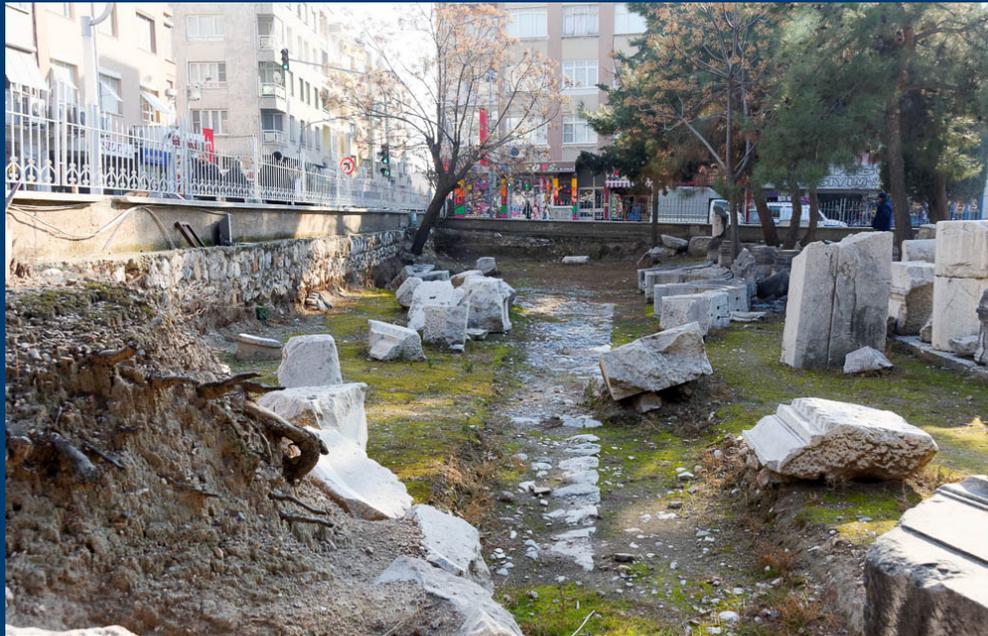
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Thyatira Roman
street



6



Thyatira colonnaded Roman street



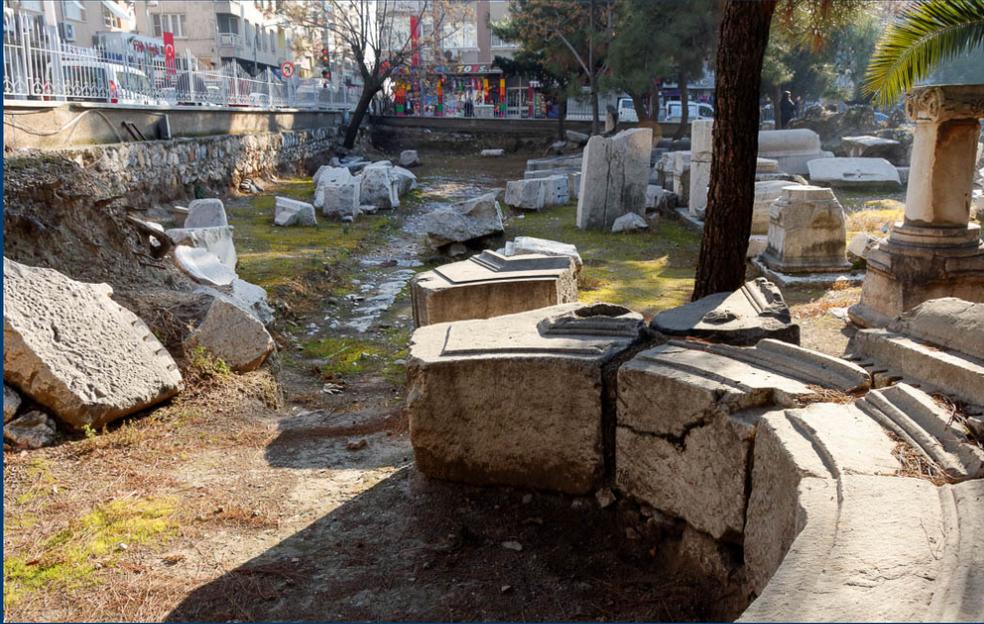
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Thyatira Greek inscription mentioning wool workers



8



Thyatira arch along colonnaded Roman street



9

A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple cloth



Flowering madder at Zichron Yaakov

Acts 16:14



10

A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple cloth



Wool textile with purple stripe, made with vegetal indigotin and madder, 132-136 AD

16:14

11

Revelation 2	References
<p>18 "To the angel of the Messianic Community in Thyatira, write: 'Here is the message from the Son of God, whose eyes are like a fiery flame and whose feet are like burnished brass:"</p>	<p>Psa 2:7 I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.</p> <p>Dan 10:6 His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude.</p> <p>Mal 3:2-4 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. (3) He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD.</p> <p>Mat 3:17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."</p> <p>Mat 16:15-16 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" (16) Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."</p> <p>Joh 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.</p>

12

Revelation 2	References
<p>(19) I know what you are doing, your love, trust, service, and perseverance. And I know that you are doing more now than before.</p>	<p>Job 17: 9 Yet the righteous holds to his way, and he who has clean hands grows stronger and stronger. Pro 4: 18 But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. John 15: 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things, there is no law. 2Th 1:3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.</p>

13

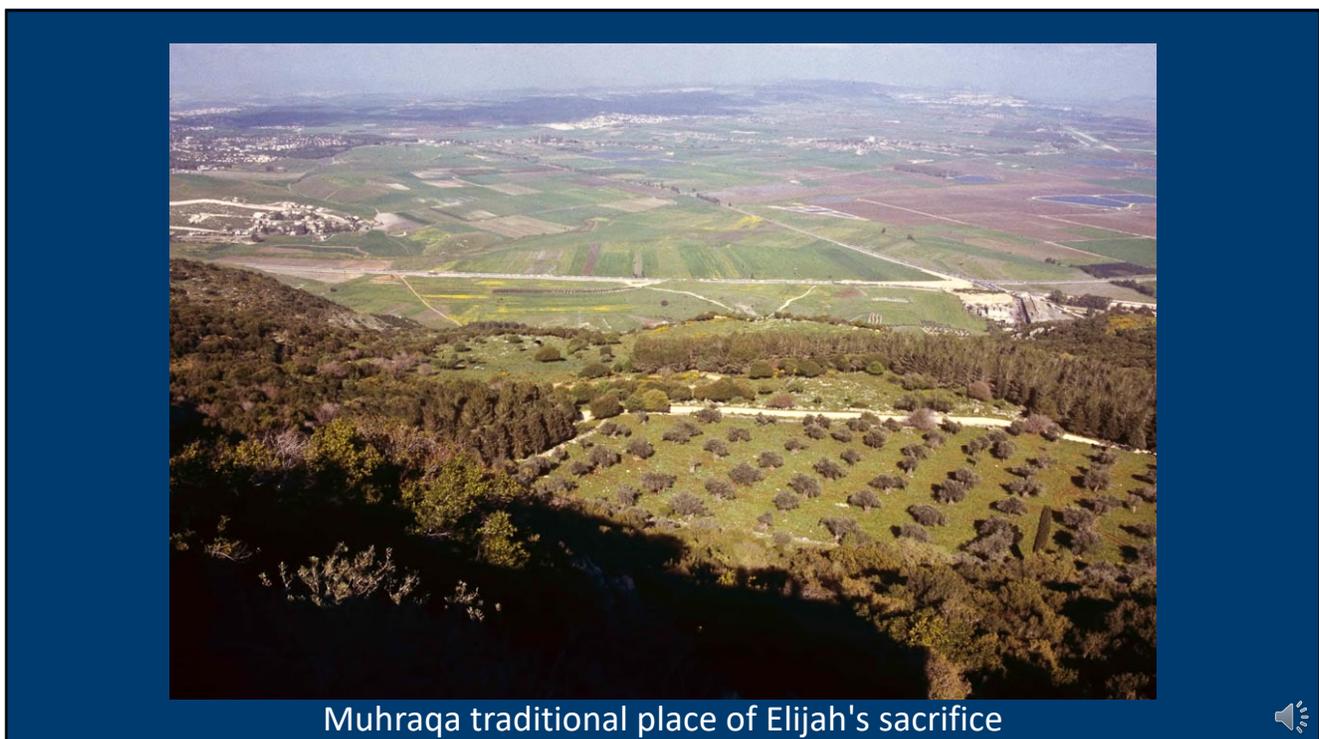
I know your works

1. Love –Love for God and love for one another needs to be the first priority of our works
2. Trust/Faith –confidence and faithfulness to God –clinging to the promises that are as yet unseen despite our circumstances
3. Service –sacrificial selflessness in giving our time, talents, and possessions to one another in His name
4. Perseverance –longsuffering for the Master, various trials without bitterness or retaliation. Patient endurance with one another.
5. Improving –they are getting better at doing all of the above

14

Revelation 2	References
<p>(20) But I have this against you: you continue to tolerate that Izevel woman, the one who claims to be a prophet, but is teaching and deceiving my servants to commit sexual sin and eat food that has been sacrificed to idols.</p> <p>(21) I gave her time to turn from her sin, but she doesn't want to repent of her immorality.</p>	<p>Deu 13:1-5 "If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, (2) and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, 'Let us go after other gods,' which you have not known, 'and let us serve them,' (3) you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. ... (5) But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death because he has taught rebellion against the LORD your God..."</p>

15



16



Muhaṣa statue of Elijah on Mount Carmel



17



Tel Jezreel aerial from west



18



Tel Jezreel with grapevines

1Ki 21:1-23 Now Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. (2) And after this Ahab said to Naboth, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house, and I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money." (3) But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers." (4) And Ahab went into his house vexed and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him, for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and would eat no food. (5) But Jezebel, his wife, came to him and said to him, "Why is your spirit so vexed that you eat no food?" (6) And he said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money, or else, if it please you, I will give you another vineyard for it.' And he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'" (7) And Jezebel, his wife, said to him, "Do you now govern Israel? Arise and eat bread and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."



19

8) So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and she sent the letters to the elders and the leaders who lived with Naboth in his city. (9) And she wrote in the letters, "Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth at the head of the people. (10) And set two worthless men opposite him, and let them bring a charge against him, saying, 'You have cursed God and the king.' Then take him out and stone him to death." (11) And the men of his city, the elders and the leaders who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them. As it was written in the letters that she had sent to them, (12) they proclaimed a fast and set Naboth at the head of the people. (13) And the two worthless men came in and sat opposite him. And the worthless men brought a charge against Naboth in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth cursed God and the king." So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones. (14) Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned; he is dead." (15) As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, Jezebel said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money, for Naboth is not alive, but dead." (16) And as soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

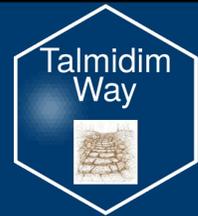


Tel Jezreel winepress with view east of Harod Valley



20

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 9

Thyatira 2

Revelation 2:18-29



1

Revelation 2	References
<p>(22) So I am throwing her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I am throwing into great trouble unless they turn from the sins connected with what she does;</p> <p>(23) and I will strike her children dead! Then all the Messianic communities will know that I am the one who searches minds and hearts and that I will give to each of you what your deeds deserve.</p>	<p>Rom 1:26 This is why God has given them up to degrading passions;</p> <p>Deu 13:10 You shall stone him to death with stones because he sought to draw you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.</p> <p>Deu 13:11 And all Israel shall hear and fear and never again do any such wickedness as this among you.</p> <p>1Ki 18:40 And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape." And they seized them. And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and slaughtered them there.</p>



2

Revelation 2	References
<p>(24) But to the rest of you in Thyatira, to those who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some people call the 'deep things' of the Adversary, I say this: I am not loading you up with another burden; (25) only hold fast to what you have until I come.</p>	<p>Act 15:28-29 For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: (29) that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.”</p> <p>1Co 2:10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.</p>

3

Revelation 2	References
<p>Rev 2:26-29 To him who wins the victory and does what I want until the goal is reached, I will give him authority over the nations; (27) he will rule them with a staff of iron and dash them to pieces like pottery, (28) just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star. (29) Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities." '</p>	<p>Psa 2:1-12 Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? (2) The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, (3) “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.” (4) He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. (5) Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, (6) “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.” (7) I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you. (8) Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. (9) You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.” (10) Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. (11) Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. (12) Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.</p>

4



5

Conclusion

- Focus on the real things: love, faith service, patient endurance
- Do better today than yesterday; do better tomorrow than today
- Toleration is the world's philosophy, not God's
- Galatians 1:8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.
- "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things agape." -Chuck Missler paraphrase



Jezebel and Ahab Meeting Elijah
in Naboth's Vineyard Giclee.
Print by Sir Frank Dicksee.

6

Church Age Theory



Phil

Pe

0

500

1000

1500

2000



7

And Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God"



Statue of Peter at Capernaum

Matthew 16:16 

8



9

Parable: Thyatira = Woman with Leaven

Matthew 13	Explanation
<p>Mat 13:33 And he told them yet another parable. "The Kingdom of Heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with a bushel of flour, then waited until the whole batch of dough rose."</p>	<p>Leaven: Usually, though not always, it represents sin or evil. 1 Co 5:6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?</p> <p>Bushel/three measures of flour: From Genesis 18:6, a fellowship meal, by extension the grain offering. According to Leviticus 2, grain offerings are supposed to be unleavened.</p> <p>Till all was leavened: The leaven corrupted the whole batch. The flour was supposed to remain pure and unleavened.</p> <p>Meaning: In the Mustard Seed parable, the birds of the air nested, representing an external threat. The corruption came from within the dough itself in the Woman with Leaven. Jezebel was an internal threat that introduced corruption.</p>

10

Paul: Galatians - Legalistic Church with mixed Paganism

- Gal 1:6-10 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— (7) not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. (8) But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. (9) As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. (10) For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.
- Gal 2:16 yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law, but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.



11

Paul: Galatians - Legalistic Church with mixed Paganism

- Gal 3:1-3 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. (2) Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? (3) Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?
- Gal 3:11 Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.”
- Gal 5:9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.



12

Paul: Galatians - Legalistic Church with mixed Paganism

- Gal 5:19-25 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, (20) idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, (21) envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (24) And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (25) If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.



13

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamum	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
To	Darling; desired	Myrrh;death	Height, or abnormal marriage	Daughter			
From	Holds 7 stars/ walks among lampstands	First/last dead/alive	Two edge sword	Son of God; eyes of fire; feet of brass			
+	Don't tolerate evil; Persevered; Acts 17:11	Suffering (pressing, tribulation) and insults	Living with Satan yet holding His name	love, trust, service, and perseverance; improving			
-	Lost love they had at first	N/A	Balaam / Nicolaitans	Jezebel			
+	Hates deeds of people who do things their own way instead of God's	Do not fear suffering; remain faithful	N/A	Hold fast against teaching of deep things of Satan			
Ear	Before promise	Before	Before	After			
Promise	Eat from Tree/Life	Not taste 2nd death	Hidden Manna, white stone, new name	Authority over nations; morning star			
Age	Apostolic (70-170)	Persecuted (170-312)	Carnal-political (312-606)	Catholic (606-present)			
Parable	Four Soils	Wheat/tares	Mustard Seed	Woman/Leaven			
Paul	Ephesians	Philippians	Corinthians	Galatians			



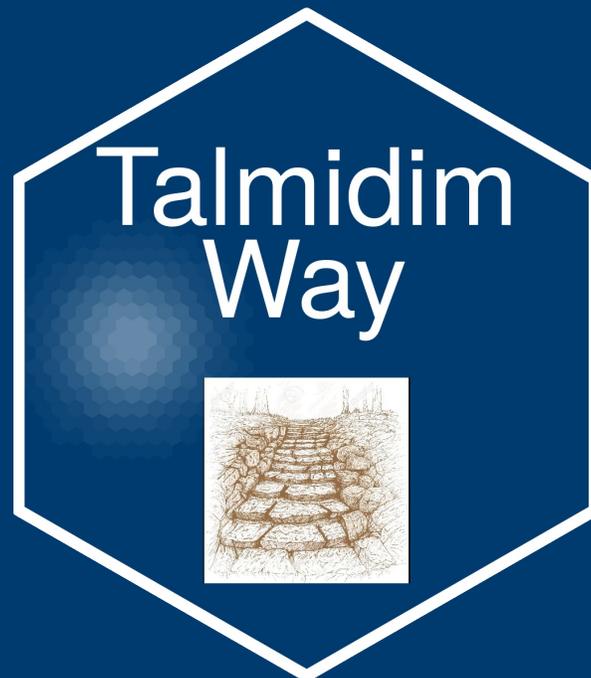
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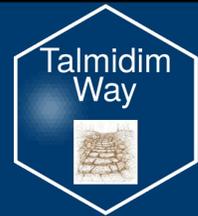


15



16

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 10

Sardis



Revelation 3:1-6

1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).

Unless otherwise noted, images courtesy of the Satellite Bible Atlas and the Pictorial Library of Bible Lands (BiblePlaces.org)



2

Topics

- Sardis
 - Background - Asleep
- Sevenfold structure of each letter:
 - Name of the city
 - Specific attributes of Messiah
 - ~~Praise~~
 - Judgment - "I know"
 - Encouragement
 - Promise to the Overcomer
 - "He who has an ear..."
- Does it fit? Protestant age / Treasure in a Field / Romans



3

Revelation 3:1-6 (CJB)

- (1) "To the angel of the Messianic Community in Sardis, write: 'Here is the message from the one who has the sevenfold Spirit of God and the seven stars: "I know what you are doing—you have a reputation for being alive, but in fact you are dead!
- (2) Wake up, and strengthen what remains, before it dies too! For I have found what you are doing incomplete in the sight of my God.
- (3) So remember what you received and heard, and obey it, and turn from your sin! For if you don't wake up, I will come like a thief; and you don't know at what moment I will come upon you.
- (4) Nevertheless, you do have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes; and they will walk with me, clothed in white, because they are worthy.
- (5) He who wins the victory will, like them, be dressed in white clothing; and I will not blot his name out of the Book of Life; in fact, I will acknowledge him individually before my Father and before his angels.
- (6) Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities." '



4



Sardis Temple of Artemis



5



Sardis Temple of Artemis column circumference



6



Sardis acropolis from below



7



Sardis burial ground of biblical Gog



8



Sardis paint shop



9



Sardis synagogue with mosaic floor, 4th century AD



10



Sardis Byzantine chapel inside Temple of Artemis



11

Revelation 3	References
<p>(1) "To the angel of the Messianic Community in Sardis, write: 'Here is the message from the one who has the sevenfold Spirit of God and the seven stars:</p>	<p>Joh 15:26-27 "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. (27) And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.</p> <p>1Pe 1:10-12 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, (11) inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. (12) It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.</p> <p>Zechariah 4:6 Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.</p>



12

Revelation 3	References
(1) "I know what you are doing—you have a reputation for being alive, but in fact you are dead!	<p>1 Sa 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."</p> <p>Pro 21:2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the heart.</p> <p>Deu 12:8 "You shall not do according to all that we are doing here today, everyone doing whatever is right in his own eyes,</p> <p>Jdg 17:6 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.</p>

15

Man looks on the outward appearance; the LORD looks on the heart.



Shepherds' fields east of Bethlehem

1 Samuel 16:7 

16

Every man did what was right in his own eyes



Samson and Delilah, by José Echenagusia Errazquin, 1887

Judges 17:6 

17

Revelation 3

(2) Wake up, and strengthen what remains, before it dies too!

References

Joh 11:11 After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him

Mar 14:38 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."



You Could Not Watch One Hour With Me, by James Tissot, circa 1890



18

Revelation 3	References
(2) Wake up, and strengthen what remains, before it dies too! For I have found what you are doing incomplete in the sight of my God.	Jas 1:22-24 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (23) For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. (24) For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

19

Revelation 3	References
(3) So remember what you received and heard, and obey it, and turn from your sin!	Deu 6:3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

20

Revelation 3	References
(3)! For if you don't wake up, I will come like a thief ; and you don't know at what moment I will come upon you.	<p>Exo 22:2-3 If a thief is found breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there shall be no bloodguilt for him, (3) but if the sun has risen on him, there shall be bloodguilt for him. He shall surely pay. If he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft.</p> <p>Mat 24:42-43 So stay alert, because you don't know on what day your Lord will come. (43) But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.</p> <p>1Th 5:2 because you yourselves well know that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.</p> <p>Rev 16:14-16 For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. (15) (“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”) (16) And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.</p>

21

Watch therefore: for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming

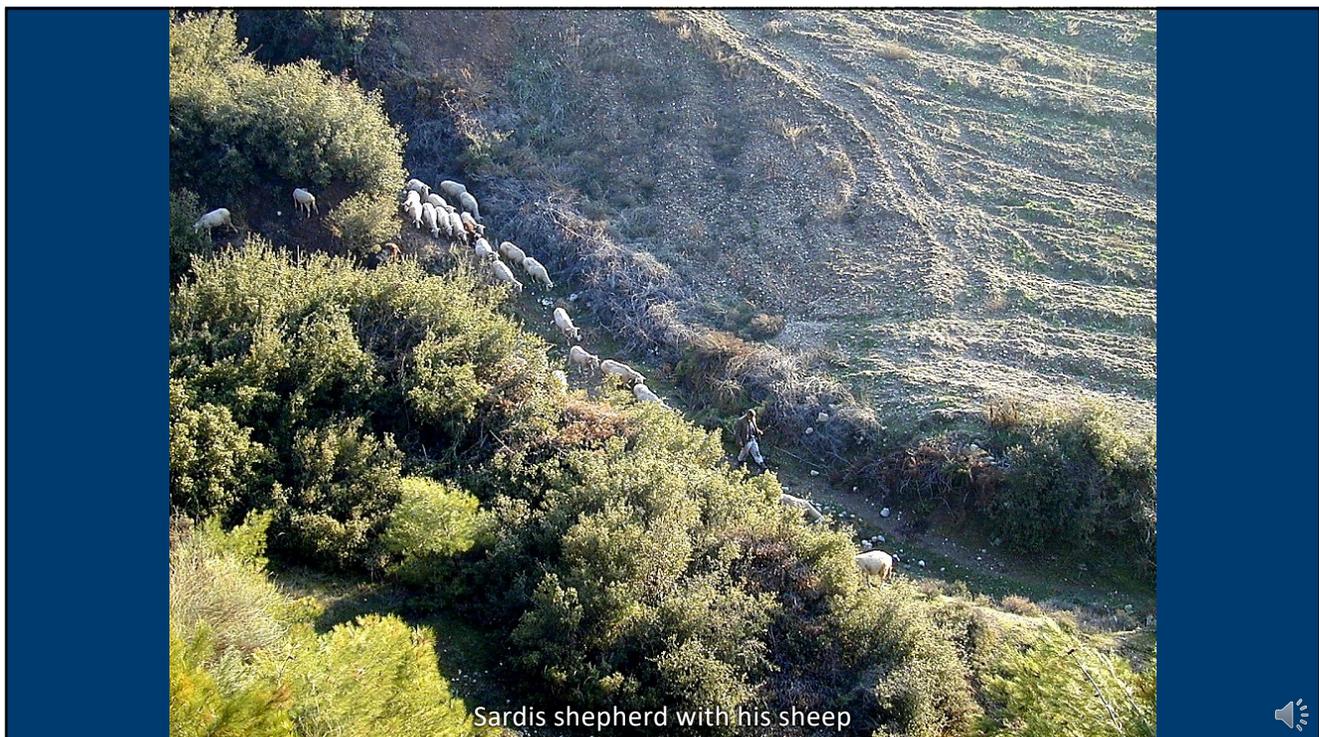


Shepherd on watchtower at Nazareth Village

22

Revelation 3	References
(4) Nevertheless, you do have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes; and they will walk with me, clothed in white, because they are worthy.	<p>Isa 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.</p> <p>Rev 19:8 it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure” — for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.</p> <p>Ecc 9:8 Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head.</p> <p>Mat_23:27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness.</p>

23



Sardis shepherd with his sheep

24

You are like whitewashed tombs, which from the outside appear beautiful . . .



Ossuary with Aramaic inscription from Jerusalem, 1st century AD

23:27

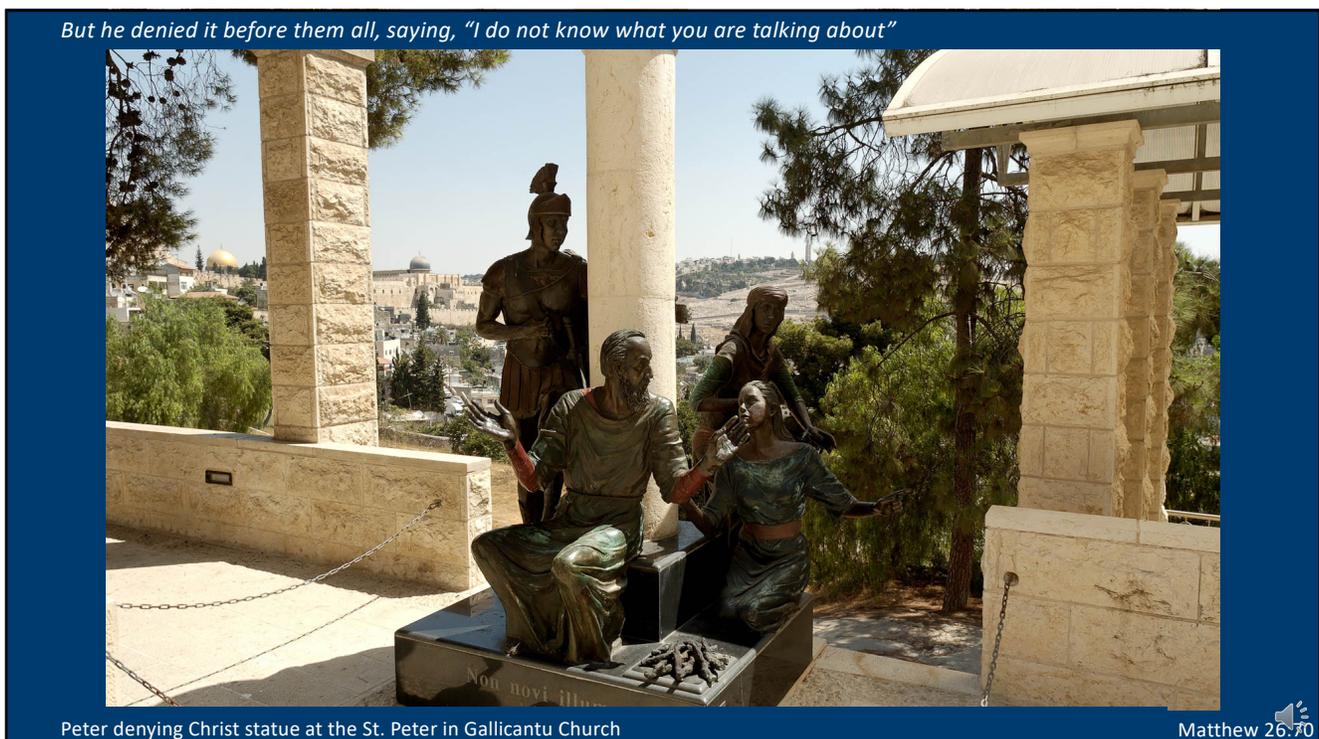
25

Revelation 3	References
<p>(5) He who wins the victory will, like them, be dressed in white clothing; and I will not blot his name out of the Book of Life;</p>	<p>Exodus 32:32-33 But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written.” But the LORD said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book.</p> <p>Dan 12:1. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.</p> <p>Mal 3:16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name.</p> <p>Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.</p> <p>Rev 20:15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.</p>

26

Revelation 3	References
<p>(5) He who wins the victory will, like them, be dressed in white clothing; and I will not blot his name out of the Book of Life; in fact, I will acknowledge him individually before my Father and before his angels.</p> <p>(6) Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities."</p>	<p>Luke 12:8-9 "And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, (9) but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God.</p> <p>Mat 26:75 And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.</p>

27



28

Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus



Traditional location where Jesus stood on the "sacred rock" at Heptapegon



29

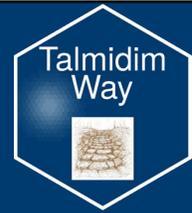
Conclusion

- No outward signs of trouble
- Believers were self-deceived
 - Which led to misrepresenting what it means to be a believer
- Let us not be self-deceived!
- How is your Jesus audit going?



30

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 10

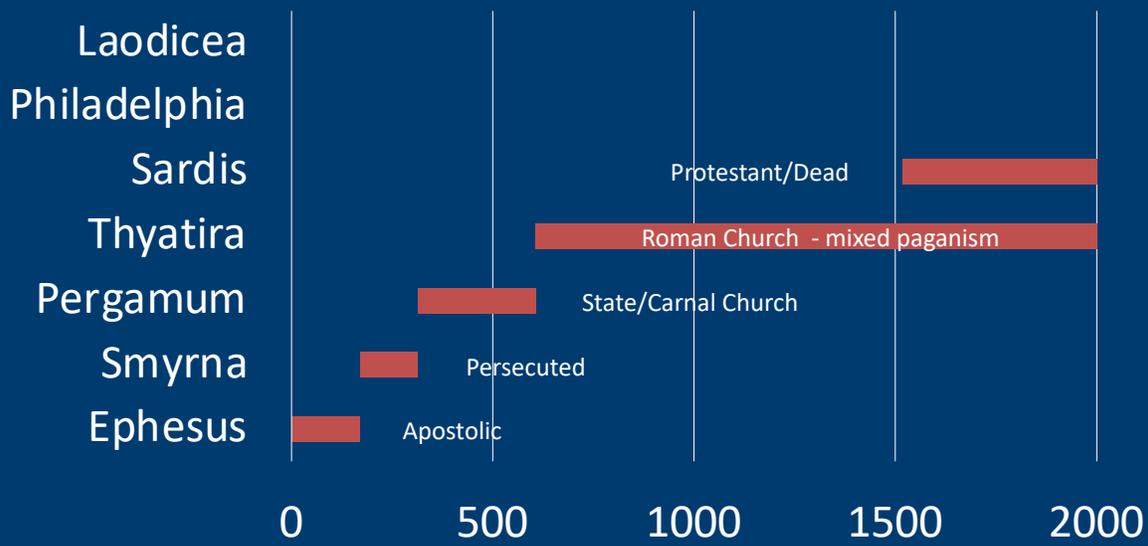
Sardis 2



Revelation 3:1-6 "Does it fit?"

