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# Revelation: Dawn of this Age

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An Expanded Overview



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# Part 1: Setting the Stage

Before we can really dive into John's visions and prophetic encounter, we need to take a step back. Whatever metaphor you want to employ here, be it the fitting of the right glasses or the setting of a proper foundation, it is imperative that we have as much context as we can in order to afford ourselves the best chances of understanding what John penned. More simply put, we need to not only time-travel to the Jewish-Roman world in first-century AD, but we need to try to put ourselves in the same frame of mind as those early Apostles and believers. We must try to have a glimpse of their world and a hint of how they saw and interpreted that world through their understanding of Jesus Christ, the Law and the Prophets, and the current affairs of their day.

But before we get into the Fall of Jerusalem, the fiendish Emperor Nero, or the incredible visitation John the Beloved received, let's go through a grand sweep through time.

## *God's Eternal Plan*

### God's Intent Before Creation (Eternity Past)

"the Lamb was slain from the creation of the world" Rev 13:8

"For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight, in love." Eph 1:4

"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son."  
Rom 8:29

"you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." Ex 19:6

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession." 1 Pet 2:9

### Creation, heaven and earth are one

"Then God said, "Let there be light" Gen 1:3

"Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion." Gen 1:26

"And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone." Gen 2:18  
It was not good for the Son of Man to be alone. So God created His bride.

## Fall of humanity and creation, Rise of Satan

"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field... Then the woman said, 'The serpent deceived me, and I ate.'" Gen 3:1,13

Like Esau, they despised their birthright (Gen 25:29-24)

"Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed [Jesus] all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." Luke 4:5-7

## God's eternal plan was a great mystery, only fully revealed when Christ came

"According to the purpose of the ages, which he [the Father] purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord." Eph 3:1-13

Paul called all this the secret of the ages (Rom. 16:25; Col. 1:26; Eph. 3:4-5, 9).

The mystery was not only veiled to mortals, it was hidden from angels as well. Gabriel and Michael didn't know it. Neither did Lucifer, nor his demonic hosts (1 Cor. 2:7-8; Eph. 3:9-10).

Paul, along with other apostles and prophets of Century One, were "stewards of the divine mystery" (1 Cor. 4:1; Col. 1:25-26; Eph. 3:2-9).

## Triumph of the Cross, Fall of Satan

"And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross." Col 2:15

"And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority." Luke 10:18-19

"Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end." Isa 9:6-7

## A new creation, we are a sign of what's to come

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." 2 Cor 5:17

## Like us, all creation becomes born anew

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. Isa 65:17

"For as the new heavens and the new earth Which I will make shall remain before Me," says the Lord, "So shall your descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass That from one New Moon to another, And from one Sabbath to another, All flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the Lord." Isa 66:22-23

"For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now." Rom 8:19-23

## Eternity future, Heaven and earth become one again, the great wedding concludes and the marriage is consummated

"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them.'" Rev 21:1-3



# *Historical Context – What was happening?*

-44 James (Apostle John's brother) put to death.

-49 Apostolic Council of Jerusalem rules that Gentiles do not have to become Jews before becoming Christians.

-62 Martyrdom of Apostle James the Just (half-brother of Jesus and brother of Jude);  
crucifixion of Apostle Andrew in Patras.

-64-68 First of ten major persecutions of the Early Church, under Emperor Nero.

-66 Flight of the Christian community in Jerusalem to Pella, Antioch, and other places in the Decapolis.

-66-73 Jewish-Roman war.

-67 Martyrdom of the Apostle Peter in Rome;

martyrdom of the Apostle Paul in Rome;

Many of Paul's trusted co-workers and church leaders are also put to death under Nero.

-68 Suicide of Emperor Nero, year of 3 emperors begins;

Andrew (one of the Twelve, brother of Peter) is crucified on an x-shaped cross;

and Luke (Gospel writer) is crucified also;

Bartholomew is beaten and crucified in Armenia;

John Mark (Gospel writer) is beaten and tortured to death in Egypt;

68 Jude (half-brother of Jesus, brother of James the Just) writes his letter to combat the explosive outbreak of wolves amongst the churches, taking advantage of the deaths of the first Apostles, seeking power and promoting new heresies.

-68-69 The Apostle John exiled to the island of Patmos to labour in the mines there by Domitian, Emperor Vespasian's son. It is here that John is visited by Jesus to bring encouragement to the churches in this dire time of crisis. The believers that remained were in deep distress and heartache. Jesus bring comfort, and John writes what we now call Revelation.

