

The Revelation of John







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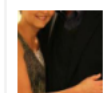
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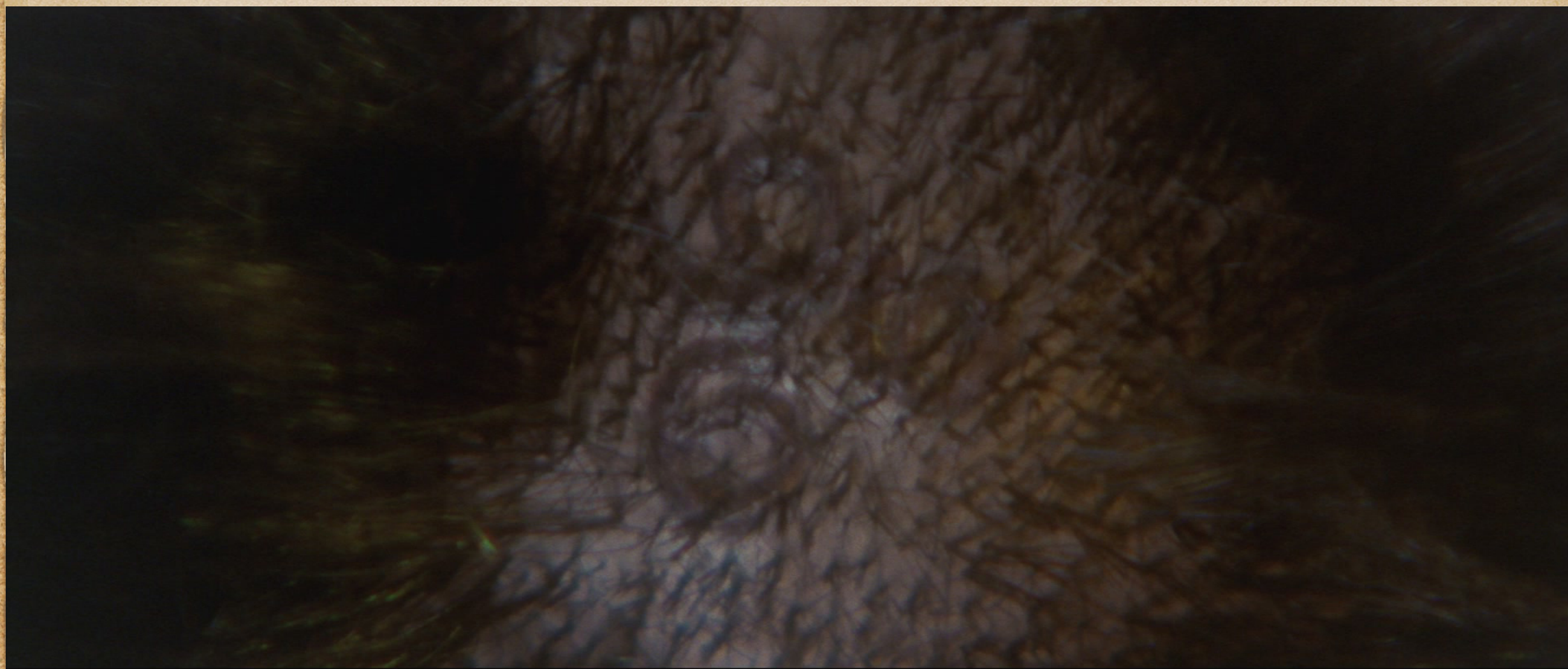
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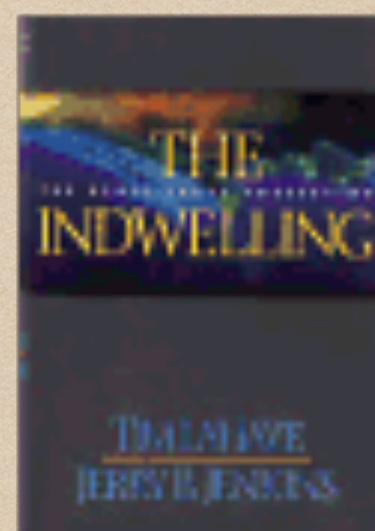
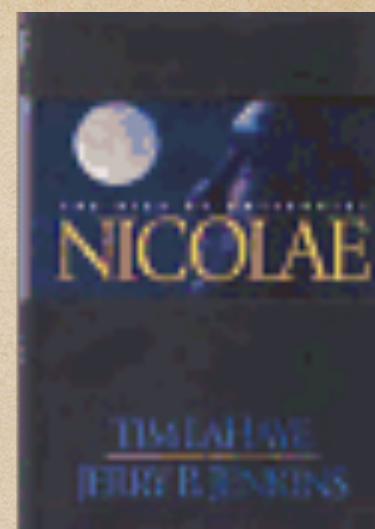
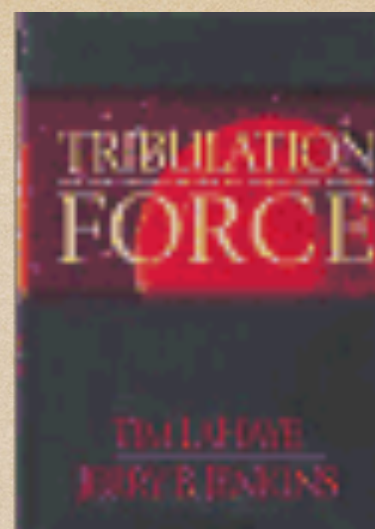
2011

2010

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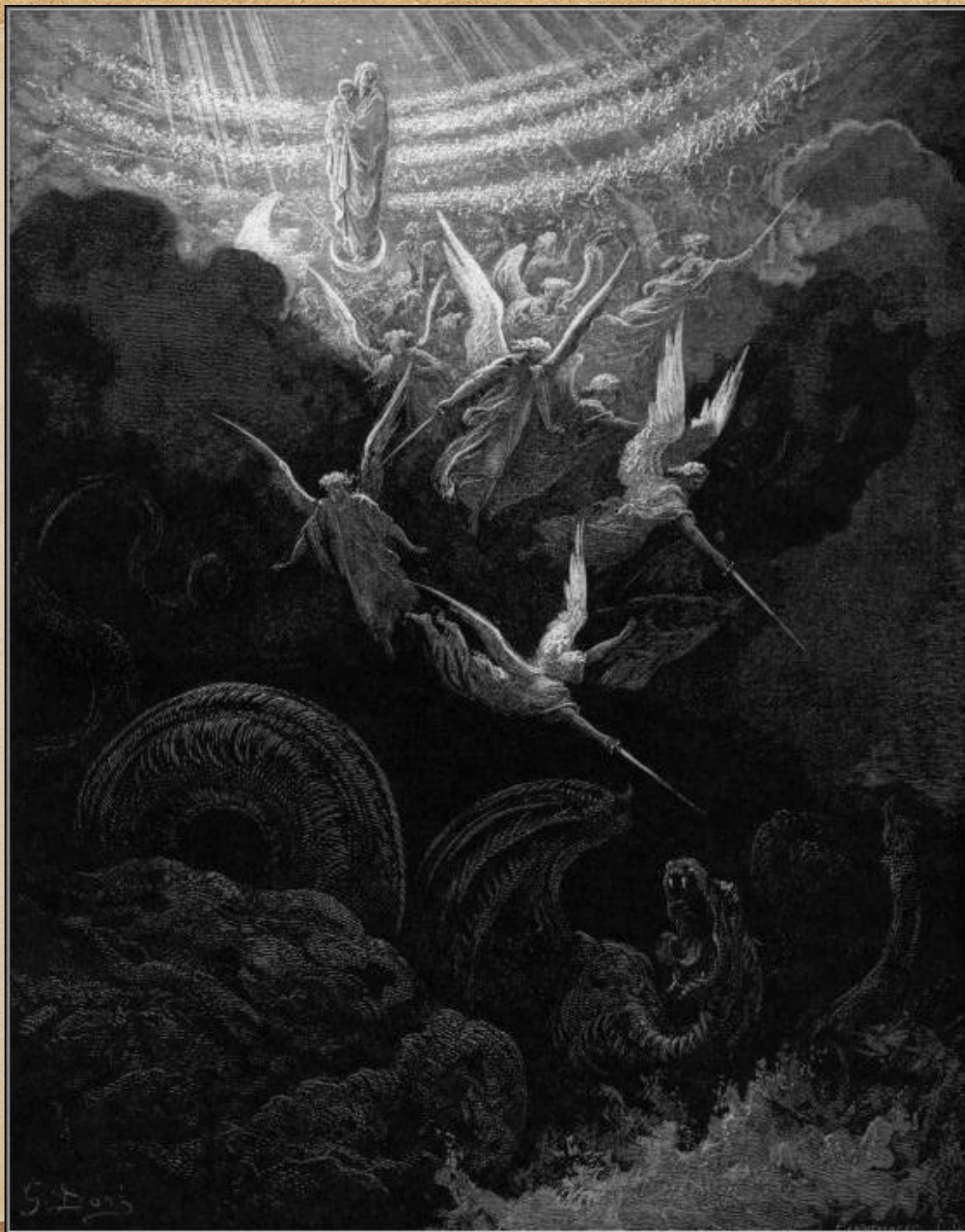


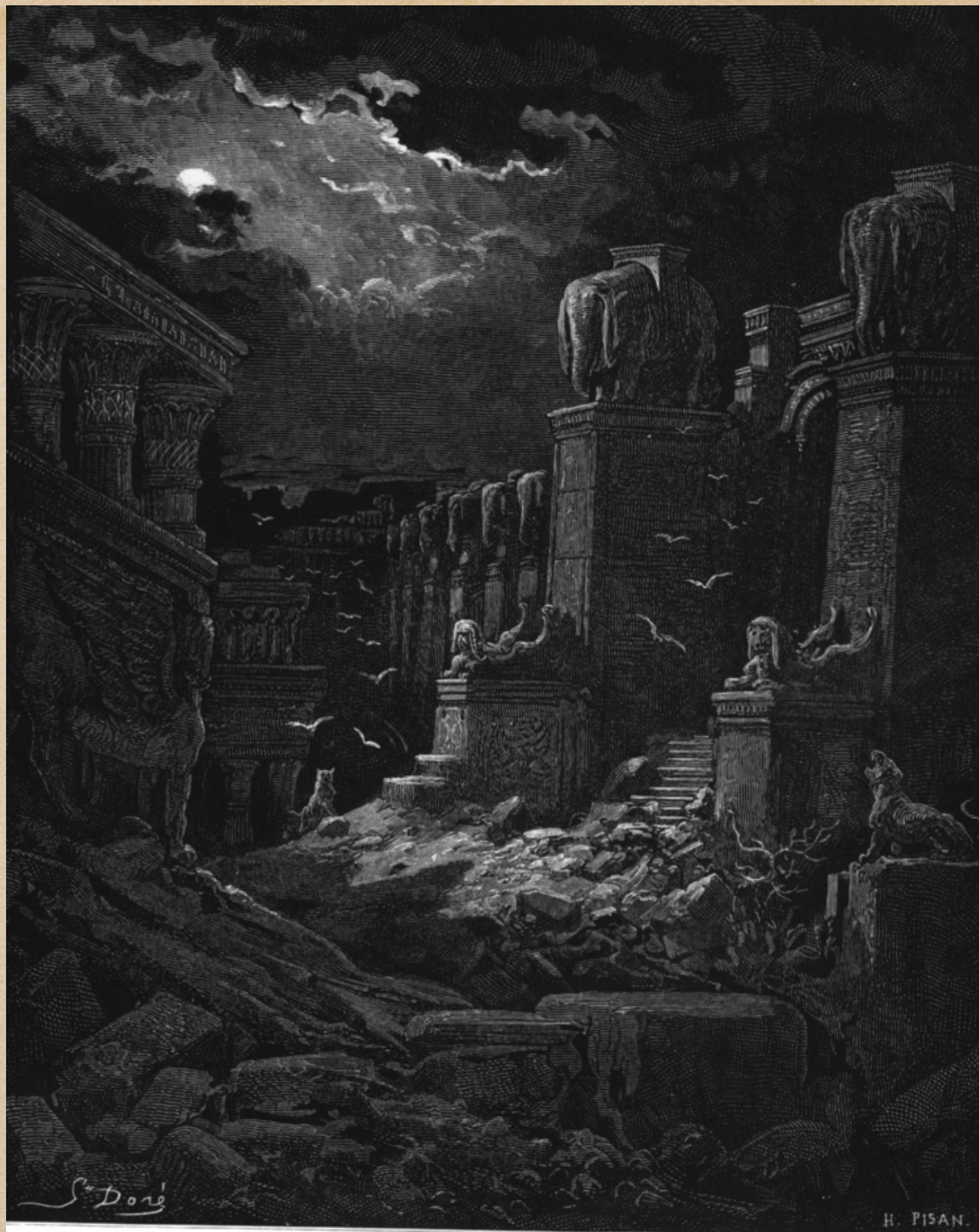






S. Boni





S. Doné

H. PISAN.

BABYLON FALLEN

For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.
... (Revelation 18: 5)



THE VISION OF DEATH

And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death
. . . (Revelation 6: 8)







What have you thought about Revelations?

- ◆ What is it about?
- ◆ Why was it written?
- ◆ What does it mean to the church?
- ◆ What does it mean to you?

Process for this study

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156. Metzger writes that "the structure of the book involves a series of parallel yet ever-progressing sections" (18).

157. Morris writes, "It seems to be part of the method of our author to repeat his themes, not exactly, it is true, but on another level like a spiral staircase. In this way the same ground is traversed, but other perspectives are revealed and fresh facts of the revelation are brought out" (41-42).

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THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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Flow of Thought Outline

1. Introduction – Purpose of witness which results in blessing
2. Salutation – John's greeting
3. John's commissioning – contents made more specific
4. Letters to the Seven churches – Christ speaks as ruler and judge
5. The Throne, the Scroll, and the Lamb – God and Christ are glorified
6. The first four seals – Christ exercises role as judge
7. The fifth seal – The persecuted appeal to God for judgment
8. The sixth seal – God answers the pleas of the saints
9. The sealing of the tribes – Believers are given spiritual protection
10. The Multitude – A purifying tribulation protects the multitudes
11. The seventh seal concludes the seal series – the last judgment is reiterated

12. The first six trumpets – angels will execute judgment on the persecutors

13. John's recommissioning

14. The two witnesses – God ensures his presence with the people and their witness

15. The seventh trumpet – God establishes kingdom and executes judgment

16. Christ's victory over Satan/God protects the Messianic community from Satan's harm: God's people will be protected spiritually throughout the trials, which for believers will refine their faith

17. Exhortation – believers are told how to hold on to their faith

18. The end of history – God accomplishes his glory through reward and punishment

19. Introduction to the seven bowls judgment

20. Punishment of the Ungodly – the bowl plagues

21. The woman city – the influence of the world's economic/religious system shown by the image of the woman's relationship to the beast

22. Rejoicing over the fall of Babylon – God's judgment demonstrates the integrity of the believer's faith and of God's justice

23. Wedding of the Lamb – the union of Christ with his righteous people

24. The defeat of the beast and its allies – a vindication of God's truth

25. The millennium – God limits Satan's deceptive powers

26. The new Jerusalem – a new world is created and God will reside with the people forever

27. Exhortation to Holiness – Explains the purpose of the book

Apocalyptic Literature

A divine disclosure, usually through a celestial intermediary to some prominent figure in the past, in which God promises to intervene in human history to bring times of trouble to an end and destroy all wickedness.

Characteristics of Apocalyptic Literature

- ◆ Always looking for a final reckoning
- ◆ Dualistic
- ◆ Rigid Determinism - Everything is pre-ordained

Literary Characteristics of Apocalyptic Literature

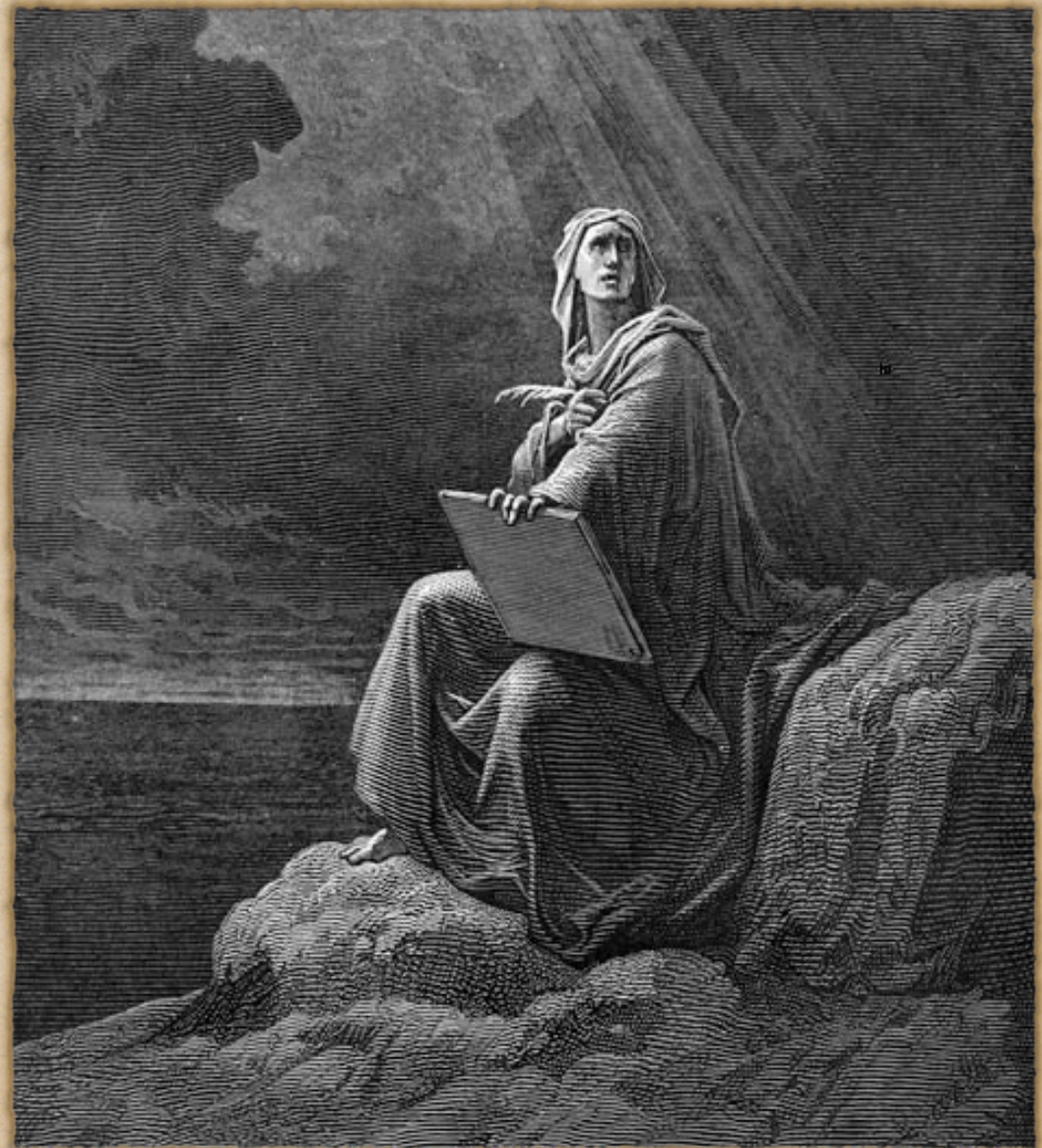
- ◆ Highly Elaborate Vision
- ◆ Angelic Interpreter
- ◆ Adopts a conventional literary style and adapts the message to the style
- ◆ Use of symbolism
- ◆ Pseudonymous - written under a fictitious name