1

Does it fit? Church Age = Protestant



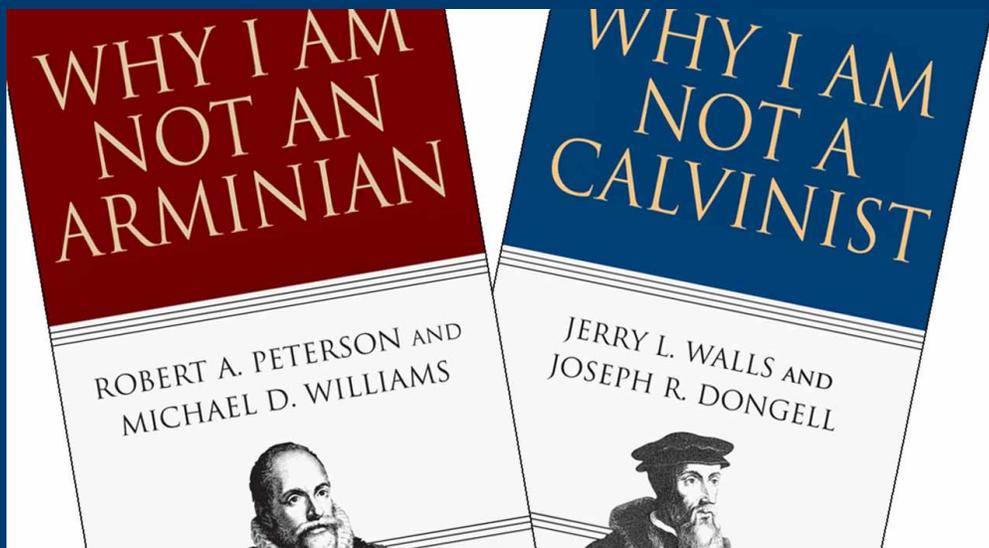
2



Judensau at Wittenberg Parish Church



3



4

- Once I saw this guy on a bridge about to jump. I said, "Don't do it!" He said, "Nobody loves me." I said, "God loves you. Do you believe in God?"
- He said, "Yes." I said, "Are you a Christian or a Jew?" He said, "A Christian." I said, "Me, too!"
- Protestant or Catholic?" He said, "Protestant." I said, "Me, too!"
- What franchise?" He said, "Baptist." I said, "Me, too!"
- Northern Baptist or Southern Baptist?" He said, "Northern Baptist." I said, "Me, too!"
- Northern Conservative Baptist or Northern Liberal Baptist?" He said, "Northern Conservative Baptist." I said, "Me, too!"
- Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region, or Northern Conservative Baptist Eastern Region?" He said, "Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region." I said, "Me, too!"
- Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1879, or Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912?" He said, "Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912."
- I said, "Die, heretic!" And I pushed him over.



5

Parable: Sardis = Treasure in the Field

Matthew 13	Explanation
<p>Mat 13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."</p>	<p>A double sense- We could say Sardis is the treasure for whom Jesus gave up everything. This is true, but we ALL are the treasure for whom Jesus gave everything. There is nothing specific about Sardis or Protestantism in this interpretation.</p> <p>A second meaning is that Jesus is the treasure Sardis had taken and buried so that no one could find it. They had head knowledge, but it didn't manifest into loving God exclusively. The strongest adherents to reformation theology often want to win arguments about this position or that position, instead of realizing that we are all sinners in need of saving.</p>



6

Paul: Romans

- Luther cited Romans frequently - it's the definitive statement on Christian doctrine
- It also mentions "death" 24x and "dead" 16x - more than in any other book of Paul's
 - Used both of Christ's death and the unbeliever's dead state
 - Sardis shows it is possible to call oneself a believer and still be dead
- Romans speaks to a right understanding of our position in Christ, yet many of these were left undone by the Reformers
 - Position of Israel - Romans 9-11
 - Position of Gentiles with respect to Israel -Romans 11
 - Do not judge other believers who may not think exactly as you do - Romans 14
 - Appeal to avoid divisions - Romans 16



7

Paul: Romans 8

- Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- Rom 8:28-30 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (29) For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (30) And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.
- Rom 8:37-39 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors ("overcomers") through him who loved us. (38) For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, (39) nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



8

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamum	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
To	Darling; desired	Myrrh;death	Height, or abnormal marriage	Daughter	Precious stone		
From	Holds 7 stars/ walks among lampstands	First/last dead/alive	Two edge sword	Son of God; eyes of fire; feet of brass	Sevenfold Spirit & Seven Stars		
+	Don't tolerate evil; Persevered; Acts 17:11	Suffering (pressing, tribulation) and insults	Living with Satan yet holding His name	love, trust, service, and perseverance; improving	NONE		
-	Lost love they had at first	N/A	Balaam / Nicolaitans	Jezebel	False reputation; they are dead! Works are incomplete. Repent or He will come like a thief		
+	Hates deeds of people who do things their own way instead of God's	Do not fear suffering; remain faithful	N/A	Hold fast against teaching of deep things of Satan	A few who have not soiled clothes		
Ear	Before promise	Before	Before	After	After		
Promise	Eat from Tree/Life	Not taste 2nd death	Hidden Manna, white stone, new name	Authority over nations; morning star	Dressed in white; name in Book, be acknowledged in Heaven		
Age	Apostolic (70-170)	Persecuted (170-312)	Carnal-political (312-606)	Catholic (606-present)	Protestant (1517 - Present)		
Parable	Four Soils	Wheat/tares	Mustard Seed	Woman/Leaven	Treasure/Field		
Paul	Ephesians	Philippians	Corinthians	Galatians	Romans		

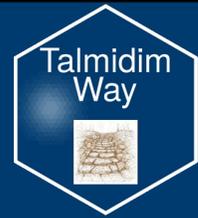
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10

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 11

Philadelphia I

Revelation 3:7-12



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).

Unless otherwise noted, images courtesy of the Satellite Bible Atlas and the Pictorial Library of Bible Lands (BiblePlaces.org)



2

Topics

- Philadelphia
 - Background
- Sevenfold structure of each letter:
 - Name of the city
 - Specific attributes of Messiah
 - Praise
 - *Judgment* - no condemnation but will sit in judgment!
 - Encouragement
 - Promise to the Overcomer
 - "He who has an ear..."
- Does it fit? Missionary age / Pearl of Great Price / Thessalonians



3

Revelation 3:7-12 (CJB)

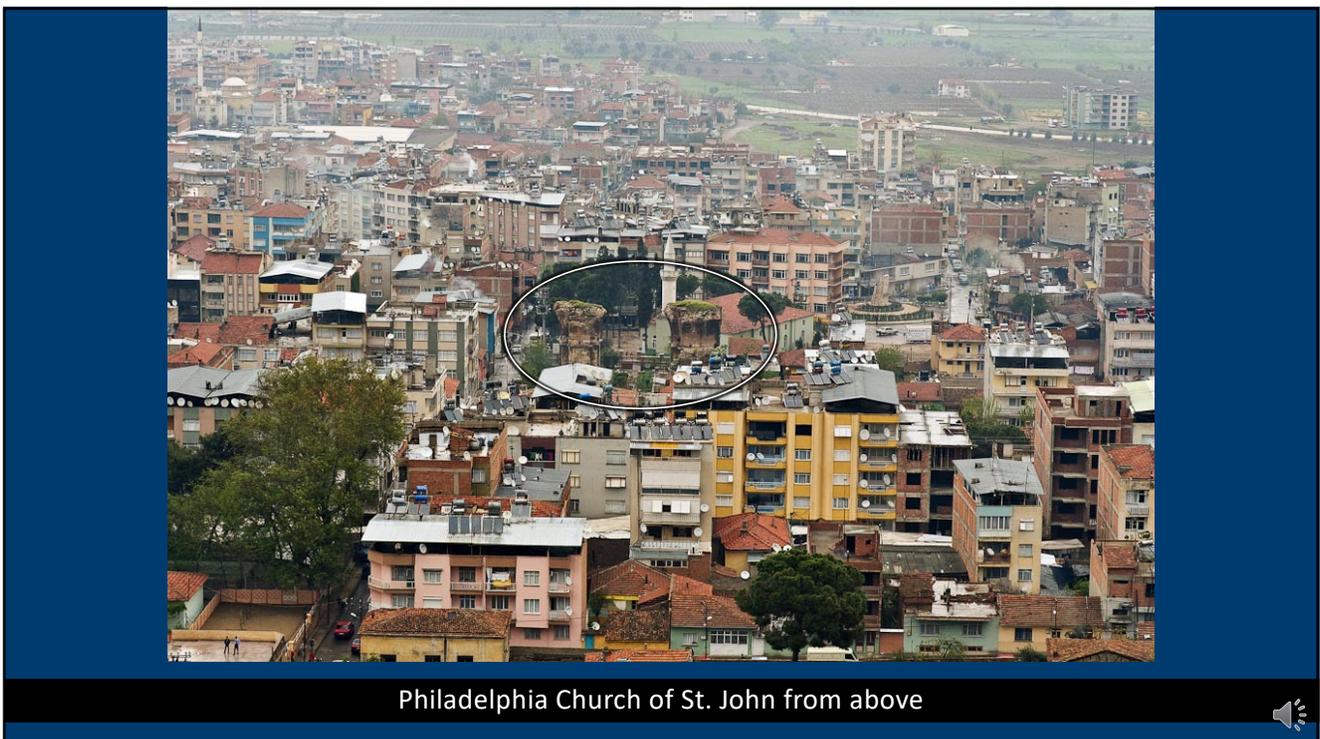
(7) "To the angel of the Messianic Community in [Philadelphia](#), write: 'Here is the message of HaKadosh, the True One, the one who has the key of David, who, if he opens something, no one else can shut it, and if he closes something, no one else can open it. (8) "I know what you are doing. Look, I have put in front of you an open door, and no one can shut it. I know that you have but little power, yet you have obeyed my message and have not disowned me. (9) Here, I will give you some from the synagogue of the Adversary, those who call themselves Jews but aren't—on the contrary, they are lying—see, I will cause them to come and prostrate themselves at your feet, and they will know that I have loved you. (10) Because you did obey my message about persevering, I will keep you from the time of trial coming upon the whole world to put the people living on earth to the test. (11) I am coming soon; hold on to what you have so that no one will take away your crown. (12) I will make him who wins the victory a pillar in the Temple of my God, and he will never leave it. Also, I will write on him the name of my God and the name of my God's city, the new Yerushalayim coming down out of heaven from my God, and my own new name. (13) Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities." '



4



5



Philadelphia Church of St. John from above

6



Snow-covered mountain west of Philadelphia



7

Revelation 3

(7) "To the angel of the Messianic Community in **Philadelphia**, write: 'Here is the message of **HaKadosh, the True One**, the one who has the key of David, who, if he opens something, no one else can shut it, and if he closes something, no one else can open it

References

Lev 19:2 "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am **holy**.

Isa 47:4 Our Redeemer—the LORD of hosts is his name— is the **Holy One** of Israel.

Joh 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the **truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

1Jn 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is **true**; and we are in him who is **true**, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.



8

Key of David

- Isa 22:20-22 In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, (21) and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. (22) And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.
- Luke 1:31-35 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. (32) He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, (33) and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom, there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be since I am a virgin?" (35) And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.
- Mat 16:19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."



9

Tent (house) of David

- Act 15:15-18 And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written, (16) "After this, I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, (17) that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things (18) known from of old.' (Quoting Amos 9:11-12 and referencing Isaiah 16:5)



10

Davidic Covenant

2Sa 7:8-16 Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. (9) And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. (10) And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and plant them, so that they may dwell in their place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall no longer afflict them, as formerly, (11) since I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares that the LORD will make you a house. (12) When your days are fulfilled, and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and establish his kingdom. (13) He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. (14) I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, (15) but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. (16) And your house and kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"



11

Revelation 3	References
<p>(8) "I know what you are doing. Look, I have put in front of you an open door, and no one can shut it. I know that you have but little power, yet you have obeyed my message and have not disowned me.</p>	<p>Isa 25:6-8 On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. (7) And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. (8) He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.</p> <p>Joh 10:7-9 So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. (8) All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. (9) I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.</p>



12

Look, I have put in front of you an open door, and no one can shut



Church of the Open Door, downtown Los Angeles (c. 1975)



13

Revelation 3

(9) Here, I will give you some from the synagogue of the Adversary, those who call themselves Jews but aren't—on the contrary, they are lying—see, I will cause them to come and prostrate themselves at your feet, and they will know that I have loved you.

References

Is 49:23 Kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers. With their faces to the ground, they shall bow down to you and lick the dust off your feet. Then you will know that I am the LORD; those who wait for me shall not be put to shame.”
 Isa 45:22-25 “Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. (23) By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: ‘To me, every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.’ (24) “Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; to him shall come and be ashamed all who were incensed against him. (25) In the LORD all the offspring of Israel shall be justified and shall glory.”



14

I will cause them to come and prostrate themselves at your feet



Throne room in Susa where Esther approached the King

Est 8:17 And in every province and in every city, wherever the king's command and his edict reached, there was gladness and joy among the Jews, a feast and a holiday. And many from the peoples of the country declared themselves Jews, for fear of the Jews had fallen on them.

Psa 72:10-11 May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! (11) May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!

Php 2:10-11 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (11) and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



15

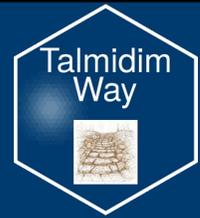


Hurva Synagogue, Jerusalem



16

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 11

Philadelphia II

Revelation 3:7-12



1

Revelation 3	References
<p>(10) Because those who obey my message will persevere about persevering will keep you from falling during time of trial and tribulation upon the whole world to put the people living on earth through the test.</p>	 <p>©BiblePlaces.com</p>
<p>they will say, 'The LORD is my God.'</p>	



2



Mahane Yehuda market



3

And Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles



Jerusalem (from the south)

Luke 21:24 

4

Romans 11:25-36

- Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. (26) And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob"; (27) "and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins." (28) As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. (29) For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. (30) For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, (31) so they too have now been disobedient so that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. (32) For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all. (33) Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! (34) "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" (35) "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" (36) For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.



5

Revelation 3	References
(11) I am coming soon; hold on to what you have so that no one will take away your crown.	<p>2Ti 4:8 Henceforth, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.</p> <p>Jas 5:9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.</p>



6

Revelation 3

(12) I will make him who wins the victory a pillar in the Temple of my God, and he will never leave it. Also, I will write on him the name of my God and the name of my God's city, the new Yerushalayim coming down out of heaven from my God, and my own new name. (13) Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities." '

1Ki 7:21 He set up the pillars at the vestibule of the temple. He set up the pillar on the south and called its name Jachin, and he set up the pillar on the north and called its name Boaz. Jer 1:18-19 And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land. (19) They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, declares the LORD, to deliver you."

Isa 56:4-5 For thus says the LORD: "To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, (5) I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.



7



Philadelphia Church of St. John pillars



8



Sunset over Jerusalem from Mount of Olives



9

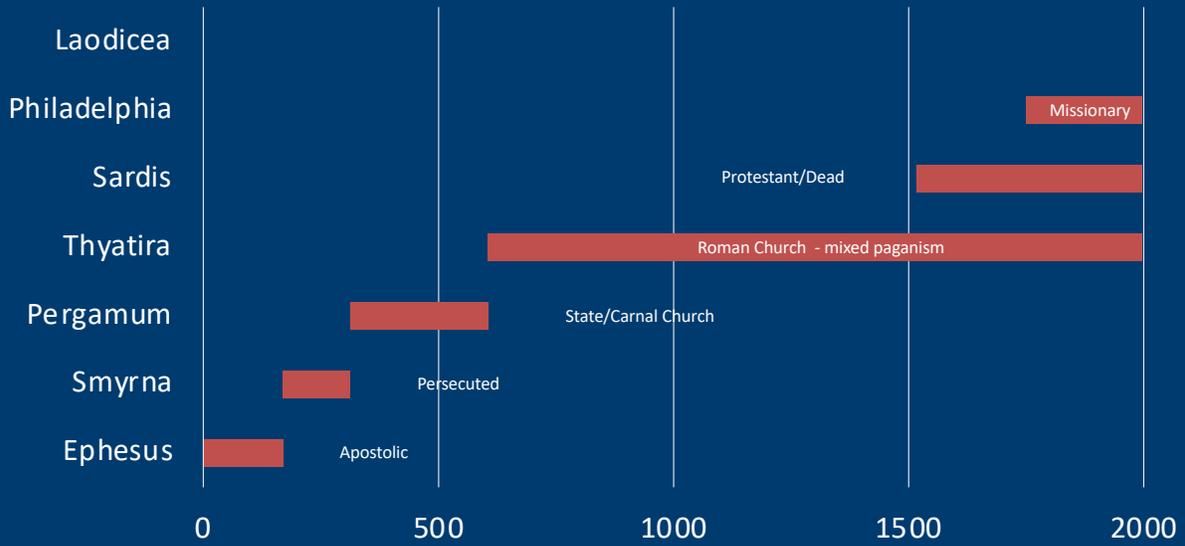
Does it fit?

- Church Age: Missionary Church Age
- Matthew 13 Parable: Pearl of Great Price
- Paul Letter: 1/2 Thessalonians



10

Does it fit? Church Age = Missionary/Evangelistic



11



Philadelphia Church of St. John architectural fragment

12

Parable: Sardis = Treasure in the Field

Matthew 13	Explanation
<p>Mat 13:45-46 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, (46) who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.</p>	<p>Unlike most gems that are mined from the earth, a pearl is made by a living organism. (the church) It grows in response to an introduced irritation. (persecution) It is then removed from its place of growth to become an item of adornment. (a pillar in the future Temple)</p>



13

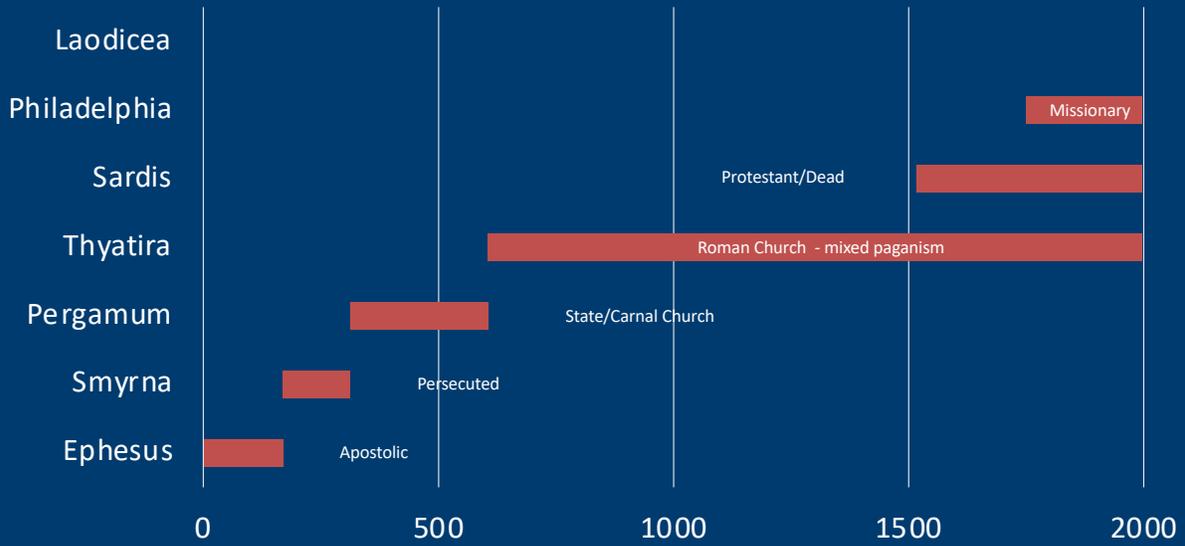
Paul: Philadelphia=Thessalonians

- No judgment
- Encouragement - 1 Thess 1:3
- Being effective witnesses - 1 Thes 2:10
- The coming of the Lord
 - Being kept from (preserved through) the time of trial 1 Th 4:13-18
 - Man of Lawlessness - 2 Th 2:1-12
 - Fake letter from those saying they were Jews but were not? - 2 Th 2:2
- Do not be idle - 2 Th 3



14

Does it fit? Church Age = Missionary/Evangelistic



15



Philadelphia Church of St. John architectural fragment

16

Parable: Sardis = Treasure in the Field

Matthew 13	Explanation
<p>Mat 13:45-46 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, (46) who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.</p>	<p>Unlike most gems that are mined from the earth, a pearl is made by a living organism. (the church) It grows in response to an introduced irritation. (persecution) It is then removed from its place of growth to become an item of adornment. (a pillar in the future Temple)</p>



17

Paul: Philadelphia=Thessalonians

- No judgment
- Encouragement - 1 Thess 1:3
- Being effective witnesses - 1 Thes 2:10
- The coming of the Lord
 - Being kept from (preserved through) the time of trial 1 Th 4:13-18
 - Man of Lawlessness - 2 Th 2:1-12
 - Fake letter from those saying they were Jews but were not? - 2 Th 2:2
- Do not be idle - 2 Th 3



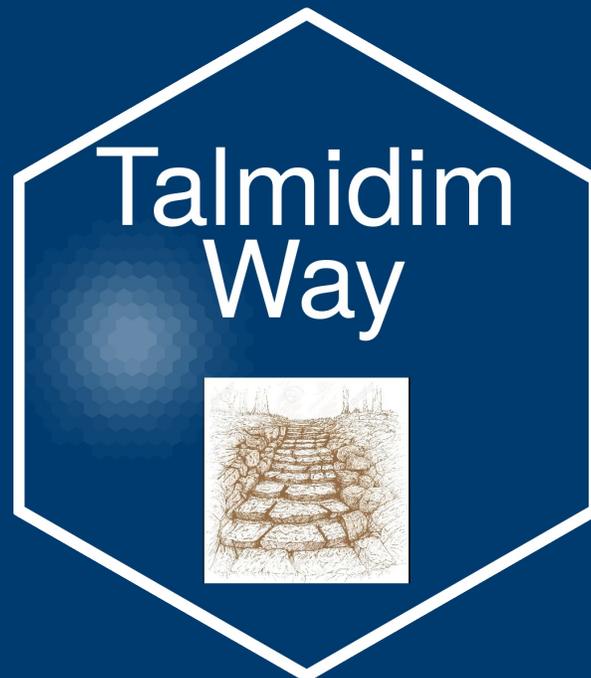
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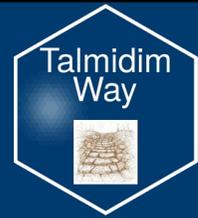


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20

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 12

Laodicea I - Historical Background

Revelation 3:14-22



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).

Unless otherwise noted, images courtesy of the Satellite Bible Atlas and the Pictorial Library of Bible Lands (BiblePlaces.org)



2

Topics

- Laodicea
 - Background
- Sevenfold structure of each letter:
 - Name of the city
 - Specific attributes of Messiah
 - ~~Praise~~
 - Judgment -
 - Encouragement
 - Promise to the Overcomer
 - "He who has an ear..."
- Does it fit? Apostate age / Dragnet / Colossians



3

Revelation 3:14-22 (CJB)

"To the angel of the Messianic Community in Laodicea, write: 'Here is the message from the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the Ruler of God's creation: (15) "I know what you are doing: you are neither cold nor hot. How I wish you were either one or the other! (16) So, because you are lukewarm, neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth! (17) For you keep saying, 'I am rich, I have gotten rich, I don't need a thing!' You don't know that you are the one who is wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked! (18) My advice to you is to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich; and white clothing, so that you may be dressed and not have to be ashamed of your nakedness; and eye salve to rub on your eyes, so that you may see. (19) As for me, I rebuke and discipline everyone I love; so exert yourselves, and turn from your sins! (20) Here, I'm standing at the door, knocking. If someone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he will eat with me. (21) I will let him who wins the victory sit with me on my throne, just as I myself also won the victory and sat down with my Father on his throne. (22) Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities." ' "



4

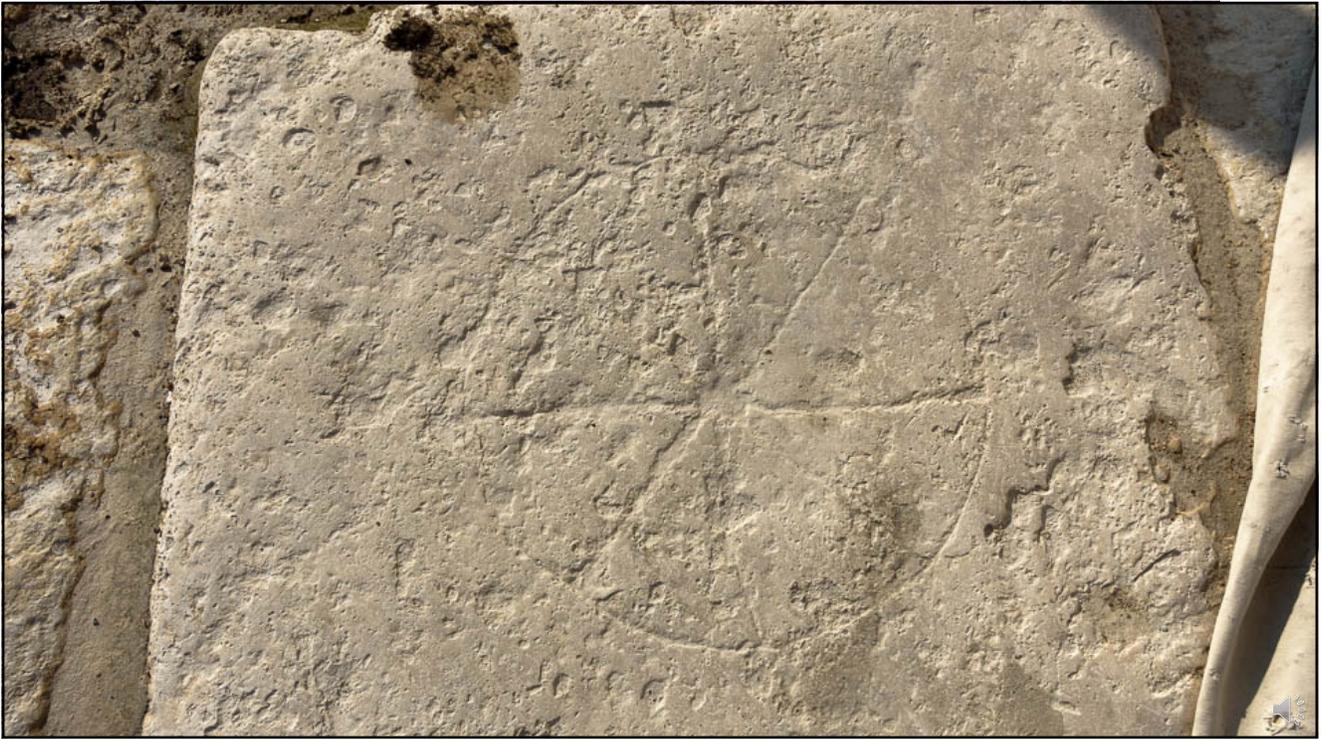


5



Laodicea Sacred Agora excavations

6



7



Laodicea nymphaeum of Septimus Severus

8



Yad HaShmonah olive press



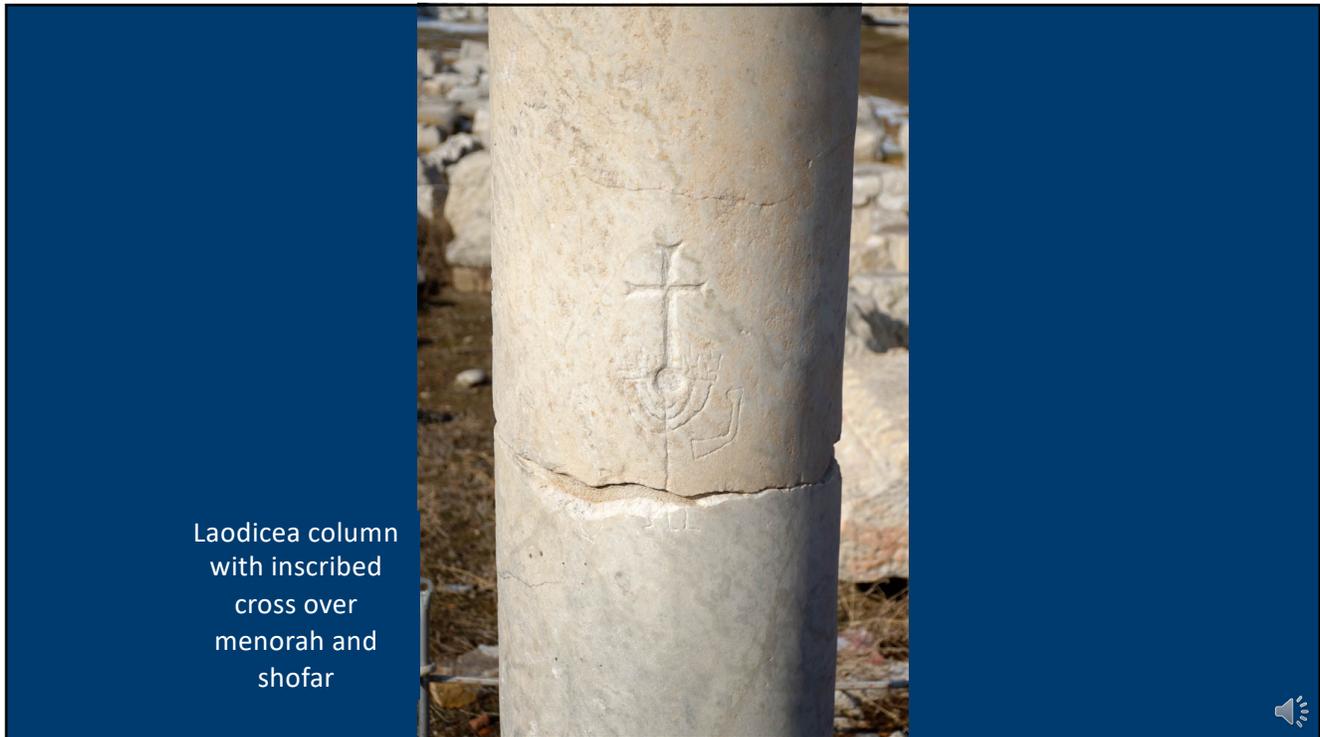
9



Laodicea south water distribution center



10



Laodicea column
with inscribed
cross over
menorah and
shofar

11

Colossians

- Col 1:7 just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf
- Col 2:1-4 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at **Laodicea** and for all who have not seen me face to face, (2) that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, (3) in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (4) I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.
- Col 4:15-17 Give my greetings to the brothers at **Laodicea**, and to Nympha and the church in her house. (16) And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the **Laodiceans**; and see that you also read the letter from **Laodicea**. And say to Archippus, "See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord."