-70 Temple in Jerusalem is destroyed by the Romans, fulfilling Jesus' prophecy; expulsion of the Christians from the synagogues; by this time the work of the Apostle Paul has planted the faith on firm foundation in the major cities of the Roman empire.

-70-80 John is released and moves back to Ephesus and dies of old age in 98 AD, as Jesus prophesied;

Silas (Paul's fellow missionary) dies in Greece;

Phillip (one of the Twelve) is put to death in Asia Minor;

Matthew (Gospel writer) is killed with a spear in Ethiopia;

Matthias (replaced Judas the traitor) is burned to death in Syria;

Thomas (one of the Twelve) is stabbed to death in India;

Barnabas (Paul's fellow missionary) is killed in Cyprus;

Simon and Thaddaeus are killed in Persia, as is James the Lesser (one of the Twelve).

-80 Emperor Titus dedicates the Colosseum, funded by the gold from the Jerusalem Temple; later becomes the site of the martyrdom of many early Christians.

-96 Titus, a disciple of the Apostle Paul, dies on the Island of Crete.

-97 Timothy, spiritual son of Paul, is stoned to death in Ephesus.

# Part 2: Matthew 24

## *Prophecies Fulfilled in the 1st coming of Jesus Christ in Matthew*

**Matthew 1:22** So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel.”

**Prophecy:** Isaiah 7: Jesus is born, revelation (“honey”) in his hand, destruction of Jerusalem.

**Matthew 2:15** and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”

**Prophecy:** Micah 5-7: Messiah comes, new kingdom established, land of Israel destroyed.

**Matthew 2:17** Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: “A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more.”

**Prophecy:** Jeremiah 31: God will restore his people, destruction then gathering, rebuilding.

**Matthew 4:14** that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.”

**Prophecy:** Isaiah 9: Messiah is born, government on him, land of Israel will be destroyed.

**Matthew 12:17** that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: “Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He will declare justice to the Gentiles.”

**Prophecy:** Isaiah 42: Behold God’s Servant, will bring His deliverance, anger against law breakers.

**Matthew 13:14** And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: ‘Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive... Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.’”

**Prophecy:** Isaiah 6: The Messiah, how long does he speak repentance? Until the land of Israel is utterly destroyed.

**Matthew 13:35** that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: “I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world.”

**Prophecy:** Psalm 78: Israel tested God in the wilderness, He showered them with blessings, they rebelled again, God allowed them to be destroyed, will have compassion on them again.

**Matthew 21:4** All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: “Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

**Prophecy:** Zechariah 9-11: Behold your Messiah comes, God will redeem Israel, but first foreigners shall attack the land, and God will not deliver.

**Matthew 26:54** I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.

**Prophecy:** Zechariah 13: They will cut the Shepherd, sheep will scatter, God will cut down 2/3 of the people of Israel, and refine the remaining 1/3.

**Matthew 27:9** Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, and gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord directed me.

**Prophecy:** Jeremiah 32: Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the Chaldeans, into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he shall take it. And the Chaldeans who fight against this city shall come and set fire to this city and burn it.

The common thread in all of these is that they not only speak of the coming of Jesus but also of the destruction of apostate Israel and the Temple of Solomon.

# *Matthew 21-24*

## Matthew 21 – New Covenant Messiah, Destruction of the Old Covenant

### **Destruction**

a) Zech 9

c) Jer 7

e) Fig Tree (We will see this parable again in Matthew 24:32)

### **The Messiah and Hope**

b) Psalm 118

d) Psalm 8

f) Psalm 118

## Matthew 22 – God’s Eternal Plan: The Wedding Feast

Key Verses 6-7: And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. 7 But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

## Matthew 23: Seven Woes

### **Key Verses 29-39:**

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, and say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.’

“Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers’ guilt. Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, that on you may come all the righteous blood

shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’” (See Jer 22; 1 Kings 9; Psalm 118)

**Seven Woes: Echoed in Revelation - seven seals, seven trumpets, three woes**

**Matthew 24 – When will everything Jesus said in the last three chapters take place?**

**Key Verses 1-2:** Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”

Compare with Luke 21:5-7: Then, as some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations, He said, “These things which you see—the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down.” So they asked Him, saying, “Teacher, but when will these things be? And what sign will there be when these things are about to take place?”