Revelations vs. OT Apocalypse

- ◆ It is the NT counterpart to the book of Daniel
- ◆ It is not pseudonymous
- ◆ John calls it a "prophecy"
- ◆ It is optimistic, even in the midst of suffering
- ◆ It is a "salvation history"
- ◆ It has a sense of moral urgency (call for repentance)
- ◆ No heavenly tutor - reader must interpret
- ◆ It only declares truth rather than providing secret knowledge
- ◆ It has an epistolary element - the letter to the 7 churches
- ◆ It is an apocalypse for the new age - the spiritual age

Authorship

- ◆ John Mark
- ◆ John the Prophet
- ◆ John the Elder
- ◆ John the Apostle



Dating

The 5 Approaches to Interpretation

- ◆ Preterist or Contemporary-Historical
- ◆ Historical
- ◆ Futurist (subset being Dispensationalism)
- ◆ Idealist
- ◆ Eclectic

Preterist/Contemporary Historical

Positive - Highlights the first-century church

Negative - The decisive victory promised is never achieved

Historicist

Forecast of the course of history leading up to the interpreter's time

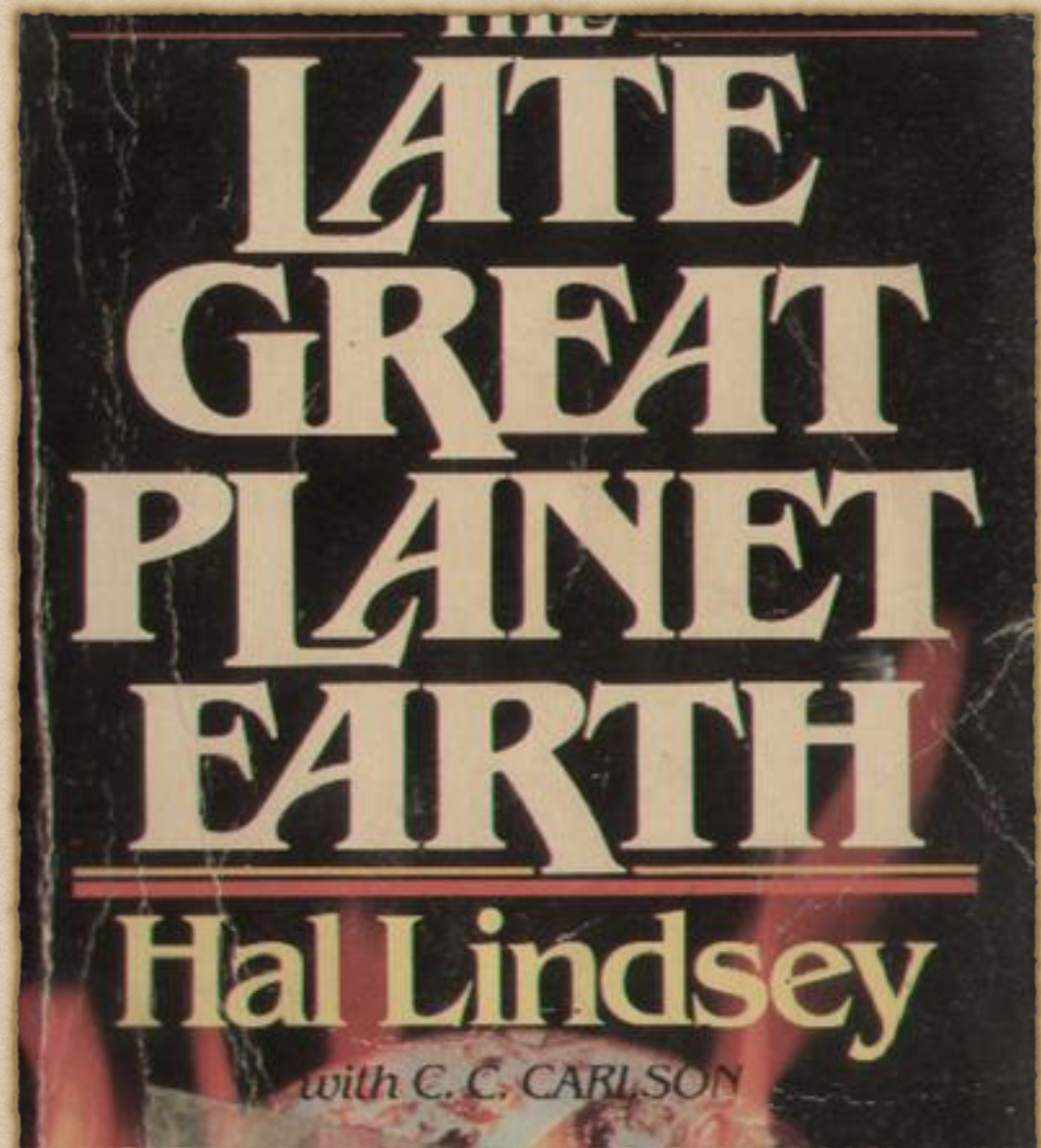
Positive - Takes history seriously

Negative - Only takes account of specific historical context

Negative - Completely disregards first-century church

Futurist

- ◆ Emphasis on the final victory of God over the forces of evil
- ◆ Positive - Takes the future seriously
- ◆ Negative - Gave rise to dispensationalism
- ◆ Negative - No significance for those whom the book addresses



Idealist (Timeless)

An expression of basic principles of God's historical activity in the world.

Positive - Finds timeless truths about God's actions

Negative - Denies the book any historical fulfillment - no consummation to the historical process

Eclectic (Reformed)

Takes each view seriously, but is not bound by one
Positive - An understanding of the spiritual age of
the church and all of the principles and history
that go with it, along with the promise of
consummation.

4 Levels of Symbolic Communication

- ◆ Linguistic level - the record of the text
- ◆ Visionary level - What John sees
- ◆ Referential level - Historical identification with objects seen in the vision
- ◆ Symbolic level - What truths are revealed

Revelation 19:7-8

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;
to her it has been granted to be clothed
with fine linen, bright and pure" —
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

- ◆ Linguistic level - the text
- ◆ Visionary Level - bride and fine garments
- ◆ Referential level - believers enjoy communion with Christ
- ◆ Symbolic level - Whatever we determine these symbols to mean

Numerology



Use of the Old Testament

Pentateuch, Judges, 1&2
Samuel, 1&2 Kings, Psalms,
Proverbs, Song of Solomon,
Job, Major and Minor Prophets



Old Testament Themes

- ◆ End-time judgment
- ◆ Salvation
- ◆ Holy War
- ◆ Divine Judgment
- ◆ "Day of The Lord"
- ◆ Hymns from Isaiah
- ◆ Daniel and Daniel 7

Old Testament Analogies

- ♦ Judgment - theophanies, books of judgment, the Lion of Judah, "Lord of Lord, King of Kings", Horsemen as agents of judgment, Plagues as agents of judgment, Prophets giving testimony through judgment, "Babylon" as a symbol

- ◆ Tribulation and persecution
- ◆ Seductive and idolatrous teaching
- ◆ Divine protection
- ◆ Victorious battle of God's people over the enemy
- ◆ Apostasy
- ◆ The Spirit as the power for God's people

Theological Themes in Revelations

- ◆ Suffering and victory for both punishment and refinement
- ◆ Glory due to God because of full salvation and final judgment
- ◆ The Throne - God and Christ are in ultimate control



- ◆ To encourage and admonish Christians to remain faithful
- ◆ "The one having ears, let him hear." - Parabolic
- ◆ Patience and trust
- ◆ Sovereignty of God

The Prologue
Chapter 1: 1-20

Superscription: verses 1-3

1

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him
to show his servants what must soon take place; he
made it known by sending his angel to his servant
John,

Parallels of Christ as Mediator

- ◆ John 1: 18 No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.
- ◆ John 5: 20 The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished.
- ◆ John 12: 49 for I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak.

After 2000 years of waiting, what can "soon" mean?

- ◆ Suddenly, once the appointed time has arrived
- ◆ Not the consummation of history, but the persecution of the church
- ◆ The beginning of a new age with the resurrection of Christ
- ◆ In the prophetic outlook, the end is ALWAYS imminent (prophecy vs. apocalypse)

Four stages of transmission

- ◆ God to Christ
- ◆ Christ to angel
- ◆ Angel to John
- ◆ John to servants

2

who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

Theme of completeness

3

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and who keep what is written in it; for the time is near.

- ◆ This is the first of 7 beatitudes in the book
- ◆ "Take to heart", "keep" = moral instruction
- ◆ "Time" (Kairos) - A decisive moment

Salutation and
Doxology
Chapter 1: 4-8



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, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

◆ The 7 Churches of Asia Minor



Why "7" Churches?

- ◆ 7 groupings of churches?
- ◆ Circular route that connected these churches?
- ◆ "7" as a symbol of completeness?
- ◆ Cities with emphasis upon worship of the emperor?

"Grace and Peace" from three sources

- ◆ "Him who is and who was and who is to come"
- ◆ 7 spirits - the 7 archangels, the heavenly entourage, the Holy Spirit divided by 7?
- ◆ Jesus Christ

ARCHANGEL

URIEL



RAPHAEL



MICHAEL



RAGUEL



GABRIEL

ARCHANGEL



GABRIEL

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SARAQUEL



REMIEL



GABRIEL



5a

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

- ◆ "faithful witness"
- ◆ firstborn of the dead
- ◆ ruler of the kings of the earth

Psalm 89:27 - I will make him the first born, the highest of the kings of the earth.

5b - 6

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

"Kingdom of Priests"

Exodus 19: 5-6

Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.

Isaiah 61:6

but you shall be called priests of the Lord,
you shall be named ministers of our God;

7

Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.
So it is to be. Amen.

Daniel 7: 13

As I watched in the night visions,
I saw one like a human being
coming with the clouds of heaven.
And he came to the Ancient One
and was presented before him.

Zechariah 12: 10

And I will pour out a spirit of compassion and supplication on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that, when they look on the one 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.

8

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.



Inaugural Vision and Commissioning

1: 9-20



Revelation 1:9-20

A Vision of Christ

I, John, your brother who share with you in Jesus the persecution and the kingdom and the patient endurance, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, "Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest. His head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining with full force.

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades. Now write what you have seen, what is, and what is to take place after this. As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Revelation 1:9

A Vision of Christ

I, John, your brother who share with you in Jesus the persecution and the kingdom and the patient endurance, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

- ♦ "Suffering" - the ordinary persecution that comes with following Jesus + what is about to come.
- ♦ Kingdom - the spiritual kingdom vs. the world.
- ♦ Patience - the active endurance required to be faithful





Revelation 1:10

I was in the spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet

Acts 2:17

'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

The Lord's Day

- ◆ The day of consummation
- ◆ The first day of the week
- ◆ A contrast with "the Emperor's Day"

Revelation 1:11

saying, "Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."



Revelation 1:12-13

Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest.

Exodus 25:31-37

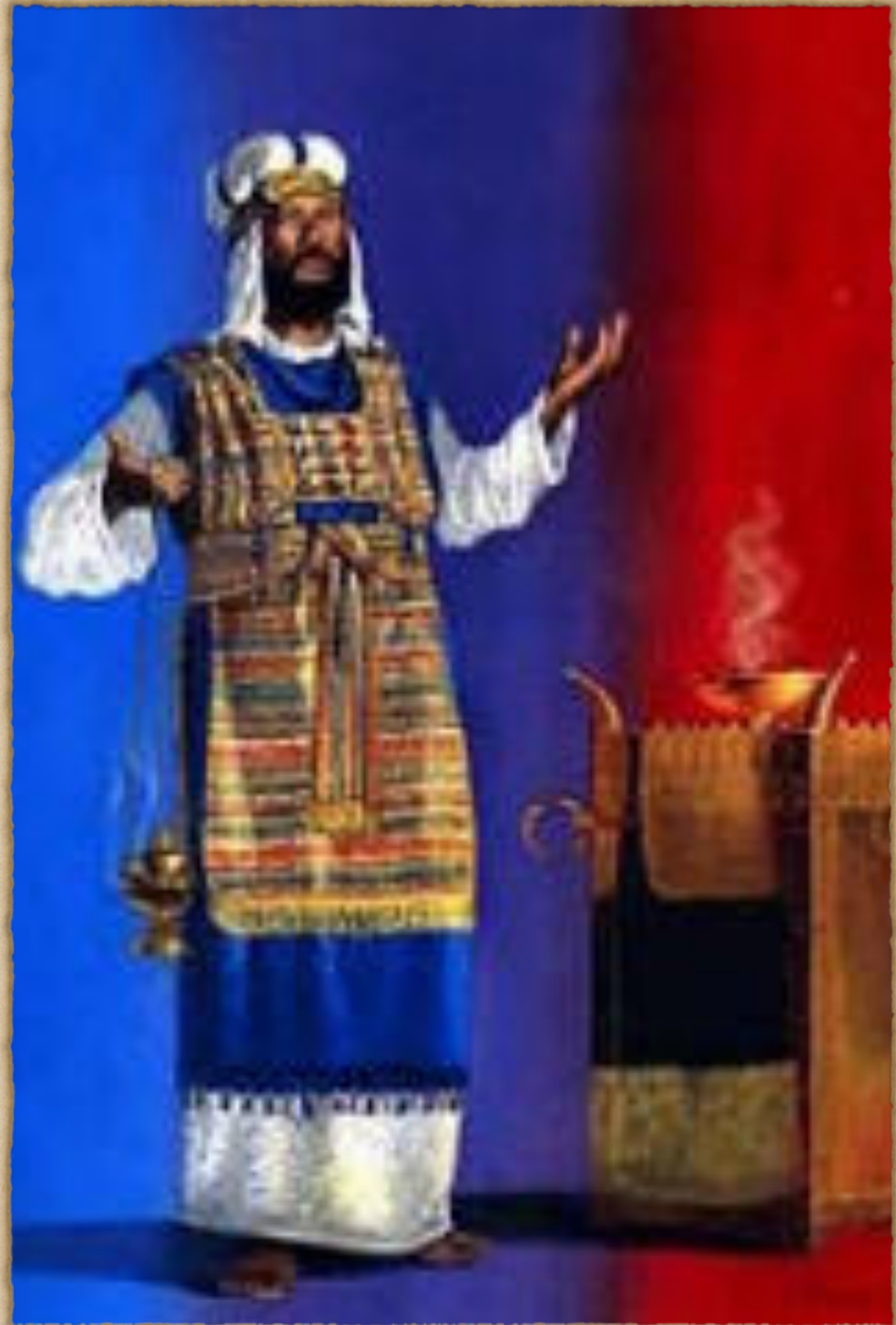
The Lampstand

You shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The base and the shaft of the lampstand shall be made of hammered work; its cups, its calyxes, and its petals shall be of one piece with it; and there shall be six branches going out of its sides, three branches of the lampstand out of one side of it and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side of it; three cups shaped like almond blossoms, each with calyx and petals, on one branch, and three cups shaped like almond blossoms, each with calyx and petals, on the other branch—so for the six branches going out of the lampstand. On the lampstand itself there shall be four cups shaped like almond blossoms, each with its calyxes and petals. There shall be a calyx of one piece with it under the first pair of branches, a calyx of one piece with it under the next pair of branches, and a calyx of one piece with it under the last pair of branches—so for the six branches that go out of the lampstand. Their calyxes and their branches shall be of one piece with it, the whole of it one hammered piece of pure gold. You shall make the seven lamps for it; and the lamps shall be set up so as to give light on the space in front of it.

Daniel 10

On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris), I looked up and saw a man clothed in linen, with a belt of gold from Uphaz around his waist. His body was like beryl, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the roar of a multitude. I, Daniel, alone saw the vision; the people who were with me did not see the vision, though a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled and hid themselves. So I was left alone to see this great vision. My strength left me, and my complexion grew deathly pale, and I retained no strength. Then I heard the sound of his words; and when I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a trance, face to the ground.

"a belt of gold from
Uphaz around his
waist.."



Revelation 1:14-16

His head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining with full force.



Revelation 1:17

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,

Isaiah 48:12-13

Listen to me, O Jacob,
and Israel, whom I called:

I am He; I am the first,
and I am the last.

My hand laid the foundation of the earth,
and my right hand spread out the heavens;
when I summon them,
they stand at attention.



Revelation 1:18
and the living one. I was
dead, and see, I am
alive forever and ever;
and I have the keys of
Death and of Hades.



Revelation 1:19

Now write what you have seen, what is, and what is to take place after this.

- ◆ Three-fold division: "what you have seen," "what is now," "what will take place later"
- ◆ Two-fold division: "write what you have seen," "what is and what is to come" (what is now and what is the future.)

Revelation 1:20

As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

◆ Who are the "angels?"

1. Prominent officials or delegates to the 7 churches
2. Guardian angels or heavenly counterparts to the churches*
3. The prevailing spirit of the churches

*Acts 12:14-15

On recognizing Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the gate, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the gate. They said to her, "You are out of your mind!" But she insisted that it was so. They said, "It is his angel."



Letters to the Seven Churches

Chapter 2: 1-3:22

Images of Christ from the Inaugural Vision

- ◆ Holding the 7 stars
- ◆ Among the 7 lampstands
- ◆ The Son of Man
- ◆ Dresses as a high priest
- ◆ Hair like wool, eyes like fire, feet like bronze, voice like waters
- ◆ Sharp two-edged sword from mouth
- ◆ Face like the sun

- ◆ First and the last, the living one
- ◆ Dead and now alive
- ◆ Hold the keys of death and Hades

The Prophetic Profile of the Seven Churches

Ephesus – The Apostolic Church

Smyrna - The Persecuted Church

Pergamum - The Married Church

Thyatia - The Medieval Church

Sardis - The Denominational Church

Philadelphia – The Missionary Church

Laodicea - The Apostate Church

These last four churches have Explicit References to Jesus' Second Coming.

General Outline for Each Letter

- ◆ Charge to the angel of each church
- ◆ ID of Christ with the Inaugural Vision
- ◆ Church's positive achievements (ex. Laodicea and Sardis)
- ◆ Words of encouragement, censure, counsel, and/or warning
- ◆ Exhortation/Promise



The Church of Ephesus

Chapter 2: 1-7

Revelation 2:1-7

The Message to Ephesus

Chapter 2

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands:

“I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance. I know that you cannot tolerate evildoers; you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them to be false. I also know that you are enduring patiently and bearing up for the sake of my name, and that you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember then from what you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. Yet this is to your credit: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God.

Acts 19:1-10

Paul in Ephesus

Chapter 19

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

He entered the synagogue and for three months spoke out boldly, and argued persuasively about the kingdom of God. When some stubbornly refused to believe and spoke evil of the Way before the congregation, he left them, taking the disciples with him, and argued daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord.