12

Col 4:15 Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

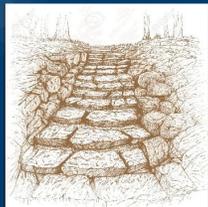


Laodicea peristyle house church with oratory

Col 4:15

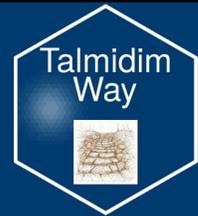
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Talmidim Way



14

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 12

Laodicea II

Revelation 3:14-22



1

Revelation 3	References
<p>Rev 3:14 "To the angel of the Messianic Community in Laodicea, write: 'Here is the message from the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the Ruler of God's creation:</p>	<p>Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created ... Joh 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) He was in the beginning with God. (3) All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.</p> <p>Isa 65:16 so that he who blesses himself in the land shall bless himself by the God of truth, and he who takes an oath in the land shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten and are hidden from my eyes.</p> <p>Deu 6:4 "Sh'mA, Yisra'el! Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai echaD</p>



2

- **אמן** – Amen. it doesn't just mean "the end" – in Hebrew it is a statement of affirmation
- **נאמן** – the faithful one
- **אמת** - truth
- Shema witness עד:



- Rev 3:14 Delitzch - ראשית בריאת האלהים
- Genesis 1:1 - בראשית ברא אלהים
- John 1:1 בראשית היה הדבר



3

Revelation 3	References
Rev 3:15-16 "I know what you are doing: you are neither cold nor hot. How I wish you were either one or the other! (16) So, because you are lukewarm, neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth!	<p>Lev 18:24-25 "Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean, (25) and the land became unclean so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants.</p> <p>1Ki 18:20-21 So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel. (21) And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word.</p> <p>Jas 1:8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.</p> <p>Mat 6:24 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money</p>



4

the land became unclean so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants.



Laodicea south water distribution center

Lev 18:25

5

And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him."



Muhraqa traditional place of Elijah's sacrifice

I Kings 18:21

6

No one can serve two masters



Sheep following their shepherd in the Judean wilderness

Matthew 6:24 

7

Revelation 3

Rev 3:17-19 For you keep saying, 'I am rich, I have gotten rich, I don't need a thing!' You don't know that you are the one who is wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked! (18) My advice to you is to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich; and white clothing, so that you may be dressed and not have to be ashamed of your nakedness; and eyesalve to rub on your eyes, so that you may see.

References

Hos 12:6-8 "So you, by the help of your God, return, hold fast to love and justice, and wait continually for your God." (7) A merchant, in whose hands are false balances, he loves to oppress. (8) Ephraim has said, "Ah, but I am rich; I have found wealth for myself; in all my labors they cannot find in me iniquity or sin."

Joh 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing



8

They presented to Him gifts, gold



Hoard of Roman gold coins, AD 54–160

Matthew 2:11 

9

I am the vine, you are the branches



Grapevine at Mashnaqa

John 15:5 

10

Revelation 3	References
Rev 3:19 As for me, I rebuke and discipline everyone I love; so exert yourselves, and turn from your sins!	<p>Pro 3:11-12 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, (12) for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights. (also quoted in Heb 12:6)</p> <p>Jas 5:19-20 My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, (20) let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.</p>

כִּי אֶת אֲשֶׁר יֶאֱהָב יְהוָה יוֹכִיחַ



11

Revelation 3	References
Rev 3:20 Here, I'm standing at the door, knocking. If someone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he will eat with me.	<p>Gen 3:8-9 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. (9) But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"</p> <p>Luke 22:28-30 "You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, (29) and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, (30) that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.</p> <p>Zec 1:4 Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets cried out, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.' But they did not hear or pay attention to me, declares the LORD.</p>



12

That you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom



Guests partaking of meal in upper room guest chamber

Luke 22:30 

13

Revelation 3

Rev 3:21 I will let him who wins the victory sit with me on my throne, just as I myself also won the victory and sat down with my Father on his throne.

References

Luk 22:28-30 “You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, (29) and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, (30) that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Heb 4:14-16 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. (15) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (16) Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.



14

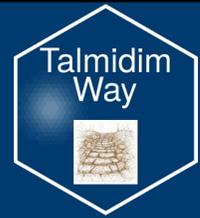
Revelation 3	References
Rev 3:22 Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities." ' "	He who has an ear 7x in Revelation and 7x in the Gospels:
	Mat 11:15, Mat 13:9, Mat, 13:43; Mar 4:9, Mar 4:23, Luk 8:8, Luk 14:34
	1Jn 5:4-5 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. (5) Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?
	Joh 16:33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

15



16

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 12

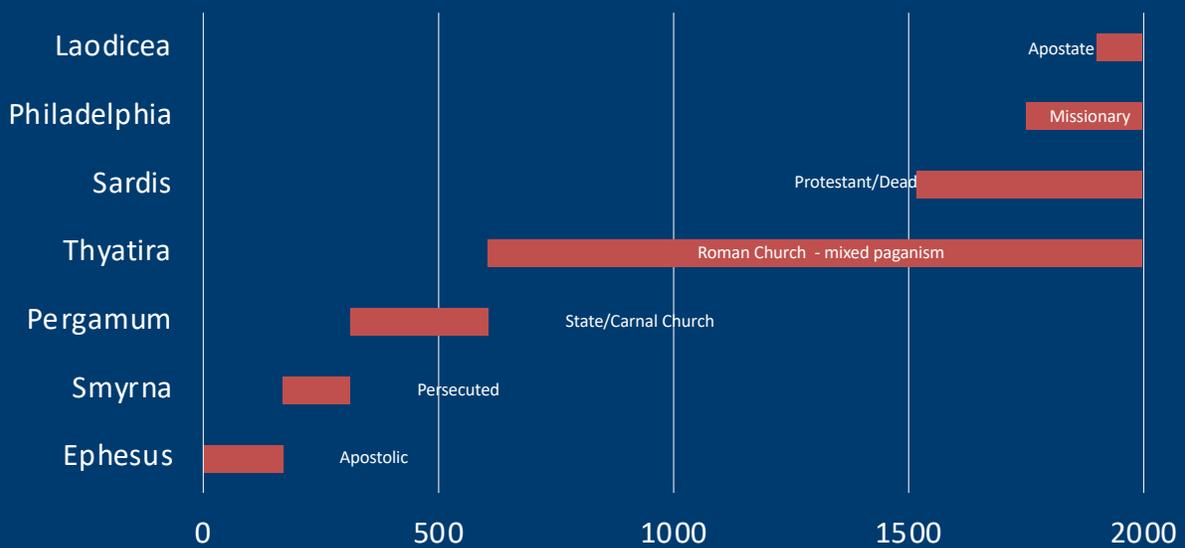
Laodicea III

Revelation 3:14-22



1

Does it fit? Church Age = Apostate/Worldly



2

- 2 Th 2:3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the **rebellion** comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction
- 2Co 6:14-18 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? (15) What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? (16) What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (17) Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, (18) and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."



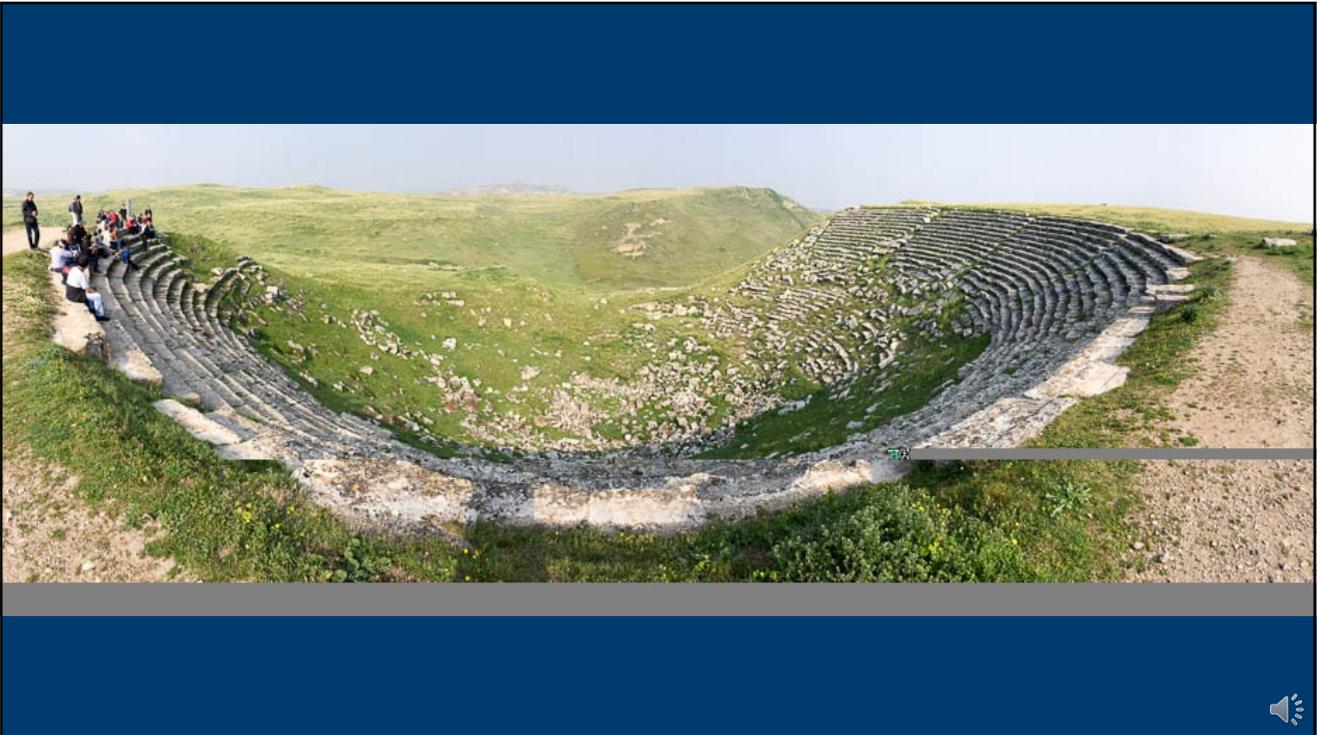
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Higher Criticism/Documentary Hypothesis

- Denied inerrancy
- Moses didn't write the Books of Moses / Deutero-Isaiah theory
- The "prophecies" were written after the fact and made to look like prophecies
- Jesus only said about 20% of the things He's quoted as saying
- Led to divide between "fundamentalists" and "modernists", while those in lukewarm church stressed "unity" and "tolerance"



4



5

Parable: Laodicea = Dragnet

Matthew 13

Mat 13:47-50 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. (48) When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. (49) So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous (50) and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Explanation

Here we see the separation of the good and the bad (and note the good remain while the bad are thrown away).

Jesus explains the parable in verses 49-50.

Laodicea was given the opportunity to repent. Human nature tells us that likely only a small remnant did, while a vast majority went on their way and perished.

6

Paul: Laodicea = Colossians

- Col 1:13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
- Col 1:15-16 He is the image of the invisible God, the **firstborn of all creation**. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.
- Col 2:4 I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.
- Col 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.



7

Paul: Laodicea = Colossians

- Col 2:16 Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.
 - It is usually taught that this verse is one that allows gentiles to eat anything, and it was "Judaizers" who were telling believers they must follow the Jewish law.
 - Wouldn't it be just as plausible, if not more likely, that the mostly Jewish assembly was trying to follow the Jewish dietary laws, Rosh Chodesh (a very minor holiday celebrating the first day of the month, which coincides with the arrival of the new moon), and keeping Shabbat in the face of pagan opposition?
 - Acts 17:11



8

Paul: Laodicea = Colossians

- Col 3:1-3 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (2) Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. (3) For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
- Col 3:5-6 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (6) On account of these the wrath of God is coming.



9

Paul: Laodicea = Colossians

- Col 4:10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and **Mark** the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him),
 - Compare Act_15:39 And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took **Mark** with him and sailed away to Cyprus,
 - Colossians was written after Acts 15
 - Mark was "redeemed"
- Col 4:14 Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does **Demas**.
 - Compare 2 Ti 4:10 For **Demas**, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.
 - Colossians was written BEFORE 2 Timothy
 - Demas, once a fellow worker (Phm 24), fell away
- Anyone can start well; an OVERCOMER finishes well

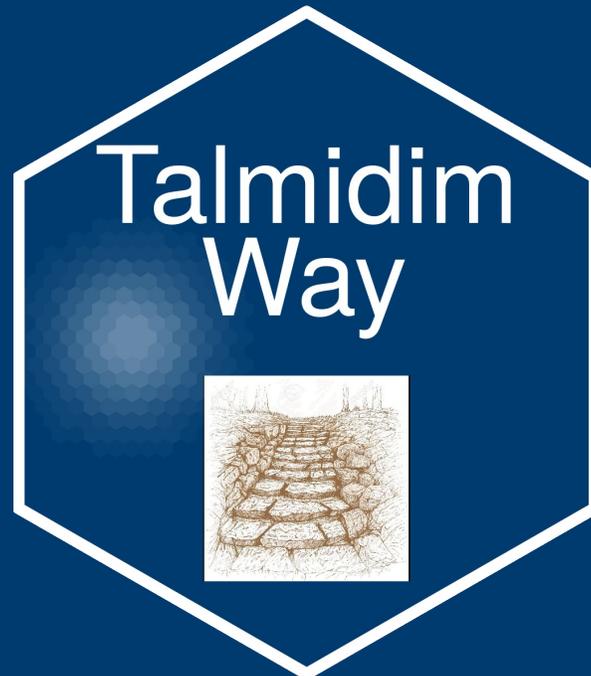


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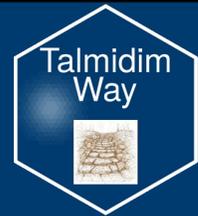
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11



12

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 13

The Heavenly Throne Room

Revelation 4



1

Isa 55:8-11 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. (9) For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (10) “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, (11) so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.



2

Acts 17:11 (KJV)
**These (Bereans) were more noble than those in
 Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all
 readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily,
 whether those things were so.**

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Unless otherwise noted, images courtesy of the Satellite Bible Atlas and the Pictorial Library of Bible Lands (BiblePlaces.org)



3

Revelation 4 (CJB)

After these things, I looked; and there before me was a door standing open in heaven; and the voice like a trumpet which I had heard speaking with me before said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things." (2) Instantly I was in the Spirit, and there before me in heaven stood a throne, and on the throne Someone was sitting. (3) The One sitting there gleamed like diamonds and rubies, and a rainbow shining like emerald encircled the throne. (4) Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and on the thrones sat twenty-four elders dressed in white clothing and wearing gold crowns on their heads. (5) From the throne came forth lightnings, voices and thunderings; and before the throne were seven flaming torches, which are the sevenfold Spirit of God. (6) In front of the throne was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living beings covered with eyes in front and behind. (7) The first living being was like a lion, the second living being was like an ox, the third living being had a face that looked human, and the fourth living being was like a flying eagle. (8) Each of the four living beings had six wings and was covered with eyes inside and out; and day and night they never stop saying, "Holy, holy, holy is Adonai, God of heaven's armies the One who was, who is and who is coming!" (9) And whenever the living beings give glory, honor and thanks to the One sitting on the throne, to the One who lives forever and ever, (10) the twenty-four elders fall down before the One sitting on the throne, who lives forever and ever, and worship him. They throw their crowns in front of the throne and say, (11) "You are worthy, Adonai Eloheinu, to have glory, honor and power, because you created all things—yes, because of your will they were created and came into being!"



4

Meta Tauta "after these things"

Revelation 4:1	References
<p>After these things, I looked; and there before me was a door standing open in heaven; and the voice like a trumpet which I had heard speaking with me before said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things."</p>	<p>"I looked, and behold."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eze 10:1 Then I looked, and behold, on the expanse that was over the heads of the cherubim there appeared above them something like a sapphire, in appearance like a throne. • Dan 10:5 I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist.



5

Heaven Opened

Revelation 4:1	References
<p>After these things, I looked; and there before me was a door standing open in heaven; and the voice like a trumpet which I had heard speaking with me before said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus promised this <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joh 1:51 And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." • This is the heavenly temple referenced in Hebrews. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heb 9:24 For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.



6

Heaven Opened

Revelation 4:1	References
<p>After these things, I looked; and there before me was a door standing open in heaven; and the voice like a trumpet which I had heard speaking with me before said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things."</p>	<p>Genesis 28:12-16 And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! (13) And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. (14) Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed."</p>



7

Heaven Opened

Revelation 4:1	References
<p>After these things, I looked; and there before me was a door standing open in heaven; and the voice like a trumpet which I had heard speaking with me before said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things."</p>	<p>Exodus 19:19-20 And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. (20) The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.</p>



8

Heaven Opened

Revelation 4:1	References
After these things, I looked; and there before me was a door standing open in heaven ; and the voice like a trumpet which I had heard speaking with me before said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things."	Isaiah 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne , high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.



9

Heaven Opened

Revelation 4:1	References
After these things , I looked; and there before me was a door standing open in heaven ; and the voice like a trumpet which I had heard speaking with me before said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things."	Daniel 7:1-2 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. (2) Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.



10

Come up here

Revelation 4:1	References
After these things, I looked; and there before me was a door standing open in heaven; and the voice like a trumpet which I had heard speaking with me before said, " Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things."	Exo 19:24 And the LORD said to him, "Go down, and come up bringing Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the LORD, lest he break out against them."



11

Spirit/Seated on a throne

Revelation 4:2	References
Instantly I was in (the) S/spirit , and there before me in heaven stood a throne, and on the throne, Someone was sitting.	<p>Eze 11:1 Then the S/spirit lifted me up and brought me to the East Gate of the LORD's house,</p> <p>Eze 11:24 Then the S/spirit took me up and brought me in a vision by the Spirit of God into Chaldea, to those in captivity. And the vision that I had seen went up from me.</p> <p>Isaiah 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.</p>



12

Jasper, Sardius, Emerald

Revelation 4:3	References
The One sitting there gleamed like diamonds (jasper) and rubies (carnelian/sardius), and a rainbow shining like an emerald encircled the throne.	Exodus 28:15-20 “You shall make a breastpiece of judgment, in skilled work. In the style of the ephod you shall make it—of gold, blue and purple and scarlet yarns, and fine twined linen shall you make it. (16) It shall be square and doubled, a span its length and a span its breadth. (17) You shall set in it four rows of stones. A row of sardius , topaz, and carbuncle shall be the first row; (18) and the second row an emerald , a sapphire, and a diamond; (19) and the third row a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; (20) and the fourth row a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper . They shall be set in gold filigree.



13

Rainbow

Revelation 4:3	References
The One sitting there gleamed like diamonds (jasper) and rubies (carnelian/sardius), and a rainbow shining like an emerald encircled the throne.	Ezekiel 1:26-28 And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance. (27) And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him. (28) Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain , so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking.



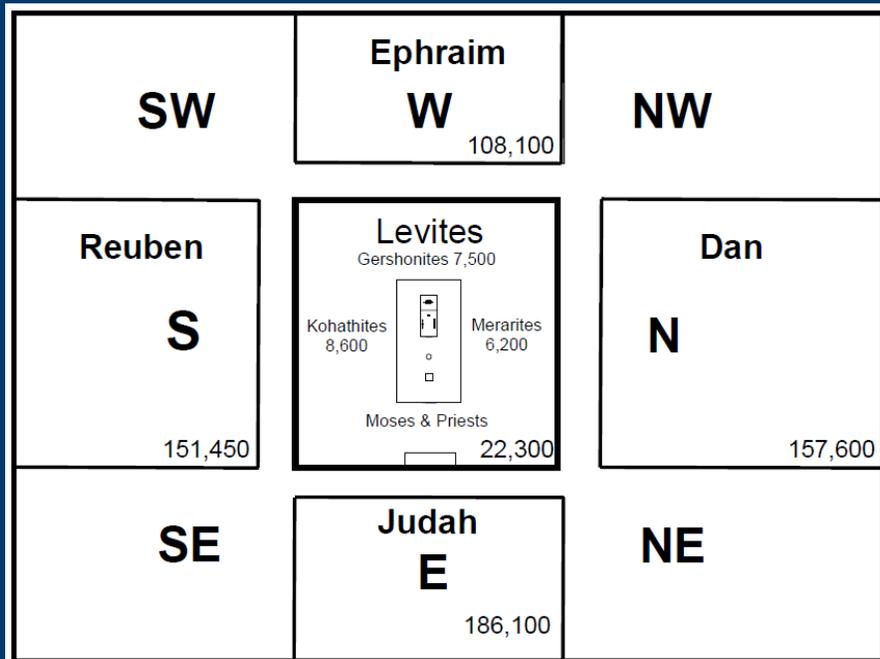
14

24 Elders

Revelation 4:4	References
<p>Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and on the thrones sat twenty-four elders dressed in white clothing and wearing gold crowns on their heads.</p>	<p>1 Chronicles 24:3b, 18 David organized them (<i>i.e., the Levitical priesthood</i>) according to the appointed duties in their service...the twenty-fourth to Maaziah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luk 1:5, 8-9 In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. (8) Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, (9) according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. (23) And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. 1Ch 24:10 the eighth to Abijah,



15



16

24 Elders = Priests?

Revelation 4:4	References
Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and on the thrones sat twenty-four elders dressed in white clothing and wearing gold crowns on their heads.	<p>Jethro: Exo 3:1 Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.</p> <p>Melchizedek: Gen 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.)</p> <p>US!: 1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.</p>



17

Crowns

Revelation 4:4	References
Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and on the thrones sat twenty-four elders dressed in white clothing and wearing gold crowns on their heads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown of life for those who love Him and suffer for His sake (Jas 1:12, Rev 2:10) • Crown of righteousness for those who loved his appearing (2 Tim 4:8) • Crown of glory for those who feed the flock (1 Pet 5:4) • Crown incorruptible for those who persevere (1 Cor 9:25) • Crown of rejoicing for those who win souls (1 Thes 2:19) • These are the "Bema seat" rewards for those whose works survived the judgment (gold, silver, precious stones, vs wood, hay, stubble 1 Cor 3).



18

Thunder, lightening, voices, fire

Revelation 4:5	References
From the throne came forth lightnings, voices, and thunderings; and before the throne were seven flaming torches, which are the sevenfold Spirit of God.	<p>Exo 19:16 Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ezekiel 1:4 As I looked, behold, a stormy wind came out of the north, and a great cloud, with brightness around it, and fire flashing forth continually, and in the midst of the fire, as it were gleaming metal. • Ezekiel 3:12 Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me the voice of a great earthquake: "Blessed be the glory of the LORD from its place!"



19

Shavuot/Pentecost

Revelation 4:5	References
From the throne came forth lightnings, voices, and thunderings; and before the throne were seven flaming torches, which are the sevenfold Spirit of God.	<p>Exo 19:16 Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act 2:1-3 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. (2) And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. (3) Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. (4) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.



20

Sea of Crystal

Revelation 4:6	References
In front of the throne was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal . In the center, around the throne, were four living beings covered with eyes in front and behind.	<p>1 Kings 7:23-25 Then he made the sea of cast metal. It was round, ten cubits from brim to brim, and five cubits high, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference. (24) Under its brim were gourds, for ten cubits, compassing the sea all around. The gourds were in two rows, cast with it when it was cast. (25) It stood on twelve oxen, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south, and three facing east. The sea was set on them, and all their rear parts were inward.</p> <p>Eze 1:22 The likeness of the firmament above the heads of the living creatures was like the color of an awesome crystal, stretched out over their heads.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gen 1:6-8 Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." (7) Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. (8) And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

21

Living Creatures/Eyes

Revelation 4:6	References
In front of the throne was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living beings covered with eyes in front and behind .	<p>Eze 10:12 And their whole body, their rims, and their spokes, their wings, and the wheels were full of eyes all around—the wheels that the four of them had.</p> <p>Psa 11:4 The LORD is in His holy temple, The LORD's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.</p>

22

Four Living Creatures

Revelation 4:7

The first living being was like a **lion**, the second living being was like an **ox**, the third living being had a face that looked **human**, and the fourth living being was like a flying **eagle**.

References

Ezekiel 1:5-11 (5) And from the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had a human likeness, (6) but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings. (7) Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the sole of a calf's foot. And they sparkled like burnished bronze. (8) Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. And the four had their faces and their wings thus: (9) their wings touched one another. Each one of them went straight forward, without turning as they went. (10) As for the likeness of their faces, each had a **human** face. The four had the face of a **lion** on the right side, the four had the face of an **ox** on the left side, and the four had the face of an **eagle**. (11) Such were their faces. And their wings were spread out above. Each creature had two wings, each of which touched the wing of another, while two covered their bodies.



23



24

Six wings - Holy Holy Holy

Revelation 4:8	References
<p>Each of the four living beings had six wings and was covered with eyes inside and out; and day and night they never stop saying, "Holy, holy, holy is Adonai, God of heaven's armies the One who was, who is and who is coming!"</p>	<p>Isaiah 6:2-3 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"</p>



25

He reigns forever

Revelation 4:9	References
<p>And whenever the living beings give glory, honor, and thanks to the One sitting on the throne, to the One who lives forever and ever,</p>	<p>Exodus 15: 18 The LORD will reign forever and ever.</p>



26

He reigns forever

Revelation 4:10-11

The twenty-four elders fall down before the One sitting on the throne, who lives forever and ever, and worship him. They throw their crowns in front of the throne and say, "You are worthy, Adonai Eloheinu, to have glory, honor and power, because you created all things—yes, because of your will they were created and came into being!"

References

1 Chr 29: 11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. 12 Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. 13 And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

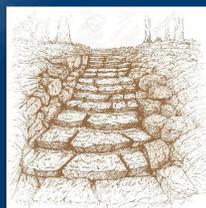
Isa 6:5 And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

Rev 1:17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last

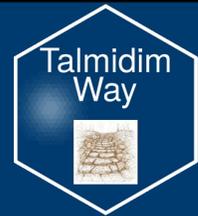


27

Talmidim Way



28



Revelation Backgrounds 14

Worthy to take the scroll
Selected Cross-references



1

5:1 Next I saw in the right hand of the One sitting on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals; (2) and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” (3) But no one in heaven, on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or look inside it. (4) I cried and cried, because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or look inside it. (5) One of the elders said to me, “Don’t cry. Look, the Lion of the tribe of Y’hudah, the Root of David, has won the right to open the scroll and its seven seals.” (6) Then I saw standing there with the throne and the four living beings, in the circle of the elders, a Lamb that appeared to have been slaughtered. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the sevenfold Spirit of God sent out into all the earth. (7) He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of the One sitting on the throne.



2

(8) When he took the scroll, the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down in front of the Lamb. Each one held a harp and gold bowls filled with pieces of incense, which are the prayers of God's people; (9) and they sang a new song, "You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals; because you were slaughtered; at the cost of blood you ransomed for God persons from every tribe, language, people and nation. (10) You made them into a kingdom for God to rule, cohanim to serve him; and they will rule over the earth." (11) Then I looked, and I heard the sound of a vast number of angels—thousands and thousands, millions and millions! They were all around the throne, the living beings and the elders; (12) and they shouted out, "Worthy is the slaughtered Lamb to receive power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory and praise!" (13) And I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth and on the sea—yes, everything in them—saying, "To the One sitting on the throne and to the Lamb belong praise, honor, glory and power forever and ever!" (14) The four living beings said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshipped.



3

One sitting on the throne

Revelation 5:1	References
Next I saw in the right hand of the One sitting on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals;	<p>Dan 7:9 "As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire.</p> <p>Isa 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.</p>



4

Scroll written on both sides

Revelation 5:1	References
Next I saw in the right hand of the One sitting on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals;	Exo 32:15-16 Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets that were written on both sides; on the front and on the back they were written. (16) The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.

5

Scroll written on both sides

Revelation 5:1	References
Next I saw in the right hand of the One sitting on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals;	Jer 32:9-15 "And I bought the field at Anathoth from Hanamel my cousin, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. (10) I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. (11) Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions and the open copy. (12) And I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch the son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of Hanamel my cousin, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. (13) I charged Baruch in their presence, saying, (14) 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware vessel, that they may last for a long time. (15) For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.'

6

Scroll written on both sides

Revelation 5:1	References
Next I saw in the right hand of the One sitting on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals;	Ezek 2:9 And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. 10 And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

7

Scroll with Seven Seals

Revelation 5:1	References
Next I saw in the right hand of the One sitting on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals ;	Rev 22:18-19 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, (19) and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.



8

What is the scroll?

Revelation 5:1	References
Next I saw in the right hand of the One sitting on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals;	Exo 32:32-33 But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written.” (33) But the LORD said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book

9

Who is worthy?

Revelation 5:2-4	References
And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” But no one in heaven, on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or look inside it. I cried and cried, because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or look inside it.	Is 29:1 And the vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying, “Read this,” he says, “I cannot, for it is sealed.” Dan 12:9 He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end. Rth 2:20 And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “May he be blessed by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!” Naomi also said to her, “The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers.”

10

Sobbed Convulsively

Revelation 5:2-4	References
<p>And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" But no one in heaven, on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or look inside it. I cried and cried, because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or look inside it.</p>	<p>John 11:35 Jesus wept. (shed a tear)</p> <p>Luke 19:41 And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, (sobbed convulsively)</p> <p>Dan 7:28 "Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart."</p>



11

Lion of the Tribe of Judah

Revelation 5:5	References
<p>One of the elders said to me, "Don't cry. Look, the Lion of the tribe of Y'hudah, the Root of David, has won the right to open the scroll and its seven seals."</p>	<p>Gen 49:9 Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute (or "Shiloh") comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.</p>



12

Root of David

Revelation 5:5	References
<p>One of the elders said to me, "Don't cry. Look, the Lion of the tribe of Y'hudah, the Root of David, has won the right to open the scroll and its seven seals."</p>	<p>Isaiah 11:1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit</p> <p>Isa 11:10-12 In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations (i.e., "gentiles") inquire, and his resting (or "dwelling") place shall be glorious. (11) In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people (Israel), from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea. (12) He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.</p> <p>Isa 66:8 Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? Shall a nation be brought forth in one moment? For as soon as Zion was in labor she brought forth her children.</p> 

13

Root of David

Revelation 5:5	References
<p>One of the elders said to me, "Don't cry. Look, the Lion of the tribe of Y'hudah, the Root of David, has won the right to open the scroll and its seven seals."</p>	<p>Mat 1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.</p> <p>Luk 1:31-33 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. (32) He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, (33) and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."</p>

14

Lamb that has been slain

Revelation 5:6

Then I saw standing there with (in the midst of) the throne and the four living beings, in the circle of the elders, a **Lamb that appeared to have been slaughtered**. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the sevenfold Spirit of God sent out into all the earth.