Compare with Mark 13:1-2: “Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!” And Jesus answered and said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”

**Key Verses 15:** “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Compare with Luke 21:20-21a: “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”

## Breakdown of Key Verses in Matthew 24

v. 3 *“Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”*

“end” συντελείας = completion, consummation

“age” αἰῶνος = era, age, period of time

Better translation: “and of the completion of this present era?”

v. 5 *People who claimed to be Mashiach (Messiah):*

Judas, son of Hezekiah, 4 BC

Simon of Peraea, 4 BC

Judas the Galilean, 6 BC

The Samaritan Prophet, 36 AD

Theudas, 50s AD

“The Egyptian”, 50s AD

Menahem (The most deceptive of all. He was a guerrilla fighter, and vied for power), 66-70 AD

Jonathan the Weaver (He led a large number of followers into the desert to show them signs and wonders), 73 AD, even after the fall of Jerusalem

v. 6 *“but the end is still to come.”*

“end” τέλος = different word here than in v. 3; literally means “the conclusion of an act or chapter”. Does not refer to chronology.

Better translation: “but that is still not when (this present age) will be concluded.”

v. 8 *“birth pains” = new life, new era. See Rom 8:22, Gal 4:27, Jn 16:21*

*v. 9 “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you...” We just read this in Matt 23:34!*

- persecution of Christians by Jews begins immediately after the Holy Spirit is poured out.
- 34-35 Stephen is stoned to death.
- 44 James (Apostle John's brother) put to death.
- 62 Martyrdom of Apostle James the Just (half-brother of Jesus and brother of Jude); crucifixion of Apostle Andrew in Patras.
- 64-68 First of ten major persecutions of the Early Church, under Emperor Nero. He used Christians as a scapegoat for the Great Fire that consumed 1/3 of the ‘Eternal City’. This strange new cult that despised Roman culture was despised. Now both Jews and Gentiles persecute the followers of Christ.
- 67 Martyrdom of the Apostle Peter in Rome; martyrdom of the Apostle Paul in Rome. Many of Paul's trusted co-workers and church leaders are also put to death under Nero.
- 68 Andrew (one of the Twelve, brother of Peter) is crucified on an x-shaped cross, and Luke (Gospel writer) is crucified also; Bartholomew is beaten and crucified in Armenia; John Mark (Gospel writer) is beaten and tortured to death in Egypt.
- 68-69 The Apostle John exiled to the island of Patmos to labour in the mines.

*v. 11 False prophets*

“While the holy house was on fire, everything was plundered that came to hand; and ten thousand of those that were caught were slain. Nor was there a commiseration of any age, or any reverence of gravity; but children, and old men, and profane persons, and priests, were all slain in the same manner...

A false prophet was the occasion of these peoples destruction: who had made a public proclamation in the city, that very day, that “God commanded them to get up upon the temple, and that there they should receive miraculous signs of their deliverance.” Now there was then a great number of false prophets, suborned by the tyrants, to impose on the people: who denounced this to them, that they should wait for deliverance from God; and this was in order to keep them from deserting; and that they might be buoyed up above fear and care by such hopes.” Josephus, Jewish Wars, Book VI, Chapter V

*v. 14 “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”*

“the world” οἰκουμένη = the inhabited regions, the Known World, the Roman Empire.

Compare this to John 1:29: “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”



The word here is κόσμος (where we get the word cosmos from), which means the world/planet, universe, creation, etc.

The Known World was believed to be predominately surrounding the Mediterranean. Hence Paul's ambition to take the gospel from Jerusalem to Spain (East to West). The earth was still flat in their minds, and the Americas, Southern Africa and Oceania had yet to be discovered. And it is estimated that the population of the entire planet in first century AD was approx. 170 million people (compared to 7 billion today).

Better translation: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the Roman Empire as a witness to all the Gentiles, and then we will arrive at the conclusion (of this era)."

**Key Verses 15:** "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Compare with Luke 21:20-21a: "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains."

*v. 17-21: See Luke 21:22-24:*

"For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."