Acts 19:21-41

The Riot in Ephesus

Now after these things had been accomplished, Paul resolved in the Spirit to go through Macedonia and Achaia, and then to go on to Jerusalem. He said, "After I have gone there, I must also see Rome." So he sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he himself stayed for some time longer in Asia.

About that time no little disturbance broke out concerning the Way. A man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the artisans. These he gathered together, with the workers of the same trade, and said, "Men, you know that we get our wealth from this business. You also see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost the whole of Asia this Paul has persuaded and drawn away a considerable number of people by saying that gods made with hands are not gods. And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be scorned, and she will be deprived of her majesty that brought all Asia and the world to worship her."

When they heard this, they were enraged and shouted, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" The city was filled with the confusion; and people rushed together to the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's travel companions. Paul wished to go into the crowd, but the disciples would not let him; even some officials of the province of Asia, who were friendly to him, sent him a message urging him not to venture into the theater. Meanwhile, some were shouting one thing, some another; for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together. Some of the crowd gave instructions to Alexander, whom the Jews had pushed forward. And Alexander motioned for silence and tried to make a defense before the people. But when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours all of them shouted in unison, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" But when the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, "Citizens of Ephesus, who is there that does not know that the city of the Ephesians is the temple keeper of the great Artemis and of the statue that fell from heaven? Since these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. You have brought these men here who are neither temple robbers nor blasphemers of our goddess. If therefore Demetrius and the artisans with him have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls; let them bring charges there against one another. If there is anything further you want to know, it must be settled in the regular assembly. For we are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion." When he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.

In Christianity, an antinomian is "one who holds that under the gospel dispensation of grace the moral law is of no use or obligation because faith alone is necessary to salvation". [1] Many antinomians, however, believe that Christians will obey the moral law despite their freedom from it. The distinction between antinomian and other Christian views on the moral law is that antinomians believe that obedience to the law is motivated by an internal principle flowing from belief rather than any external compulsion. [2]

The term antinomianism emerged soon after the Protestant Reformation (c.1517) and has historically been used as a pejorative against Christian thinkers or sects who carried their belief in justification by faith further than was customary. [3] Antinomianism in modern times is commonly seen as the theological opposite to Legalism or Works righteousness, the notion that obedience to religious law earns salvation. This makes antinomianism an exaggeration of justification by faith alone.

Examples are Martin Luther's critique of antinomianism and the Antinomian Controversy of the 17th century Massachusetts Bay Colony. Although the term originated in the 16th century, the topic has its roots in Christian views on the old covenant extending back to the 1st century. It can also be extended to any individual who rejects a socially established morality. [1] Few groups, other than Christian anarchists or Jewish anarchists, explicitly call themselves antinomian.

Gnosticism

Although the term designating this error came into use only in the sixteenth century, the doctrine itself can be traced in the teaching of earlier beliefs. Early Gnostic sects were accused of failure to follow the Mosaic Law in terms that suggest the modern term "antinomian". Some Gnostic sects did not accept parts of the Old Testament moral law. For example, the Manichaeans held that their spiritual being was unaffected by the action of matter and regarded carnal sins as being, at worst, forms of bodily disease. Marcionism, though technically not gnostic, rejected the Hebrew Bible in its entirety. Such deviations from the moral law were criticized by proto-orthodox rivals of the Gnostics, who ascribed various aberrant and licentious acts to them. A biblical example of such criticism can be found in Revelation 2:6–15, which criticizes the Nicolaitanes, an early Gnostic sect.

Jeremiah 2:2-3

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.

Israel was holy to the Lord,
the first fruits of his harvest.

All who ate of it were held guilty;
disaster came upon them,
says the Lord.

But we Christians look upon ourselves as one body, informed as it were by one soul; and being thus incorporated by love, we can never dispute what we are to bestow upon our own members.

—from Terrullian's "Apologies" (AD 200)

I have become acquainted with your name, much-beloved in God, which you have acquired by the habit of righteousness, according to the faith and love in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Being the followers of God, and stirring up yourselves by the blood of God, you have perfectly accomplished the work which was befitting to you. For, on hearing that I came bound from Syria for the common name and hope, trusting through your prayers to be permitted to fight with beasts at Rome, that so by martyrdom I may indeed become the disciple of Him who gave Himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God, Ephesians 5:2 [you hastened to see me]. I received, therefore, your whole multitude in the name of God, through Onesimus, a man of inexpressible love, and your bishop in the flesh, whom I pray you by Jesus Christ to love, and that you would all seek to be like him. And blessed be He who has granted unto you, being worthy, to obtain such an excellent bishop.

-from Ignatius' Epistle to the Ephesians (108 AD)

AND THE LORD GOD PLANTED A GARDEN IN EDEN, TO THE EAST, AND THERE HE PUT THE MAN WHOM HE HAD FORMED. AND OUT OF THE GROUND THE LORD GOD CAUSED TO GROW EVERY TREE THAT WAS PLEASING TO THE SIGHT AND GOOD FOR FOOD, WITH THE TREE OF LIFE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GARDEN, AND THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL.



The Church of Smyrna

Chapter 2: 8-11



Revelation 2:8-11

The Message to Smyrna

“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of the first and the last, who was dead and came to life:

“I know your affliction and your poverty, even though you are rich. I know the slander on the part of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Beware, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison so that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have affliction. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Whoever conquers will not be harmed by the second death.



Izmir

Smyrna

- ◆ 35 mi. North of Ephesus
- ◆ Major export city
- ◆ Birthplace of Homer the poet
- ◆ Temple to Zeus
- ◆ Pop. of 200,000 at time of writing
- ◆ First city in Asia to build a temple to Rome in 195 BC
- ◆ Huge Jewish population, synagogue hostile to Christianity
- ◆ Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, was martyred there
- ◆ Church was well organized

Six Slanders Aimed at the Early Church

- ◆ Cannibalism
- ◆ Lust and immorality
- ◆ Breaking up of homes and families
- ◆ Atheism
- ◆ Political Disloyalty
- ◆ Incitement to Riot

Romans 2:28-29

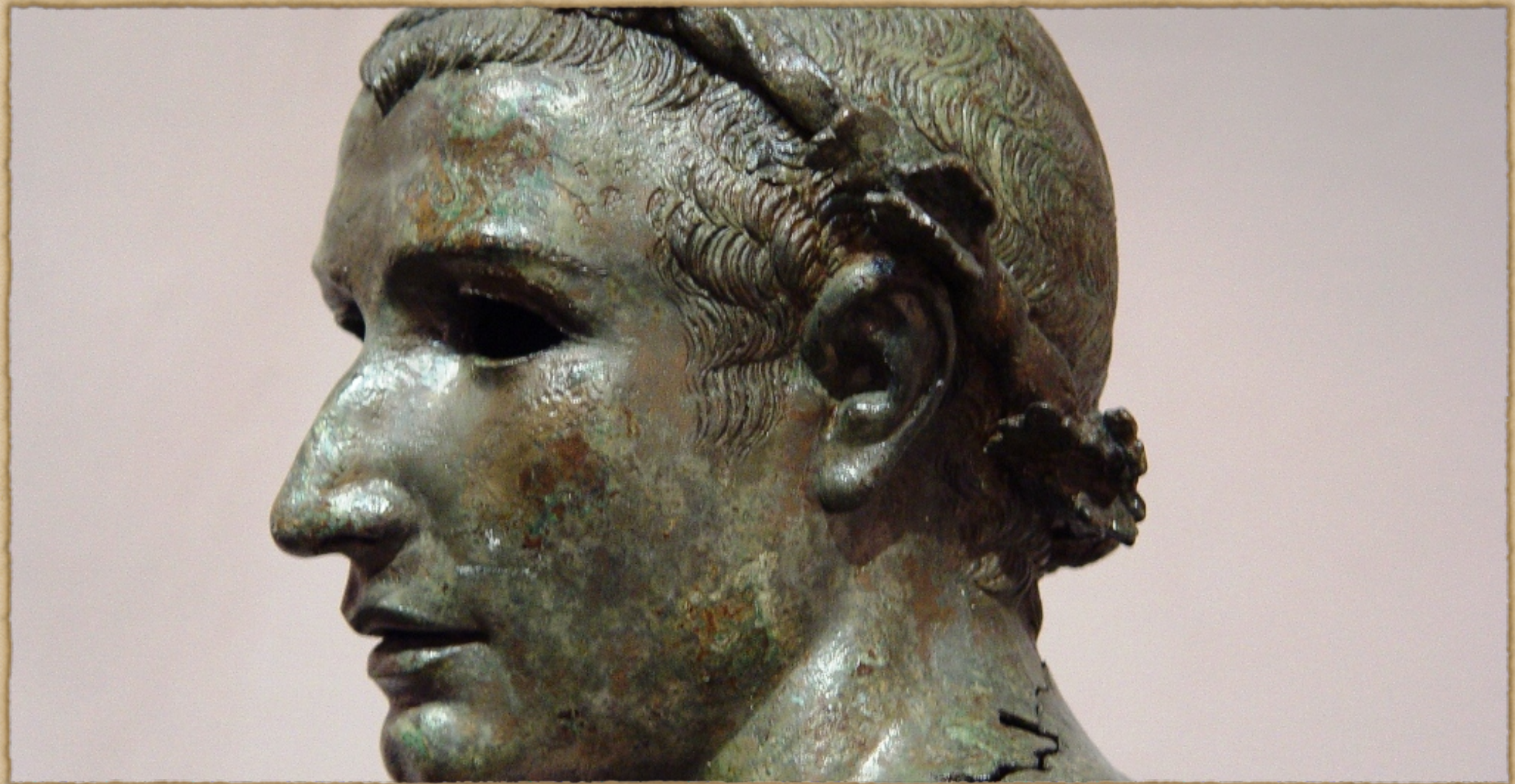
For a person is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is true circumcision something external and physical.

Rather, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly, and real circumcision is a matter of the heart—it is spiritual and not literal. Such a person receives praise not from others but from God.

John 8:39-44

Jesus and Abraham

They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are indeed doing what your father does." They said to him, "We are not illegitimate children; we have one father, God himself." Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot accept my word. You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.



The "Stefanos" (Victor's Crown)

The "Crown of Life"



The Second Death

Rev. 20: 14



Pergamum - The Capital City

2: 12-17

Revelation 2:12-17

The Message to Pergamum

"And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword:

"I know where you are living, where Satan's throne is. Yet you are holding fast to my name, and you did not deny your faith in me even in the days of Antipas my witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan lives. But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the people of Israel, so that they would eat food sacrificed to idols and practice fornication. So you also have some who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent then. If not, I will come to you soon and make war against them with the sword of my mouth. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give a white stone, and on the white stone is written a new name that no one knows except the one who receives it.

Temple of Zeus



Asklepíōs

with Serpent

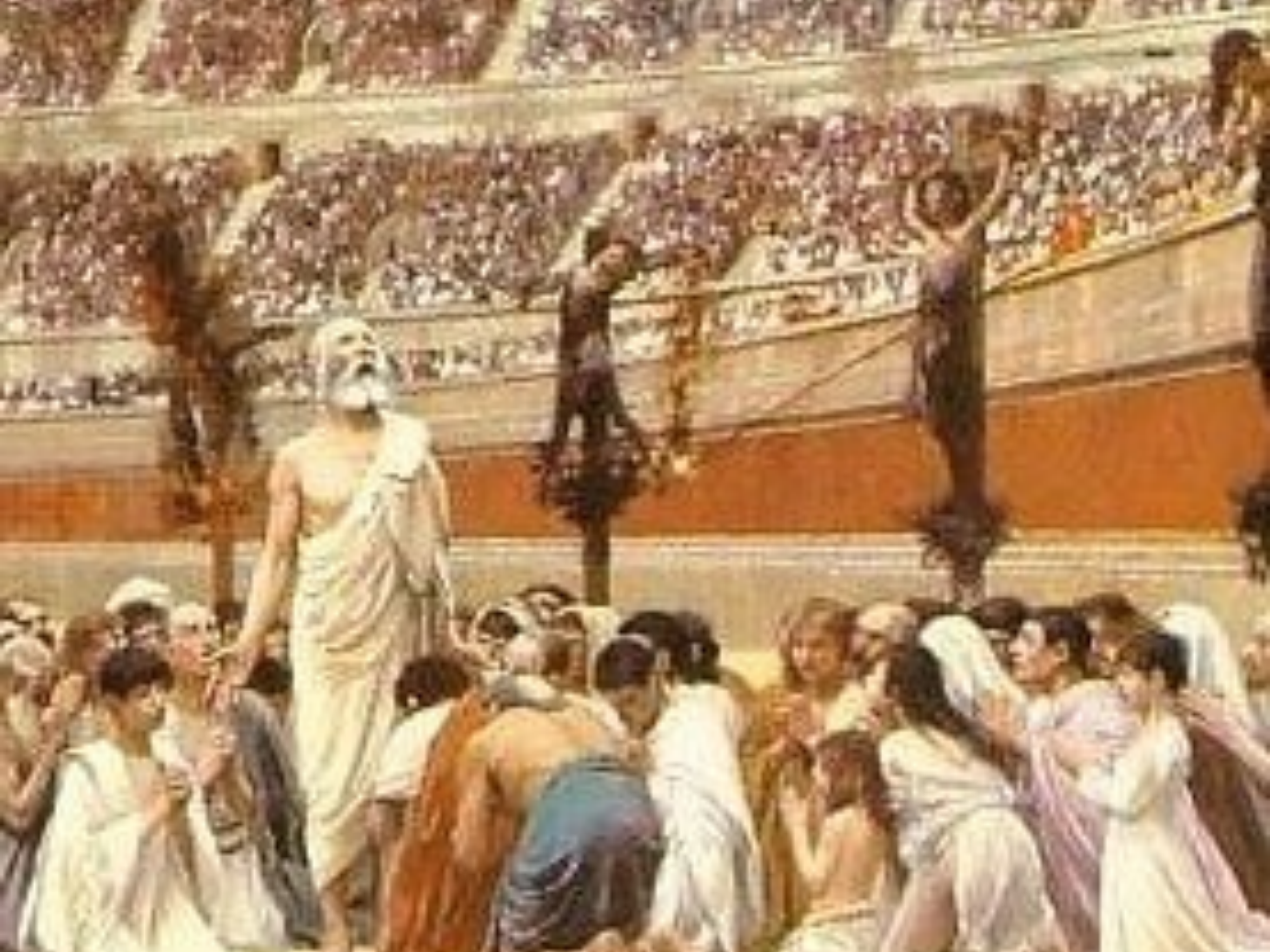


Caduseus



**PHYSICIAN
OFFICE**

PHYSICIAN OFFICE



Numbers 22:1-14

Balak Summons Balaam to Curse Israel

Chapter 22

The Israelites set out, and camped in the plains of Moab across the Jordan from Jericho. Now Balak son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. Moab was in great dread of the people, because they were so numerous; Moab was overcome with fear of the people of Israel. And Moab said to the elders of Midian, "This horde will now lick up all that is around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field." Now Balak son of Zippor was king of Moab at that time. He sent messengers to Balaam son of Beor at Pethor, which is on the Euphrates, in the land of Amaw, to summon him, saying, "A people has come out of Egypt; they have spread over the face of the earth, and they have settled next to me. Come now, curse this people for me, since they are stronger than I; perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them from the land; for I know that whomever you bless is blessed, and whomever you curse is cursed."

So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the fees for divination in their hand; and they came to Balaam, and gave him Balak's message. He said to them, "Stay here tonight, and I will bring back word to you, just as the Lord speaks to me"; so the officials of Moab stayed with Balaam. God came to Balaam and said, "Who are these men with you?" Balaam said to God, "King Balak son of Zippor of Moab, has sent me this message: 'A people has come out of Egypt and has spread over the face of the earth; now come, curse them for me; perhaps I shall be able to fight against them and drive them out.'" God said to Balaam, "You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed." So Balaam rose in the morning, and said to the officials of Balak, "Go to your own land, for the Lord has refused to let me go with you." So the officials of Moab rose and went to Balak, and said, "Balaam refuses to come with us."

Numbers 25:1-4

Worship of Baal of Peor

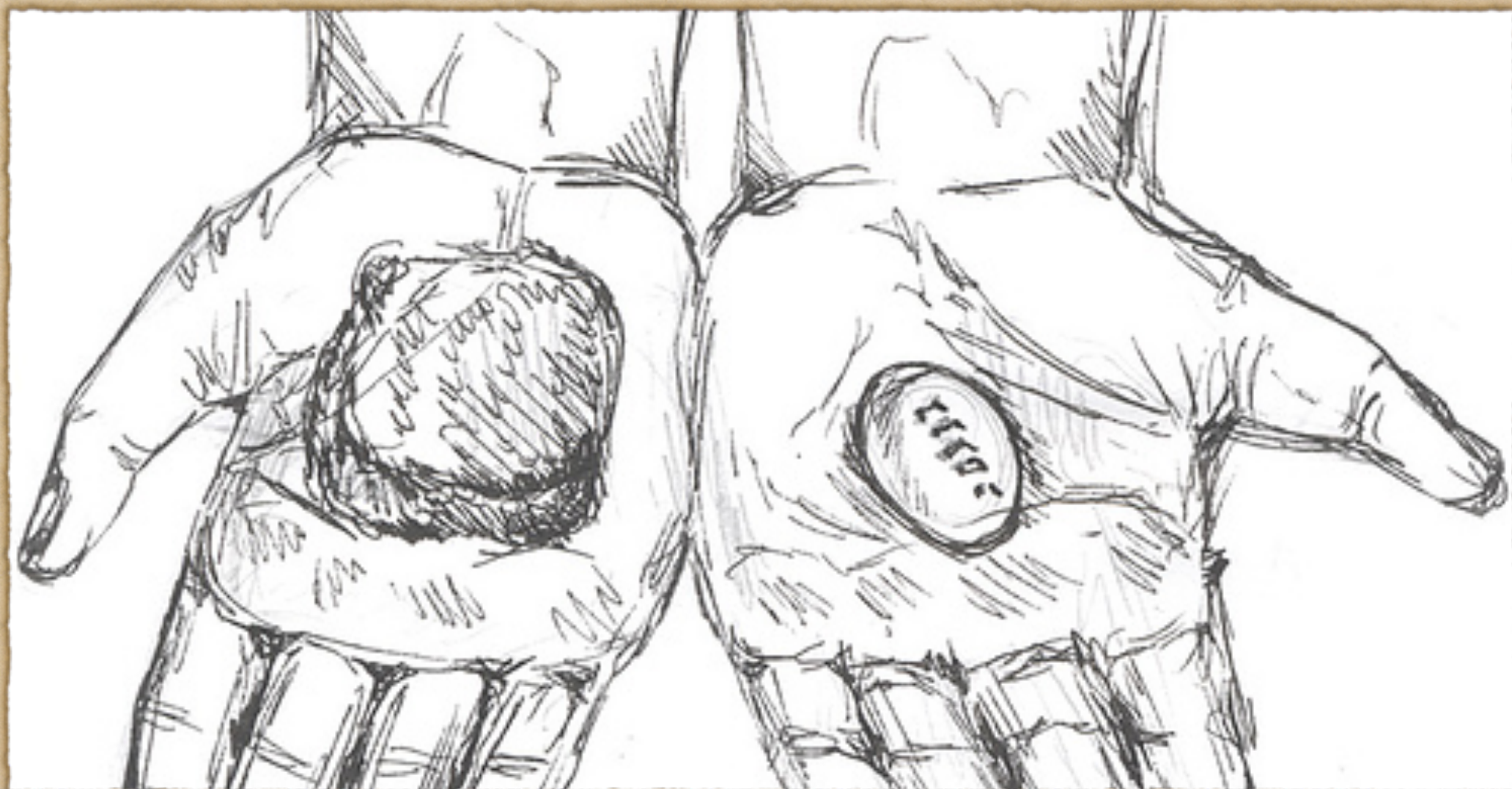
Chapter 25

While Israel was staying at Shittim, the people began to have sexual relations with the women of Moab. These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. Thus Israel yoked itself to the Baal of Peor, and the Lord's anger was kindled against Israel.