References

Exo 12:21 Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb.

Exo 12:13 The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt

Is 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter

John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"



15

Lion and the Lamb

Revelation 5

5:5 "Don't cry. Look, the **Lion of the tribe of Y'hudah,**

5:6 a **Lamb that appeared to have been slaughtered.**

References



16

Seven Horns / Seven Eyes

Revelation 5:6	References
<p>Then I saw standing there with (in the midst of) the throne and the four living beings, in the circle of the elders, a Lamb that appeared to have been slaughtered. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the sevenfold Spirit of God sent out into all the earth.</p>	<p>Psa 75:4-5 I say to the boastful, 'Do not boast,' and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up your horn; (5) do not lift up your horn on high, or speak with haughty neck.'"</p> <p>Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.</p> <p>Zec 3:9 For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua (the high priest), on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day.</p> <p>Zec 4:10 For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. "These seven are the eyes of the LORD, which range through the whole earth."</p>

17

One worthy to take the scroll

Revelation 5:7-8	References
<p>He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of the One sitting on the throne. When he took the scroll, the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down in front of the Lamb. Each one held a harp and gold bowls filled with pieces of incense, which are the prayers of God's people;</p>	<p>Dan 7:13-14 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. (14) And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.</p> <p>Psa 141:2 Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!</p>

18

New Song / Blood

Revelation 5:9-10	References
<p>and they sang a new song, "You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals; because you were slaughtered; at the cost of blood you ransomed for God persons from every tribe, language, people and nation. You made them into a kingdom for God to rule, cohanim to serve him; and they will rule over the earth."</p>	<p>Isa 42:9-12 Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them." (10) Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the end of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants. (11) Let the desert and its cities lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits; let the habitants of Sela sing for joy, let them shout from the top of the mountains. (12) Let them give glory to the LORD, and declare his praise in the coastlands. Psa 33:3 Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.</p>

19

Kingdom and Priesthood

Revelation 5:9-10	References
<p>and they sang a new song, "You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals; because you were slaughtered; at the cost of blood you ransomed for God persons from every tribe, language, people and nation. You made them into a kingdom for God to rule, cohanim to serve him; and they will rule over the earth."</p>	<p>Exo 19:4-6 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. (5) Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; (6) and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." Daniel 7:18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.' Daniel 7:27 And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven. 1 Pe 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.</p>

20

Kingdom and Priesthood

Revelation 5:11-12	References
Then I looked, and I heard the sound of a vast number of angels—thousands and thousands, millions and millions! They were all around the throne, the living beings, and the elders; and they shouted out, “Worthy is the slaughtered Lamb to receive power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and praise!”	<p>Deut 33:2 He said, “The LORD came from Sinai and dawned from Seir upon us; he shone forth from Mount Paran; he came from the ten thousands of holy ones, with flaming fire at his right hand.</p> <p>Daniel 7:14 “all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him”</p> <p>Note the group of seven praises in verse 12.</p>



21

Every knee bows / The אָמֵן

Revelation 5:13-14	References
And I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth and on the sea—yes, everything in them—saying, “To the One sitting on the throne and to the Lamb belong praise, honor, glory and power forever and ever!” The four living beings said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshipped.	<p>Isa 45:23 By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: ‘To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.’</p>



22

Conclusion

- Paul exhorts us to remember Jesus in His glorified state described in Revelation 4-5!
- Php 2:5-11 **Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, (6) who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (8) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (9) Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, (10) so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (11) and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**



23

Conclusion

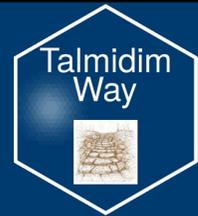
- Where is "your" Jesus?
 - Still hanging on a cross?
 - The ONLY ONE worthy to take the scroll?
- How Big is your God?



24



25



Revelation Backgrounds 15

The Birth Pains Selected Cross-references

Revelation 6



1

6:1 Next, I watched as the Lamb broke the first of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living beings say in a thundering voice, “Go!” (2) I looked, and there in front of me was a white horse; its rider had a bow and was given a crown, and he rode off as a conqueror to conquer. (3) When he broke the second seal, I heard the second living being say, “Go!” (4) Another horse went out, a red one; and its rider was given the power to take peace away from the earth and make people slaughter each other. He was given a great sword. (5) When he broke the third seal, I heard the third living being say, “Go!” I looked, and there in front of me was a black horse, and its rider held in his hand a pair of scales. (6) Then I heard what sounded like a voice from among the four living beings say, “Two pounds of wheat for a day’s wages! Six pounds of barley for the same price! But don’t damage the oil or the wine!” (7) When he broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living being say, “Go!” (8) I looked, and there in front of me was a pallid, sickly-looking horse. Its rider’s name was Death, and Sh’ol followed behind him. They were given authority to kill one-quarter of the world by war, by famine, by plagues and with the wild animals of the earth.



2

(9) When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been put to death for proclaiming the Word of God, that is, for bearing witness. (10) They cried out in a loud voice, "Sovereign Ruler, HaKadosh, the True One, how long will it be before you judge the people living on earth and avenge our blood?" (11) Each of them was given a white robe; and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow-servants should be reached, of their brothers who would be killed, just as they had been. (12) Then I watched as he broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake, the sun turned black as sackcloth worn in mourning, and the full moon became blood-red. (13) The stars fell from heaven to earth just as a fig tree drops its figs when shaken by a strong wind. (14) The sky receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place. (15) Then the earth's kings, the rulers, the generals, the rich and the mighty—indeed, everyone, slave and free—hid himself in caves and among the rocks in the mountains, (16) and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of the One sitting on the throne and from the fury of the Lamb! (17) For the Great Day of their fury has come, and who can stand?"

3

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse



4

Four Horsemen

- Zec 1:8-11 “I saw in the night, and behold, a man riding on a red horse! He was standing among the myrtle trees in the glen, and behind him were red, sorrel, and white horses. (9) Then I said, ‘What are these, my lord?’ The angel who talked with me said to me, ‘I will show you what they are.’ (10) So the man who was standing among the myrtle trees answered, ‘These are they whom the LORD has sent to patrol the earth.’ (11) And they answered the angel of the LORD who was standing among the myrtle trees, and said, ‘We have patrolled the earth, and behold, all the earth remains at rest.’



5

Four Horsemen

- Zec 6:1-8 Again I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, four chariots came out from between two mountains. And the mountains were mountains of bronze. (2) The first chariot had red horses, the second black horses, (3) the third white horses, and the fourth chariot dappled horses—all of them strong. (4) Then I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, “What are these, my lord?” (5) And the angel answered and said to me, “These are going out to the four winds of heaven (cf. Rev 7:1), after presenting themselves before the Lord of all the earth. (6) The chariot with the black horses goes toward the north country, the white ones go after them, and the dappled ones go toward the south country.” (7) When the strong horses came out, they were impatient to go and patrol the earth. And he said, “Go, patrol the earth.” So they patrolled the earth.



6

All these are the beginning of birth pains

- Mat 24:4-9 And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. (5) For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. (6) And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. **See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.** (7) For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. (8) All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. (9) “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake.



7

All these are the beginning of birth pains

- Luke 21:28 Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”



8

The first seal

Revelation 6:1

Next I watched as the Lamb broke the first of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living beings say in a thundering voice, "Go!"

References

Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live,
Psa 50:4 He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:



9

1. White: conquest (false peace?)

Revelation 6:2

I looked, and there in front of me was a white horse; its rider had a bow and was given a crown; and he rode off as a conqueror to conquer.

References



10

1. White: conquest (false peace?)

Revelation 6:2	Who?
I looked, and there in front of me was a white horse; its rider had a bow and was given a crown; and he rode off as a conqueror to conquer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus • Gospel Message • False Messiah - • A member of God's divine council with a task to conquer, similar to the "Destroyer"/"Death Angel" of Exodus 12:23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.

11

1. White: conquest (false peace?)

Revelation 6:2	Reference
I looked, and there in front of me was a white horse; its rider had a bow and was given a crown; and he rode off as a conqueror to conquer.	<p>Mat 24:5 For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray.</p> 

12

2. Red: war

Revelation 6:3-4

When he broke the second seal, I heard the second living being say, "Go!" Another horse went out, a red one; and its rider was **given the power** to take peace away from the earth and make people slaughter each other. He was given a great sword.

References

Mat 24:10 And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.
Red = War.

- Rev 12:3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems.
- Rev 17:3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.



13

3. Black: famine leading to rationing

Revelation 6:5-6

When he broke the third seal, I heard the third living being say, "Go!" I looked, and there in front of me was a black horse, and its rider held in his hand a pair of scales. Then I heard what sounded like a voice from among the four living beings say, "Two pounds of wheat for a day's wages! Six pounds of barley for the same price! But don't damage the oil or the wine!"

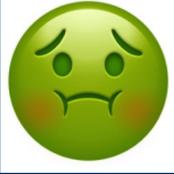
References

Lev 26:26 When I break your supply of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in a single oven and shall dole out your bread again by weight, and you shall eat and not be satisfied.
Eze 4:10 And your food that you eat shall be by weight, twenty shekels a day; from day to day you shall eat it.
Mat 24:7 and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.



14

4. Pale: famine and pestilence

Revelation 6:7-8	References
<p>When he broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living being say, "Go!" I looked, and there in front of me was a pallid, sickly-looking horse. Its rider's name was Death, and Sh'ol followed behind him. They were given authority to kill one-quarter of the world by war, by famine, by plagues and with the wild animals of the earth.</p>	<p>Eze 14:21 "For thus says the Lord GOD: How much more when I send upon Jerusalem my four disastrous acts of judgment, sword, famine, wild beasts, and pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast!"</p> 

15

5. Martyrs

Revelation 6:9	References
<p>When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been put to death for proclaiming the Word of God, that is, for bearing witness.</p>	<p>Lev 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.</p> <p>Hebrews 9:23-24: Thus, it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.</p>

16

5. Martyrs

Revelation 6:10	References
They cried out in a loud voice, "Sovereign Ruler, HaKadosh, the True One, how long will it be before you judge the people living on earth and avenge our blood? "	<p>Gen 4:10 And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground.</p> <p>Mat 23:35 so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.</p> <p>Deu 32:43 "Rejoice with him, O heavens; bow down to him, all gods, for he avenges the blood of his children and takes vengeance on his adversaries. He repays those who hate him and cleanses his people's land."</p> <p>Psa 79:10 Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Let the avenging of the outpoured blood of your servants be known among the nations before our eyes!</p>

17

5. Martyrs

Revelation 6:10	References
They cried out in a loud voice, "Sovereign Ruler, HaKadosh, the True One, how long will it be before you judge the people living on earth and avenge our blood? "	<p>Psa 13:1-2 To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? (2) How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?</p> <p>Zec 1:12 Then the angel of the LORD said, 'O LORD of hosts, how long will you have no mercy on Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, against which you have been angry these seventy years?'</p> <p>Rom 12:19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."</p> <p>Mat 5:44-45 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.</p>

18

5. Martyrs

Revelation 6:11	References
Each of them was given a white robe ; and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants should be reached , of their brothers who would be killed, just as they had been.	<p>Rev 17:6 And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I marveled greatly.</p> <p>Rev 18:24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth.”</p> <p>Genesis 15:14-16: But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”</p>

19

6. Earthquake, sun to black

Revelation 6:12-14	References
Then I watched as he broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake, the sun turned black as sackcloth worn in mourning, and the full moon became blood-red. The stars fell from heaven to earth just as a fig tree drops its figs when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place.	<p>Mat 24:29 “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”</p>



20

6. Earthquake, sun to black

Revelation 6:12-14

Then I watched as he broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake, the sun turned black as sackcloth worn in mourning, and the full moon became blood-red. The stars fell from heaven to earth just as a fig tree drops its figs when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place.

References

Exo 10:21 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness to be felt."
Isa 13:9-10 Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it. (10) For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light.



21

6. Fig tree



just as a fig tree drops its figs when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place.

References

Mat 24:32-33 From the fig tree, learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. (33) So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates.
Isa 34:4 All the host of heaven shall rot away, and the skies roll up like a scroll. All their host shall fall, as leaves fall from the vine, like leaves falling from the fig tree.



22

6. Hide in Caves

Revelation 6:15-17

Then the earth's kings, the rulers, the generals, the rich and the mighty—indeed, everyone, slave and free—**hid himself in caves** and among the rocks in the mountains and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of the One sitting on the throne and from the fury of the Lamb! For the Great Day of their fury has come, and who can stand?"

References

Jos 10:16-19 These five kings fled and hid themselves in the cave at Makkedah. (17) And it was told to Joshua, "The five kings have been found, hidden in the cave at Makkedah." (18) And Joshua said, "Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave and set men by it to guard them, (19) but do not stay there yourselves. Pursue your enemies; attack their rear guard. Do not let them enter their cities, for the LORD your God has given them into your hand."



23

6. Who can stand?

Revelation 6:15-17

Then the earth's kings, the rulers, the generals, the rich and the mighty—indeed, everyone, slave and free—hid himself in caves and among the rocks in the mountains and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of the One sitting on the throne and from the fury of the Lamb! For the **Great Day of their fury has come, and who can stand?**"

References

Joe 2:11 The LORD utters his voice before his army, for his camp is exceedingly great; he who executes his word is powerful. For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome; who can endure it?
 Mal 3:2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.
 Mar 13:20 And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days.



24

"Prophecy is Pattern" - the Plagues of Egypt

Plague	Exodus	Revelation
Water to Blood	Exo 7:14-24	Rev 8:8 ; Rev 11:6 ; Rev 16:4-5
Frogs	Exo 8:1-15	Rev 16:13-14
Lice	Exo 8:16-19	Rev 6:8 ; Rev 9:20
Flies	Exo 8:20-32	Rev 6:8
Pestilence	Exo 9:1-7	Rev 6:8
Boils	Exo 9:10-12	Rev 16:1-2, 11
Hail/fire	Exo 9:13-35	Rev 8:7 ; Rev 16:21
Locusts	Exo 10:1-20	Rev 9:2-11
Darkness	Exo 10:21-29	Rev 8:12 , Rev 16:10

25

Death of the Firstborn

- Ex 12:29 At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock.
- Ex 11:6 There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, **such as there has never been, nor ever will be again.**
- Rev 5:6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, **as though it had been slain,**

26

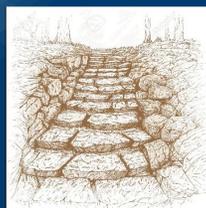
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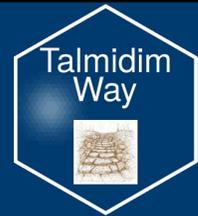
27

Talmidim Way



28

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 16

The 144,000
Selected Cross-references

Revelation 7



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).



2

Revelation 7

After this, I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the land, on the sea or on any tree. I saw another angel coming up from the east with a seal from the living God, and he shouted to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea, "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads!" I heard how many were sealed—144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el: From the tribe of Y'hudah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Re'uven 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000, from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naftali 12,000, from the tribe of M'nasheh 12,000, from the tribe of Shim`on 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Yissakhar 12,000, from the tribe of Z'vulun 12,000, from the tribe of Yosef 12,000, from the tribe of Binyamin 12,000.



3

After this, I looked; and there before me was a huge crowd, too large for anyone to count, from every nation, tribe, people and language. They were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palm branches in their hands; and they shouted, "Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" All the angels stood around the throne, the elders and the four living beings; they fell face down before the throne and worshipped God, saying, "Amen! "Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks, honor and power and strength belong to our God forever and ever! "Amen!" One of the elders asked me, "These people dressed in white robes—who are they, and where are they from?" "Sir," I answered, "you know."



4

Then he told me, "These are the people who have come out of the Great Persecution. They have washed their robes and made them white with the blood of the Lamb. That is why they are before God's throne. "Day and night they serve him in his Temple; and the One who sits on the throne will put his Sh'khinah upon them. "They will never again be hungry, they will never again be thirsty, the sun will not beat down on them, nor will any burning heat. "For the Lamb at the center of the throne will shepherd them, will lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."



5

Four corners/winds

Revelation 7:1	References
<p>After this, I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the land, on the sea or on any tree.</p>	<p>Zech 6:1,4-5 Again I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, four chariots ...Then I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?" (5) And the angel answered and said to me, "These are going out to the four winds of heaven, after presenting themselves before the Lord of all the earth.</p>



6

The Seal of Protection

Revelation 7:2-3

I saw another angel coming up from the east with a seal from the living God, and he shouted to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea, "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads!"

References

Ex 12:13 The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.



7

The Seal of Protection

Revelation 7:2-3

I saw another angel coming up from the east with a **seal** from the living God, and he shouted to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea, "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until **we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads!**"

References

Rev 14:1 Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who **had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.**



8

The Seal of Protection

Revelation 7:2-3

... "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until **we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads!**"

Modern Hebrew letter **tav**
(Hebrew square)



Hebrew letter **tav** at the time of Ezekiel
(Paleo-Hebrew)



... said to him, "Pass through the sea, and **put a mark on the foreheads** of the servants of our God, and they will not be harmed. I will sigh and groan over all who are not marked on their foreheads, for they have committed in it." 5 And he said to them, "Hear my hearing, "Pass through the sea. Your eye shall not see, and your hand shall not touch, and you shall have no pity. Kill old men and young men, maidens, little children and women, **but touch no one on whom is the mark.** And begin at my sanctuary."

9

The Seal of Protection

Revelation 7:2-3

... "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until **we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads!**"

References

Rev 9:3-4 Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth. 4 They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but **only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.**

10

The Seal/Mark of the Beast

Revelation 7:2-3	References
<p>..."Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads!"</p>	<p>Rev 13:15-17 And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. 16 Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, 17 so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.</p>



11

The Seal of God's Word

Revelation 7:2-3	References
<p>..."Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads!"</p>	<p>Exo 13:9 And it shall be to you as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the law of the LORD may be in your mouth. For with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt.</p>



12

We are to be sealed with God's Word

Revelation 7:2-3



References

Deu 6:6-8 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 **You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.**



13

The 144,000

Revelation 7:4-8

I heard how many were sealed—144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el: From the tribe of Y'hudah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Re'uven 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000, from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naftali 12,000, from the tribe of M'nasheh 12,000, from the tribe of Shim'on 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Yissakhar 12,000, from the tribe of Z'vulun 12,000, from the tribe of Yosef 12,000, from the tribe of Binyamin 12,000.

References



14

The Redeemed 144,000

Revelation 7:4-8	References
I heard how many were sealed— 144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el:...	Rev 14:1-3 Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, 3 and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

15

The Undeclared 144,000

Revelation 7:4	References
I heard how many were sealed— 144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el:	Rev 14: 4-5 It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

16

The Undefined 144,000 = an Army?

Rev 7:4	References
I heard how many were sealed—144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el:	1 Samuel 21:3-5 Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is here.” 4 And the priest answered David, “I have no common bread on hand, but there is holy bread—if the young men have kept themselves from women.” 5 And David answered the priest, “ Truly women have been kept from us as always when I go on an expedition. The vessels of the young men are holy even when it is an ordinary journey. How much more today will their vessels be holy? ”



17

The Undefined 144,000 = an Army?

Rev 7:4	References
I heard how many were sealed—144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el:	Numbers 31:2-5 “Avenge the people of Israel on the Midianites. Afterward you shall be gathered to your people.” 3 So Moses spoke to the people, saying, “Arm men from among you for the war, that they may go against Midian to execute the LORD’s vengeance on Midian. 4 You shall send a thousand from each of the tribes of Israel to the war. ” 5 So there were provided, out of the thousands of Israel, a thousand from each tribe, twelve thousand armed for war.



18

The Undefined 144,000 = an Army?

Rev 7:4	References
I heard how many were sealed— 144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el:	Num 31:48-49 Then the officers who were over the thousands of the army, the commanders of thousands and the commanders of hundreds, came near to Moses 49 and said to Moses, “Your servants have counted the men of war who are under our command, and there is not a man missing from us. ”



19

The Undefined 144,000 = an Army representing Firstfruits?

Rev 7:4	References
I heard how many were sealed— 144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el:	Rev 14: 4-5 It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless. Rom 11:16, 26: If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches... And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob” ;



20

The list of the 12 Tribes: A baker's dozen

Rev 7:4	References
I heard how many were sealed— 144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el: Y'hudah, Re'uven, Gad, Asher, Naftali, M'nasheh, Shim`on, Levi , Yissakhar, Z'vulun, Yosef, Binyamin	<p>Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Joseph, Benjamin</p> <p>Joseph later split into two "half-tribes": Ephraim and Manasseh</p> <p>Omit Levi: Reuben, Simeon, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Benjamin, Ephraim and Manasseh</p>

21

The list of the 12 Tribes: Levi?

Rev 7:4	References
I heard how many were sealed— 144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el: Y'hudah, Re'uven, Gad, Asher, Naftali, M'nasheh, Shim`on, Levi , Yissakhar, Z'vulun, Yosef, Binyamin	Num 1:49-50 "Only the tribe of Levi you shall not list, and you shall not take a census of them among the people of Israel. 50 But appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the testimony, and over all its furnishings, and over all that belongs to it. They are to carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings, and they shall take care of it and shall camp around the tabernacle.

22

The list of the 12 Tribes: Dan?

Rev 7:4

I heard how many were sealed—
144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el: Y'udah, Re'uven, Gad, Asher, Naftali, **M'nasheh**, Shim'on, **Levi**, Yissakhar, Z'vulun, **Yosef**, Binyamin

References

Joh 6:70 Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.”



23

The list of the 12 Tribes: Ephraim

Rev 7:4

I heard how many were sealed—
144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el: Y'udah, Re'uven, Gad, Asher, Naftali, **M'nasheh**, Shim'on, **Levi**, Yissakhar, Z'vulun, **Yosef**, Binyamin

References

Hoseah 4:17 Ephraim is joined to idols; leave him alone.

24

The list of the 12 Tribes

Rev 7:4	References
<p>I heard how many were sealed— 144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el: Y'hudah, Re'uven, Gad, Asher, Naftali, M'nasheh, Shim'on, Levi, Yissakhar, Z'vulun, Yosef, Binyamin</p>	<p>2 Chr 15:9 And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and those from Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon who were residing with them, for great numbers had deserted to him from Israel when they saw that the LORD his God was with him.</p> <p>Jas 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.</p>

25

After this

Revelation 7:9	References
<p>After this, I looked; and there before me was a huge crowd, too large for anyone to count, from every nation, tribe, people and language. They were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palm branches in their hands;</p>	

26

Victory = Salvation!

Revelation 7:10-12

and they shouted, "Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" All the angels stood around the throne, the elders and the four living beings; they fell face down before the throne and worshipped God, saying, "Amen! "Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks, honor and power and strength belong to our God forever and ever! "Amen!"

References

Psa 98:2 The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.



27

Sir, you know

Revelation 7:13

One of the elders asked me, "These people dressed in white robes—who are they, and where are they from?" "Sir," I answered, "you know." Then he told me, "These are the people who have come out of the Great Persecution. They have washed their robes and made them white with the blood of the Lamb.

References

Eze 37:3 And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."



28

The Sheltering Shekinah

Revelation 7:15

That is why they are before God's throne. "Day and night they serve him in his Temple; and the One who sits on the throne **will put his Sh'khinah upon them.** (ESV: will shelter them with his presence.)

References

Eze 37:27 My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.



29

The Sheltering Shekinah

Revelation 7:15

That is why they are before God's throne. "Day and night they serve him in his Temple; and the One who sits on the throne **will put his Sh'khinah upon them.** (ESV: will shelter them with his presence.)

References

Rth 3:9-11 He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer." 10 And he said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. 11 And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman.



30

Shelter from the Heat

Revelation 7:16-17

“They will never again be hungry, they will never again be thirsty, the sun will not beat down on them, nor will any burning heat. “For the Lamb at the center of the throne will shepherd them, will lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”

References

Isa 4:5-6 Then the LORD will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory there will be a canopy. There will be a **booth (tabernacle) for shade by day from the heat**, and for a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.



31

Living Water

Revelation 7:16-17

“They will never again be hungry, they will never again be thirsty, the sun will not beat down on them, nor will any burning heat. “For the Lamb at the center of the throne will shepherd them, will lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”

References

Isa 49:10 they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by **springs of water** will guide them.



32

No more tears

Revelation 7:16-17

“They will never again be hungry, they will never again be thirsty, the sun will not beat down on them, nor will any burning heat. “For the Lamb at the center of the throne will shepherd them, will lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”

References

Isa 25:8 He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.



33

No more tears

Revelation 7:16-17

“They will never again be hungry, they will never again be thirsty, the sun will not beat down on them, nor will any burning heat. “For the Lamb at the center of the throne will shepherd them, will lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”

References

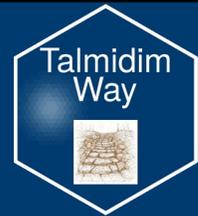
Revelation 21:4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Revelation 21:6 And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.



34

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 17

The Trumpet Judgments
Selected Cross-references

Revelation 8



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).



2

Revelation 8

When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake. Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them. The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.



3

The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter. The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night. Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!"



4

Review



5

Silence – silent prayers and intercessions

Revelation 8:1

When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

References

Luk 1:21 And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple.



6

Silence – silent prayers and intercessions

Revelation 8:1	References
When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.	Dan 6:10 When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.



7

Seven Angels/Trumpets

Revelation 8:2	References
Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.	Isa 27:13 And in that day a great trumpet will be blown, and those who were lost in the land of Assyria and those who were driven out to the land of Egypt will come and worship the LORD on the holy mountain at Jerusalem.



8

Incense prayers

Revelation 8:3-4

And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel.

References

Psa 141:2 Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!



9

Throw fire on earth

Revelation 8:5

Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

References

Eze 10:2 And he said to the man clothed in linen, "Go in among the whirling wheels underneath the cherubim. Fill your hands with burning coals from between the cherubim, and scatter them over the city." And he went in before my eyes.



10

First Trumpet-hail, ground, trees

Revelation 8:6-7

Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them. The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

References

Eze 5:12-13 A third part of you shall die of pestilence and be consumed with famine in your midst; a third part shall fall by the sword all around you; and a third part I will scatter to all the winds and will unsheathe the sword after them.



11

2nd Trumpet-mountain of fire

Revelation 8:8-9

The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

References

Jer 51:24-25 "I will repay Babylon and all the inhabitants of Chaldea before your very eyes for all the evil that they have done in Zion, declares the LORD. 25 "Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, declares the LORD, which destroys the whole earth; I will stretch out my hand against you, and roll you down from the crags, and make you a burnt mountain.



12

Third Trumpet – bitter water - Idolatry

Revelation 8:10-11

The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter.

References

Deu 29:18 Beware lest there be among you a man or woman or clan or tribe whose heart is turning away today from the LORD our God to go and serve the gods of those nations. Beware lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit



13

Third Trumpet – bitter water – adultery

Revelation 8:11

...many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter.

References

Heb 12:15-16 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; 16 that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal.

Pro 5:3-4 For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, 4 but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.



14

Third Trumpet – bitter water – general judgment

Revelation 8:11	References
...many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter.	Jer 9:15 (also Jer 23:15) Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will feed this people with bitter food, and give them poisonous water to drink.



15

Third Trumpet – bitter water – general suffering

Revelation 8:11	References
...many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter.	Lam 3:15 He has filled me with bitterness; he has sated me with wormwood. Rth 1:20-21 She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi (pleasantness); call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”



16

Fourth Angel – sun, moon, stars

Revelation 8:12

The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.

References

Joh 3:19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved (agape'd) the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.



17

Eagle – woe, woe, woe

Revelation 8:13

Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, “Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!”

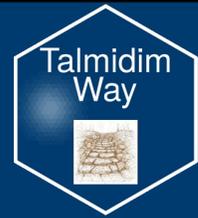
References

Luk 6:22 “**Blessed** are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man!
Luk 6:26 “**Woe** to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.



18

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 18

The Trumpet Judgments
Selected Cross-references

Revelation 9



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).



2

Revelation 9

The fifth angel sounded his shofar, and I saw a star that had fallen out of heaven onto the earth, and he was given the key to the shaft leading down to the Abyss. He opened the shaft of the Abyss, and there went up smoke from the shaft like the smoke of a huge furnace; the sun was darkened, and the sky too, by the smoke from the shaft. Then out of the smoke onto the earth came locusts, and they were given power like the power scorpions have on earth. They were instructed not to harm the grass on the earth, any green plant, or any tree, but only the people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. The locusts were not allowed to kill them, only to inflict pain on them for five months, and the pain they caused was like the pain of a scorpion sting. In those days, people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them. Now, these locusts looked like horses outfitted for battle. On their heads were what looked like crowns of gold, and their faces were like human faces. They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like those of lions. Their chests were like iron breastplates, and the sound their wings made was like the roar of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. They had tails like those of scorpions, with stings, and in their tails was their power to hurt people for five months. They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is "Abaddon" and in our language, "Destroyer."



3

The first woe has passed, but there are still two woes to come. The sixth angel sounded his shofar, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the gold altar before God, saying to the sixth angel, the one with the shofar, "Release the four angels that are bound at the great river Euphrates!" And they were released. These four angels had been kept ready for this moment, for this day and month and year, to kill a third of mankind, and the number of cavalry soldiers was two hundred million! —I heard the number. Here is how the horses looked in the vision: the riders had breastplates that were fire-red, iris-blue, and sulfur-yellow; the horses' heads were like lions' heads; and from their mouths issued fire, smoke, and sulfur. It was these three plagues that killed a third of mankind—the fire, smoke, and sulfur issuing from the horses' mouths. For the power of the horses was in their mouths—and also in their tails, for their tails were like snakes with heads, and with them, they could cause injury.



4

The rest of mankind, those who were not killed by these plagues, even then did not turn from what they had made with their own hands—they did not stop worshipping demons and idols made of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they turn from their murdering, their involvement with the occult and with drugs, their sexual immorality, or their stealing.