"times" καιρός (Kairos) = an epoch season, a divinely appointed time

Josephus wrote this account:

"And as for the rest of the multitude [the prisoners of war], that were above seventeen years old, [General Titus] put them into bonds, and sent them to the Egyptian mines. Titus also sent a great number into the provinces; as a present to them: that they might be destroyed upon their theatres, by the sword, and by the wild beasts. But those that were under seventeen years of age, were sold for slaves." (Jewish Wars, Book VI, Chapter II)

*v. 27 "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." See Ezekiel 43*

v. 28 “*Eagles*” (erroneously translated “vultures”). The eagle was the iconic emblem of the Roman Military. Their scutum (shields) were adorned with the golden wings of an eagle. When the Roman armies surrounded the city of Jerusalem, the carcass was the city. Hundreds of thousands were slaughtered.

v. 29 “*The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light*” = Judgement (See Isaiah 13:6-13; Joel 3:9-16). “The stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken” = Change of government, dominion and authority. This is the completion of the balance of power shifting from Satan in favor of the followers of Jesus Christ. (See Daniel 7:21-22; Luke 10:18-20; Matt 28:18; Col 2:15)

v. 30a “*The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven*” = Judgement (See Joel 2; Isaiah 13, 14; Zechariah 12)

The translation, “all the nations of the earth” is misleading.

“nations” φυλή = most often translated as tribes, in reference to the tribes of Israel.

“earth” γῆ = an inhabited region, land or country. Does not refer to the entire world.

Better translation: “all the tribes of Israel will mourn...”

v. 30b “*they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory*” = Deliverance (See 2 Sam 22:7-14; Psalm 97:2; Jer 4:13-14; Nah 1:3; Zep 1:15-17)

"While they did not attend, nor give credit to the signs that were so evident, and did so plainly foretell their future desolation. But like men infatuated, without either eyes to see, or minds to consider, did not regard the denunciations that God made to them. Thus there was a star, resembling a sword, which stood over the city: and a comet, that continued a whole year...

[During] the feast of unleavened bread, on the eighth day of the month Xanthicus, [Nisan,] and at the ninth hour of the night, so great a light shone round the altar, and the holy house, that it appeared to be bright day time. Which light lasted for half an hour...

Besides these, a few days after that feast, on the one and twentieth day of the month Artemisius, [Jyar,] a certain prodigious and incredible phenomenon appeared: I suppose the account of it would seem to be a fable; were it not related by those that saw it; and were not the events that followed it of so considerable a nature as to deserve such signals. For, before sun setting, chariots and troops of soldiers in their armour were seen running about among

the clouds, and surrounding of cities. Moreover, at that feast which we call Pentecost; as the priests were going by night into the inner [court of the] temple, as their custom was, to perform their sacred ministrations, they said, that in the first place they felt a quaking, and heard a great noise: and after that they heard a sound, as of a multitude, saying, "Let us remove hence." Josephus, Jewish Wars, Book VI, Chapter 3

*v. 31 "And He will gather His elect"*

Epiphanius of Salamis (AD 310-403) wrote, "For when the city was about to be taken and destroyed by the Romans, it was revealed in advance to all the disciples by an angel of God that they should remove from the city, as it was going to be completely destroyed. They sojourned as emigrants in Pella, the city above mentioned, in Transjordan. And this city is said to be of the Decapolis. But after the destruction of Jerusalem, when they had returned to Jerusalem, as I have said, they wrought great signs, as I have already said." (Weights and Measures, The Treatise, sec 15)

Church father and historian Eusebius (AD 260-340), citing Josephus wrote, "But the people of the church in Jerusalem had been commanded by a revelation, vouchsafed to approved men there before the war, to leave the city and to dwell in a certain town of Perea called Pella.<sup>631</sup> And when those that believed in Christ had come thither from Jerusalem, then, as if the royal city of the Jews and the whole land of Judea were entirely destitute of holy men, the judgment of God at length overtook those who had committed such outrages against Christ and his apostles, and totally destroyed that generation of impious men." (Church History, Life of Constantine, Chapter V)

*v. 40-42 "Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming."*

Josephus wrote that approx. 97,000 people were captured and sold into slavery. So great was the number of slaves that the supply in the market drove down the price to almost no value. (Jewish Wars, Book VI, Chapter III)

## Bonus Passage

### 1 Thessalonians – “We will be caught up” in the Rapture

*2:14-16 "For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans, who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men, forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost..."*

Paul writes this in anticipation of the destruction of Jerusalem.

*4:16-5:1 "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words. But concerning the [present] times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you."*

Paul reminds them of their future hope. It was not uncommon for people to go outside of the city to usher in their king after he had been away on a journey or in battle.