Numbers 31:16

These women here, on Balaam's advice, made the Israelites act treacherously against the Lord in the affair of Peor, so that the plague came among the congregation of the Lord.





The Hidden Manna and the White Stone

Exodus 16:32-34

Moses said, "This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Let an omer of it be kept throughout your generations, in order that they may see the food with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt. '" 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." As the Lord commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the covenant, for safekeeping.

Psalms 78:25
Mortals ate of the
bread of angels;
he sent them food in
abundance.







Tessera



Thyatira - The Manufacturing City

2: 18-29

Revelation 2:18-29

The Message to Thyatira

“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze:

“I know your works—your love, faith, service, and patient endurance. I know that your last works are greater than the first. But I have this against you: you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet and is teaching and beguiling my servants to practice fornication and to eat food sacrificed to idols. I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her fornication. Beware, I am throwing her on a bed, and those who commit adultery with her I am throwing into great distress, unless they repent of her doings; and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am the one who searches minds and hearts, and I will give to each of you as your works deserve. But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call ‘the deep things of Satan,’ to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden; only hold fast to what you have until I come.

To everyone who conquers and continues to do my works to the end,

I will give authority over the nations;

to rule them with an iron rod,

as when clay pots are shattered—

even as I also received authority from my Father. To the one who conquers I will also give the morning star. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.



Grain Measurers in their Guild Seat

Acts 16:14

A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul.

Apollo

Patron of the Guilds



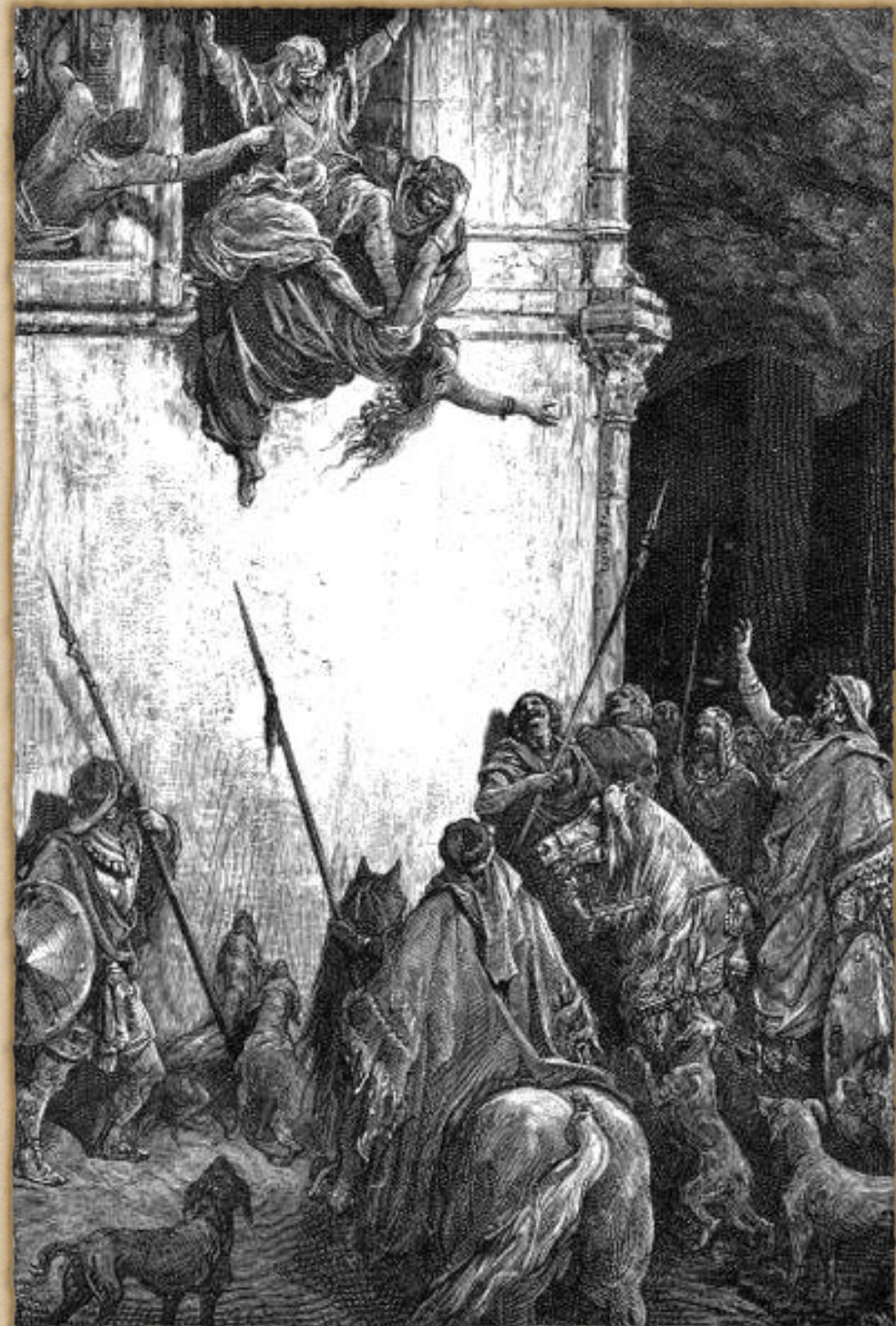
1 Kings 16:31-32

And as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, he took as his wife Jezebel daughter of King Ethbaal of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshiped him. He erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he built in Samaria.

2 Kings 9:30-33

Jezebel's Violent Death

When Jehu came to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; she painted her eyes, and adorned her head, and looked out of the window. As Jehu entered the gate, she said, "Is it peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?" He looked up to the window and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" Two or three eunuchs looked out at him. He said, "Throw her down." So they threw her down; some of her blood splattered on the wall and on the horses, which trampled on her.



Pliny to Trajan

I

It is my custom, Sire, to refer to you in all cases where I am in doubt, for who can better clear up difficulties and inform me? I have never been present at any legal examination of the Christians, and I do not know, therefore, what are the usual penalties passed upon them, or the limits of those penalties, or how searching an inquiry should be made. I have hesitated a great deal in considering whether any distinctions should be drawn according to the ages of the accused; whether the weak should be punished as severely as the more robust, or whether the man who has once been a Christian gained anything by recanting? Again, whether the name of being a Christian, even though otherwise innocent of crime, should be punished, or only the crimes that gather around it?

In the meantime, this is the plan which I have adopted in the case of those Christians who have been brought before me. I ask them whether they are Christians, if they say "Yes," then I repeat the question the second time, and also a third — warning them of the penalties involved; and if they persist, I order them away to prison. For I do not doubt that — be their admitted crime what it may — their pertinacity and inflexible obstinacy surely ought to be punished. There were others who showed similar mad folly, whom I reserved to be sent to Rome, as they were Roman citizens. Later, as is commonly the case, the mere fact of my entertaining the question led to a multiplying of accusations and a variety of cases were brought before me. An anonymous pamphlet was issued, containing a number of names of alleged Christians. Those who denied that they were or had been Christians and called upon the gods with the usual formula, reciting the words after me, and those who offered incense and wine before your image — which I had ordered to be brought forward for this purpose, along with the regular statues of the gods — all such I considered acquitted — especially as they cursed the name of Christ, which it is said bona fide Christians cannot be induced to do.

Still others there were, whose names were supplied by an informer. These first said they were Christians, then denied it, insisting they had been, "but were so no longer"; some of them having "recanted many years ago," and more than one "full twenty years back." These all worshiped your image and the god's statues and cursed the name of Christ.

But they declared their guilt or error was simply this — on a fixed day they used to meet before dawn and recite a hymn among themselves to Christ, as though he were a god. So far from binding themselves by oath to commit any crime, they swore to keep from theft, robbery, adultery, breach of faith, and not to deny any trust money deposited with them when called upon to deliver it. This ceremony over, they used to depart and meet again to take food — but it was of no special character, and entirely harmless. They also had ceased from this practice after the edict I issued — by which, in accord with your orders, I forbade all secret societies. I then thought it the more needful to get at the facts behind their statements. Therefore I placed two women, called “deaconesses,” under torture, but I found only a debased superstition carried to great lengths, so I postponed my examination, and immediately consulted you. This seems a matter worthy of your prompt consideration, especially as so many people are endangered. Many of all ages and both sexes are put in peril of their lives by their accusers; and the process will go on, for the contagion of this superstition has spread not merely through the free towns, but into the villages and farms. Still I think it can be halted and things set right. Beyond any doubt, the temples — which were nigh deserted — are beginning again to be thronged with worshipers; the sacred rites, which long have lapsed, are now being renewed, and the food for the sacrificial victims is again finding a sale — though up to recently it had almost no market. So one can safely infer how vast numbers could be reclaimed, if only there were a chance given for repentance.

Hosea 9:1

Punishment for Israel's Sin

Chapter 9

Do not rejoice, O Israel!

Do not exult as other nations do;
for you have played the whore, departing from your God.
You have loved a prostitute's pay
on all threshing floors.

Jeremiah 3:6

A Call to Repentance

The Lord said to me in the days of King Josiah: Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel, how she went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and played the whore there?



PROSPERITY GOSPEL

Quarterly

Volume 1
Number 1
A
Spoof & Parody
Publication



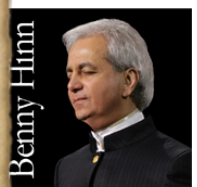
Creflo's Corner:
How to turn your \$10 tithe
into a \$10,000 tax-free
vacation!!!



The "wide" road of failure



The "narrow" road of success



Benny explains how
letting the seriously
handicapped on stage
can "handicap"
your ministry



**ALMOST A
BILLIONAIRE!!**
GOD IS GOOD!



My Pastor Has the Biggest House!



**JOEL EXPLAINS HOW
PREACHING ABOUT SIN
REDUCES THE BOTTOM
LINE**



Joyce gives us:
9 WAYS
to "HIT" the tithing
LOTTERY!



Jeremiah 17:10

I the Lord test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

Matthew 16:27

“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then
he will repay everyone for what has been done.

Romans 2:6

For he will repay according to each one's deeds:

*The key to all mysteries and
the source of all Illumination
lies deep within the self.*

From a Rosicrucian manuscript

Psalms 2:8-9

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.

You shall break them with a rod of iron,
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."





Isaiah 14:12

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!



"I am the bright
Morning Star."

-Jesus

Revelation 22:16



Daniel 12:13

But you, go your way, and rest; you shall rise for your reward at the end of the days.”



THE SUN



Sardis - The Rich City

Revelation 3:1-6

The Message to Sardis

Chapter 3

“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars:

“I know your works; you have a name of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is on the point of death, for I have not found your works perfect in the sight of my God. Remember then what you received and heard; obey it, and repent. If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. Yet you have still a few persons in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes; they will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. If you conquer, you will be clothed like them in white robes, and I will not blot your name out of the book of life; I will confess your name before my Father and before his angels. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

50 mi. northeast of Ephesus
Large, unfinished temple to
Artemis

Catastrophic earthquake in
AD17

Where gold and silver coins
were first struck

Deeply in debt to the Roman
Empire



Isaiah 11:2

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of
the Lord.



5 Imperatives

- ◆ Be Watchful or "Wake up"
- ◆ Strengthen what remains
- ◆ Remember what you have received
- ◆ Obey
- ◆ Repent



The Unfinished Temple of Artemis

Luke 12:35-40

Watchful Slaves

“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Matthew 24:42-44

Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner 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. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

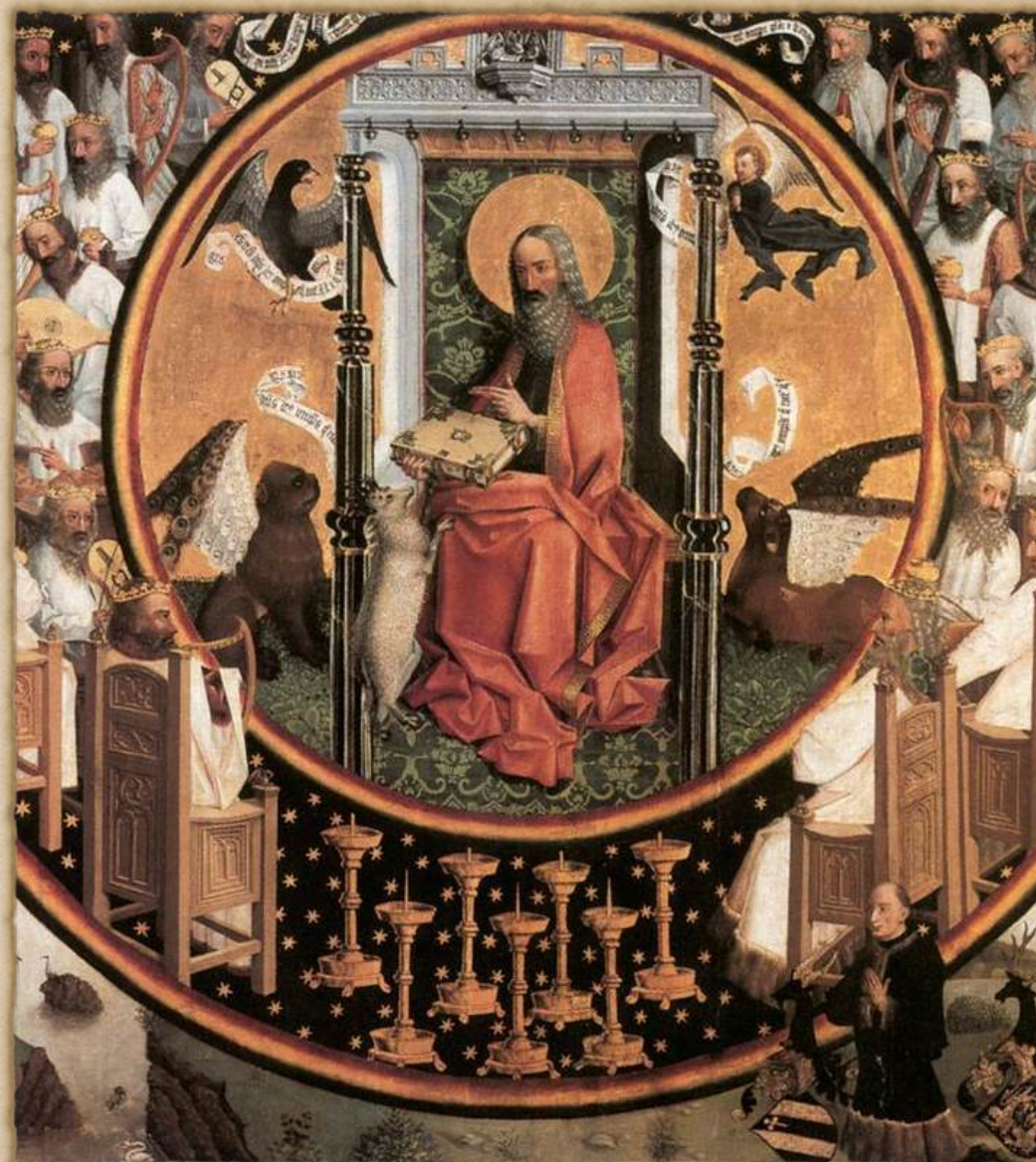
1 Thessalonians 5:2

For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

2 Peter 3:10

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Revelation 3:4
Yet you have still a few
persons in Sardis who
have not soiled their
clothes; they will walk
with me, dressed in
white, for they are
worthy.





Matthew 22:13-14

Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."



Justification, in Christian theology, is God's act of removing the guilt and penalty of sin while at the same time declaring a sinner righteous through Christ's atoning sacrifice. In Protestantism, righteousness from God is viewed as being credited to the sinner's account through faith alone, without works.



Exodus 32:32-33

But now, if you will only forgive their sin—but if not, blot me out of the book that you have written.” But the Lord said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book.

Psalms 69:28

Let them be blotted out of the book of the living;
let them not be enrolled among the righteous.

Daniel 12:1

The Resurrection of the Dead

Chapter 12

“At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book.