5

Joel 2

“Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD, is coming; it is near, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness, there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations. Fire devours before them, and behind them, a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them, but behind them, a desolate wilderness, and nothing escapes them. Their appearance is like the appearance of horses, and like war horses, they run. As with the rumbling of chariots, they leap on the tops of the mountains, like the crackling of a flame of fire devouring the stubble, like a powerful army drawn up for battle. Before them, peoples are in anguish; all faces grow pale. Like warriors, they charge; like soldiers, they scale the wall.



6

They march each on his way; they do not swerve from their paths. They do not jostle one another; each marches in his path; they burst through the weapons and are not halted. They leap upon the city, they run upon the walls, they climb up into the houses, they enter through the windows like a thief. The earth quakes before them; the heavens tremble. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. The LORD utters his voice before his army, for his camp is exceedingly great; he who executes his word is powerful. For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome; who can endure it? **“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;” Tear your heart, not your garments; and turn to ADONAI your God. For he is merciful and compassionate, slow to anger, rich in grace, and willing to change his mind about disaster.**



7

Key to the Abyss

Revelation 9:1	References
The fifth angel sounded his shofar, and I saw a star that had fallen out of heaven onto the earth, and he was given the key to the shaft leading down to the Abyss.	Gen 1:2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep .



8

And the herd rushed down the steep slope into the lake and were drowned



Area of Gadara harbor



9

The Abussos

Revelation 9:2

He opened the shaft of the Abyss, and there went up smoke from the shaft like the smoke of a huge furnace; the sun was darkened, and the sky too, by the smoke from the shaft.

References

Gen 19:28 And he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the valley, and he looked and, behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a furnace.



10

“Locusts” from the Abyss

Revelation 9:3	References
Then out of the smoke onto the earth came locusts, and they were given power like the power scorpions have on earth.	Exodus 10:12: 2 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, so that they may come upon the land of Egypt and eat every plant in the land, all that the hail has left.”



11

Unnatural Locusts

Revelation 9:4	References
They were instructed not to harm the grass on the earth, any green plant or any tree, but only the people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.	



12

A sting that lasts five months

Revelation 9:5	References
The locusts were not allowed to kill them, only to inflict pain on them for five months, and the pain they caused was like the pain of a scorpion sting.	Genesis 7:24 And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.



13

Death will elude them

Revelation 9:6	References
In those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.	Jeremiah 8:3 Death shall be preferred to life by all the remnant that remains of this evil family in all the places where I have driven them, declares the LORD of hosts.



14

Description of Locust Army

Revelation 9:7	References
<p>Now these locusts looked like horses outfitted for battle. On their heads were what looked like crowns of gold, and their faces were like human faces.</p>	<p>Judges 6:5 For they would come up with their livestock and their tents; they would come like locusts in number—both they and their camels could not be counted—so that they laid waste the land as they came in.</p>



15

Description of Locust Army

Revelation 9:8-9	References
<p>They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like those of lions. Their chests were like iron breastplates, and the sound their wings made was like the roar of many horses and chariots rushing into battle.</p>	



16

Abaddon

Revelation 9:10-12

They had tails like those of scorpions, with stings; and in their tails was their power to hurt people for five months. They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is "Abaddon" and in our language, "Destroyer." The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still to come.

References

Proverbs 30:27 the locusts have no king, yet all of them march in rank;
 Pro 27:20 Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, and never satisfied are the eyes of man
 Job 26:6 Sheol is naked before God, and Abaddon has no covering.



17

Sixth Angel - Euphrates

Revelation 9:13-15

The sixth angel sounded his shofar, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the gold altar before God, saying to the sixth angel, the one with the shofar, "Release the four angels that are bound at the great river Euphrates!" And they were released. These four angels had been kept ready for this moment, for this day and month and year, to kill a third of mankind;

References

30:1 "You shall make an altar on which to burn incense; 3 You shall overlay it with pure gold, its top and around its sides and its horns.



18

I heard a voice from the four horns of the gold altar before God,

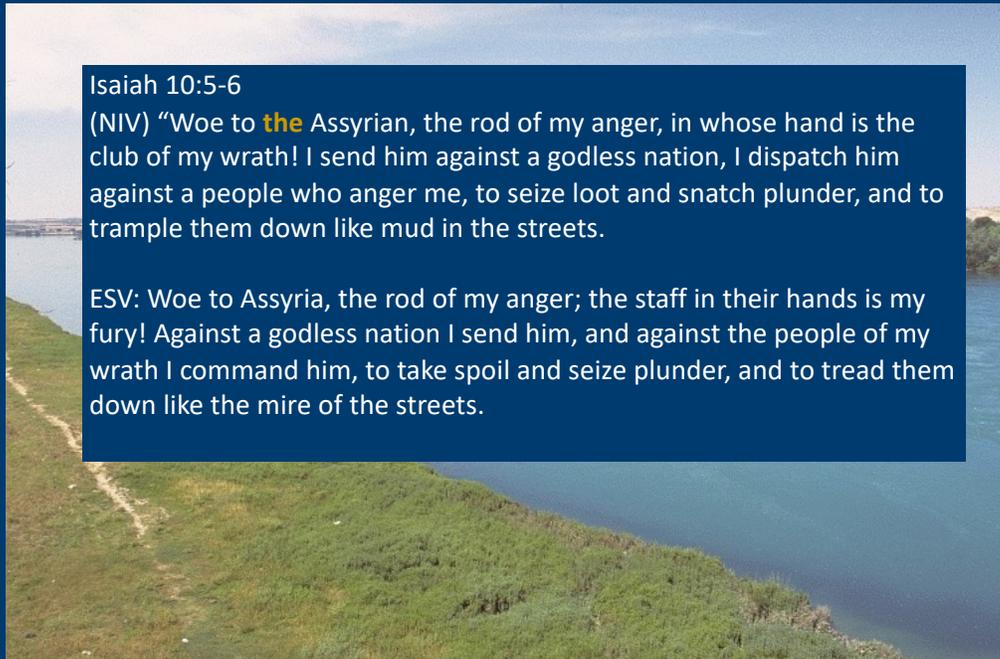


Tabernacle model incense altar

Revelation 9:13

19

Release the four angels that are bound at the great river Euphrates



Isaiah 10:5-6

(NIV) "Woe to **the** Assyrian, the rod of my anger, in whose hand is the club of my wrath! I send him against a godless nation, I dispatch him against a people who anger me, to seize loot and snatch plunder, and to trample them down like mud in the streets.

ESV: Woe to Assyria, the rod of my anger; the staff in their hands is my fury! Against a godless nation I send him, and against the people of my wrath I command him, to take spoil and seize plunder, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

Upper Euphrates River at Carchemish (ancient Assyria)

Luke 8:30-31

20

Silence – silent prayers and intercessions

Revelation 9:16-17

and the number of cavalry soldiers was two hundred million!—I heard the number. Here is how the horses looked in the vision: the riders had breastplates that were fire-red, iris-blue, and sulfur-yellow; the horses' heads were like lions' heads; and from their mouths issued fire, smoke, and sulfur.

References



21

Silence – silent prayers and intercessions

Revelation 9:18-19

It was these three plagues that killed a third of mankind—the fire, smoke, and sulfur issuing from the horses' mouths. For the power of the horses was in their mouths—and also in their tails, for their tails were like snakes with heads, and with them, they could cause injury.



22

Silence – silent prayers and intercessions

Revelation 9:20-21

The rest of mankind, those who were not killed by these plagues, even then did not turn from what they had made with their own hands—they did not stop worshipping demons and idols made of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they turn from their murdering, their involvement with the occult and with drugs, their sexual immorality or their stealing.

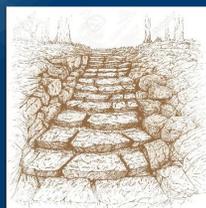
References

1 Cor 10:20 I do not want you to be participants with demons.



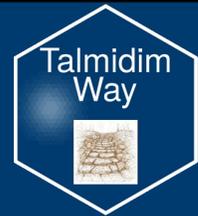
23

Talmidim Way



24

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 19

Seven Thunders
Selected Cross-references

Revelation 10



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).



2

Revelation 10

Next I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was dressed in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head; his face was like the sun, his legs like columns of fire; and he had a little scroll lying open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land and shouted in a voice as loud as the roar of a lion; and when he shouted, seven thunderclaps sounded with voices that spoke. When the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, "Seal up the things the seven thunders said, do not write them down!" Then the angel I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted his right hand toward heaven and swore by the One who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it:



3

"There will be no more delay; on the contrary, in the days of the sound from the seventh angel when he sounds his shofar, the hidden plan of God will be brought to completion, the Good News as he proclaimed it to his servants the prophets." Next, the voice which I had heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the scroll lying open in the hand of the angel standing on the sea and on the land!" So, I went over to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll; and he said to me, "Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach bitter, but in your mouth, it will be sweet as honey." I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it; and in my mouth, it was sweet as honey; but after I had swallowed it, my stomach turned bitter. Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages, and kings."



4

Daniel 12

“At that time shall arise, Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time, your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”



5

Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream. And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, “How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?” And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished. I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, “O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?” He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end. Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand.”



6

Another Mighty Angel

Revelation 10:1-3a

Then I saw **another mighty angel** coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun and his **legs** like pillars of fire. He had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, his left foot on the land, and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring.

References

Rev 5:2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?"



7

Little Scroll

Revelation 10:1-3a

Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun and his legs like pillars of fire. He had a **little scroll** open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, his left foot on the land, and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring.

References

Dan 10:6 His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude.



8

Seven Thunders Sealed

Revelation 10:3(b)-4

When he called out, the seven thunders sounded. And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down.”

References

Deut 29:29 “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.



9

Seven Thunders Sealed

Revelation 10:3(b)-4

When he called out, the seven thunders sounded. And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down.”

References

2 Cor 12 3 And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— 4 and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.



10

No More Delay

Revelation 10:5-6

And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay,

References

Dan 12:7 he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever
Rom 9:28 for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay.”



11

Mystery of God

Revelation 10:7

but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.

References/Mysteries

The Kingdom of Heaven - [Mt 13:11](#)
The Kingdom [Mark 4:11](#)
Israel's blindness [Rom 11:25](#)
The Rapture [1 Cor 15:51](#)
His Will [Eph 1:9](#)
Christ and the Church [Eph 5:32](#)
The Gospel [Eph 3:4](#); [Col 1:26-27](#); [4:3](#)
Iniquity [2 Thess 2:7](#)
God and Christ [Col 2:2](#)
The Faith [1 Tim 3:9](#)
Godliness [1 Tim 3:16](#)
The Seven Stars & Golden Lampstands [Rev 1:20](#)



12

Take and eat

Revelation 10:8-9

Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, "Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth, it will be sweet as honey."

References

Eze 3:1-3 Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. And he said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it." Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey.



13

God's Word is sweeter than Honey

Revelation 10:9



References

Ps 119:101-104 I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word. I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me. How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.



14

You Must Prophecy Again

Revelation 10:10-11

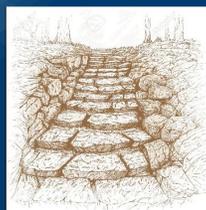
And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter. And I was told, "You must again prophecy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings."

References



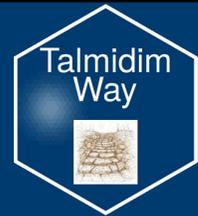
15

Talmidim Way



16

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 20

Two Witnesses
Selected Cross-references

Revelation 11



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).



2

Revelation 11

I was given a measuring rod like a stick and told, "Get up, and measure the Temple of God and the altar, and count how many people are worshipping there! But the court outside the Temple, leave that out; don't measure it; because it has been given to the Goyim, and they will trample over the holy city for forty-two months. "Also, I will give power to my two witnesses; and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, dressed in sackcloth." These are the two olive trees and the two menorahs standing before the Lord of the earth. If anyone tries to do them harm, fire comes out of their mouth and consumes their enemies—yes, if anyone tries to harm them, that is how he must die. They have the authority to shut up the sky so that no rain falls during the period of their prophesying; also, they have the authority to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want. When they finish their witnessing, the beast coming up out of the Abyss will fight against them, overcome them and kill them; and their dead bodies will lie in the main street of the great city whose name, to reflect its spiritual condition, is "S'dom" and "Egypt"—the city where their Lord was executed on a stake. 

3

Some from the nations, tribes, languages, and peoples see their bodies for three-and-a-half days and do not permit the corpses to be placed in a tomb. The people living in the Land rejoice over them, they celebrate and send each other gifts, because these two prophets tormented them so. But after the three-and-a-half days a breath of life from God entered them, they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. Then the two heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!" And they went up into heaven in a cloud, while their enemies watched them. In that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were awestruck and gave glory to the God of heaven.

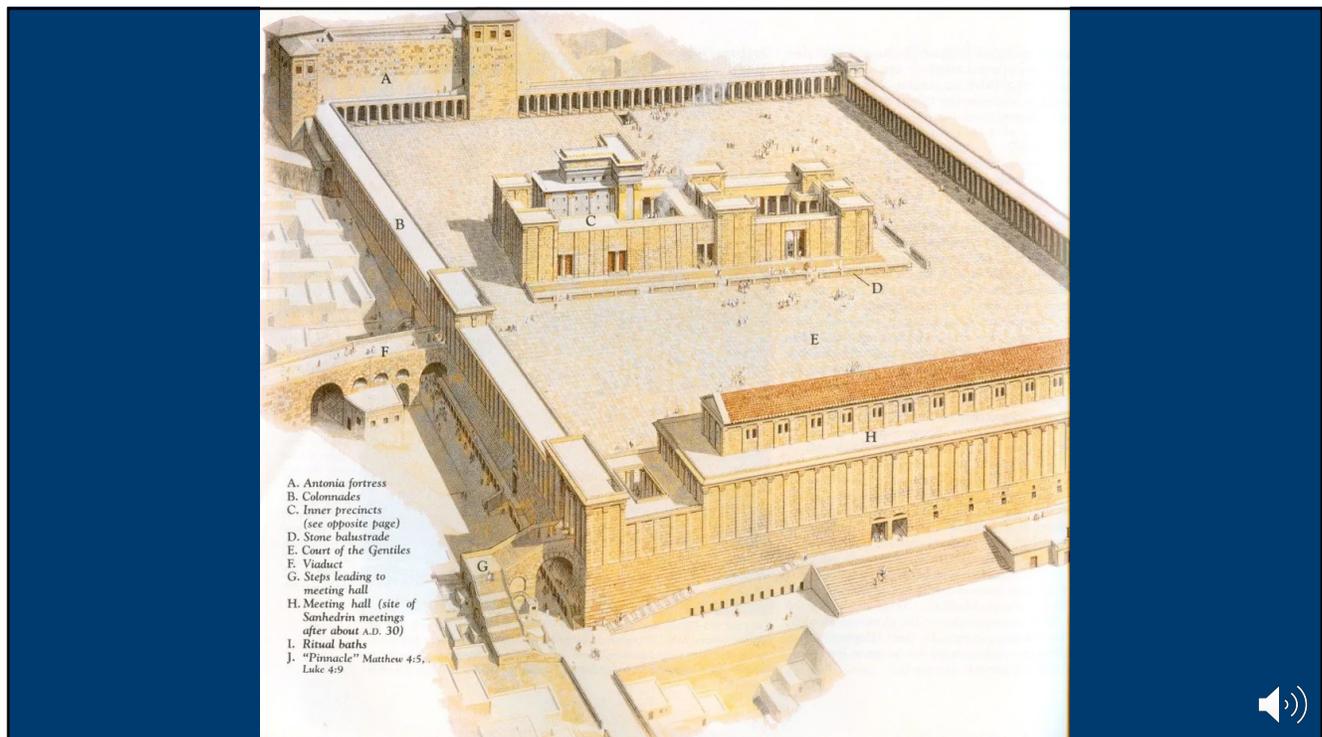
The second woe has passed; see, the third woe is coming quickly. 

4

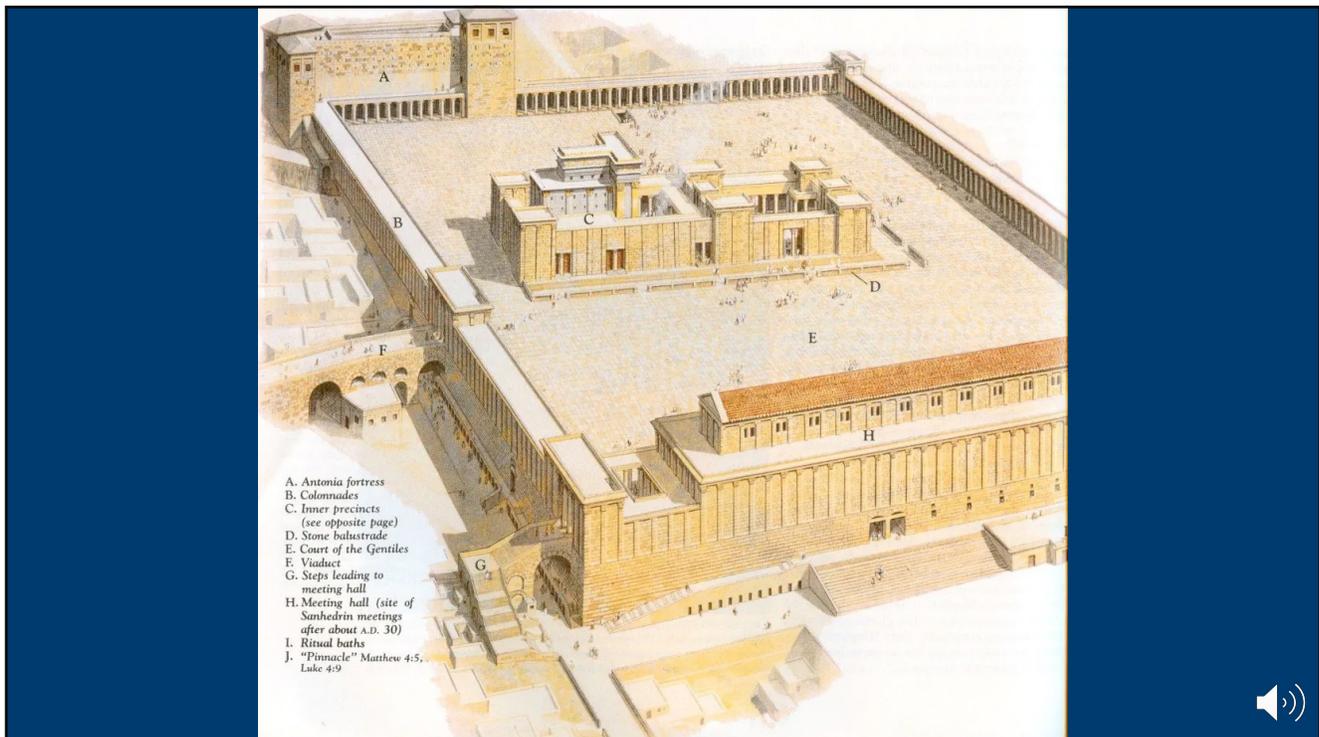
The seventh angel sounded his shofar; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and his Messiah, and he will rule forever and ever!" The twenty-four elders sitting on their thrones in God's presence fell on their faces and worshipped God, saying, "We thank you, Adonai, God of heaven's armies, the One who is and was, that you have taken your power and have begun to rule. "The Goyim raged. But now your rage has come, the time for the dead to be judged, the time for rewarding your servants the prophets, and your holy people, those who stand in awe of your name, both small and great. It is also the time for destroying those who destroy the earth."

Then the Temple of God in heaven was opened, and the Ark of the Covenant was seen in his Temple; and there were flashes of lightning, voices, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and violent hail.

5



6



7

Trample

Revelation 11:1-2

I was given a measuring rod like a stick and told, "Get up, and measure the Temple of God and the altar, and count how many people are worshipping there! But the court outside the Temple, leave that out; don't measure it; because it has been given to the **Goyim**, and **they will trample** over the holy city for forty-two months.

References

Matthew 24:15 "when you see the abomination standing in the holy place...",
 Isaiah 63:18 Your holy people held possession for a little while; our adversaries have trampled down your sanctuary.

8



Qumran Cave 11



9

Measuring Rod

Revelation 11:1-2

I was given a measuring rod like a stick and told, "Get up, and measure the Temple of God and the altar, and count how many people are worshipping there! But the court outside the Temple, leave that out; don't measure it; because it has been given to the Goyim, and they will trample over the holy city for forty-two months.

References

Ezekiel 40:3-5 He brought me there, and behold, there was a man whose appearance was like bronze. He had a linen cord in his hand and a measuring rod. He was standing in the gateway. The man said to me, "Son of man, see with your eyes, hear with your ears, set your heart on all that I show you—for I brought you here in order to show you—and report all that you see to the house of Israel."



10

42 Months/1260 Days = 3.5 years

Revelation 11:3	References
<p>(and they will trample over the holy city for forty-two months.)</p> <p>"Also I will give power to my two witnesses; and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, dressed in sackcloth."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time, times, and a half of time (Rev 12:14) • 1260 days (Rev 11:3, 12:5) • 42 months (Rev 11:2; 13:5)



11

Two Witnesses

Revelation 11:3	References
<p>(and they will trample over the holy city for forty-two months.)</p> <p>"Also I will give power to my two witnesses; and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, dressed in sackcloth."</p>	<p>Deut 17:6 On the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses the one who is to die shall be put to death; a person shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness.</p>



12

Olive trees and Menorot

Revelation 11:4	References
<p>These are the two olive trees and the two menorahs standing before the Lord of the earth.</p>	<p>Zec 4:12-14 And a second time I answered and said to him, “What are these two branches of the olive trees, which are beside the two golden pipes from which the golden oil is poured out?” He said to me, “Do you not know what these are?” I said, “No, my lord.” Then he said, “These are the two anointed ones who stand by the Lord of the whole earth.”</p>



13

Two Witnesses

Revelation 11:5	References
<p>If anyone tries to do them harm, fire comes out of their mouth and consumes their enemies—yes, if anyone tries to harm them, that is how he must die.</p>	<p>Jer 5:14 Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of hosts: “Because you have spoken this word, behold, I am making my words in your mouth a fire, and this people wood, and the fire shall consume them.”</p>



14

Two Witnesses

Revelation 11:6

They have the authority to shut up the sky, so that no rain falls during the period of their prophesying; also they have the authority to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

References

¹ Ki 17:1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.”



15

Moses?

Deut 18:15 “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers.

And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

Joh 1:21 And they asked (John the Baptist), “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet (I.e. Moses)?” And he answered, “No.”



16

Enoch and Elijah?

Genesis 5:21-24 When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years.

Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

2 Kings 2:11-12 And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.



17

Two Martyrs

Revelation 11:7-8

When they finish their witnessing, the beast coming up out of the Abyss will fight against them, **overcome** them and kill them and their dead bodies will lie in the main street of the **great city** whose name, to reflect its spiritual condition, is "S'dom" and "Egypt"—the **city where their Lord was executed on a stake.**

References

Mt 16:18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall **not prevail** against it.



18

Two Martyrs Mocked

Revelation 11:9-10

Some from the nations, tribes, languages and peoples see their bodies for three-and-a-half days and do not permit the corpses to be placed in a tomb. The **people living in the Land** rejoice over them, they celebrate and send each other gifts, because these two prophets tormented them so.

References

Psa 79:2-3 "They have given the bodies of your servants to the birds of the heavens for food, the flesh of your faithful to the beasts of the earth. They have poured out their blood like water all around **Jerusalem**, and there was no one to bury them."



19

Two Martyrs Resurrected

Revelation 11:11-12

But after the three-and-a-half days a breath of life from God entered them, they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. Then the two heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "**Come up here!**" And they went up into heaven in a cloud, while their enemies watched them.

References

Eze 37:5 "Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live."
Ex 19:20 And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

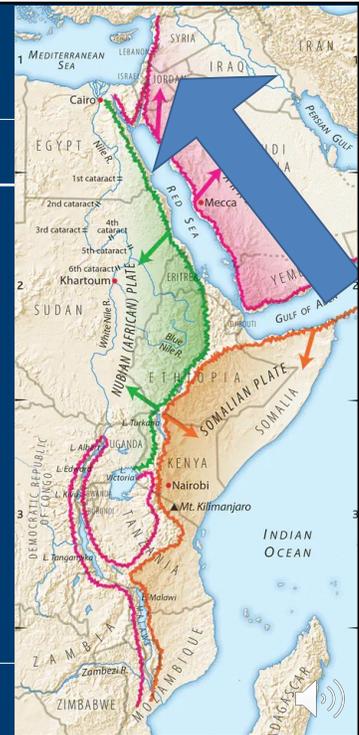


20

Earthquake ends the 2nd Woe

Revelation 11:13-14

In that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and **the rest were awestruck and gave glory to the God of heaven.** The second woe has passed; see, the third woe is coming quickly.



21

The 7th Trumpet

Revelation 11:15-17

The seventh angel sounded his shofar; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and his Messiah, and he will rule forever and ever!" The twenty-four elders sitting on their thrones in God's presence fell on their faces and worshipped God, saying, "We thank you, Adonai, God of heaven's armies, the One who is and was, that you have taken your power and have begun to rule."



22

The Nations Rage

Revelation 11:18

"The Goyim raged. But now your rage has come, the time for the dead to be judged, the time for rewarding your servants the prophets, and your holy people, those who stand in awe of your name, both small and great. It is also the time for destroying those who destroy the earth."

References

Psalms 2:1-2 Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed,



23

The Not-Lost Ark

Revelation 11:19

Then the **Temple of God** in **heaven** was opened, and the **Ark of the Covenant** was seen in his Temple; and there were flashes of lightning, voices, peals of thunder, an earthquake and violent hail.

References

Jos 6:8 And just as Joshua had commanded the people, the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD went forward, blowing the trumpets, with the ark of the covenant of the LORD following them.



24

God keeps His Covenant

Revelation 11:19

Then the Temple of God in heaven was opened, and the Ark of the Covenant was seen in his Temple; and there were flashes of lightning, voices, peals of thunder, an earthquake and violent hail.

References

Exodus 19:16-20 On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled... The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly...



25

1 Kings 19

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba...And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers."

And behold, the word of the LORD came to him (in the still-small voice), and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

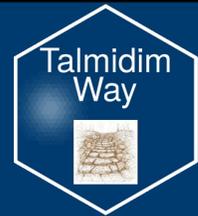
He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away."

And the LORD said to him, "Go,...Elisha you shall anoint to be prophet in your place...Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."



26

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 21

The Dragon Selected Cross-references

Revelation 12



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).



2

Revelation 12

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days. Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.



3

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!” And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.



4

The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. *And he stood on the sand of the sea.*



5

Inverted Parallel Structure - Chiasm

A. 3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold **a great red dragon**, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: **and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.**

B. 5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. **6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.**

C. 7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. **9 And the great dragon was cast out**, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: **he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

C'. Woe to the inhabitants of **the earth** and of the sea! **for the devil is come down unto you**, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. **13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth**, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

B'. **14 And to the woman** were given two wings of a great eagle, **that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.**

A'. **15 And the serpent** cast out of his mouth water as a flood after **the woman**, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. **16 And the earth helped the woman**, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. **17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed**, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.



6

Genesis 3:14-15

The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”



7

Sun, Moon, Stars

Revelation 12:1

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the **sun**, with the **moon** under her feet, and on her head a crown of **twelve stars**.

References

Gen 37:9 Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, “Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the **sun**, the **moon**, and **eleven stars** were bowing down to me.”



8

Birth pains

Revelation 12:2

She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth.

References

Isaiah 66:7-10 “Before she was in labor she gave birth; before her pain came upon her she delivered a son. Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? Shall a nation be brought forth in one moment? For as soon as Zion was in labor, she brought forth her children.



9

7 Heads/10 Horns

Revelation 12:3

And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems.

References

Beast #1 (Dan 7:4) – Lion (presumed to be Babylon) – 1 head and 0 horns
 Beast #2 – (Dan 7:5) Bear (Medio-Persia) – 1 head and 0 horns
 Beast #3 – (Dan 7:6) Leopard (Greek) – 4 heads and 0 horns
 Beast #4 – (Dan 7:7) Dreadful (Rome) – 1 head and 10 horns
Total: 7 heads and 10 horns



10

Dragon pursues the woman

Revelation 12:4	References
His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it.	Luke 10:18 – “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”



11

Rod of Iron/Caught up/Wilderness

Revelation 12:5-6	References
She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron , but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the woman fled into the wilderness , where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.	<p>Psa 2:9 You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.</p> <p>Rev 2:27 and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces</p>



12

Michael

Revelation 12:7-8

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.

References

- One of the chief princes - Dan 10:13
- The Archangel - Jude 1:9; 1 Thess 4:16
- Daniel's prince - Dan 10:21
- Warrior for Israel - Dan 12:1
- Fought with Satan for Body of Moses - Jude 9
- Fought in "Wars of the Lord" - Zech 14:3; Num 21:14

Michael is ALWAYS involved in a military mission to protect Israel



13

The Satan

Revelation 12:9

And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and **Satan**, the deceiver of the whole world—he was **thrown down** to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

References

Satan – Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 (required reading!)

- *Also Babylon: Isaiah 13/14, Jeremiah 50/51, Revelation 17/18*

1 Pet 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.



14

And there was much rejoicing

Revelation 12:10-11

And I heard a loud voice in **heaven**, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered (overcame) him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

References



15

Nothing to Lose

Revelation 12:12-13

Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But **woe** to you, O **earth and sea**, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, **because he knows that his time is short!**” And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.

References



16

On eagle's wings

Revelation 12:14

But the woman was given the **two wings of the great eagle** so that she might fly from the serpent into the **wilderness**, to the place where she is to be nourished for a **time, and times, and half a time**.

References

Ex 19:4 You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.

Isa 40:31 ³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

17

The anti-Flood

Revelation 12:15

The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood.

References

Gen 6:17 For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die.



18

God delivers His people

Revelation 12:16

But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth.

References

Psalm 124 If it had not been the LORD who was on our side— let Israel now say— if it had not been the LORD who was on our side when people rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; then over us would have gone the raging waters. Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth! We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped! Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.



19

Make war on those who keep God's commandments

Revelation 12:17

Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

References

Romans 13:10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.
Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.



20

Mystery Verse

Revelation

ESV 12:17 And he (the dragon) stood on the sand of the sea.

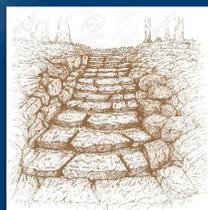
NLT 12:18 Then the dragon took his stand on the shore beside the sea.