“Then [David] the king returned and came to the Jordan. And Judah came to Gilgal, to go to meet the king, to escort the king across the Jordan. And Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite, who was from Bahurim, hurried and came down with the men of Judah to meet King David. There were a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him; and they went over the Jordan before [David] the king.” 2 Sam 19:15-17

The climax of John’s Revelation (and almost every Prophetic book in the OT) is that the New Jerusalem comes from heaven to earth. And God’s throne is among humanity once again.

He then brings them back to the present age, the age that is about to pass with the abolition of the Temple and the Law.

*5:3 "For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape."*

Speaking again of the pending destruction of Jerusalem, the first warning came in 66 AD when Cestius Gallus led a siege against Jerusalem. During these battles, Jewish Zealots also began to mint new coins [see Graetz, Popular History of the Jews, New York: Hebrew Publishing Company, Fifth Edition, 1937. Vol. 2, p. 190], with each coin marked with “Year

One". This was a bold statement against the Roman Empire. Surprisingly, Cestius Gallus was defeated and a false sense of hope filled the inhabitants of Israel.

"The joyful acclamations of the Jews also, as they encouraged one another, echoed the sounds back again, these last composing a noise of those that at once rejoiced, and were in a rage. Indeed things were come to such a pass, that the Jews had almost taken Cestius's entire army prisoners, had not the night come on, when the Romans fled to Bethoron, and the Jews seized upon all the places round about them, and watched for their coming out [in the morning]." Josephus, Jewish Wars, Book II, Chapter XIII

Rome would seek vengeance. And by 70 AD, Jerusalem, the Temple, and most of the surrounding towns and cities had been laid to waste.

## *Other Key Scriptures speaking of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD*

**Luke 10:11-15;** Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you. 9 And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' 10 But whatever city you enter, and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, 11 'The very dust of your city which clings to us we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near you.' 12 But I say to you that it will be more tolerable in that Day for Sodom than for that city. 13 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. 14 But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. 15 And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades.

**Matthew 12:38-42; 38** Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." 39 But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here. 42 The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she

came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here.

**Luke 19:28-45;** [Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29 And it came to pass, when He drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mountain called Olivet, that He sent two of His disciples, 30 saying, “Go into the village opposite you, where as you enter you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Loose it and bring it here... 35 Then they brought him to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him. 36 And as He went, many spread their clothes on the road. 37 Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, 38 saying: “ ‘Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!’

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

39 And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.” 40 But He answered and said to them, “I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.”

41 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.” 45 Then He went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in it...

**Matthew 23:29-38; 29** “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, 30 and say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.’ 31 “Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. 32 Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers’ guilt. 33 Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? 34 Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, 35 that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. 36 Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation. 37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but

you were not willing! 38 See! Your house is left to you desolate...

**Heb 12:22-28; 22** But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. 25 See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, 26 whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." [Haggai 2:6] 27 Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. 29 For our God is a consuming fire.

**Heb 3:16-19; 16** For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? 17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

From 68AD to mid 70AD General Titus, son of the Emperor Vespasian, took over his father's campaign against Israel with 3 other generals. He led 4 legions (the four horsemen) from the four winds, North, East, South and West and closed in on Jerusalem. Along their way they destroyed towns and villages in their path. Nothing withstood them. They laid waste to everything from people, to homes, to livestock, to agriculture. At the end of the 3.5 years (time, times and a half time) they destroyed the Temple and Jerusalem, and all was set ablaze.

# Part 3 - John the Beloved: The Last Major Prophet and Herald of the New Era

One of John's unique role in the grand narrative of God is that he concludes the lineage and tradition of the great Old Testament prophets by means of imagery, style and direct quotations. Yet he does so in the New Covenant.

John saw;

-What was: life, death and resurrection of Jesus on earth and in heaven

-What is: Jerusalem, Rome, and the end of age of the Law

-What is to come: end of the apostate Jerusalem, Heaven and earth become one, evil is removed

John is the first major New Testament prophet. His writing concludes an era, and introduces the new age we live in. One of the climatic scenes of Revelation is juxtaposed to the Old Testament: Joshua led the people of God to literally wage war and conquer their enemies through bloodshed. Yeshua now leads the people of God having shed HIS blood, and instead of taking lives he demands that we lay ours down. Why? Because this is how we disarm and defeat our true enemy, the Kingdom of darkness.