Matthew 10:32

“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven;

The Three Books of Apocalyptic Symbolism

1. The Book of Life
2. The Book of Deeds
3. The Book of History



Philadelphía
The Gateway City

Revelation 3:7-13

The Message to Philadelphía

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphía write:

These are the words of the holy one, the true one,

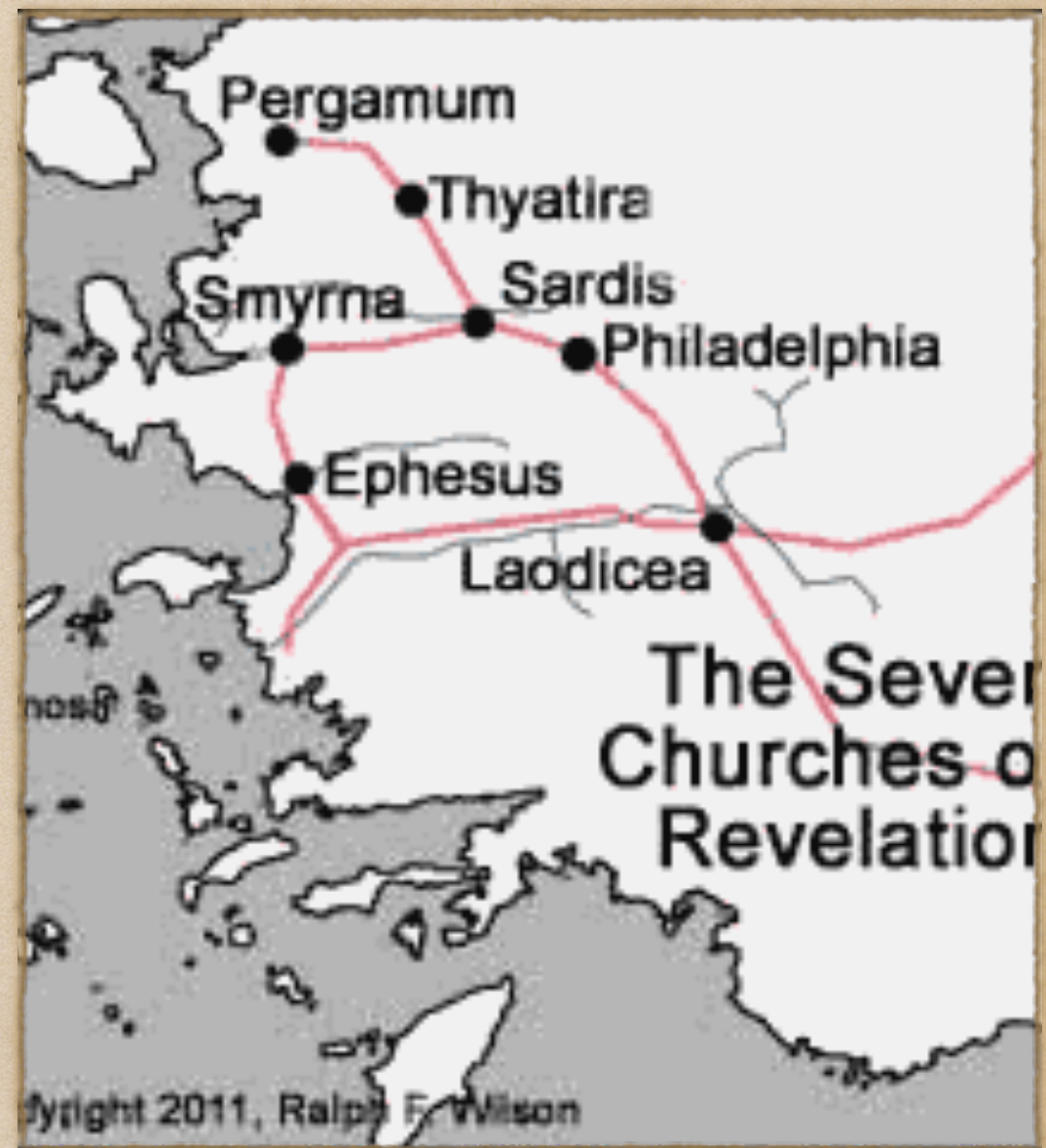
who has the key of David,

who opens and no one will shut,

who shuts and no one opens:

“I know your works. Look, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but are lying—I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. Because you have kept my word of patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. I am coming soon; hold fast to what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. If you conquer, I will make you a pillar in the temple of my God; you will never go out of it. I will write on you the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem that comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

- ◆ The Gateway to the East
- ◆ Fertile land, known for its vineyards
- ◆ Great prosperity, but subject to earthquakes
- ◆ Volcanic plain to the north
- ◆ Youngest of the 7 cities





Attalus II

"The City of Brotherly Love"

- ◆ Built as missionary city for Greek culture
- ◆ Many temples
- ◆ Dionysus central cult
- ◆ Provincial temple of imperial cult



Revelation 3:7

The Message to Philadelphía

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphía write:
These are the words of the holy one, the true one,
who has the key of David,
who opens and no one will shut,
who shuts and no one opens:



Key of David

Isaiah 22:15-23

Denunciation of Self- Seeking Officials

Thus says the Lord God of hosts: Come, go to this steward, to Shebna, who is master of the household, and say to him: What right do you have here? Who are your relatives here, that you have cut out a tomb here for yourself, cutting a tomb on the height, and carving a habitation for yourself in the rock? The Lord is about to hurl you away violently, my fellow. He will seize firm hold on you, whirl you round and round, and throw you like a ball into a wide land; there you shall die, and there your splendid chariots shall lie, O you disgrace to your master's house! I will thrust you from your office, and you will be pulled down from your post.

On that day I will call my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah, and will clothe him with your robe and bind your sash on him. I will commit your authority to his hand, and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David; he shall open, and no one shall shut; he shall shut, and no one shall open. I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honor to his ancestral house.

1 Corinthians 16:9

for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

2 Corinthians 2:12

When I came to Troas to proclaim the good news of Christ, a door was opened for me in the Lord;

Colossians 4:3

At the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison,

Romans 2:28-29

For a person is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is true circumcision something external and physical. Rather, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly, and real circumcision is a matter of the heart—it is spiritual and not literal. Such a person receives praise not from others but from God.

Galatians 6:15-16

For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

John 8:44

You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

2 Corinthians 11:14-15

And no wonder! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is not strange if his ministers also disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness. Their end will match their deeds.

Jewish Expectations

Isaiah 60:14

The descendants of those who oppressed you
shall come bending low to you,
and all who despised you
shall bow down at your feet;
they shall call you the City of the Lord,
the Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 45:14

Thus says the Lord:
The wealth of Egypt and the merchandise of Ethiopia,
and the Sabeans, tall of stature,
shall come over to you and be yours,
they shall follow you;
they shall come over in chains and bow down to you.
They will make supplication to you, saying,
“God is with you alone, and there is no other;
there is no god besides him.”

Isaiah 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 of your feet.
Then you will know that I am the Lord;
those who wait for me shall not be put to shame.

Isaiah 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 of your feet.
Then you will know that I am the Lord;
those who wait for me shall not be put to shame.



John 17:15

I am not asking you to take them out of the world,
but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.

Mark 13:19

For in those days there will be suffering, such as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, no, and never will be.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you? And you know what is now restraining him, so that he may be revealed when his time comes. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, but only until the one who now restrains it is removed. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will destroy with the breath of his mouth, annihilating him by the manifestation of his coming. The coming of the lawless one is apparent in the working of Satan, who uses all power, signs, lying wonders, and every kind of wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion, leading them to believe what is false, so that all who have not believed the truth but took pleasure in unrighteousness will be condemned.



Revelation 13:5-14

The beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty- two months. It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. It was given authority over every tribe and people and language and nation, and all the inhabitants of the earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that was slaughtered.

Let anyone who has an ear listen:

If you are to be taken captive,

into captivity you go;

if you kill with the sword,

with the sword you must be killed.

Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

Galatians 2:9

and when James and Cephas and John, who were acknowledged pillars, recognized the grace that had been given to me, they gave to Barnabas and me the right hand of fellowship, agreeing that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

1 Timothy 3:15

if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth.

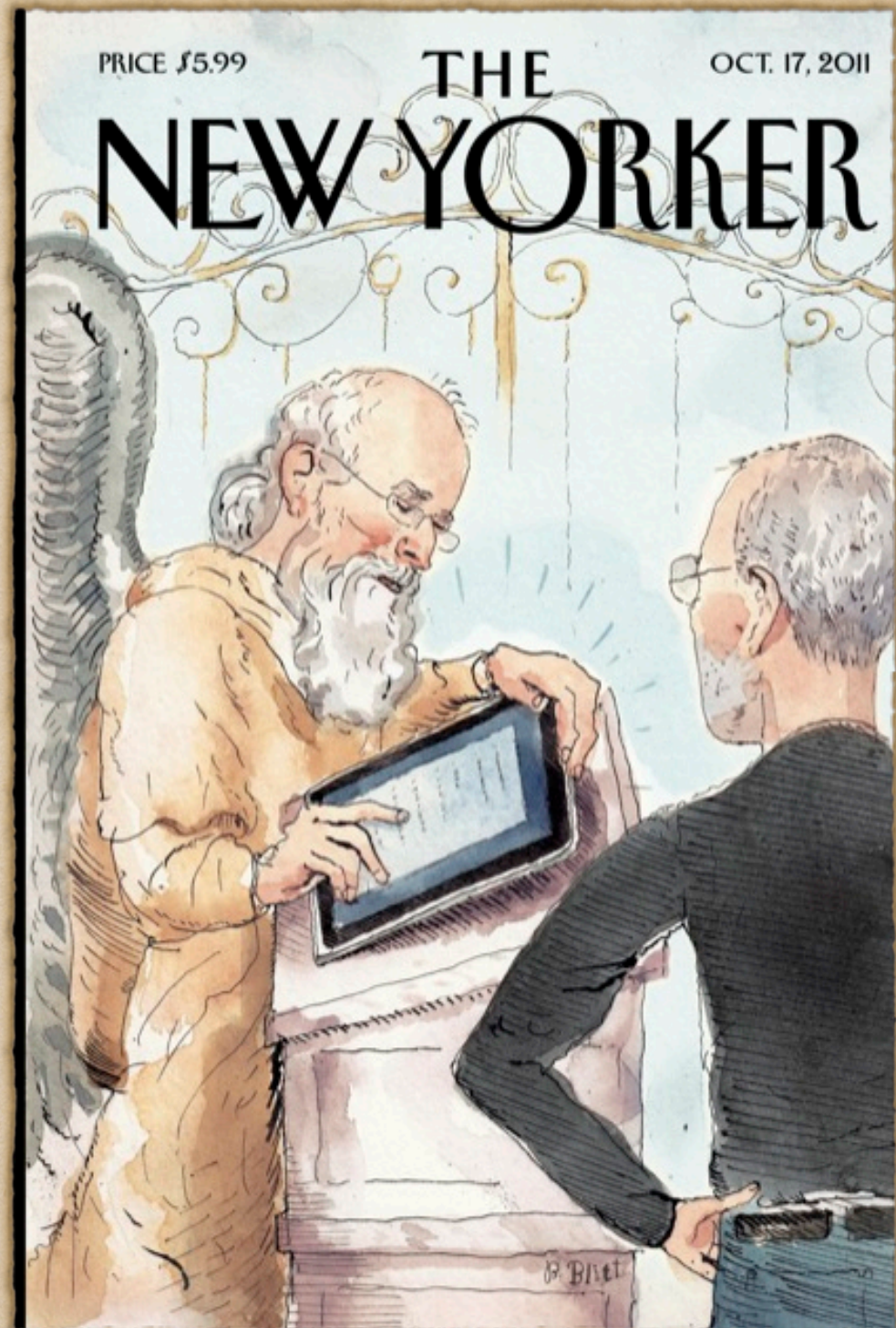


Exodus 28:36-38

You shall make a rosette of pure gold, and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet, "Holy to the Lord." You shall fasten it on the turban with a blue cord; it shall be on the front of the turban. It shall be on Aaron's forehead, and Aaron shall take on himself any guilt incurred in the holy offering that the Israelites consecrate as their sacred donations; it shall always be on his forehead, in order that they may find favor before the Lord.



The Book of Names

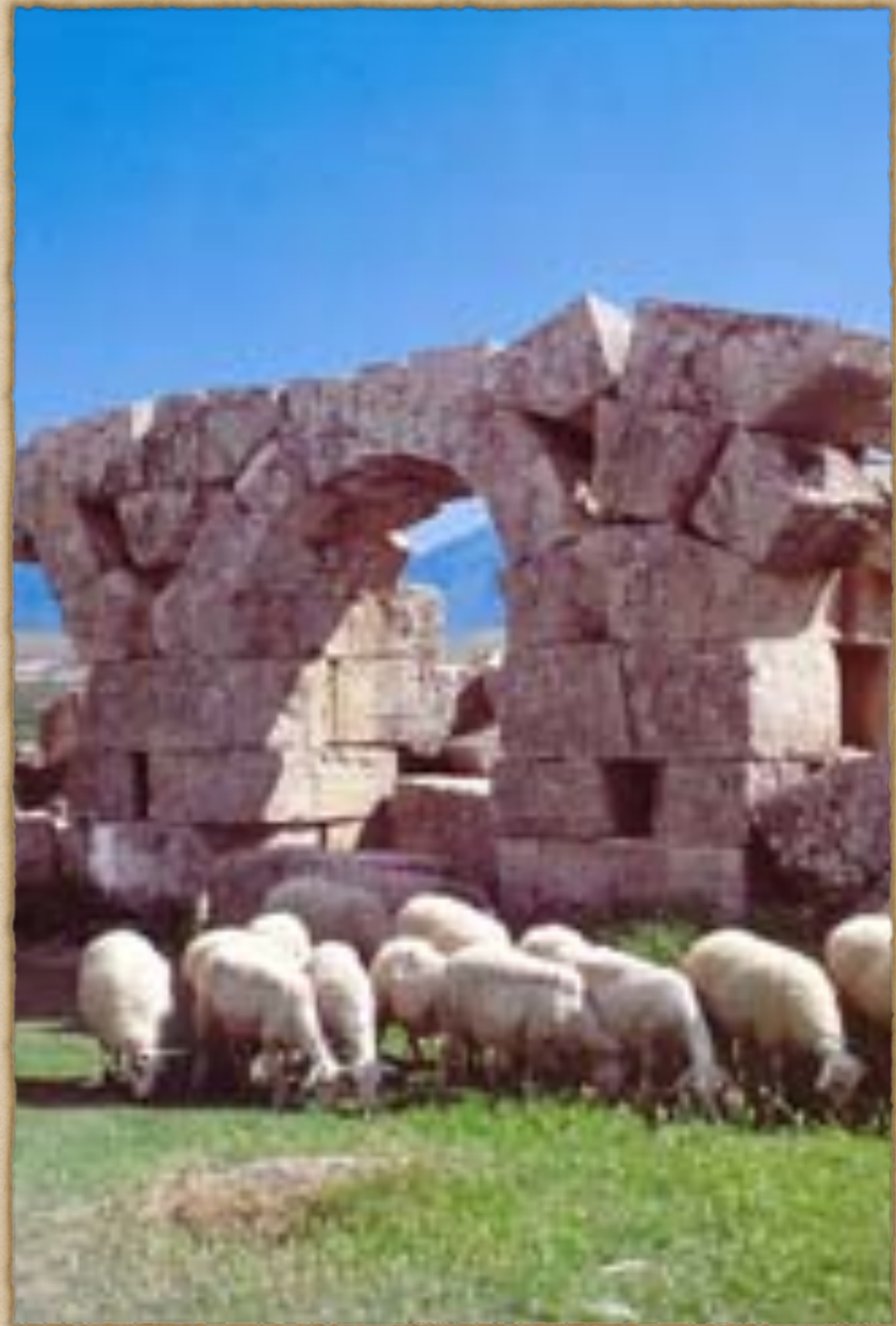


Christ reveals
his own name



Laodícea

The Self-sufficient City



Revelation 3:14-22

“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin of God’s creation:

“I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. For you say, ‘I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.’ You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen; and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”



Laodicea and sister cities

Colossians 2:1

For I want you to know how much I am struggling for you, and for those in Laodicea, and for all who have not seen me face to face.

Colossians 4:13-16

For I testify for him that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas greet you. Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters in Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. And when this letter has been read among you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you read also the letter from Laodicea.



Laodice, sister to Antiochus II

Textiles
Banking
Medicine





Trímita (Coptic)



Phrygian Powder

Revelation 3:14

The Message to Laodicea

“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin of God’s creation:

Isaiah 65:16

Then whoever invokes a blessing in the land shall bless by the God of faithfulness, and whoever takes an oath in the land shall swear by the God of faithfulness; because the former troubles are forgotten and are hidden from my sight.

Colossians 1:15

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of
all creation;

Revelation 3:15-16

“I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth.





Hierapolis



Revelation 3:18

Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire...

1 Peter 1:7

so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Malachi 3:3

he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.

Isaiah 20:1-4

In the year that the commander-in-chief, who was sent by King Sargon of Assyria, came to Ashdod and fought against it and took it— at that time the Lord had spoken to Isaiah son of Amoz, saying, “Go, and loose the sackcloth from your loins and take your sandals off your feet,” and he had done so, walking naked and barefoot. Then the Lord said, “Just as my servant Isaiah has walked naked and barefoot for three years as a sign and a portent against Egypt and Ethiopia, so shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians as captives and the Ethiopians as exiles, both the young and the old, naked and barefoot, with buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.



Ezekiel 16:37-39

therefore, 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 all around, and will uncover your nakedness to them, so that they may see all your nakedness. I will judge you as women who commit adultery and shed blood are judged, and bring blood upon you in wrath and jealousy. I will deliver you into their hands, and they shall throw down your platform and break down your lofty places; they shall strip you of your clothes and take your beautiful objects and leave you naked and bare.

Genesis 41:42

Removing his signet ring from his hand, Pharaoh put it on Joseph's hand; he arrayed him in garments of fine linen, and put a gold chain around his neck.



"Joseph Ruling In Pharaoh's Palace"
By Lawrence Alma-Tadema (1836-1912)



Proverbs 3:11-12

My child, do not despise the Lord's
discipline
or be weary of his reproof,
for the Lord reproves the one he
loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.

Hebrews 12:5-6

And you have forgotten the exhortation that
addresses you as children—
“My child, do not regard lightly the discipline
of the Lord,
or lose heart when you are punished by him;
for the Lord disciplines those whom he loves,
and chastises every child whom he accepts.”



Divine Discipline

Psalms 94:12

Happy are those whom you discipline, O Lord,
and whom you teach out of your law,

Job 5:17

“How happy is the one whom God reproves;
therefore do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.

1 Corinthians 11:32

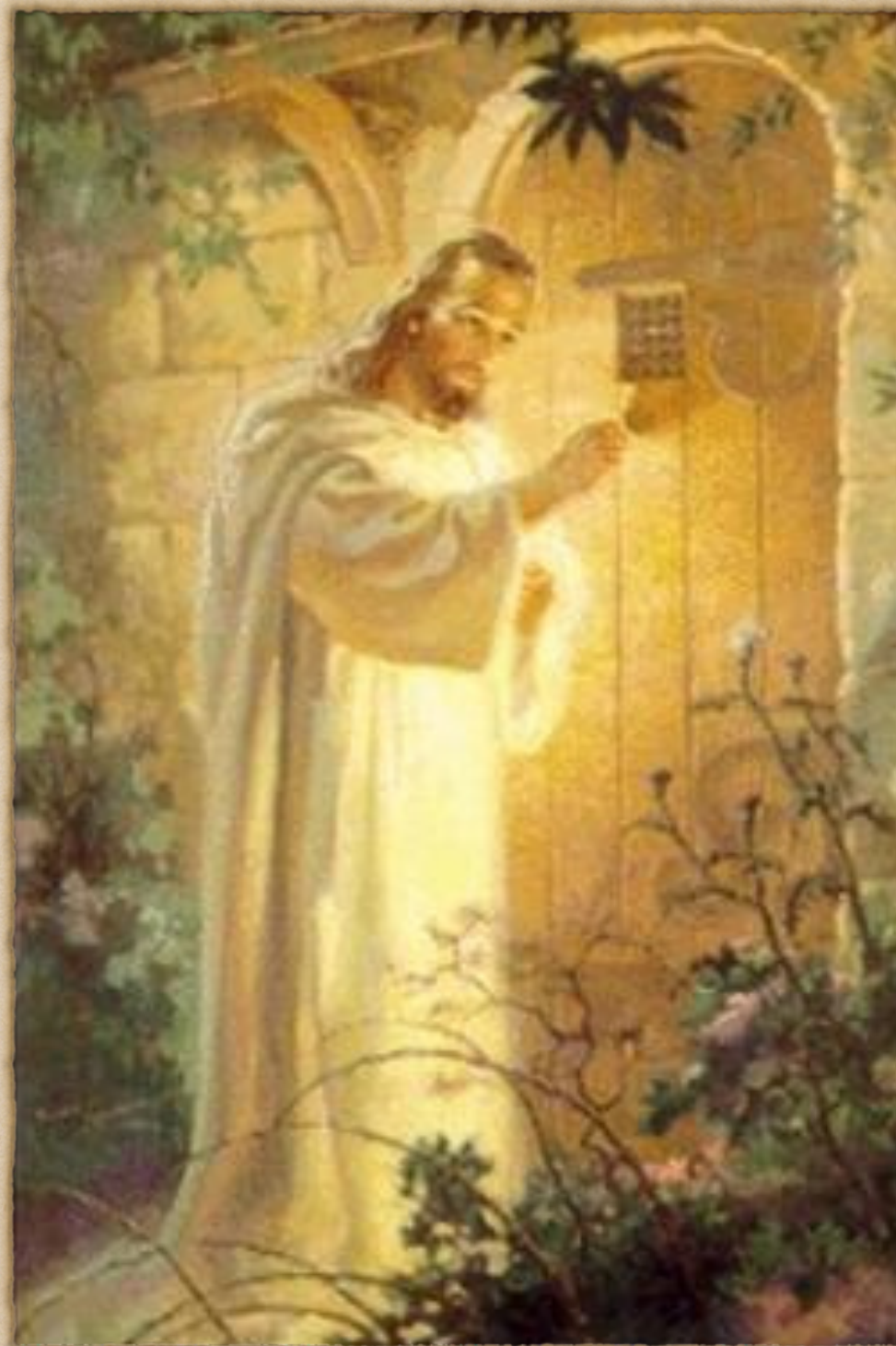
But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned
along with the world.