KJV 13:1 And I (John) stood upon the sand of the sea.



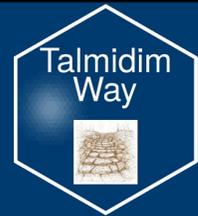
21

Talmidim Way



22

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 22

Two Beasts
Selected Cross-references

Revelation 13



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).



2

Revelation 13

Then the dragon stood on the seashore (12:18), and I saw a beast come up out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads. On its horns were ten royal crowns and, on its heads, blasphemous names. The beast which I saw was like a leopard, but with feet like those of a bear and a mouth like the mouth of a lion. To it, the dragon gave its power, its throne, and great authority.

One of the heads of the beast appeared to have received a fatal wound, but its fatal wound was healed, and the whole earth followed after the beast in amazement. They worshipped the dragon because he had given his authority to the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who can fight against it?" It was given a mouth speaking arrogant blasphemies, and it was given authority to act for forty-two months.



3

So it opened its mouth in blasphemies against God to insult his name and his Sh'khinah, and those living in heaven; it was allowed to make war on God's holy people and to defeat them; and it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. Everyone living on earth will worship it except those whose names are written in the Book of Life belonging to the Lamb slaughtered before the world was founded. Those who have ears, let them hear!



4

“If anyone is meant for captivity, into captivity he goes! If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he is to be killed!” This is when God's holy people must persevere and trust! Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth. It had two horns like those of a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence; and it makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, the one whose fatal wound had been healed. It performs great miracles, even causing fire to come down from heaven onto the earth as people watch. It deceives the people living on earth by the miracles it is allowed to perform in the presence of the beast, and it tells them to make an image honoring the beast that was struck by the sword but came alive again.



5

It was allowed to put breath into the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast could even speak; and it was allowed to cause anyone who would not worship the image of the beast to be put to death. Also, it forces everyone—great and small, rich and poor, free and slave—to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead preventing anyone from buying or selling unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. This is where wisdom is needed; those who understand should count the number of the beast, for it is the number of a person, and its number is 666.



6

Perspective

“I am not anxious to know the number of the Beast, and I am thankful I will not have to live in that period. I am very thankful today that I know Jesus Christ as my Savior. Instead of spending time with Antichrist, I want to know Christ. I can say with Paul: “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death” (Php 3:10). J. Vernon McGee



7

Beast From the Sea (Antichrist)

Revelation 13:1	References
And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads , with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Beast #1 – (Dan 7:4) – Lion (presumed to be Babylon) – 1 head and 0 horns o Beast #2 – (Dan 7:5) Bear (Medio-Persia) – 1 head and 0 horns o Beast #3 – (Dan 7:6) Leopard (Greek) – 4 heads and 0 horns o Beast #4 – (Dan 7:7) Dreadful (Rome) – 1 head and 10 horns o Total: 7 heads and 10 horns



8

Beast From the Sea (Antichrist)

Revelation 13:1

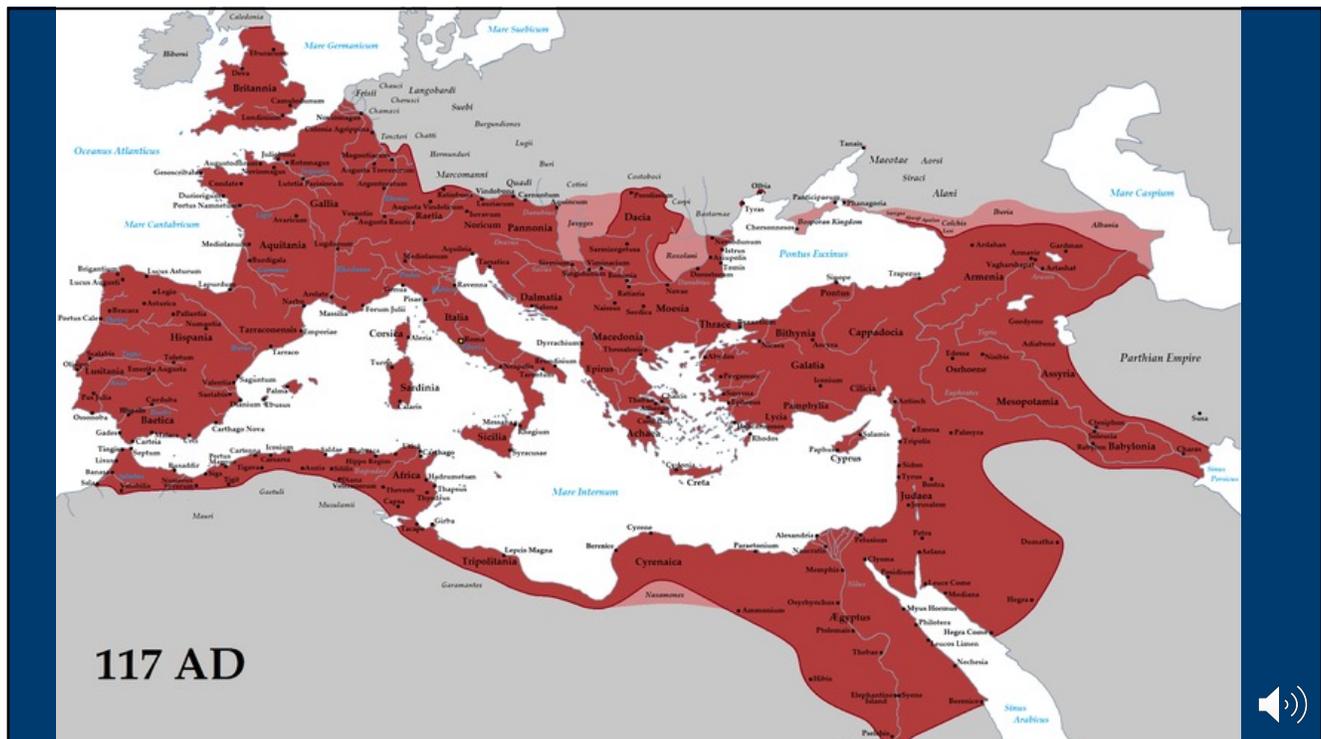
And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with **ten diadems** on its horns and **blasphemous names** on its heads.

References

Dan 7:8 I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots.



9



10

Satanic Father and Son

Revelation 13:2	References
<p>And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.</p>	



11

Who is like you?

Revelation 13:3-4	References
<p>One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"</p>	<p>Exodus 15:11 "Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?"</p>



12

Boastful, Blasphemous words

Revelation 13:5

And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.

References

Isaiah 14:13-15 - You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.



13

Name, dwelling and those who dwell in Heaven

Revelation 13:6

It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

References

Dan 7:8 And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.



14

All authority on earth

Revelation 13:7-8

Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

References

Dan 7: He will speak great words against the Most High, he will wear out the holy people of the Most High, and he will think to change times and laws; and they will be given into his hand for a season, seasons and half a season.



15

Revelation 13:9

If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

References

Jesus' signature statement if ever there was one!



16

To captivity and slain

Revelation 13:10

If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

References

Jeremiah 15:2 And when they ask you, 'Where shall we go?' you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD: "Those who are for pestilence, to pestilence, and those who are for the sword, to the sword; those who are for famine, to famine, and those who are for captivity, to captivity.'



17

Beast from the Earth (False Prophet)

Revelation 13:11-12

Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, and it spoke like a dragon. It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed.

References

Dan 8:3 I raised my eyes and saw, and behold, a ram standing on the bank of the canal. It had two horns, and both horns were high, but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last.



18

Very real signs

Revelation 13:13

It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people,

References

1Ki 18:38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.



19

False prophet

Revelation 13:14

and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

References

Mark 13:21-23 And then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.



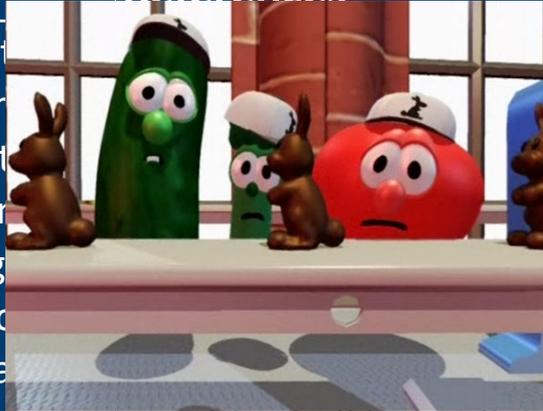
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Bowing to the image

Revelation 13:15

And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that it might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.

References



And he commanded, O peoples, that when you hear the voice of the pipe, lyre, trigon, or any kind of music, you shall not worship the golden image that the king of Babylon has set up, lest you should fall down and worship the image of the beast, and you shall be slain. And those who do not worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace.”



21

Mark on right hand or forehead

Revelation 13:16

Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead,

References

Deut 6: And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”



22

Revelation 13:17	References
so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.	



23

666

Revelation 13:18	References
This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.	



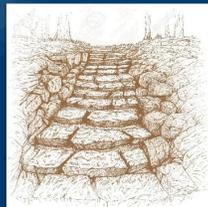
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**We don't focus on Antichrist;
We focus on Jesus Christ**



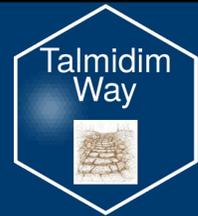
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**Talmidim
Way**



26

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 23

144,000 and Winepress
Selected Cross-references

Revelation 14/15



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).



2

Revelation 14

Then I looked, and there was the Lamb standing on Mount Tziyon; and with him were 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. I heard a sound from heaven like the sound of rushing waters and like the sound of pealing thunder; the sound I heard was also like that of harpists playing on their harps. They were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living beings and the elders, and no one could learn the song except the 144,000 who have been ransomed from the world. These are the ones who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins; they follow the Lamb wherever he goes; they have been ransomed from among humanity as firstfruits for God and the Lamb; on their lips no lie was found—they are without defect.



3

Next, I saw another angel flying in mid-heaven with everlasting Good News to proclaim to those living on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and people. In a loud voice, he said, “Fear God, give Him glory, for the hour has come when he will pass judgment! Worship the One who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water!” Another angel, a second one, followed, saying, “She has fallen! She has fallen! Bavel (Babylon) the Great! She made all the nations drink the wine of God's fury caused by her whoring!”



4

Another angel, a third one, followed them and said in a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives the mark on his forehead or on his hand, he will indeed drink the wine of God’s fury poured undiluted into the cup of his rage. He will be tormented by fire and sulfur before the holy angels and before the Lamb, and the smoke from their tormenting goes up forever and ever. They have no rest, day or night, those who worship the beast and its image and those who receive the mark of its name.” This is when perseverance is needed on the part of God’s people, those who observe his commands and exercise Yeshua’s faithfulness.



5

Next, I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write: ‘How blessed are the dead who die united with the Lord, from now on!’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘now they may rest from their efforts, for the things they have accomplished follow along with them.’ ” Then I looked, and there before me was a white cloud. Sitting on the cloud was someone like a Son of Man with a gold crown on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. Another angel came out of the Temple and shouted to the one sitting on the cloud, “Start using your sickle to reap, because the time to reap has come—the earth’s harvest is ripe!” The one sitting on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested. Another angel came out of the Temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle.



6

Then out from the altar went yet another angel, who was in charge of the fire; and he called in a loud voice to the one with the sharp sickle, "Use your sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because they are ripe!" The angel swung his sickle down onto the earth, gathered the earth's grapes, and threw them into the great winepress of God's fury. The winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress as high as the horses' bridles for two hundred miles!



7

Revelation 19:11-21

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.

He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.



8

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, “Come, gather for the great supper of God, to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.” And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image.

These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.



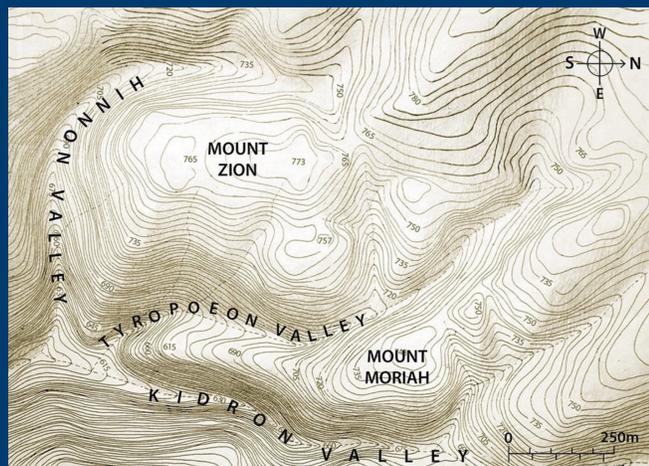
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Mt Zion

Revelation 14:1

Then I looked, and there was the Lamb standing on [Mount Tziyon](#), and with him were 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

References



10

Noisy!

Revelation 14:2

2 I heard a sound from heaven like the sound of rushing waters and like the sound of pealing thunder; the sound I heard was also like that of harpists playing on their harps.

References

Ezek 1:24 - When they moved, I could hear the sound of their wings like the sound of rushing waters, like the voice of Shaddai, a noise of tumult like the noise of an army. Whenever they stood still, they let down their wings.

Ezek 43:2 - and behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters. The earth was radiant with His glory.



11

New Song

Revelation 14:3

3 They were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living beings and the elders, and no one could learn the song except the 144,000 who have been ransomed from the world.

References

Ps 96:1-6: Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.



12

Undefined

Revelation 14:4	References
These are the ones who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins; they follow the Lamb wherever he goes; they have been ransomed from among humanity as firstfruits for God and the Lamb	Revelation 7



13

Believers should be without deceit

Revelation 14:5	References
on their lips no lie was found—they are without defect.	<p>Zeph 3:13 those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.”</p> <p>Mal 2:6 True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity.</p> <p>2 Th 2:11-12 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.</p>



14

Eternal Gospel

Revelation 14:6

Next I saw another angel flying in mid-heaven with everlasting Good News (or “eternal gospel”) to proclaim to those living on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and people.

References

Galatians 1:6-9: I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.



15

Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand

Revelation 14:7

In a loud voice he said, “Fear God, give Him glory, for the hour has come when he will pass judgment! Worship the One who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water!”

References

Psalm 96



16

Angelic gloating

Revelation 14:8	References
<p>Another angel, a second one, followed, saying, "She has fallen! She has fallen! Bavel (Babylon) the Great! She made all the nations drink the wine of God's fury caused by her whoring!"</p>	<p>Isa 21:9 And behold, here come riders, horsemen in pairs!" And he answered, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon; and all the carved images of her gods he has shattered to the ground."</p> <p>Jer 51:7-8 Babylon was a golden cup in the LORD's hand, making all the earth drunken; the nations drank of her wine; therefore the nations went mad. Suddenly Babylon has fallen and been broken; wail for her! Take balm for her pain; perhaps she may be healed.</p> <p>Gen 10:9-10: Nimrod was a mighty hunter <i>in defiance of the Lord...the beginning of his kingdom was Babel.</i></p> 

17

Wine of God's Wrath

Revelation 14:9-10	References
<p>Another angel, a third one, followed them and said in a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives the mark on his forehead or on his hand he will indeed drink the wine of God's fury poured undiluted into the cup of his rage. He will be tormented by fire and sulfur before the holy angels and before the Lamb,</p>	<p>Ps 75:8 For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup with foaming wine, well mixed, and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs.</p> <p>Jer 25:15 Thus the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: "Take from my hand this cup of the wine of wrath, and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it.</p> 

18

Eternal torment

Revelation 14:11	References
<p>and the smoke from their tormenting goes up forever and ever. They have no rest, day or night, those who worship the beast and its image and those who receive the mark of its name."</p>	<p>Isa 34:10 And the streams of Edom shall be turned into pitch, and her soil into sulfur; her land shall become burning pitch.</p>



19

Perseverance is needed

Revelation 14:12	References
<p>This is when perseverance is needed on the part of God's people, those who observe his commands and exercise Yeshua's faithfulness.</p>	



20

Keep the Heavenly Perspective

Revelation 14:13

Next I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write: 'How blessed are the dead who die united with the Lord, from now on!' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'now they may rest from their efforts, for the things they have accomplished follow along with them.' "

References



21

One like a Son of Man

Revelation 14:14

Then I looked, and there before me was a white cloud. Sitting on the cloud was someone like a Son of Man with a gold crown on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.

References

Dan 7:13-14 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.



22

The great harvest

Revelation 14:15

Another angel came out of the Temple and shouted to the one sitting on the cloud, "Start using your sickle to reap, because the time to reap has come—the earth's harvest is ripe!"

References

Mat 13:39-42: The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.



23

Put in the sickle for the harvest is ripe

Revelation 14:16-17

The one sitting on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested. 17 Another angel came out of the Temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle.

References

Joel 3:12-14 Let the nations stir themselves up and come up to the [Valley of Jehoshaphat](#); for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the winepress is full. The vats overflow, for their evil is great. [14] Multitudes, multitudes, in the [valley of decision](#)! For the day of the LORD is near in the [valley of decision](#).



24

Tread grapes

Revelation 14:18

Then out from the altar went yet another angel, who was in charge of the fire; and he called in a loud voice to the one with the sharp sickle, “Use your sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth’s vine, because they are ripe!”

References

Jer 25:30 “You, therefore, shall prophesy against them all these words, and say to them: “The LORD will roar from on high, and from his holy habitation utter his voice; he will roar mightily against his fold, and shout, like those who tread grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth.



25

Winepress of God’s Fury

Revelation 14:19

The angel swung his sickle down onto the earth, gathered the earth’s grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s fury.

References

Rev 19:15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.



26

200 miles, 5 feet deep of blood

Revelation 14:20

The winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress as high as the horses' bridles for two hundred miles!

References

Isa 63:1-3: Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimsoned garments from Bozrah, he who is splendid in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save." Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress? "I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel."



27

Revelation 15

Then I saw another sign in heaven, a great and wonderful one—seven angels with the seven plagues that are the final ones; because with them, God's fury is finished. I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire. Those defeating the beast, its image, and the number of its name were standing by the sea of glass, holding harps that God had given them. They were singing the song of Moshe, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb: "Great and wonderful are the things you have done, Adonai, God of heaven's armies! Just and true are your ways, king of the nations! Adonai, who will not fear and glorify your name? because you alone are holy."



28

All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous deeds have been revealed.” After this I looked, and the sanctuary (that is, the Tent of Witness in heaven) was opened, and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean bright linen and had gold belts around their chests. One of the four living beings gave to the seven angels seven gold bowls filled with the fury of God, who lives forever and ever. Then the sanctuary was filled with smoke from God’s Sh’khinah, that is, from his power; and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels had accomplished their purpose.



29

Vindicated Saints

Revelation 15:1-2

Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished. 2 And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands.

References



30

Sang the Song of Moses

Revelation 15:3

And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!"

References

Ex 15:1-4: "Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name. "Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea, and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea."



31

Rhetorical questions

Revelation 15:4

Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."

References

Ex 15:11: "Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?"
Psalms 86:9-10 – All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. 10 For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.



32

Scene Shift – preparing for seven bowls

Revelation 15:5-6	References
<p>After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened, 6 and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests.</p>	



33

Bowls=offerings

Revelation 15:7-8	References
<p>And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever, 8 and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.</p>	<p>Exo 37:16 And he made the vessels of pure gold that were to be on the table, its plates and dishes for incense, and its bowls and flagons with which to pour drink offerings.</p>



34

Seven Bowls of Wrath

Revelation 16:1

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God."

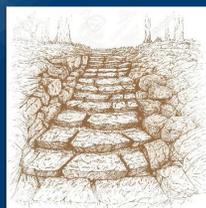
References

Rev 16:17 The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"



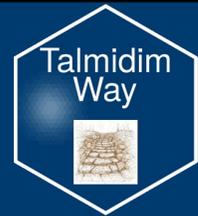
35

Talmidim Way



36

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 24

Seven Bowls
Selected Cross-references

Revelation 16



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).



2

Revelation 15:5-8

After this I looked, and the sanctuary (that is, the Tent of Witness in heaven) was opened, and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues.

They were dressed in clean bright linen and had gold belts around their chests. One of the four living beings gave to the seven angels seven gold bowls filled with the fury of God, who lives forever and ever. Then the sanctuary was filled with smoke from God's Sh'khinah, that is, from his power; and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels had accomplished their purpose.



3

Revelation 16

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God." So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea. The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood. And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say, "Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!" And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!" The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire. They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.



4

The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds. The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east. And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. (“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”) And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.



5

The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, “It is done!” And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail because the plague was so severe.



6

Zechariah 14

Behold, a day is coming for the LORD, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward.



7

...Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths. And if any of the families of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. And if the family of Egypt does not go up and present themselves, then on them there shall be no rain; there shall be the plague with which the LORD afflicts the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths. This shall be the punishment to Egypt and the punishment to all the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths. And on that day there shall be inscribed on the bells of the horses, "Holy to the LORD."



8

THE SEVEN BOWLS REVELATION 16

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16:1 SEVEN BOWLS OF GOD'S WRATH

1 16:2 1ST BOWL POURED ON THE LAND
 People who bear the mark of the beast and worship its image are afflicted with sores.

2 16:3 2ND BOWL POURED ON THE SEA
 The sea is turned into blood and everything that lives in it dies.

3 16:4-7 3RD BOWL POURED ON RIVERS & SPRINGS
 Rivers and springs are turned into blood.

4 16:8-9 4TH BOWL POURED ON THE SUN
 The sun scorches people with fire. They curse God, but refuse to repent and glorify him.

5 16:10-11 5TH BOWL POURED ON THE THRONE OF THE BEAST
 The kingdom of the beast is plunged into darkness. People curse God, but refuse to repent.

6 16:12 6TH BOWL POURED ON THE RIVER EUPHRATES
 The river is dried up to make way for the kings of the East.

16:13-16 PAUSE = KINGS GATHERED FOR BATTLE
 Three demonic frog spirits gather kings for battle at Armageddon.

7 16:17-21 7TH BOWL POURED INTO THE AIR
 From the throne comes a voice, thunder, lightning and a great earthquake that splits 'the great city' and collapses the cities of the nations. Islands and mountains disappear and huge hailstones rain from the sky.

THE PLAGUES ON EGYPT EXODUS 7-12

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1 BLOOD (7:14-24)
 The Nile, along with all of the water in Egypt, turns into blood. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.

2 FROGS (7:25 - 8:15)
 Frogs cover the land of Egypt. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.

3 GNATS (8:16-19)
 The dust turns to gnats, which cover the people and animals of Egypt. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.

4 FLIES (8:20-32)
 Flies fill the houses and land of Egypt. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.

5 LIVESTOCK (9:1-7)
 All of the livestock of the Egyptians die. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.

6 BOILS (9:8-12)
 Festering boils break out on the Egyptians and their animals. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.

7 HAIL (9:13-35)
 Hail strikes down everything in the fields - humans, animals and trees. Pharaoh asks for forgiveness and promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.

8 LOCUSTS (10:1-20)
 Locusts devour every tree and plant in the land of Egypt. Pharaoh asks for forgiveness, but does not let the Israelites go.

9 DARKNESS (10:21-29)
 Darkness covers the land of Egypt for three days. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.

10 FIRSTBORN (11:1-10; 12:29-32)
 Every firstborn son and firstborn of the cattle in Egypt dies. Pharaoh finally lets the Israelites leave Egypt, only to change his mind and pursue them to the Red Sea.

9

Seven Plagues

Revelation 16:1	References
<p>Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God."</p>	<p>Exodus 7-12</p> <p>Isa 51:17 Wake yourself, wake yourself, stand up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD the cup of his wrath, who have drunk to the dregs the bowl, the cup of staggering.</p> <p>Psa 75:8 For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup with foaming wine, well mixed, and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs.</p>

10

1st Bowl: Sores

Revelation 16:2

So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

References

Psa 79:1-7 A Psalm of Asaph. O God, the nations have come into your inheritance; they have defiled your holy temple; they have laid Jerusalem in ruins. [2] They have given the bodies of your servants to the birds of the heavens for food, the flesh of your faithful to the beasts of the earth. [3] They have poured out their blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them. [4] We have become a taunt to our neighbors, mocked and derided by those around us. [5] How long, O LORD? Will you be angry forever? Will your jealousy burn like fire? [6] **Pour out your anger on the nations that do not know you, and on the kingdoms that do not call upon your name! [7] For they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his habitation.**



11

1st Bowl: Sores

Revelation 16:2

So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

References

Zep 3:8 “Therefore wait for me,” declares the LORD, “for the day when I rise up to seize the prey. For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all my burning anger; for in the fire of my jealousy all the earth shall be consumed.



12

2nd Bowl: Sea / 3rd Bowl: Fresh Water

Revelation 16:3-4

The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea.

The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood.

References

Water to blood was the 1st plague and the 2nd /3rd Trumpets



13

Pause: affirmation from angels

Revelation 16:5-7

And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say, "Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!" And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!"

References

Isaiah 49:26 I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh, and they shall be drunk with their own blood as with wine. Then all flesh shall know that I am the LORD your Savior, and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.



14

4th Bowl: Wrath on Sol

Revelation 16:8-9

The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire. They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.

References

Psa 19:9 the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.
Mal 4:1 “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.



15

5th Bowl: Darkness

Revelation 16:10-11

The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.

References

Rev 13:4 And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?”

Darkness was the 9th plague - Exo 10:21 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness to be felt.”

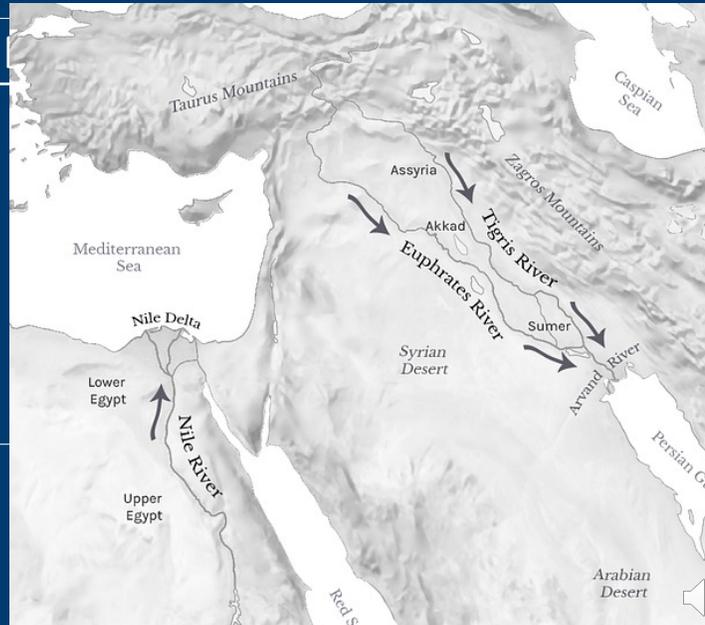


16

6th Bowl: Euphrates Dried Up

Revelation 16:12

12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east.



17

Pause: demonic frogs from the demonic trinity

Revelation 16:13-14

And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.

References

Joel 3:11 Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations, and gather yourselves there. Bring down your warriors, O LORD.

Zep 3:8 "Therefore wait for me," declares the LORD, "for the day when I rise up to seize the prey. For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all my burning anger; for in the fire of my jealousy all the earth shall be consumed.

Isa 43:9 All the nations gather together, and the peoples assemble. Who among them can declare this, and show us the former things? Let them bring their witnesses to prove them right, and let them hear and say, It is true.

18

Pause: Bracha (blessing) from Jesus

Revelation 16:15

(“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”)

References

^{1 Th 5:4} But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.

^{Rev 3:3-5} Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. 4 Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. 5 The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.



19

Gog And Magog

^{Eze 38:10-16} “Thus says the Lord GOD: On that day, thoughts will come into your mind, and you will devise an evil scheme [11] and say, ‘I will go up against the land of unwallled villages (*Israel*). I will fall upon the quiet people who dwell securely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having no bars or gates,’ [12] to seize spoil and carry off plunder, to turn your hand against the waste places that are now inhabited, and the people who were gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell at the center of the earth. [13] Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish and all its leaders will say to you, ‘Have you come to seize spoil? Have you assembled your hosts to carry off plunder, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to seize great spoil?’ [14] “Therefore, son of man, prophesy, and say to Gog, Thus says the Lord GOD: On that day when my people Israel are dwelling securely, will you not know it? [15] You will come from your place out of the uttermost parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great host, a mighty army. [16] You will come up against my people Israel, like a cloud covering the land. In the latter days I will bring you against my land, that the nations may know me, when through you, O Gog, I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.

^{Eze 38:18-19, 23} But on that day, the day that Gog shall come against the land of Israel, declares the Lord GOD, my wrath will be roused in my anger. [19] For in my jealousy and in my blazing wrath I declare, On that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. So I will show my greatness and my holiness and make myself known in the eyes of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD.