Hebrews 12:7-8

Endure trials for the sake of discipline. God is treating you as children; for what child is
there whom a parent does not discipline? If you do not have that discipline in which all
children share, then you are illegitimate and not his children.

Revelation 3:20

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.





Luke 22:30

so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

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 true words of God."



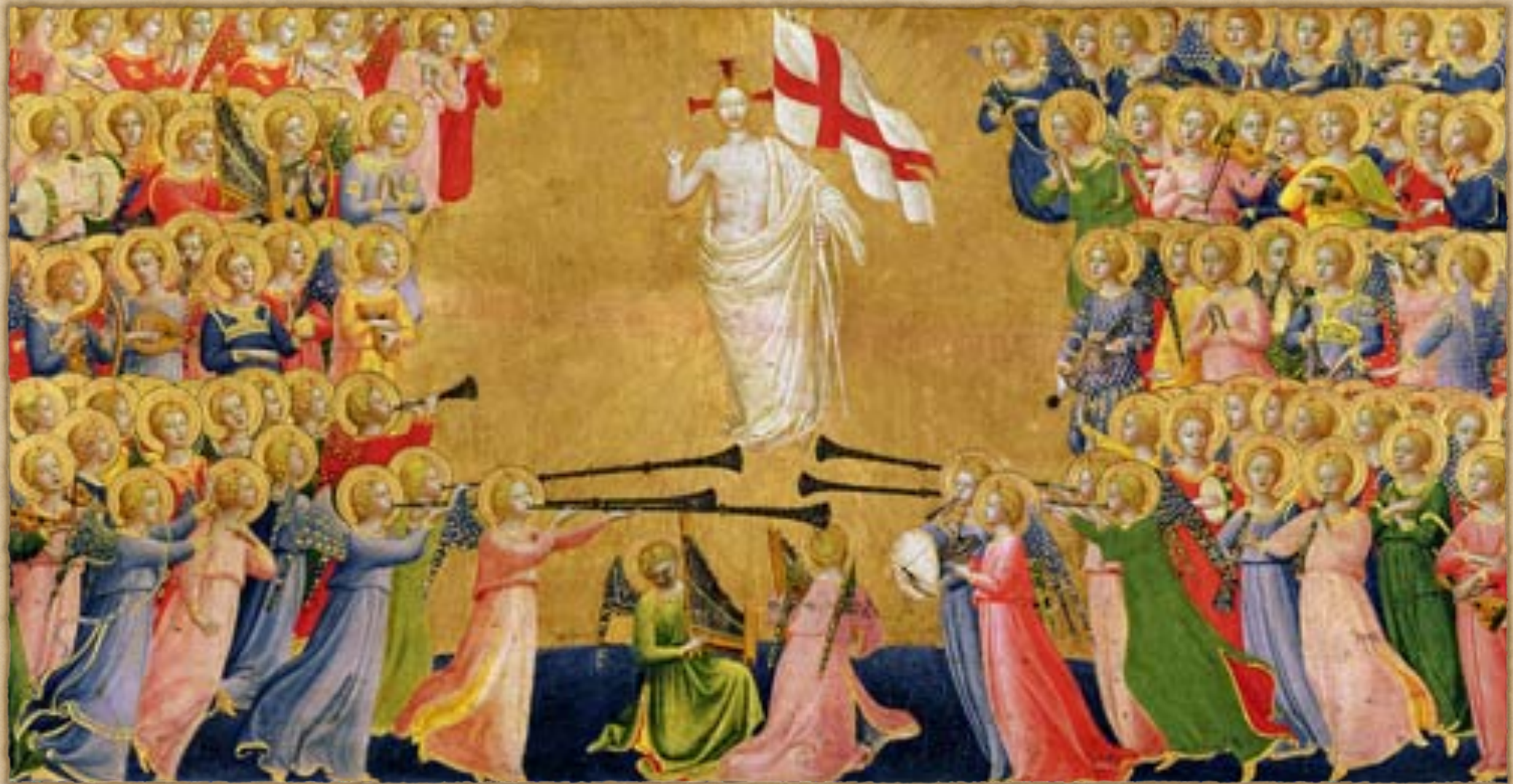
Matthew 19:28

Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

2 Timothy 2:12

if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us;

A Comprehensive Warning
First Love - Ephesus
Fear of Suffering - Smyrna
Doctrinal Compromise - Pergamum
Moral Compromise - Thyatira
Spiritual Deadness - Sardis
Failure to Hold On - Philadelphia
Lukewarmness - Laodicea



4:1 ~ 5:14

Adoration in the Court of Heaven

Introduction

- ◆ The challenge to "overcome all"
- ◆ The course of history is determined by God
- ◆ Chapters 4 and 5 are about assurance



God is Worshipped for Creation

4: 1-11

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! And the one seated there looks like jasper and carnelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. Around the throne are twenty- four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty- four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God; and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal.

Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle.

And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing,

"Holy, holy, holy,
the Lord God the Almighty,
who was and is and is to come."

And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty- four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing,

"You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created."

Introduction

- ◆ Central focus on the heavenly throne
- ◆ The theme of the sovereignty of God
- ◆ God envisioned by the glory around the throne
- ◆ The theme of creation
- ◆ A vision of the heavenly court

John sees a
single heaven





"I will show you
what must take
place after this."



The Theme of Prophetic Rapture

Ezekiel 11:1, 5

The spirit lifted me up and brought me to the east gate of the house of the Lord, which faces east. There, at the entrance of the gateway, were twenty-five men; among them I saw Jaazaniah son of Azzur, and Pelatiah son of Benaiah, officials of the people.

Then the spirit of the Lord fell upon me, and he said to me, "Say, Thus says The Lord...

1 Kings 22:19

Then Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, with all the host of heaven standing beside him to the right and to the left of him.

Amos 3:7

Surely the Lord God does nothing,
without revealing his secret
to his servants the prophets.



Isaiah 6:1

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple.

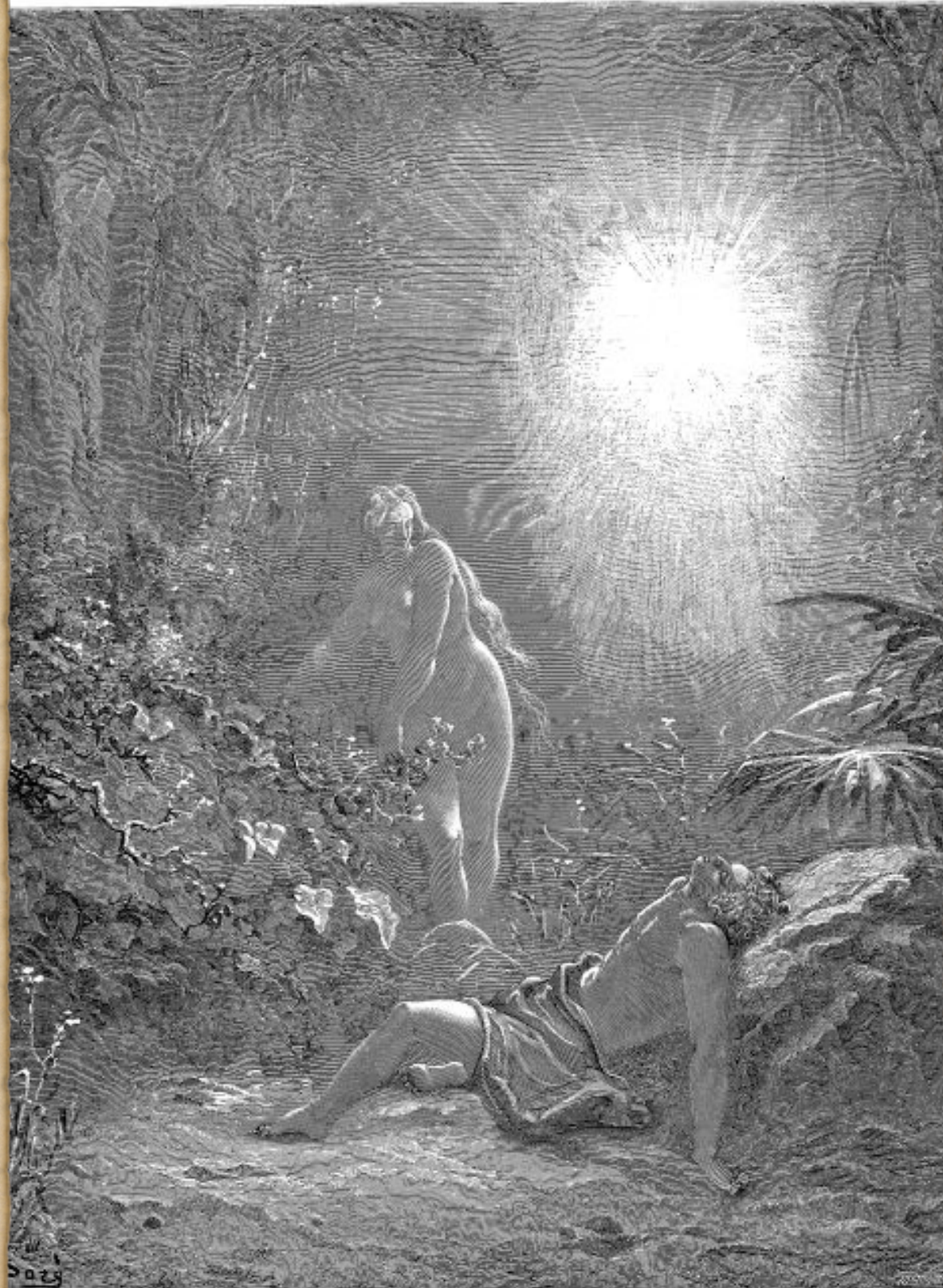
Psalms 47:8

God is king over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.



Handel's "Messiah"

"The Formation of Eve" by Gustave Doré



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www.creationism.org/images/

Gen 2:21-22 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, ... And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

Psalms 104: 1-2

God the Creator and Provider

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, you are very great.

You are clothed with honor and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment.

1 Timothy 6:16

It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

Ezekiel 1:26-28

And above the dome over their heads there was something like a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was something that seemed like a human form. Upward from what appeared like the loins I saw something like gleaming amber, something that looked like fire enclosed all around; and downward from what looked like the loins I saw something that looked like fire, and there was a splendor all around. Like the bow in a cloud on a rainy day, such was the appearance of the splendor all around. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. When I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of someone speaking.

Jasper



Carnelian



Emerald

The "Carolina Emerald" was cut from a 59-carat rough emerald crystal that was discovered in 1969 from the Rist/Ellis mines by Wayne Anthony of Lincolnton, North Carolina.



Exodus 28:17-20

You shall set in it four rows of stones. A row of carnelian, chrysolite, and emerald shall be the first row; and the second row a turquoise, a sapphire, and a moonstone; and the third row a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; and the fourth row a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper; they shall be set in gold filigree.





Genesis 9:16-17

When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”



The 24 Elders

The 4 Creatures

Who are the 24 Elders?

- ◆ Equivalent to the 24 star-gods of the Babylonian parthenon
- ◆ The 24 courses of the Aaronic priests (1 Chronicles 24:7-19 "The first lot fell to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah, the third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim, the fifth to Malchijah, the sixth to Mijamin, the seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah, the ninth to Jeshua, the tenth to Shecaniah, the eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim, the thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab, the fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer, the seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Happizzesz, the nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezkel, the twenty- first to Jachin, the twenty- second to Gamul, the twenty- third to Delaiah, the twenty- fourth to Maaziah.)

- ◆ The 12 patriarchs with the 12 apostles (Revelation 21:12-14 "It has a great, high wall with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites; on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.")
- ◆ Exalted angelic order as counterpart to 24 priestly and 24 Levitical orders

Revelation 20:4

Then I saw thrones, and those seated on them were given authority to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony to Jesus and for the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Lyrics by John B. Dykes & Reginald Heber

D D/B A D G D
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty
A D Bm A A/E E7 A A7
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee
D D/B A D G D D/C#
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty
Bm D G D Em A D
God in three persons, blessed Trinity

Holy, holy, holy, all the saints adore Thee
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea
Cherubim and seraphim, falling down before Thee
Which, wert and art and ever more shall be

Holy, holy, holy, though the darkness hide Thee
Though the eye of sinful men Thy Glory may not see
Only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee
Perfect in power, in love and purity

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name in earth and sky and sea
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity



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Exodus 19:16

On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, as well as a thick cloud on the mountain, and a blast of a trumpet so loud that all the people who were in the camp trembled.

Psalms 18:12-14

Out of the brightness before him
there broke through his clouds
hailstones and coals of fire.

The Lord also thundered in the heavens,
and the Most High uttered his voice.

And he sent out his arrows, and scattered them;
he flashed forth lightnings, and routed them.

Ezekiel 1:13

In the middle of the living creatures there was something that looked like
burning coals of fire, like torches moving to and fro among the living
creatures; the fire was bright, and lightning issued from the fire.

Job 37:2-5

Listen, listen to the thunder of his voice
and the rumbling that comes from his
mouth.

Under the whole heaven he lets it loose,
and his lightning to the corners of the
earth.

After it his voice roars;
he thunders with his majestic voice
and he does not restrain the lightnings
when his voice is heard.

God thunders wondrously with his voice;
he does great things that we cannot
comprehend.



Psalms 104:3

you set the beams of your
chambers on the waters,
you make the clouds your
chariot,
you ride on the wings of the wind,

Ezekiel 1:22

Over the heads of the living
creatures there was something
like a dome, shining like crystal,
spread out above their heads.



Interpretations of Symbol

- ◆ Decoration, temple furniture
- ◆ The heavenly equivalent of the Red Sea
- ◆ The cleansing blood of Christ
- ◆ Divine Providence
- ◆ God's unfinished agenda
- ◆ Persecution and martyrdom



The Four Living Creatures



Ezekiel 28:13

You were in Eden, the garden of God;
every precious stone was your covering,
carnelian, chrysolite, and moonstone,
beryl, onyx, and jasper,
sapphire, turquoise, and emerald;
and worked in gold were your settings
and your engravings.

On the day that you were created
they were prepared.



The Strength of the Lion

Psalms 104:21

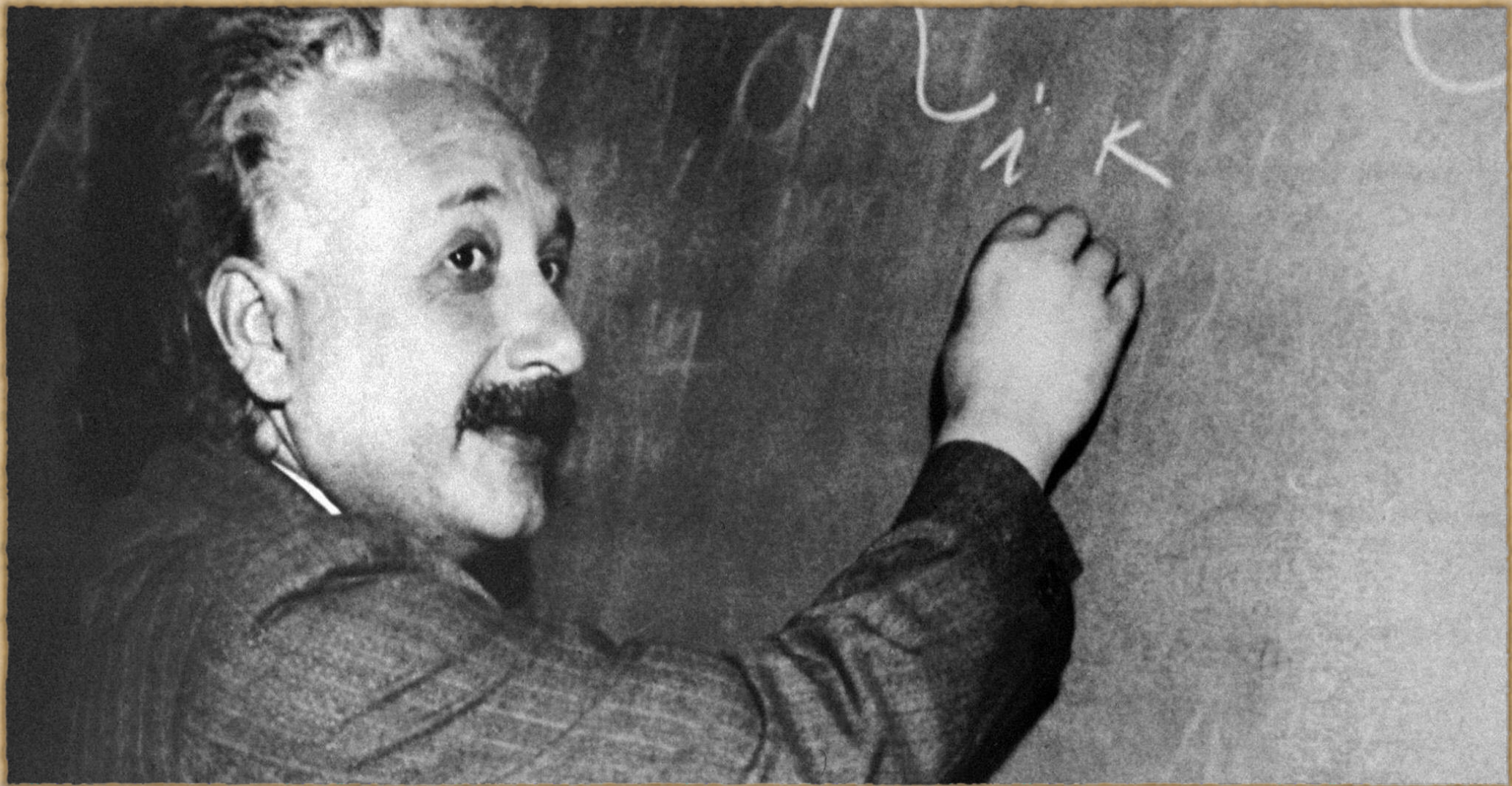
The young lions roar for their prey,
seeking their food from God.

The Service of the Ox

Hebrews 1:14

Are not all angels spirits in the
divine service, sent to serve for
the sake of those who are to
inherit salvation?





The Intelligence of Humanity

Luke 15:10

Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."



The Swifttness of the Eagle

Daniel 9:21

while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen before in a vision, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice.