20

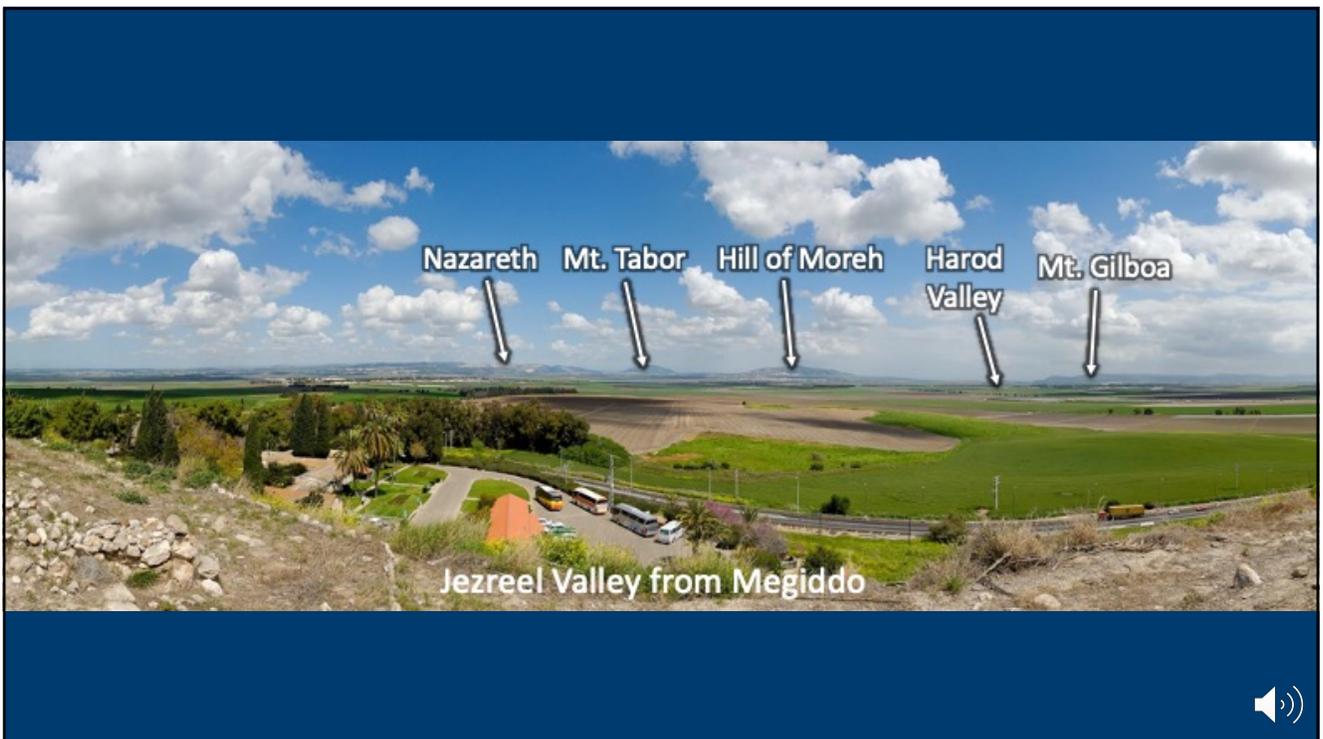
Armageddon = Har (Ir) Megiddo

**Revelation
16:16**

And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called **Armageddon.**



21



22

7th Angel: "It. Is. Done."

Revelation 16:17

The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"

References

Isa 66:6 "The sound of an uproar from the city! A sound from the temple! The sound of the LORD, rendering recompense to his enemies!"



23

God Remembered Babylon

Revelation 16:18-19

And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath.

References

Zec 14:4 On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward.

Jer 25:15 Thus the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: "Take from my hand this cup of the wine of wrath, and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it.



24

Revelation 16:20-21

And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.

References

Revelation 6:14 The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

Job 2:9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die."

Ex 9:35 So the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people of Israel go, just as the LORD had spoken through Moses.

Eze 38:22 With pestilence and bloodshed I will enter into judgment with him, and I will rain upon him and his hordes and the many peoples who are with him torrential rains and hailstones, fire and sulfur.

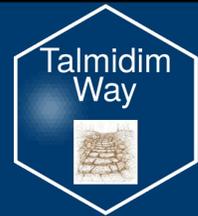


25



26

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 25

The Woman Rides The Beast

Revelation 17



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

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2

Revelation 17

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk." And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I marveled greatly.



3

But the angel said to me, "Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast because it was and is not and is to come. This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast.



4

They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.” And the angel said to me, “The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast until the words of God are fulfilled. And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth.”



5

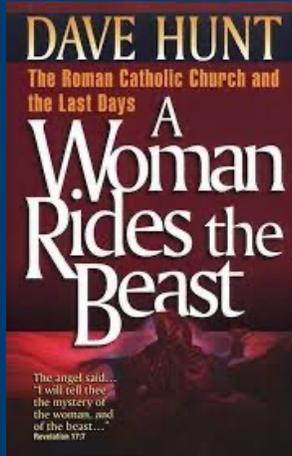
Isaiah 23:16 “Take a harp; go about the city, O forgotten prostitute! Make sweet melody; sing many songs, that you may be remembered.”

Nah 3:4-5 And all for the countless whorings of the prostitute, graceful and deadly charms, who betrays nations with her whorings, and peoples with her charms. [5] Behold, I am against you, declares the LORD of hosts, and will lift up your skirts over your face; and I will make nations look at your nakedness and kingdoms at your shame.

Deu 23:2 “No one born of a forbidden union may enter the assembly of the LORD. Even to the tenth generation, none of his descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD.



6



1 Pe 5:13 She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son.

Jer 51:7 Babylon was a golden cup in the LORD'S hand, making all the earth drunken; the nations drank of her wine; therefore the nations went mad.



7



8



9

Babylon and Rome

Both empires are the opposite (and opposed to) the Kingdom of Heaven, an “anti-kingdom” to go along with the “anti-Christ.”

Both empires destroyed Jerusalem.

Both empires destroyed the Jewish Temple.

Both empires carried the Jewish people into exile.

10

Judgment of the Prostitute

Revelation 17:1-2

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk."

References

Isa 1:21 How the faithful city has become a whore, she who was full of justice! Righteousness lodged in her, but now murderers.
Rev 14:8 Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality."



11

In the Spirit, in the Wilderness

Revelation 17:3

And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.

References

Rev 12:14 But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness,
Dan 7:24 As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom, ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones and shall put down three kings.
Rev 13:1 And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.



12

Purple, Scarlet, Gold, Jewels and Pearls

Revelation 17:4

4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality.

References

Rev 18:3 For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.”



13

Forehead

Revelation 17:5

And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth’s abominations.”

References

Rev 22:4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.



14

Drunk with the blood of the Martyrs

Revelation 17:6

And I saw the woman,
drunk with the blood of
the saints, the blood of
the martyrs of Jesus.
When I saw her, I
marveled greatly.

References



15

Was, is not, and is to come

Revelation 17:7-8

But the angel said to me, "Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. 8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast because it was and is not and is to come.

References

Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come,



16

One is Not Yet

Revelation 17:9-11

This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; they are **also** seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, **the other has not yet come**, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but belongs to the seven and goes to destruction.

References



17

Ten Horns – Not Yet

Revelation 17:12-13

And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings **who have not yet received royal power**, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. 13 These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast.

References

Daniel 7:24 As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom, ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones and put down three kings.



18

Make war on the Lamb

Revelation 17:14

They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful."

References

Deut 10:17 For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.



19

Kings turn on the Harlot

Revelation 17:15-16

And the angel said to me, "The **waters** that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire,

References

Jer 51:11-14 "Sharpen the arrows! Take up the shields! The LORD has stirred up the spirit of the kings of the Medes because his purpose concerning Babylon is to destroy it, for that is the vengeance of the LORD, the vengeance for his temple.[12] "Set up a standard against the walls of Babylon; make the watch strong; set up watchmen; prepare the ambushes; for the LORD has both planned and done what he spoke concerning the inhabitants of Babylon. [13] O you who dwell by many waters, rich in treasures, your end has come; the thread of your life is cut. [14] The LORD of hosts has sworn by himself: Surely I will fill you with men, as many as locusts, and they shall raise the shout of victory over you.



20

Kings turn on the Harlot

Revelation 17:15-16

And the angel said to me, “The **waters** that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire,

References

Eze 16:37 therefore, behold, I will gather all your lovers with whom you took pleasure, all those you loved and all those you hated. I will gather them against you from every side and will uncover your nakedness to them, that they may see all your nakedness.

Eze 23:35 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Because you have forgotten me and cast me behind your back, you yourself must bear the consequences of your lewdness and whoring.”



21

Kings turn on the Harlot

Revelation 17:15-16

And the angel said to me, “The **waters** that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and **burn her up with fire,**

References

Eze 16:37 therefore, behold, I will gather all your lovers with whom you took pleasure, all those you loved and all those you hated. I will gather them against you from every side and will uncover your nakedness to them, that they may see all your nakedness.

Eze 23:35 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Because you have forgotten me and cast me behind your back, you yourself must bear the consequences of your lewdness and whoring.”

Lev 21:9 And the daughter of any priest, if she profanes herself by whoring, profanes her father; she shall be burned with fire.



22

God can use the wicked to accomplish His purposes

Revelation 17:17

for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast until the words of God are fulfilled.

References

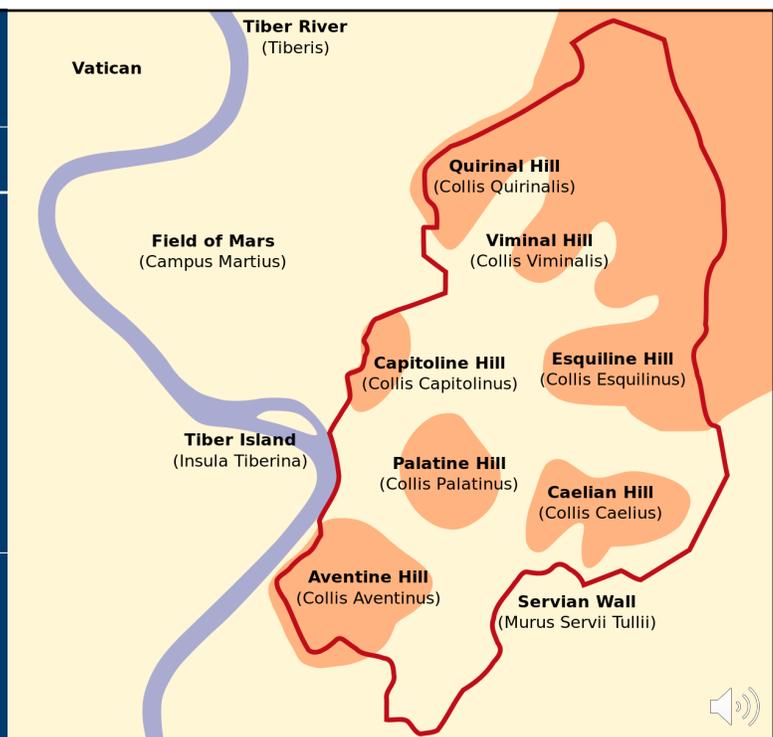
1 Kings 22:23 “the Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets.”



23

Revelation 17:18

18 And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth.”



24

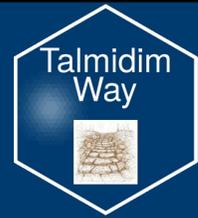
	Israel Chapter 12	Woman riding Beast Chapter 17
Where?	In Heaven	Upon many waters
Mother	Of Man-Child	Of Harlots
Clothed with	With sun	Purple, Scarlet , Gold
Identity	Sun, Moon, Stars	Reigns over Kings of the Earth
Enemy	Dragon	10 Kings (Ultimately)
Relationship	Hated by world	Caressed by world
Sustained by	Wings of heaven	Dragon
Headdress	Crown of 12 stars	Mystery Babylon the Great
Status	Widowed, divorced	“Am no widow...”
Final location	New Jerusalem	Habitation of demons

25



26

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 26

Babylon is Fallen

Revelation 18

1

Acts 18:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).

2

Revelation 18

After these things, I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, the earth was lit up by his splendor. He cried out in a strong voice, “She has fallen! She has fallen! Bavel the Great! She has become a home for demons, a prison for every unclean spirit, a prison for every unclean, hated bird. “For all the nations have drunk of the wine of God’s fury caused by her whoring—yes, the kings of the earth went whoring with her, and from her unrestrained love of luxury the world’s businessmen have grown rich.” Then I heard another voice out of heaven say: “My people, come out of her! so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not be infected by her plagues, for her sins are a sticky mass piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes. “Render to her as she rendered to others! Pay her back double for what she has done! Use the cup in which she has brewed to brew her a double-sized drink! “Give her as much torment and sorrow as the glory and luxury she gave herself! For in her heart she says, ‘I sit a queen—I am not a widow, I will never see sorrow.’

3

“Therefore, her plagues will come in a single day—death, sorrow and famine; and she will be burned with fire, because Adonai, God, her Judge, is mighty” The kings of the earth who went whoring with her and shared her luxury will sob and wail over her when they see the smoke as she burns. Standing at a distance, for fear of her torment, they will say, “Oh no! The great city! Bavel, the mighty city! In a single hour your judgment has come!” The world’s businessmen weep and mourn over her, because no one is buying their merchandise any more— stocks of gold and silver, gems and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, all rare woods, all ivory goods, all kinds of things made of scented wood, brass, iron and marble; cinnamon, cardamom, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, flour, grain, cattle, sheep, horses, chariots—and bodies—and people’s souls. The fruits you lusted for with all your heart have gone! All the luxury and flashiness have been destroyed, never to return! The sellers of these things, who got rich from her, will stand at a distance, for fear of her torment, weeping and mourning, and saying, “Oh no!

4

The great city used to wear fine linen, purple and scarlet! She glittered with gold, precious stones and pearls! Such great wealth—in a single hour, ruined!” All the ship masters, passengers, sailors and everyone making his living from the sea stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke as she burned, “What city was like the great city?” And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, saying, “Oh no! The great city! The abundance of her wealth made all the ship owners rich! In a single hour she is ruined!” Rejoice over her, heaven! Rejoice, people of God, emissaries and prophets! For in judging her, God has vindicated you. Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a great millstone, and hurled it into the sea, saying, “With violence like this will the great city Bavel be hurled down, never to be found again!

5

“The sound of harpists and musicians, flute-players and trumpeters will never again be heard in you. No worker of any trade will ever again be found in you, the sound of a mill will never again be heard in you, the light of a lamp will never again shine in you, the voice of bridegroom and bride will never again be heard in you. “For your businessmen were the most powerful on earth, all the nations were deceived by your magic spell. “In her was found the blood of prophets and of God’s people, indeed, of all who have ever been slaughtered on earth!”

6

Possible meaning?

Five that are fallen – Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece

Sixth that is: Ancient Rome

Seventh that is not yet: Revived Rome

Eight that is of the seventh – when the antichrist himself assumes control over the 7th empire.

7

Cities Represent Satan (Isaiah 14)

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! [13] You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; [14] I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ [15] But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.

8

Cities Represent Satan (Ezekiel 28)

“Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: “You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. [13] You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. [14] You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. [15] You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you.

9

Another Mighty Angel

Revelation 18:1	References
After these things, I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his glory.	Dan 10:6 His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude.

10

Fallen, Fallen!

Revelation 18:2

He cried out with a mighty voice, saying: “**Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!** She has become a den for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit and for every unclean bird and for every unclean and detestable beast.

References

Isa 21:9 Look! Here comes a chariot of men, with a pair of horsemen.” Then one answered and said, “**Fallen, fallen is Babylon!** All the images of her gods are broken on the ground.”

Jer 51:8 Suddenly **Babylon has fallen and been broken; wail for her!** Take balm for her pain; perhaps she may be healed.

11

Den for Demons

Revelation 18:2

...She has become a den for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit and for **every unclean bird and for every unclean and detestable beast.**

References

Isa 13:19-22 And **Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the splendor and pomp of the Chaldeans, will be like Sodom and Gomorrah when God overthrew them.** [20] It will never be inhabited or lived in for all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there; no shepherds will make their flocks lie down there. [21] But wild animals will lie down there, and their houses will be full of howling creatures; there ostriches will dwell, and there wild goats will dance. [22] Hyenas will cry in its towers, and jackals in the pleasant palaces; its time is close at hand and its days will not be prolonged.

12

Den for Demons

Revelation 18:2	References
<p>...She has become a den for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit and for every unclean bird and for every unclean and detestable beast.</p>	<p>Isa 34:8-11 For the LORD has a day of vengeance, a year of recompense for the cause of Zion. [9] And the streams of Edom shall be turned into pitch, and her soil into sulfur; her land shall become burning pitch. [10] Night and day it shall not be quenched; its smoke shall go up forever. From generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it forever and ever. [11] But the hawk and the porcupine shall possess it, the owl and the raven shall dwell in it. He shall stretch the line of confusion over it, and the plumb line of emptiness.</p>

13

Come out of her!

Revelation 18:3-4	References
<p>For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the fury of her immorality. The kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich off the power of her self-indulgence.” Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you participate in her sins and receive her plagues!</p>	<p>Isa 48:20 “Get out of Babylon, flee from Chaldea! With a shout of joy, proclaim this, send it out to the end of the earth, say: ‘Adonai has redeemed His servant Jacob! Isa 52:11 Leave, leave! Get out of there! Touch no unclean thing. Go out of her midst. Purify yourselves, you who carry the vessels of Adonai.</p>

14

Come out of her!

Rev 18:4	References
<p>...“Come out of her, my people, lest you participate in her sins and receive her plagues!</p>	<p>Jer 50:8-9 “Flee from within Babylon, get out of the land of the Chaldeans, and be like he-goats before the flock. [9] For I will soon stir up and bring against Babylon an alliance of great nations from the north. They will form battle lines against her, from there she will be captured. Their arrows will be like a warrior who bereaves, not returning empty. (also Jer 51:6-8)</p> <p>Zec 2:10-11 Oy, oy! Flee from the land of the north”—it is a declaration of Adonai—“because I scattered you like the four winds of heaven”—it is a declaration of Adonai. [11] “Oy, Zion! Escape, you who are living with the daughter of Babylon.”</p> <p>2 Co 6:17 Therefore, come out from among them, and be separate...</p>

15

Luke 21:20-22

“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. [21] Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, [22] for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written.



16

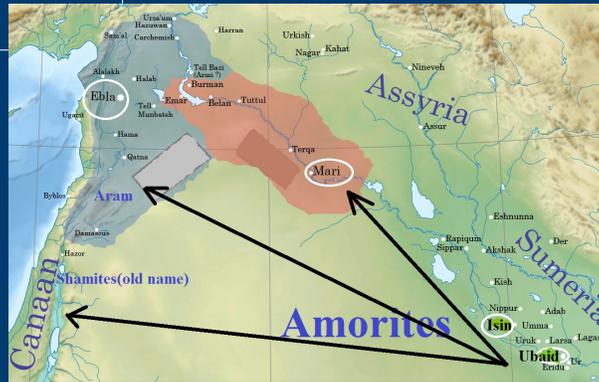
A sin counter?

Revelation 18:5

For her sins have piled up to heaven, and **God has remembered** her crimes.

References

Genesis 15:16 "And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."



17

2 Kings 22:11-20

When the king (Josiah) heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes. [12] And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, ...saying, [13] "Go, inquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found. For great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."

...

[16] Thus says the LORD, Behold, I will bring disaster upon this place and upon its inhabitants, all the words of the book that the king of Judah has read. [17] Because they have forsaken me and have made offerings to other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the work of their hands, therefore my wrath will be kindled against this place, and it will not be quenched.

18

[18] But to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, thus shall you say to him, Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Regarding the words that you have heard, [19] because your heart was penitent, and you humbled yourself before the LORD, when you heard how I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and you have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, declares the LORD. [20] Therefore, behold, **I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace, and your eyes shall not see all the disaster that I will bring upon this place.**” And they brought back word to the king.

19

Measure for Measure

Revelation 18:6	References
Pay her back just as she has paid out , and give her back double for her deeds! In the cup she has mixed—mix a double dose for her!	Jer 50:29 “Summon archers against Babylon, all those who bend the bow. Encamp around her; let no one escape. Repay her according to her deeds ; do to her according to all that she has done. For she has proudly defied the LORD, the Holy One of Israel. Obadiah 15 For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head.

20

Psalm 137

By the waters of **Babylon**, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion. [2] On the willows there we hung up our lyres. [3] **For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"** [4] **How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?** [5] If I forget you, O **Jerusalem**, let my right hand forget its skill! [6] Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy! [7] Remember, O LORD, against the Edomites the day of Jerusalem, how they said, "Lay it bare, lay it bare, down to its foundations!" [8] **O daughter of Babylon, doomed to be destroyed, blessed shall he be who repays you with what you have done to us!** [9] Blessed shall he be who takes your little ones and dashes them against the rock!

21

I am no widow; I shall never see grief!

Revelation 18:7	References
<p>As she has exalted herself and indulged herself in luxury, so give her the same measure of torment and grief! For in her heart she says, 'I sit as a queen—I am no widow; I shall never see grief.'</p>	<p>Lam 1:1 How lonely sits the city (Jerusalem) that was full of people! How like a widow has she become, she who was great among the nations! She who was a princess among the provinces has become a slave.</p> <p>Isa 47:5-6,9 Sit in silence, and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans (i.e. Babylon); for you shall no more be called the mistress of kingdoms. [6] I was angry with my people; I profaned my heritage; I gave them into your hand; you showed them no mercy; on the aged you made your yoke exceedingly heavy. [9] These two things shall come to you in a moment, in one day; the loss of children and widowhood shall come upon you in full measure, in spite of your many sorceries and the great power of your enchantments</p>

22

Kings weep and wail

Revelation 18:8-10

For this reason her plagues will arrive in a single day—death and grief and famine—and she shall be burned down with fire. For mighty is Adonai Elohim who judges her! **Then the kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and indulged in luxury with her shall weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning**—standing far off because of the terror of her torment, saying: “Alas, alas, O great city—O Babylon, the mighty city! For in a single hour your judgment has come!”

References

Rev 17:16 And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. **They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire,**

23

Merchants weep and Mourn

Revelation 18:11

11 And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, because no one buys their merchandise anymore—

References

24

28 luxury items

Revelation 18:12-13

shipments of gold, silver, precious stones, and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet; all kinds of citron wood; all kinds of ivory products; all kinds of products made of costly wood, bronze, iron, and marble, cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, and frankincense; wine, oil, fine flour, and wheat; cattle, sheep, horses, and chariots; and slaves—that is, human souls.

References

25

Fruit from your soul's desire has gone

Revelation 18:14-15

The fruit of your soul's desire has gone from you, and **all the expensive and beautiful things are lost to you—never again will people find them.** 15 The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, shall stand far off for fear of her torment, weeping and mourning,

References

Eze 26:17-18 And they will raise a lamentation over you (Tyre) and say to you, "**How you have perished, you who were inhabited from the seas, O city renowned,** who was mighty on the sea; she and her inhabitants imposed their terror on all her inhabitants! [18] Now the coastlands tremble on the day of your fall, and the coastlands that are on the sea are dismayed at your passing.'

26

Market collapse

Revelation 18:16-19

16 saying, “Alas, alas, O great city—clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! 17 For in a single hour so much wealth has been ruined!” And every ship captain and passenger, sailors and all who make their living at sea, stood at a distance 18 and were crying out, seeing the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What city is like the great city?’ 19 And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, “Alas, alas, O great city—in her all who had ships at sea grew rich from her wealth! For in a single hour has she been ruined!

27

Large Millstone

Revelation 18:20-21

20 Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you kedoshim, emissaries and prophets! For God has judged her condemnation of you!” 21 Then a mighty angel picked up a stone like a **great millstone** and threw it into the sea, saying: “So shall Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, never to be found again!

References

Jer 51:63-64 When you finish reading this book, **tie a stone to it and cast it into the midst of the Euphrates**, [64] and say, ‘Thus shall Babylon sink, to rise no more, because of the disaster that I am bringing upon her, and they shall become exhausted.’” Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.

28

Large Millstone



Basalt olive press at Capernaum

29

No Joy

Revelation 18:22

And the sound of harpists and musicians, flautists and trumpeters, shall never be heard in you again! And the craftsman of any craft shall never be found in you again! **And the sound of a mill shall never be heard in you again!**

References

Isaiah 13:20 It will **never be inhabited or lived in for all generations**; no Arab will pitch his tent there; no shepherds will make their flocks lie down there.

30

Families and Careers

Revelation 18:23

23 And the light of a lamp shall never shine in you again! And the voice of the **bridegroom and bride** shall never be heard in you again! For your **businessmen were the tycoons of the world**, for all the nations were deceived by your sorcery!

References

Luk 17:26-29 Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. [27] They were eating and drinking and **marrying and being given in marriage**, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. [28] Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, **buying and selling, planting and building**, [29] but on the day when Lot went out from **Sodom**, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all—

31

Rev 6:10 They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and **avenge our blood** on those who dwell on the earth?”

Rev 16:6 For they have **shed the blood of saints and prophets**, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!”

Rev 17:6 And I saw the woman, **drunk with the blood of the saints**, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I marveled greatly.

Rev 18:24 And in her was found the blood of the prophets and kedoshim and all those slaughtered on the earth.”

Rev 19:2 for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has **avenged on her the blood of his servants.”**

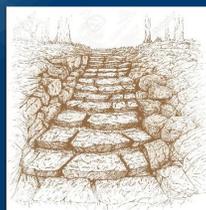
32

Luke 1:30-33

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. [31] And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. [32] He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. **And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, [33] and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."**

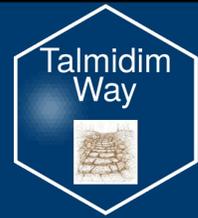
33

Talmidim
Way



34

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 27

Two Feasts

Revelation 19



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).



2

Revelation 19

After these things, I heard what sounded like the roar of a huge crowd in heaven, shouting, "Hallelujah! The victory, the glory, the power of our God! For his judgments are true and just. He has judged the great whore who corrupted the earth with her whoring. He has taken vengeance on her who has the blood of his servants on her hands." And a second time, they said, "Hallelujah! Her smoke goes up forever and ever!" The twenty-four elders and the four living beings fell down and worshipped God, sitting on the throne, and said, "Amen! Hallelujah!" A voice went out from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great!" Then I heard what sounded like the roar of a huge crowd, like the sound of rushing waters, like loud peals of thunder, saying, "halleluiah! Adonai, God of heaven's armies, has begun his reign! "Let us rejoice and be glad! Let us give him the glory! For the time has come for the wedding of the Lamb, and his Bride has prepared herself— fine linen, bright and clean, has been given her to wear." ("Fine linen" means the righteous deeds of God's people.)



3

The angel said to me, "Write: 'How blessed are those who have been invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb!' " Then he added, "These are God's very words." I fell at his feet to worship him, but he said, "Don't do that! I'm only a fellow servant with you and your brothers who have the testimony of Yeshua. Worship God! For the testimony of Yeshua is the Spirit of prophecy."

Next, I saw heaven opened, and there before me was a white horse. Sitting on it was the one called Faithful and True, and it is in righteousness that he passes judgment and goes to battle. His eyes were like a fiery flame, and on his head were many royal crowns. And he had a name written which no one knew but himself. He was wearing a robe that had been soaked in blood, and the name by which he is called is, "THE WORD OF GOD." The armies of heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. And out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down nations—"He will rule them with a staff of iron." It is he who treads the winepress from which flows the wine of the furious rage of Adonai, God of heaven's armies. And on his robe and on his thigh, he has a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.



4

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out in a loud voice to all the birds that fly about in mid-heaven, "Come, gather together for the great feast God is giving, to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of generals, the flesh of important men, the flesh of horses and their riders and the flesh of all kinds of people, free and slave, small and great!" I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to do battle with the rider of the horse and his army. But the beast was taken captive and with it the false prophet who, in its presence, had done the miracles which he had used to deceive those who had received the mark of the beast and those who had worshipped his image. The beast and the false prophet were both thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. The rest were killed with the sword that goes out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.



5

Parables of the Wedding Feast/Wedding Clothes - Mat 22:1-14

And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, [2] "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, [3] and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. [4] Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.'" [5] But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, [6] while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. [7] The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. [8] Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. [9] Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.'



6

[10] And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests. [11] “But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. [12] And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. [13] Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ [14] For many are called, but few are chosen.”



7

Parable of the dinner invitation (Mt 22:1-14)

- King = God
- Wedding banquet = the messianic banquet in Revelation 19
- Servants calling = the prophets and Yeshua issuing a call to repent
- Those invited = those who heard the call (but did not necessarily respond to it)
- The excuses = deceptions of wealth and materialism
- Killing the servants = murdering the prophets and Yeshua
- Burned their city = the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE
- Bad and Good = sinners, tax collectors, prostitutes
- **Meaning: those who do not repent will face punishment in this world and lose their place in the messianic banquet**

•Parable of the wrong clothes (Mt 22:2, 10-14)

- King = God
- Wedding banquet = messianic banquet in Revelation 19
- Guests – those who enter the kingdom
- Garments = righteous deeds, including repentance and keeping Jesus’ commands (so “no garments” is a lack of repentance and deeds)
- Outer darkness = Gehenna
- **Meaning: an invitation to the banquet does not guarantee a place at the table. We must respond to the invitation with repentance and righteous deeds done in His power, not our own.**



Source: Lancaster, D.T. *Chronicles of the Messiah* v. 4

8

Commanded to Praise

Revelation 19:1

After this, I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

References

Psa 104:35 Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!

הַלְלוּ-יְיָ



9

Redeemer of Blood

Revelation 19:2

for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality and has avenged on her the blood of his servants."

References

Psa 19:9 the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

Num 35:19 The avenger of blood shall put the murderer to death; when he meets him, he shall put him to death.

Romans 12:19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."



10

Smoke Forever

Revelation 19:3	References
Once more, they cried out, "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever."	Isa 34:10 Night and day it shall not be quenched; its smoke shall go up forever. From generation to generation, it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it forever and ever.



11

Praising from the Heavenly Throne

Revelation 19:4-5	References
And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!" And from the throne came a voice saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great."	Psa 106:48 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the LORD! Psa 115:12-13 The LORD has remembered us; he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron; [13] he will bless those who fear the LORD, both the small and the great.



12

The Messianic Banquet

Revelation 19:6

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

References

Ps 97:1 The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!

Exodus 15:18 The LORD will reign forever and ever.

Isa 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." 

13

The Bride is Ready

Revelation 19:7

7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;

References

Isa 25:6-9 On this mountain, the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. [7] And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. [8] He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. [9] It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation." 

14

Our Righteous Deeds

Revelation 19:8

it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure” — for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

References

Rev 17:4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality.

Lev 16:4 He shall put on the holy linen coat and shall have the linen undergarment on his body, and he shall tie the linen sash around his waist, and wear the linen turban; these are the holy garments. He shall bathe his body in water and then put them on.



15

What about Isaiah 64:6? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.

Numerous other verses command us to do good deeds.

Jas 1:25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

The issue is doing good deeds to curry favor with God or men, versus deeds that reflect a selfless love for others.

Mat 6:1 “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.”



16

Invited to the feast

Revelation 19:9

And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

References



17

Don't worship angels

Revelation 19:10

Then I fell at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

References

Col 2:18 Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind



18

Faithful, True, Righteous

Revelation 19:11

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness, he judges and makes war.

References

Titus 2:13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.
 Eze 1:1 In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the exiles by the Chebar canal, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.
 Jer 42:5 Then they said to Jeremiah, "May the LORD be a true and faithful witness against us if we do not act according to all the word with which the LORD your God sends you to us.
 Isaiah 42:13 The LORD goes out like a mighty man, like a man of war he stirs up his zeal; he cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself mighty against his foes.



19

A name no one knows

Revelation 19:12

His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.

References

Rev 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers, I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.
 Dan 10:6 ...his eyes like flaming torches...



20

Robe Dipped in Blood

Revelation 19:13-14

He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.