Psalms 18:10

He rode on a cherub, and flew;
he came swiftly upon the wings of the wind.

Ezekiel 10:18-19

Then the glory of the Lord went out from the threshold of the house and stopped above the cherubim. The cherubim lifted up their wings and rose up from the earth in my sight as they went out with the wheels beside them. They stopped at the entrance of the east gate of the house of the Lord; and the glory of the God of Israel was above them.

Holy, Holy, Holy! all the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and Seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Isaiah 6:1-3

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

And one called to another and said:
“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

"Who was and is and is to come"

- ◆ God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you. '"



Worship of the Lamb

Revelation 5

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

They sing a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God
saints from every tribe and language and people and nation;
you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God,
and they will reign on earth."

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,
singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!"

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,
"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might
forever and ever!"

And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.



Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals;

Ezekiel 2:9-10

I looked, and a hand was stretched out to me, and a written scroll was in it. He spread it before me; it had writing on the front and on the back, and written on it were words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

Psalms 139:16

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.



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

And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it.



Luke 19:41-42

Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem

As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes."



Revelation 5:5

Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."



Genesis 49:9

Judah is a lion's whelp;
from the prey, my son, you have gone up.
He crouches down, he stretches out like a lion,
like a lioness—who dares rouse him up?

Isaiah 11:1

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

Romans 15:12

and again Isaiah says,
“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

Revelation 5:6

Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.





John 1:29

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not his mouth;

He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter;



and as a sheep before its shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth.



The Paschal Lamb

Daniel 8:3

I looked up and saw a ram standing beside the river. It had two horns. Both horns were long, but one was longer than the other, and the longer one came up second.

Zechariah 4:10

For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel.

“These seven are the eyes of the Lord, which range through the whole earth.”



He went and took the scroll from the right hand
of the one who was seated on the throne.





Revelation 5:8

When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty- four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Psalms 33:2-3

Praise the Lord with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp
of ten strings.

Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully on the strings, with
loud shouts.



Deuteronomy 33:10

They teach Jacob your
ordinances,
and Israel your law;
they place incense before you,
and whole burnt offerings on
your altar.


Psalms 141:2

Let my prayer be counted as
incense before you,
and the lifting up of my hands
as an evening sacrifice.



**O sing to the LORD a new
song; for he has done
marvelous things: his right
hand, and his holy arm,
has gotten him the
victory.**

—Psalm 98:1



*Sing unto the LORD a new song,
and his praise from the end of the earth,
ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein;
the isles, and the inhabitants thereof.*

Isaiah 42:10

Why is the lamb worthy?

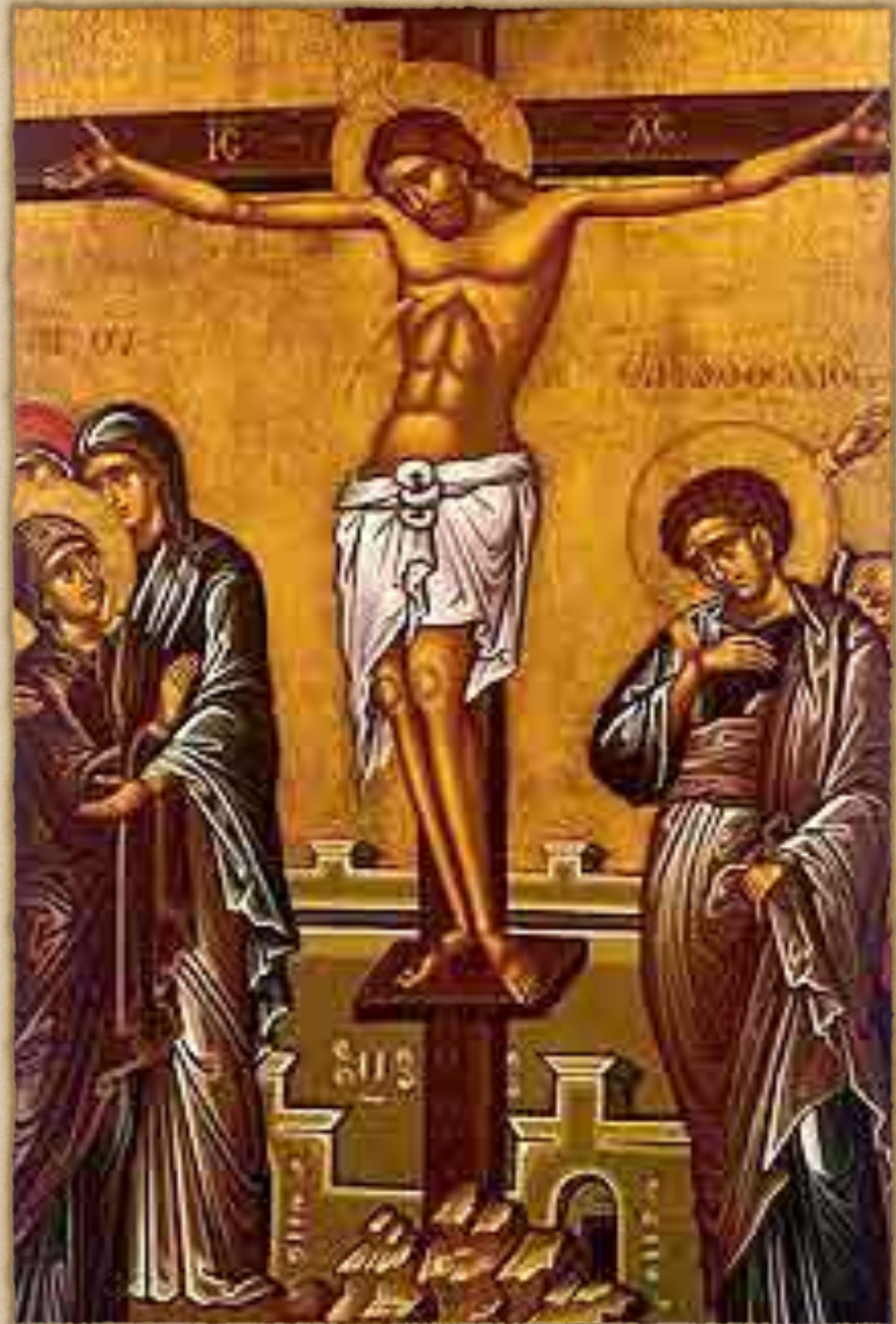
- ◆ The Lamb was "slaughtered"
- ◆ By the Lamb's blood, the saints of God were ransomed
- ◆ The redeemed have been transformed into a kingdom and priests (v.10)

Mark 10:45

For the Son of Man came
not to be served but to
serve, and to give his life
a ransom for many.”



1 Corinthians 6:20
For you were bought
with a price; therefore
glorify God in your
body.





Revelation 5:10
you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving
our God,
and they will reign on earth.”



And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders:
and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;
Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom,
and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

Revelation 5:11-12 (KJV)

Daniel 7:10

A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his presence.
A thousand thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood
attending him.
The court sat in judgment,
and the books were opened.

1 Corinthians 1:24

but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (power and wisdom)

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. (wealth)

Luke 11:22

But when one stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his plunder. (strength)

Philippians 2:11

and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. (honor)

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have
seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of
grace and truth. (glory)

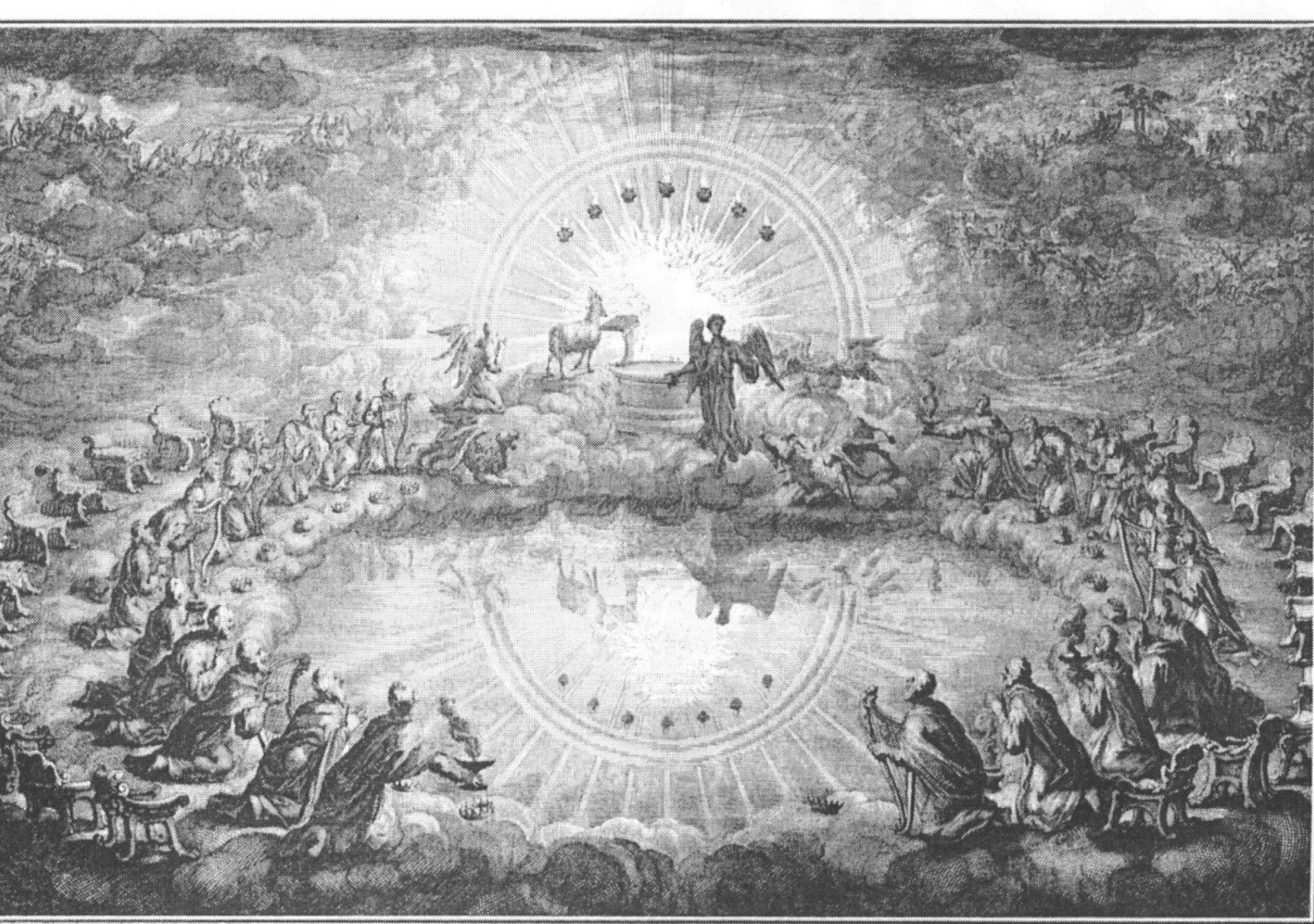
Romans 15:29

and I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness
of the blessing of Christ. (praise)

Revelation 5:13

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

“To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”



Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and
gave him the name that is
above every name, that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory
of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11



Revelation 5:14

And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.



The Seven Seals

6:1 -8:1

Revelation 6:1-8

Then I saw the Lamb open one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures call out, as with a voice of thunder, "Come!" I looked, and there was a white horse! Its rider had a bow; a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering and to conquer.

When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature call out, "Come!" And out came another horse, bright red; its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people would slaughter one another; and he was given a great sword.

When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature call out, "Come!" I looked, and there was a black horse! Its rider held a pair of scales in his hand, and I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a day's pay, and three quarts of barley for a day's pay, but do not damage the olive oil and the wine!"

When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature call out, "Come!" I looked and there was a pale green horse! Its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed with him; they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, famine, and pestilence, and by the wild animals of the earth.

Introduction

- A. Stage is set for the opening of the scroll in sequence - seals, trumpets and bowls.
- B. Scroll is not actually opened until all 7 seals are removed
- C. Each seal represents a preliminary judgment



The Four Horsemen

6:1-8

Zechariah 1:8-10

In the night I saw 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. Then I said, "What are these, my lord?" The angel who talked with me said to me, "I will show you what they are." So the man who was standing among the myrtle trees answered, "They are those whom the Lord has sent to patrol the earth."

Zechariah 6:1-8

And again I looked up and saw four chariots coming out from between two mountains—mountains of bronze. The first chariot had red horses, the second chariot black horses, the third chariot white horses, and the fourth chariot dappled gray horses. Then I said to the angel who talked with me, “What are these, my lord?” The angel answered me, “These are the four winds of heaven going out, after presenting themselves before the Lord of all the earth. The chariot with the black horses goes toward the north country, the white ones go toward the west country, and the dappled ones go toward the south country.” When the steeds came out, they were impatient to get off and patrol the earth. And he said, “Go, patrol the earth.” So they patrolled the earth. Then he cried out to me, “Lo, those who go toward the north country have set my spirit at rest in the north country.”

Conquest

The White Horse



Bloodshed

The Red Horse



The Black Horse

Scarcity



The Pale Horse

Death



Luke 21:7-11

They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

Mark 13:7-8

When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

Matthew 24:6-8

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. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

Revelation 19:11-13

Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse! Its rider 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 inscribed that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called The Word of God.

The Progress of the Gospel



Mark 13:10

And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations.

Horse 1 - Christ and the Word

Horse 2 - Persecution of the Saints

Horse 3 - Discrimination against the faithful

Horse 4 - Final Judgment

Horse 1 - Christ and the Word

Horse 2 - War (social evil)

Horse 3 - Famine (ecological evil)

Horse 4 - Sickness (biological evil)



The Four Horsemen

Albecht Durer

Hosea 1:5

On that day I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel."

Jeremiah 51:56

for a destroyer has come against her,

against Babylon;

her warriors are taken,

their bows are broken;

for the Lord is a God of recompense,

he will repay in full.

Other Interpretations of the First Seal

- ◆ A specific Roman emperor
- ◆ The prince of Daniel 9:26
- ◆ War
- ◆ Divine judgement carried out in war, famine, and pestilence
- ◆ Elements of false messiahs and false prophecy

Zechariah 14:13

On that day a great panic from the Lord shall fall on them,
so that each will seize the hand of a neighbor, and the hand
of the one will be raised against the hand of the other;

Isaiah 19:2

I will stir up Egyptians against Egyptians,
and they will fight, one against the other,
neighbor against neighbor,
city against city, kingdom against kingdom;

Ezekiel 4:16-17

Then he said to me, Mortal, I am going to break the staff of bread in Jerusalem; they shall eat bread by weight and with fearfulness; and they shall drink water by measure and in dismay. Lacking bread and water, they will look at one another in dismay, and waste away under their punishment.

Leviticus 26:26

When I break your staff of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in a single oven, and they shall dole out your bread by weight; and though you eat, you shall not be satisfied.

Augustus Caesar Denarius



Augustus, AR Denarius, 2 BC (?) - 4 AD, Lugdunum - RIC I, 207

Augustus, AR Denarius, 2 BC (?) - 4 AD, Lugdunum

CAESAR AVGVSTVS-DIVI F PATER PATRIAE

Laureate head right

AVGVSTI F COS DESIG PRINC IVVENT

Gaius and Lucius Caesar, each togate and standing facing, resting hand on shield, spear behind each shield

Simpulum on left facing right and lituus on right facing left in upper field

C L CAESARES in exergue

19mm x 20mm, 3.70g

RIC I, 207

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Ezekiel 14:21

For thus says the Lord God: How much more when I send upon Jerusalem my four deadly acts of judgment, sword, famine, wild animals, and pestilence, to cut off humans and animals from it!

The Fifth Seal

The Cry of the Martyrs

6: 9-11



Revelation 6:9-11

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered for the word of God and for the testimony they had given; they cried out with a loud voice, "Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long will it be before you judge and avenge our blood on the inhabitants of the earth?" They were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number would be complete both of their fellow servants and of their brothers and sisters, who were soon to be killed as they themselves had been killed.

Habakkuk 2:20

But the Lord is in his holy temple;
let all the earth keep silence before him!

Psalms 18:6

In my distress I called upon the Lord;
to my God I cried for help.

From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears.

Leviticus 4:7

The priest shall put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of fragrant incense that is in the tent of meeting before the Lord; and the rest of the blood of the bull he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering, which is at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

Exodus 29:12

and shall take some of the blood of the bull and put it on the horns of the altar with your finger, and all the rest of the blood you shall pour out at the base of the altar.

2 Timothy 4:6

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation,
and the time of my departure has come.

Philippians 2:17

But even if I am being poured out as a libation over
the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad
and rejoice with all of you—

Acts 7:60

Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Luke 23:34

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

Psalms 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.



Psalms 94:3

O Lord, how long shall the wicked,
how long shall the wicked exult?

Habakkuk 1:2

The Prophet's Complaint

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you "Violence!"
and you will not save?

Psalms 104:2

wrapped in light as with a garment.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent,

2 Corinthians 5:1-5

Chapter 5

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling — if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.



The Sixth Seal

6: 12-17

Revelation 6:12-17

When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and there came a great earthquake; the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree drops its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. The sky vanished like a scroll rolling itself up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth and the magnates and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Exodus 19:18

Now Mount Sínai was wrapped in smoke, because the Lord had descended upon it in fire; the smoke went up like the smoke of a kiln, while the whole mountain shook violently.

Isaiah 2:19

Enter the caves of the rocks
and the holes of the ground,
from the terror of the Lord,
and from the glory of his majesty,
when he rises to terrify the earth.

Haggai 2:6

For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land;

Isaiah 13:10

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.

Ezekiel 32:7

When I blot you out, I will cover the heavens,
and make their stars dark;
I will cover the sun with a cloud,
and the moon shall not give its light.

Amos 8:8

Shall not the land tremble on this account,
and everyone mourn who lives in it,
and all of it rise like the Nile,
and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?

Isaiah 13:7-8

Therefore all hands will be feeble,
and every human heart will melt,
and they will be dismayed.

Pangs and agony will seize them;
they will be in anguish like a woman in labor.
They will look aghast at one another;
their faces will be aflame.

Malachi 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;

Hosea 10:8

The high places of Aven, the sin of Israel,
shall be destroyed.

Thorn and thistle shall grow up
on their altars.

They shall say to the mountains, Cover us,
and to the hills, Fall on us.

Romans 1:18

The Guilt of Humankind

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of those who by their wickedness suppress the truth.

Mark 13:24-25

The Coming of the Son of Man

“But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Mark 13:24-25

The Coming of the Son of Man

“But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.



Nahum 1:6
Who can stand before his indignation?
Who can endure the heat of his anger?
His wrath is poured out like fire,
and by him the rocks are broken in pieces.

Isaiah 34:4

All the host of heaven shall rot away,
and the skies roll up like a scroll.

All their host shall wither
like a leaf withering on a vine,
or fruit withering on a fig tree.

The Sealing of God's Servants

7: 1-8



Revelation 7:1-8

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 could blow on earth or sea or against any tree. I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to damage earth and sea, saying, "Do not damage the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have marked the servants of our God with a seal on their foreheads."

And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred forty- four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the people of Israel: From the tribe of Judah twelve thousand sealed,
from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand,
from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand,
from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand,
from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand, from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand,
from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand,
from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand,
from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand,
from the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand sealed.

Isaiah 11:12

He will raise a signal for the nations,
and will assemble the outcasts of Israel,
and gather the dispersed of Judah
from the four corners of the earth.

Daniel 7:2

I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the
four winds of heaven stirring up the
great sea,

Jeremiah 49:36

and I will bring upon Elam the four
winds from the four quarters of heaven;
and I will scatter them to all these winds,
and there shall be no nation to which
the exiles from Elam shall not come.



Isaiah 14:8

The cypresses exult over you,
the cedars of Lebanon, saying,
“Since you were laid low,
no one comes to cut us down.”

Isaiah 61:3

to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.



Hosea 13:15

Although he may flourish among rushes,
the east wind shall come, a blast from the Lord,
rising from the wilderness;
and his fountain shall dry up,
his spring shall be parched.
It shall strip his treasury
of every precious thing.

The Sirocco

Zechariah 9:14

Then the Lord will appear over them,
and his arrow go forth like lightning;
the Lord God will sound the trumpet
and march forth in the whirlwinds of the south.

Isaiah 40:24

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

Ezekiel 43:4-5

As the glory of the Lord entered
the temple by the gate facing
east, the spirit lifted me up, and
brought me into the inner court;
and the glory of the Lord filled
the temple.





Revelation 14:1

Then I looked, and there was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion! And with him were one hundred forty- four thousand who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

2 Timothy 2:19

But God's firm foundation stands,
bearing this inscription: "The Lord
knows those who are his," and,
"Let everyone who calls on the
name of the Lord turn away from
wickedness."



Joshua 3:10

Joshua said, "By this you shall know that among you is the living God who without fail will drive out from before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites:

2 Kings 19:16

Incline your ear, O Lord, and hear; open your eyes, O Lord, and see; hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God.

Reuben	Reuben	Reuben
Simeon	Simeon	Simeon
Levi		Levi
Judah	Judah	Judah
Dan	Dan	
Naphtali	Naphtali	Naphtali
Gad	Gad	Gad
Asher	Asher	Asher
Isaachar	Isaachar	Isaachar
Zebulun	Zebulun	Zebulun
Joseph		Joseph
	Ephraim	
	Manesseh	Manasseh

The Church as The New Israel

- ♦ Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
- ♦ so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
- ♦ Rather, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly, and real circumcision is a matter of the heart—it is spiritual and not literal. Such a person receives praise not from others but from God.
- ♦ As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.
- ♦ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Hebrews 7:14

For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

Genesis 49:10

The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
until tribute comes to him;
and the obedience of the peoples is his.

Judges 18:30

Then the Danites set up the idol for themselves. Jonathan son of Gershom, son of Moses, and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the time the land went into captivity.

The Joy of the Redeemed

Rev. 7: 9-17




Mark 9:2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

The Coming of Elijah

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.





Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars,
if thou be able to number them:
and he said unto him,
So shall thy seed be.
Genesis 15:5

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The Four-Fold Division:

Nations

Tribes

Peoples

Languages

Rev. 5:9, 7:9, 11:9, 13:7, 14:6

The Song of Moses

Chapter 15

Then Moses and the Israelites sang
this song to the Lord:

“I will sing to the Lord, for he has
triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into
the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my
might,
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 warrior;
the Lord is his name.



Luke 15:10

Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”



GLORY is radiance of the divine

WISDOM is divine knowledge of God's plan of redemption

THANKS is the response to salvation

HONOR is the public acknowledgement of the thanksgiving

POWER is God's ability to act

STRENGTH is God's redemptive presence in history

Zechariah 4:5-7

Then the angel who talked with me answered me, "Do you not know what these are?" I said, "No, my lord." He said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts. What are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain; and he shall bring out the top stone amid shouts of 'Grace, grace to it!'"

Jeremiah 1:11-13

The word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see a branch of an almond tree." Then the Lord said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it." The word of the Lord came to me a second time, saying, "What do you see?" And I said, "I see a boiling pot, tilted away from the north."

Amos 7:8

And the Lord said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line
in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by;



Daniel 12:1

“At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book.

Hebrews 9:24

For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

1 John 1:7

but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Exodus 19:14

So Moses went down from the mountain to the people. He consecrated the people, and they washed their clothes.



Isaiah 4:5-6

Then the Lord will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over its places of assembly a cloud by day and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night. Indeed over all the glory there will be a canopy. It will serve as a pavilion, a shade by day from the heat, and a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.

Ezekiel 37:27

My dwelling place shall be with them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Zechariah 2:10

Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord.

Matthew 5:6

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

John 6:35

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Exodus 15:13

“In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed;
you guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

The Seven Trumpets

8:2-11:19



Preparation

Revelation 8:2-5

And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

Another angel with a golden censer came and stood at the altar; he was given a great quantity of incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar that is 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.

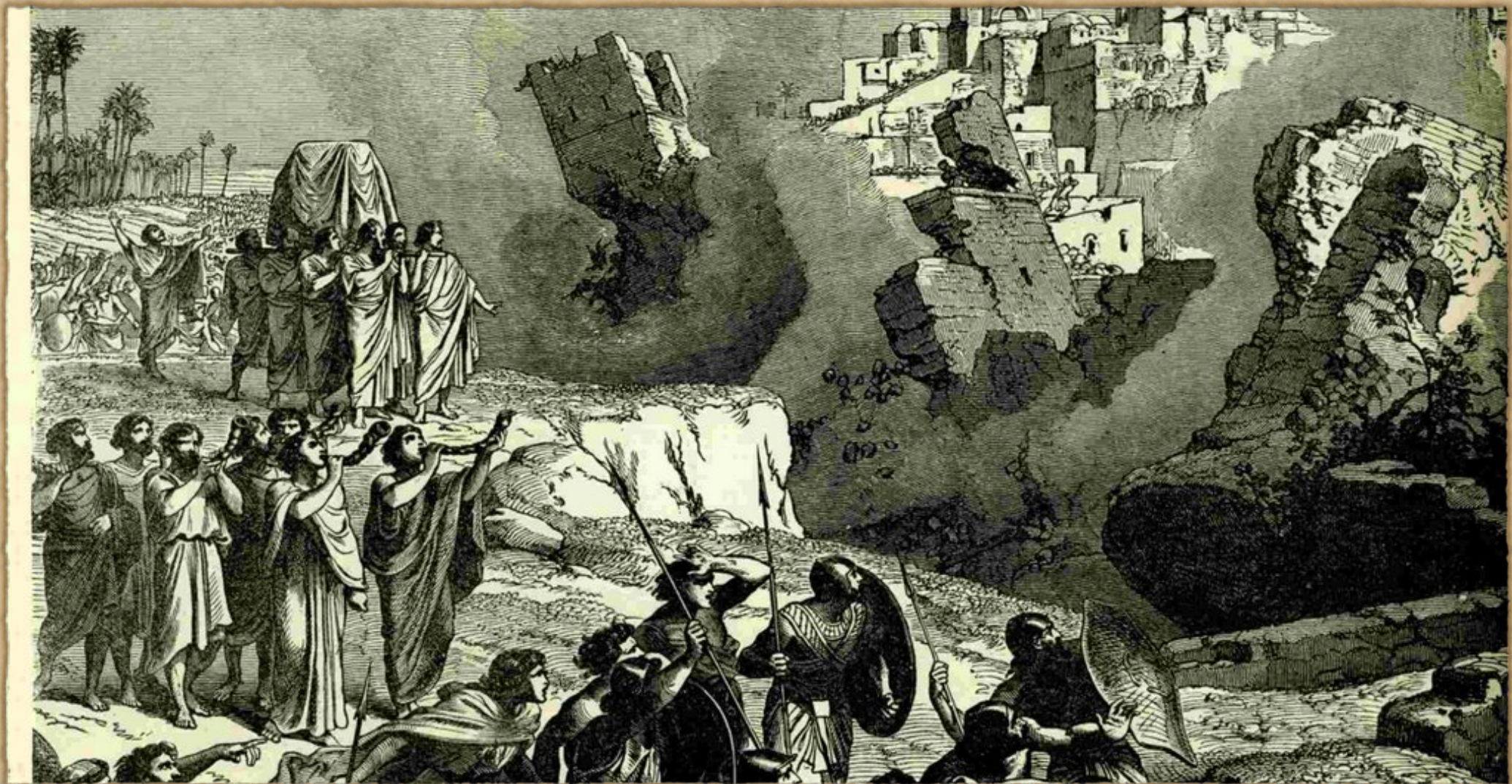
Numbers 10:1-10

The Silver Trumpets

Chapter 10

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Make two silver trumpets; you shall make them of hammered work; and you shall use them for summoning the congregation, and for breaking camp. When both are blown, the whole congregation shall assemble before you at the entrance of the tent of meeting. But if only one is blown, then the leaders, the heads of the tribes of Israel, shall assemble before you. When you blow an alarm, the camps on the east side shall set out; when you blow a second alarm, the camps on the south side shall set out. An alarm is to be blown whenever they are to set out. But when the assembly is to be gathered, you shall blow, but you shall not sound an alarm. The sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow the trumpets; this shall be a perpetual institution for you throughout your generations. When you go to war in your land against the adversary who oppresses you, you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, so that you may be remembered before the Lord your God and be saved from your enemies. Also on your days of rejoicing, at your appointed festivals, and at the beginnings of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over your sacrifices of well-being; they shall serve as a reminder on your behalf before the Lord your God: I am the Lord your God.





Joshua 6:20

So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpets, they raised a great shout, and the wall fell down flat; so the people charged straight ahead into the city and captured it.

Numbers 29:1

On the first day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not work at your occupations. It is a day for you to blow the trumpets,

2 Kings 9:13

Then hurriedly they all took their cloaks and spread them for him on the bare steps; and they blew the trumpet, and proclaimed, "Jehu is king."

Zephaniah 1:14-16

The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.

That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

Exodus 30:1-10

The Altar of Incense

Chapter 30

You shall make an altar on which to offer incense; you shall make it of acacia wood. It shall be one cubit long, and one cubit wide; it shall be square, and shall be two cubits high; its horns shall be of one piece with it. You shall overlay it with pure gold, its top, and its sides all around and its horns; and you shall make for it a molding of gold all around. And you shall make two golden rings for it; under its molding on two opposite sides of it you shall make them, and they shall hold the poles with which to carry it. You shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. You shall place it in front of the curtain that is above the ark of the covenant, in front of the mercy seat that is over the covenant, where I will meet with you. Aaron shall offer fragrant incense on it; every morning when he dresses the lamps he shall offer it, and when Aaron sets up the lamps in the evening, he shall offer it, a regular incense offering before the Lord throughout your generations. You shall not offer unholy incense on it, or a burnt offering, or a grain offering; and you shall not pour a drink offering on it. Once a year Aaron shall perform the rite of atonement on its horns. Throughout your generations he shall perform the atonement for it once a year with the blood of the atoning sin offering. It is most holy to the Lord.



Ephesians 5:2

and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ezekiel 10:2

He said to the man clothed in linen, "Go within the wheelwork underneath the cherubim; fill your hands with burning coals from among the cherubim, and scatter them over the city." He went in as I looked on.

Exodus 19:16

On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, as well as a thick cloud on the mountain, and a blast of a trumpet so loud that all the people who were in the camp trembled.

Revelation 8:6-12

The Seven Trumpets

Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets made ready to blow them.

The first angel blew his trumpet, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were hurled to 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.

The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea. 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 died from the water, because it was 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 was darkened; a third of the day was kept from shining, and likewise the night.

The First Trumpet



Trumpets

First 4 are supernatural

Final 3 are demonic

Seals

First 4 against nature

5th & 6th seperated



Revelation 8:7

The first angel blew his trumpet, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were hurled to 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.

Exodus 9:13-35

The Seventh Plague: Thunder and Hail

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present yourself before Pharaoh, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. For this time I will send all my plagues upon you yourself, and upon your officials, and upon your people, so that you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth. For by now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, and you would have been cut off from the earth. But this is why I have let you live: to show you my power, and to make my name resound through all the earth. You are still exalting yourself against my people, and will not let them go. Tomorrow at this time I will cause the heaviest hail to fall that has ever fallen in Egypt from the day it was founded until now. Send, therefore, and have your livestock and everything that you have in the open field brought to a secure place; every human or animal that is in the open field and is not brought under shelter will die when the hail comes down upon them.'"

Those officials of Pharaoh who feared the word of the Lord hurried their slaves and livestock off to a secure place. Those who did not regard the word of the Lord left their slaves and livestock in the open field.

The Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven so that hail may fall on the whole land of Egypt, on humans and animals and all the plants of the field in the land of Egypt." Then Moses stretched out his staff toward heaven, and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire came down on the earth. And the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt; there was hail with fire flashing continually in the midst of it, such heavy hail as had never fallen in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. The hail struck down everything that was in the open field throughout all the land of Egypt, both human and animal; the hail also struck down all the plants of the field, and shattered every tree in the field. Only in the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were, there was no hail.

Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "This time I have sinned; the Lord is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong. Pray to the Lord! Enough of God's thunder and hail! I will let you go; you need stay no longer." Moses said to him, "As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will stretch out my hands to the Lord; the thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, so that you may know that the earth is the Lord's. But as for you and your officials, I know that you do not yet fear the Lord God." (Now the flax and the barley were ruined, for the barley was in the ear and the flax was in bud. But the wheat and the spelt were not ruined, for they are late in coming up.) So Moses left Pharaoh, went out of the city, and stretched out his hands to the Lord; then the thunder and the hail ceased, and the rain no longer poured down on the earth. But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned once more and hardened his heart, he and his officials. So the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he would not let the Israelites go, just as the Lord had spoken through Moses.

Joel 2:31

The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood,
before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes.

Acts 2:19-21

And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be
saved. '

Zechariah 13:8-9

In the whole land, says the Lord,
two-thirds shall be cut off and perish,
and one-third shall be left alive.

And I will put this third into the fire,
refine them as one refines silver,
and test them as gold is tested.

They will call on my name,
and I will answer them.

I will say, "They are my people";
and they will say, "The Lord is our God."

Luke 21:25-26

The Coming of the Son of Man

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.



Matthew 7:17-20

In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits.



The Second Trumpet

Revelation 8:8-9

The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea. 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.



Exodus 7:20-21

Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord commanded. In the sight of Pharaoh and of his officials he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the river, and all the water in the river was turned into blood, and the fish in the river died. The river stank so that the Egyptians could not drink its water, and there was blood throughout the whole land of Egypt.



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 died from the water, because it was made bitter.



Wormwood

Proverbs 5:3-4

For the lips of a loose woman drip honey,
and her speech is smoother than oil;
but in the end she is bitter as wormwood,
sharp as a two-edged sword.

Lamentations 3:19

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!

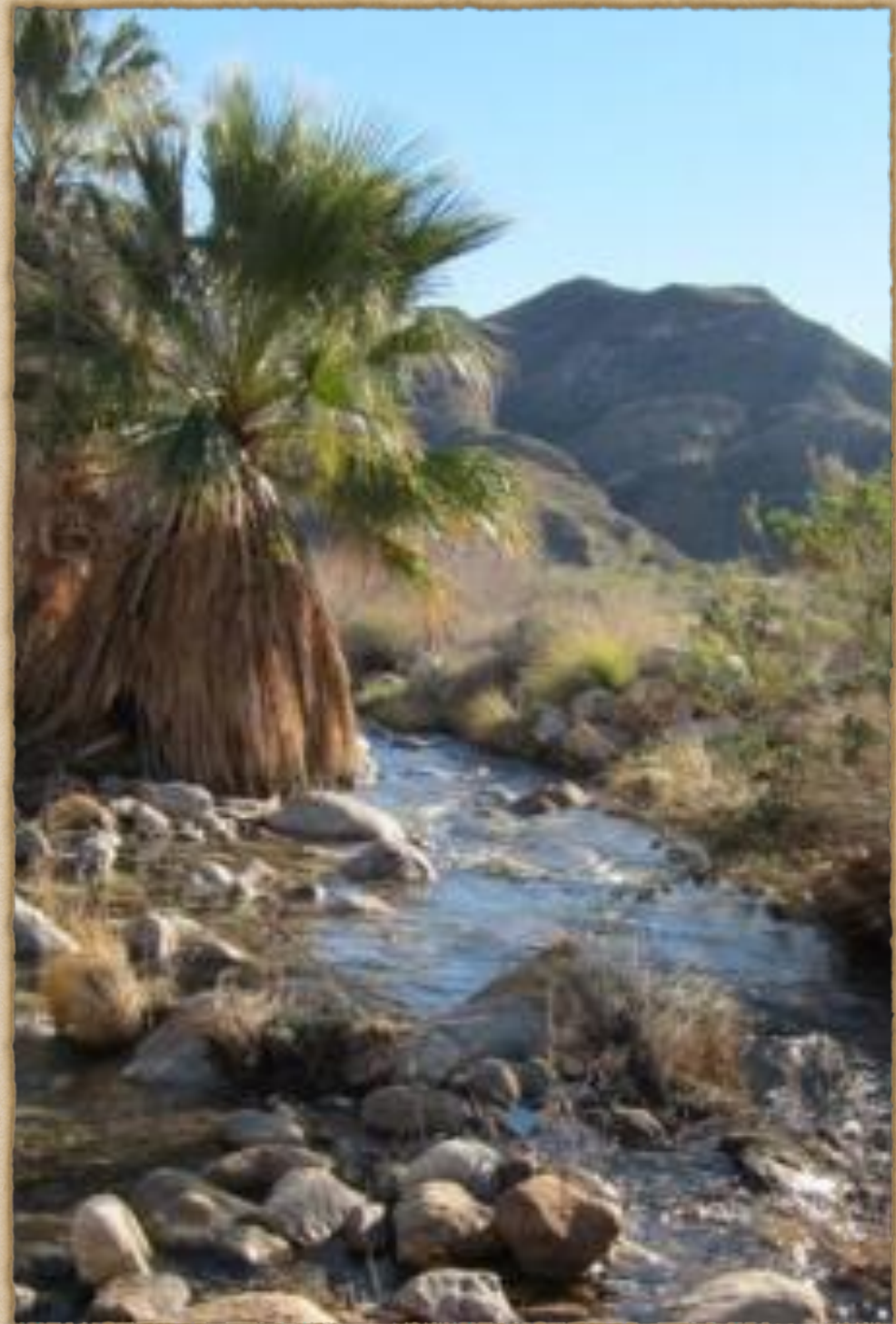
Jeremiah 9:15

Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: I am
feeding this people with wormwood, and giving them poisonous
water to drink.

Exodus 15:25

He cried out to the Lord;
and the Lord showed him a
piece of wood; he threw it
into the water, and the
water became sweet.

There the Lord made for
them a statute and an
ordinance and there he put
them to the test.





Exodus 10:21-23

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven so that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness that can be felt." So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was dense darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days. People could not see one another, and for three days they could not move from where they were; but all the Israelites had light where they lived.

Revelation 8:13

Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew in midheaven, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!"





Habakkuk 1:8

Their horses are swifter than leopards,
more menacing than wolves at dusk;
their horses charge.

Their horsemen come from far away;
they fly like an eagle swift to devour.