References

Isa 63:2-3 Why is Your apparel red and your garments like his who treads in the winepress? [3] "I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples, no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments and stained all my apparel.

Rev 5:6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain



21

Strike with a rod of iron

Revelation 19:15

From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

References

Isa 49:2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver, he hid me away.

Hosea 6:5 Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light.

Isaiah 11:4 but with righteousness, he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.



22

King of Kings

Revelation 19:16

On his robe and on his thigh, he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

References

Deu 10:17 For the LORD, your God, is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.

1 Sam 24:4 And the men of David said to him, "Here is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.'" Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner (hem) of Saul's robe.



23

Not the "Lord's Supper" you're looking for

Revelation 19:17-18

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice, he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great."

References

Eze 39:17 "As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD: Speak to the birds of every sort and to all beasts of the field: 'Assemble and come, gather from all around to the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for you, a great sacrificial feast on the mountains of Israel, and you shall eat flesh and drink blood.'

Gen 15:11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.



24

The Nations Rage

Revelation 19:19

And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army.

References

Psa 2:1-6 Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? [2] The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, [3] "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." [4] He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. [5] Then he will speak to them in his wrath and terrify them in his fury, saying, [6] "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."



25

Lake of Fire

Revelation 19:20

20 And the beast was captured and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.

References

Matthew 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"
 Ezekiel 38:22 With pestilence and bloodshed I will enter into judgment with him, and I will rain upon him and his hordes and the many peoples who are with him torrential rains and hailstones, fire and sulfur.
 Dan 7:11 "I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire."



26

Birds gorge on the flesh

Revelation 19:21

And the rest were slain by the sword from the mouth of him sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

References



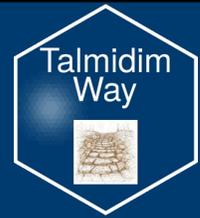
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Revelation 20: 1000 years / Defeat of Satan / White Throne Judgment
Revelation 21: New Heaven and New Earth / New Jerusalem
Revelation 22: Eden Restored (Tree of life restored, no curse) / final exhortation to 1st-century believers



28

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 28

The Millennium

Revelation 20



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).



2

Revelation 20

Next, I saw an angel coming down from heaven, who had the key to the Abyss and a great chain in his hand. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan [the Adversary], and chained him up for a thousand years. He threw him into the

Abyss, locked it, and sealed it over him; so that he could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were over. After that, he has to be set free for a little while. Then I saw thrones, and those seated there received authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for testifying about Yeshua and proclaiming the Word of God, also those who had not worshipped the beast or its image and had not received the mark on their foreheads and on their hands. They came to life and ruled with the Messiah for a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were over.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is anyone who has a part in the first resurrection; over him, the second death has no power. On the contrary, they will be cohanim of God and of the Messiah, and they will rule with him for the thousand years.



3

When the thousand years are over, the Adversary will be set free from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for the battle. Their number is countless as the sand on the seashore, and they came up over the breadth of the Land and surrounded the camp of God's people and the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and consumed them. The Adversary who had deceived them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.



4

Next, I saw a great white throne and the One sitting on it. Earth and heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, both great and small, standing in front of the throne. Books were opened, and another book was opened, the Book of Life, and the dead were judged from what was written in the books, according to what they had done. The sea gave up the dead in it, and Death and Sh'ol gave up the dead in them, and they were judged, each according to what he had done. Then Death and Sh'ol were hurled into the lake of fire. This is the second death—the lake of fire. Anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life was hurled into the lake of fire.

i Pro tip: you want to ensure your name is found in the Book of Life!

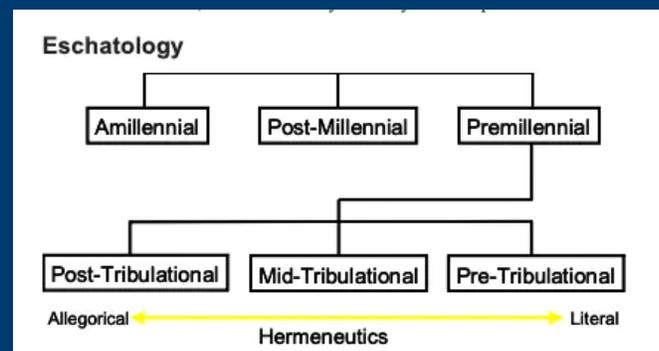
5

Eschatology Review

Amillennial – allegoric/symbolic struggle of good versus evil | “Jesus rules in our hearts” | Origen, Augustine, Luther, Calvin | Church grows, and life gets better | *Catholic and most Protestant Denominations*

Postmillennial – the allegorical millennium is the present age, after which Jesus literally returns | this view is not common

Premillennial – Literal, earthly rule of Jesus | Irenaeus, Justin Martyr, (Peter, Paul, etc.) | length of time-period debated | timing of rapture debated | Most conservative/evangelical denominations



6

Luke 1:32-33

[32] He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. **And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, [33] and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."**



Amillennial
David's
Literal Throne



Premillineal
David's
Literal Throne



7

Acts 15:15-18

And with this, the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written, [16] "After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, [17] that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things [18] known from of old."



8

2Pe 3:3-9 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. [4] They will say, “**Where is the promise of his coming?** For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” [5] For they **deliberately overlook** this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, [6] and that by means of these, the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. [7] But by the same word, the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, **being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.** [8] But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord, one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day. [9] The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should reach repentance.



9

Angel of the Abyss

Revelation 20:1

Next, I saw an angel coming down from heaven, who had the key to the Abyss and a great chain in his hand.

References

Rev 9:1-3 And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. [2] He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft.

Luk 8:31 And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.

Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day



10

Satan in Chains

Revelation 20:2-3

He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan [the Adversary], and chained him up for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, locked it, and sealed it over him; so that he could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were over. After that, he has to be set free for a little while.

References

Isa 24:21-22 On that day, the LORD will punish the host of heaven, in heaven, and the kings of the earth, on the earth. [22] They will be gathered together as prisoners in a pit; they will be shut up in a prison, and after many days they will be punished.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary, the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.



11

Saints will Judge

Revelation 20:4

Then I saw thrones, and those seated on them received authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for testifying about Yeshua and proclaiming the Word of God, also those who had not worshipped the beast or its image and had not received the mark on their foreheads and on their hands. They came to life and ruled with the Messiah for a thousand years.

References

Matthew 19:28 Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

1 Cor 6:2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases?

Romans 8:17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.



12

First resurrection excludes non-believers

Revelation 20:5	References
(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were over.) This is the first resurrection.	



13

He made us Priests

Revelation 20:6	References
Blessed and holy is anyone who has a part in the first resurrection; over him, the second death has no power . On the contrary, they will be <i>cohanim</i> of God and of the Messiah, and they will rule with him for the thousand years.	<p>Rev 1:6 and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.</p> <p>Two deaths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical death: separation of the body from the soul • Spiritual death: separation of the soul from God



14

Satan freed

Revelation 20:7-8

When the thousand years are over, the Adversary will be set free from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for the battle. Their number is countless as the sand on the seashore;

References

Eze 7:2 "And you, O son of man, thus says the Lord GOD to the land of Israel: An end! The end has come upon the four corners of the land.

Eze 38:2-3 "Son of man, set your face toward Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him [3] and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.

Psa 2:1 Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?



15

Not much of a battle...

Revelation 20:9

and they came up over the breadth of the Land and surrounded the camp of God's people and the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and consumed them.

References

Psa 87:2 the LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwelling places of Jacob.

Eze 39:6 I will send fire on Magog and on those who dwell securely in the coastlands, and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Isa 30:33 For a burning place has long been prepared; indeed, for the king, it is made ready, its pyre made deep and wide, with fire and wood in abundance; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of sulfur, kindles it.



16

Satan Hurled

Revelation 20:10

The Adversary who had deceived them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

References



17

The Great White Throne Judgment

Revelation 20:11

Next, I saw a great white throne and the One sitting on it. Earth and heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them.

References

Romans 14:10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God;

2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Romans 2:16 on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.



18

Judged according to what they had done

Revelation 20:12

And I saw the dead, both great and small, standing in front of the throne. Books were opened, and another book was opened, the Book of Life, and the dead were judged from what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

References

Mal 3:18 Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

Exo 32:31-33 So Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Alas, these people have sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold. [32] But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written." [33] But the LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book."



19

John 5:27-29

And he has given him authority to execute judgment because he is the Son of Man. [28] Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice [29] and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.



20

Eze 18:20-23

The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself. [21] **“But if a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. [22] None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness that he has done, he shall live. [23] Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?”**

Luke 10:26-28

He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” [27] And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” [28] And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; **do this, and you will live.**”



21

The sea gives up its dead

Revelation 20:13

The sea gave up the dead in it; and Death and Sh’ol gave up the dead in them, and they were judged, each according to what he had done.

References

Mt 25:46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Hos 13:14 I shall ransom them from the power of Sheol; I shall redeem them from Death. O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting? Compassion is hidden from my eyes.



22

The Second Death

Revelation 20:14-15

Then Death and Sh'ol were hurled into the lake of fire. **This is the second death**—the lake of fire. Anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life was hurled into the lake of fire.

References

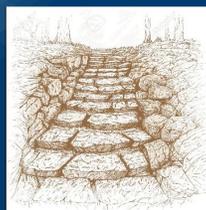
Rev 21:8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, **which is the second death.**"

Isa 25:8 He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.



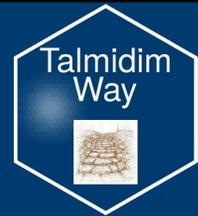
23

Talmidim Way



24

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 29 – part 1

New heaven and new earth

Revelation 21



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).



2

Revelation 21

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had passed away, and the sea was no longer there. Also, I saw the holy city, New Yerushalayim, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "See! God's Sh'khinah is with mankind, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and he himself, God-with-them, will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will no longer be any death, and there will no longer be any mourning, crying, or pain; because the old order has passed away." Then the One sitting on the throne said, "Look! I am making everything new!" Also, he said, "Write, 'These words are true and trustworthy!'" And he said to me, "It is done! I am the 'A' and the 'Z,' the Beginning and the End. To anyone thirsty, I will give water free of charge from the Fountain of Life. He who wins the victory will receive these things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son. But as for the cowardly, the untrustworthy, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those involved with the occult and with drugs, idol-worshippers, and all liars—their destiny is the lake burning with fire and sulfur, the second death." 

3

One of the seven angels having the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues approached me and said, "Come! I will show you the Bride, the Wife of the Lamb." He carried me off in the Spirit to the top of a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city, Yerushalayim, coming down out of heaven from God. It had the Sh'khinah of God so that its brilliance was like that of a priceless jewel, like a crystal-clear diamond. It had a great, high wall with twelve gates; at the gates were twelve angels and inscribed on the gates were the names of the twelve tribes of Isra'el. There were three gates to the east, three gates to the north, three gates to the south, and three gates to the west. The wall of the city was built on twelve foundation stones, and on these were the twelve names of the twelve emissaries of the Lamb. The angel speaking with me had a gold measuring rod with which to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. The city is laid out in a square, its length equal to its width. With his rod, he measured the city at 1,500 miles, with length, width, and height the same. He measured its wall at 216 feet by human standards of measurement, which the angel was using. The wall was made of diamond, and the city was of pure gold resembling pure glass. 

4

The foundations of the city wall were decorated with all kinds of precious stones—the first foundation stone was diamond, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh turquoise, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls, with each gate made of a single pearl. The city’s main street was pure gold, transparent as glass. I saw no Temple in the city, for Adonai, God of heaven’s armies, is its Temple, as is the Lamb. The city has no need for the sun or the moon to shine on it because God’s Sh’khinah gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. Its gates will never close; they stay open all day because night will not exist there, and the honor and splendor of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure may enter it, nor anyone who does shameful things or lies; the only ones who may enter are those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.



5

Progressive Unveiling of the Age to Come

Stage	Reference
Hidden	Isa 64:4 “From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him” (Isa 64:4).
Partially revealed “through” the Spirit	1 Cor 2:9-10 But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”— [10] these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit . For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.
Most details “in” the Spirit	Rev 21 & 22, including 21:10 He carried me off in the Spirit to the top of a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city, Yerushalayim,



6

John sees a New Heaven/Earth

Revelation 21:1

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

References

Isa 65:17-19 "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. [18] But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. [19] I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.



7

Old things have passed away

Revelation 21:1

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

References

Isa 66:22-24 "For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain. [23] From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD. [24] "And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."

Rom 8:19-21 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. [20] For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope [21] that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.



8

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:2

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

References

Hebrews 11:16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Gal 4:26 But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.

Isa 62:5-7 For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. [6] On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the LORD in remembrance, take no rest, [7] and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth.

9

The Word tabernacled among us

Revelation 21:3

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, **the dwelling place of God is with man**. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

References

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and **dwelt** among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Lev 26:11-12 I will make **my dwelling** among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. [12] And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people.

Zec 2:10 Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come, and **I will dwell in your midst**, declares the LORD

2 Chronicles 6:18 "But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built!"

10

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us



Tabernacle model

John 1:14

11

His people

Revelation 21:3

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and **they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.**

References

Gen 17:7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

Ex 6:7 I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

Rth 1:16 But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.



12

Imanu El - עִמָּנוּ אֵל

Revelation 21:3

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of **God is with man**. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

References

Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.



13

Former things passed away

Revelation 21:4

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

References

Isa 25:8 He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken

Isa 65:17 "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind."

2Co 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.



14

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.



Butterfly at Jericho



2 Cor 5:17

15

It is accomplished!

Revelation 21:5-6

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "**It is done!** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

References

Mat 5:17-18 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. [18] For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.
Jer 31:33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my Torah within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.



16

Living water without payment

Revelation 21:5-6

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. **To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.**

References

Isa 55:1-2 "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Joh 7:37-38 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. [38] Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"



17

To the thirsty I will give from the springs of the water of life without payment



Waterfalls in Nahal David, En Gedi and Banias/Caesarea Philippi



Rev 21:6

18

Promise to the overcomer

Revelation 21:7	References
The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.	<p>1 Jn 5:4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.</p> <p>Rev 12:11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.</p>



19

Promise to the non-overcomers

Revelation 21:8	References
But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”	<p>Rev 9:21 nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.</p>



20

Jerusalem is the Bride of Christ

Revelation 21:9-11

Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

References

Eze 40:2 In visions of God he brought me to the land of Israel, and set me down on a very high mountain, on which was a structure like a city to the south.



21

Twelve gates/tribes

Revelation 21:12-13

It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates, the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed—on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.

References

Num 2:2 “The people of Israel shall camp each by his own standard, with the banners of their fathers’ houses. They shall camp facing the tent of meeting on every side.

Eze 48:30-34 On the north side, three gates, the gate of Reuben, the gate of Judah, and the gate of Levi, the gates of the city being named after the tribes of Israel. On the east side, which is to be 4,500 cubits, three gates (etc. for the remaining tribes)



22

Twelve foundations/apostles

Revelation 21:14

And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

References

Eph 2:19-20 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, [20] built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,



23

Taking measurements

Revelation 21:15

And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls.

References

Rev 11:1-2 Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, "Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, [2] but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months.

Eze 40:3 When he brought me there, behold, there was a man whose appearance was like bronze, with a linen cord and a measuring reed in his hand. And he was standing in the gateway.



24

12,000 stadia 144 cubits

Revelation 21:16-17

The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement.

References



25

Wall of precious stones

Revelation 21:18-20

The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoptase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

References

Isa 54:12 I will make your pinnacles of agate, your gates of carbuncles, and all your wall of precious stones.

Exo 28:17-20 You shall set in it four rows of stones. A row of sardius, topaz, and carbuncle shall be the first row; [18] and the second row an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond; [19] and the third row a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; [20] and the fourth row a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper. They shall be set in gold filigree.



26

You were in Eden

Revelation 21:18-20

The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoptase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

References

Eze 28:13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared.



27

Pearly gates and streets of gold

Revelation 21:21-22

And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

References

Pearls:

Proverbs 8:11 and Job 28:18 Wisdom is better than pearls

Proverbs 20:16 There are gold and pearls, but the dearest jewels are lips that speak knowledge

Mt 7:6 Do not give to dogs what is holy and do not throw your pearls before swine

*Revelation 17:4, the whore of Babylon was adorned in pearls (and 1 Ti 2:9 Paul says respectable women should **not** be adorned with pearls!)*

Rev 18:12, and 18:16 the merchants of Babylon mourned the loss of pearls



28

“I am the light of the World”

Revelation 21:23-25

And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.

References

Isa 60:19-20 The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. [20] Your sun shall no more go down, nor your moon withdraw itself; for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

Gen 1:3-4 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated 

29

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me shall not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.



Sunset over the Sea of Galilee

 John 8:12

30

The nations will be represented

Revelation 21:26

They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

References

Gen 12:1-3 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."



31

Nothing unclean will be present

Revelation 21:27

But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

References



32

Restored Eden

Revelation 22:1-3

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb [2] through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. [3] No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.

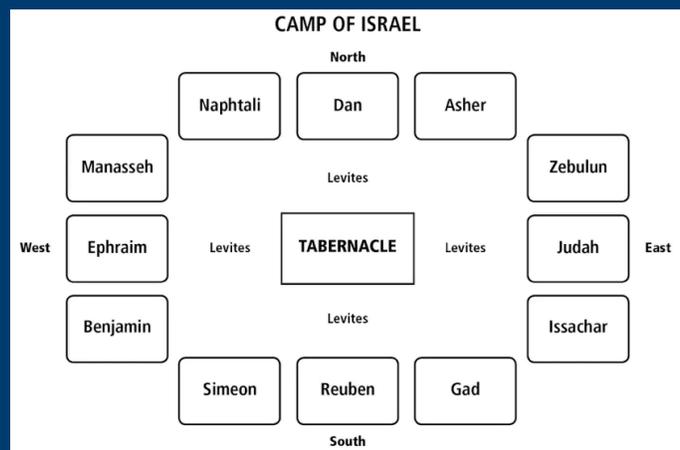
References



33

Irenaeus (130-202) Conjecture – three levels

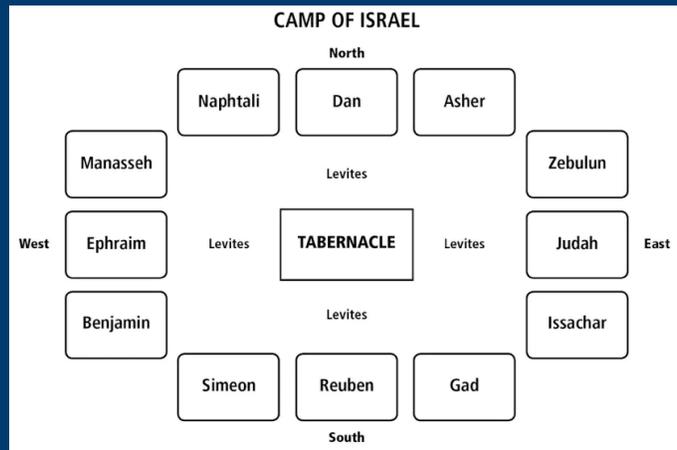
- Tabernacle (Camp of God)
- Levites (Camp of Levites)
- 12 Tribes (Camp of Israel)



34

Irenaeus (130-202) Conjecture – three levels

- Tabernacle (Camp of God)
 - Throne/Temple
- Levites (Camp of Levites)
 - Restored Eden
- 12 Tribes (Camp of Israel)
 - City, extending to walls



35

1 Cor 3:10-15

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. [11] For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. [12] Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— [13] each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. [14] If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. [15] If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only through fire.



36

Mt 13:23

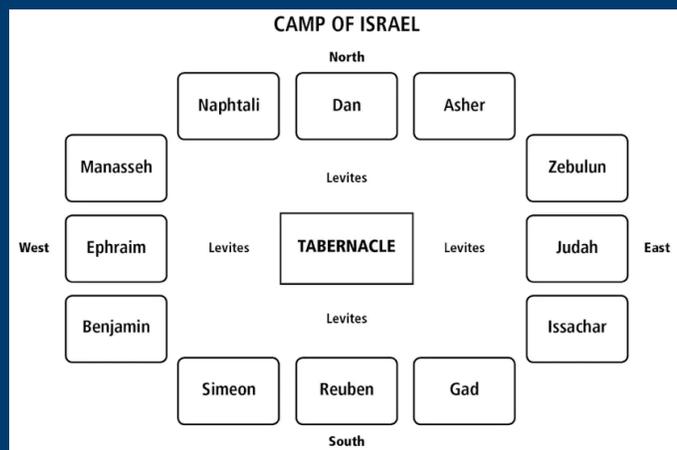
As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a **hundredfold**, in another **sixty**, and in another **thirty**.



37

Irenaeus (130-202) Conjecture – three levels

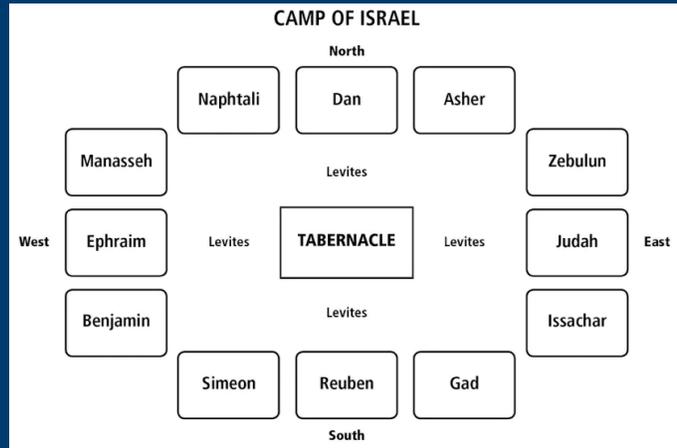
- Tabernacle (Camp of God)
 - Throne/Temple
 - 100-fold
- Levites (Camp of Levites)
 - Restored Eden
 - 60-fold
- 12 Tribes (Camp of Israel)
 - City, extending to walls
 - 30-fold



38

Irenaeus (130-202) Conjecture – three levels

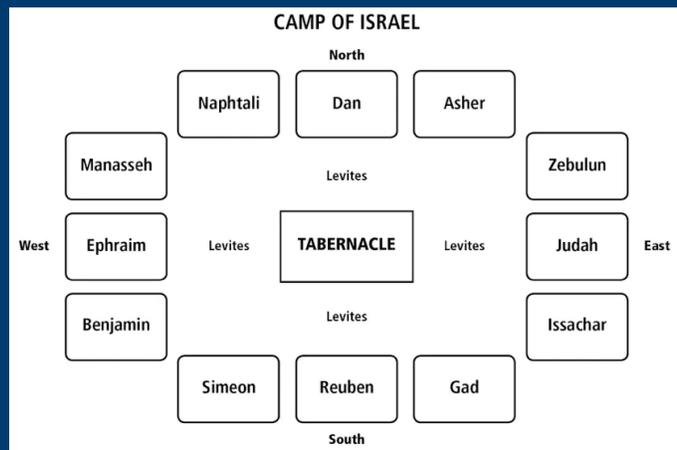
- Tabernacle (Camp of God)
 - Throne/Temple
 - 100-fold
- Levites (Camp of Levites)
 - Restored Eden
 - 60-fold
- 12 Tribes (Camp of Israel)
 - City, extending to walls
 - 30-fold



39

Irenaeus (130-202) Conjecture – three levels

- Tabernacle (Camp of God)
 - Throne/Temple
 - 100-fold
- Levites (Camp of Levites)
 - Restored Eden
 - 60-fold
- 12 Tribes (Camp of Israel)
 - City, extending to walls
 - 30-fold



40

Luke 14:7-11

Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, [8] “When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, [9] and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. [10] But when you are invited, **go and sit in the lowest place**, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘**Friend, move up higher.**’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. [11] **For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.**”



41

It is not usable either for the soil or for the manure pile



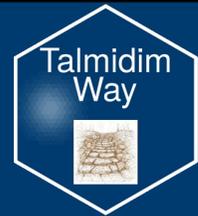
“Friend, move up higher.”

Dung cake manufacture in Ucok, Turkey

Luke 14:35

42

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 30

Maranatha!

Revelation 22



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).



2

Revelation 22

Next, the angel showed me the river of the water of life, sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. Between the main street and the river was the Tree of Life producing twelve kinds of fruit, a different kind every month; and the leaves of the tree were for healing the nations— no longer will there be any curses. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. Night will no longer exist, so they will need neither the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because Adonai, God, will shine upon them. And they will reign as kings forever and ever. Then he said to me, “These words are true and trustworthy: Adonai, God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must happen soon.” “Look! I am coming very soon. Blessed is the person who obeys the words of the prophecy written in this book!”



3

Then I, Yochanan, the one hearing and seeing these things, when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel showing them to me. But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am only a fellow-servant with you and your brothers, the prophets and the people who obey the words in this book. Worship God!” Then he said to me, “Don’t seal up the words of the prophecy in this book, because the time of their fulfillment is near. “Whoever keeps acting wickedly, let him go on acting wickedly; whoever is filthy, let him go on being made filthy. “Also, whoever is righteous, let him go on doing what is righteous; and whoever is holy, let him go on being made holy.” “Pay attention!” [says Yeshua,] “I am coming soon, and my rewards are with me to give to each person according to what he has done. I am the ‘A’ and the ‘Z,’ the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”



4

How blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they have the right to eat from the Tree of Life and go through the gates into the city! Outside are the homosexuals, those involved with the occult and with drugs, the sexually immoral, murderers, idol-worshippers, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. "I, Yeshua, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the Messianic communities. I am the Root and Offspring of David, the bright Morning Star. The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!' Let anyone who hears say, 'Come!' And let anyone who is thirsty come—let anyone who wishes, take the water of life free of charge."



5

I warn everyone hearing the words of the prophecy in this book that if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues written in this book. And if anyone takes anything away from the words in the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the Tree of Life and the holy city, as described in this book. "The one who is testifying to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon!' " Amen! Come, Lord Yeshua! May the grace of the Lord Yeshua be with all!



6

Restored Eden

Revelation 22:1-2a

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city;

References

Gen 2:10 A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers.



7

Eze 47:1-8 Then he brought me back to the door of the temple, and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar.

...

[6] And he said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he led me back to the bank of the river. [7] As I went back, I saw on the bank of the river very many trees on the one side and on the other. [8] And he said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and enters the (Dead) sea; when the water flows into the sea, the water will become fresh.



8

Joe 3:18 “And in that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the streambeds of Judah shall flow with water; and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the LORD and water the Valley of Shittim.

Zec 14:8 On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter.

Psa 46:4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

Psa 36:8 They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.



9

Joe 3:18 “And in that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the streambeds of Judah shall flow with water; and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the LORD and water the Valley of Shittim.

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Psa 46:4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

Psa 36:8 They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

Joh 7:38 **Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”**



10

Etz Chayim – Tree of Life

Revelation 22:2b

also, on either side of the river, the **tree of life** with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its **fruit** each month. The **leaves** of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

References

Gen 2:9 And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The **tree of life** was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Eze 47:12 And on the banks, on both sides of the **river**, there will grow all kinds of **trees** for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh **fruit every month**, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their **fruit will be for food**, and their **leaves for healing.**"



11

Psa 1:1-3 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the Torah of the LORD, and on his Torah his meditation is day and night. He will be like a **tree** planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

Jeremiah 31:33 "I will put my law in their hearts, and I will write them on the inside of their arms, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

Joh 6:68-69 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, [69] and we have believed that you are the Holy One of God."



...wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the Torah of the LORD, and on his Torah his meditation is day and night. He will be like a **tree** planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

...on their hearts. And I will write them on the inside of their arms, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

...o? You have the words of eternal life, [69] and we have believed that you are the Holy One of God."



12



13

No more curse

Revelation 22:3

No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.

References

Gen 3:14-19 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly, you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. [15] I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." [16] To the woman, he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain, you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you." [17] And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain, you shall eat of it all the days of your life; [18] thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. [19] By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

14

No more curse – pure worship

Revelation 22:3	References
No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.	Zech 14:11 And it shall be inhabited, for there shall never again be a decree of utter destruction. Jerusalem shall dwell in security.



15

We see Him face to face

Revelation 22:4	References
They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.	<p>Exo 33:20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live."</p> <p>1Co 13:12-13 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. [13] So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.</p> <p>Deu 6:8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.</p>



16

No need for the Sun

Revelation 22:5

And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

References

Isa 60:19 The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.



17

Concluding words

Revelation 22:6

And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, **has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.**"

References

Rev 1:1-2 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to **show to his servants** the things **that must soon take place**. He made it known by **sending his angel** to his servant John, [2] who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

Inclusio in Matthew

Mat 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name **Immanuel**" (which means, **God with us**).
 Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, **I am with you** always, to the end of the age."



18

Ashrei is the one

Revelation 22:7

"And behold, I am coming **soon**. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

References

Rev 1:3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.



19

Worship God

Revelation 22:8-9

I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I **fell down to worship at the feet** of the angel who showed them to me, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

References

Rev 1:17 When I saw him, I **fell at his feet** as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last,



20

Do not Seal; let the evildoer do evil

Revelation 22:10-11

And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.”

References

Dan 8:26 The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true, but seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now.”
 Dan 12:4 But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”
 Mat 24:15 “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand)



21

Matthew 25:34-41,46

[34] Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. [35] For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, [36] I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ [37] Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? [38] And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? [39] And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ [40] And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’ [41] “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels...[46] And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”



22

Recompense

Revelation 22:12	References
<p>“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.</p>	<p><small>Isa 40:10-11</small> Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. [11] He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.</p> <p><small>Isa 62:11-12</small> Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, “Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.” [12] And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.</p> <p><small>Mat 25:29</small> For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.</p> 

23

I AM the α and the ω

Revelation 22:13	References
<p>I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."</p>	<p><small>Rev 1:17-18</small> When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, [18] and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.</p> <p><small>Isa 44:6</small> Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.</p> 

24

Washed in the blood of the Lamb

Revelation 22:14

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

References

Rev 7:14 I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.



25

Outside

Revelation 22:15

Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

References



26

Root and Descendant of David

Revelation 22:16

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

References

Root of David - *Isa 11:1* There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

Descendant of David - *Jer 23:5* "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.



27

Living Water without price

Revelation 22:17

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

References

Isa 55:1 "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."



28

A final encouragement

Revelation 22:18-19

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

References

Deu 4:2 You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that **you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you.**

Rev 1:3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who **keep what is written in it**, for the time is near.



29

Rev 22:20-21

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen.

Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

אמן! מרנאתא!



30



Talmidim
Way

31