# The Legacy of the OT Prophets

<b>Chronological List of Prophets in the Old Testament</b>			
<b>The Prophets</b>	<b>The Dates</b>	<b>Bible History</b>	<b>Kings and Events</b>
<b>Prophets of Israel</b>			
Jonah	810-790 BC	2 Kings 13-14	Jehoash, Jeroboam II (Amaziah)
Joel	790-760 BC	2 Kings 11-15	Uzziah
Amos	780-760 BC	2 Kings 14-15	Jeroboam II (Uzziah)
Hosea	785-725 BC	2 Kings 15-18	Jeroboam II to Hoshea (Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz)
Isaiah	750-695 BC	2 Kings 15-20	Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah
Micah	745-725 BC	2 Kings 15	Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah
<b>Prophets of Judah</b>			
Nahum	660-630 BC	2 Kings 15-18	Manasseh, Amon, Josiah
Zephaniah	630-620 BC	Isaiah 10	Josiah
Habakkuk	620-610 BC	2 Kings 23	Josiah, Jehoahaz
Jeremiah	628-588 BC	2 Kings 22-25	Josiah to Zedekiah. The Captivity
<b>Prophets of the Captivity</b>			
Daniel	606-534 BC	2 Kings 23-25	The Captivity (Reign of Nebuchadnezzar to Cyrus)
Obadiah	587 BC	2 Kings 25	After Jerusalem's Destruction (Reign of Nebuchadnezzar)
Ezekiel	596-574 BC	2 Kings 24	to the Jews Before and During the Captivity (Reign of Nebuchadnezzar)
<b>Prophets of the Return to Jerusalem</b>			
Haggai	520-518 BC	Ezra 5-6	Rebuilding the Temple in Jerusalem (Reign of Darius I)
Zechariah	520-510 BC	Ezra 5-6	Rebuilding and Dedication of the Temple (Reign of Darius I)
Malachi	420-397 BC	Nehemiah 13	Second Reformation by Nehemiah (Reign of Artaxerxes I)

# *Ezekiel and John*

The parallels between Ezekiel's visions and John's visions are strikingly similar and must be noted. Ezekiel was in captivity during the reign of Babylon. And during his life, he witnessed the first destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. Likewise, John was in exile on Patmos Island, and Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed for a second and final time during his lifetime. The parallels go even deeper, as noted below:

The Throne-Vision (Rev. 4/Ez. 1)

The Book (Rev. 5/Ez. 2-3)

The Four Plagues (Rev. 6:1-8/Ez. 5)

The Slain under the Altar (Rev. 6:9-11/Ez. 6)

The Wrath of God (Rev. 6:12-17/Ez. 7)

The Seal on the Saint's Foreheads (Rev. 7/Ez. 9)

The Coals from the Altar (Rev. 8/Ez. 10)

No More Delay (Rev. 10:1-7/ Ez. 12)

The Eating of the Book (Rev. 10:8-11/Ez. 2)

The Measuring of the Temple (Rev. 11:1-2/Ez. 40-43)

Jerusalem and Sodom (Rev. 11:8/Ez. 16)

The Cup of Wrath (Rev. 14/Ez. 23)

The Vine of the Land (Rev. 14:18-20/Ez. 15)

The Great Harlot (Rev. 17-18/Ez. 16, 23)

The Lament over the City (Rev. 18/Ez. 27)

The Scavengers' Feast (Rev. 19/Ez. 39)

The First Resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6/Ez. 37)

The Battle with Gog and Magog (Rev. 20:7-9/Ez. 38-39)

The New Jerusalem (Rev. 21/Ez. 40-48)

The River of Life (Rev. 22/Ez. 47)

# *Reading the Book of Revelation: Three Views (sort of)*

## 1. Future events (“Left Behind”, “Late Great Planet Earth”)

- a) Dispensationalist
- b) Pre-tribulation
- c) Post-tribulation

## 2. Allegorical/Imagery/Timeless (Brian Simmons)

## 3. Historical (N.T. Wright, Gordon Fee, Harold Eberle, Jonathan Welton)

- a) All completed (Full Preterist)
- b) Mostly completed (Partial Preterist)
- c) Speaks about Rome and the theme of ‘Empires’ (Babylonian spirit)
- d) Speaks about Jerusalem and Rome

**Estimated date of writing: 65-68 AD (Nero in power 54-68 AD; Jerusalem destroyed 70 AD)**

# Part 4 – John's Apocalypse: Dawn of this Age

## *Structure:*

### **Encounter with Jesus Begins ch 1-3 (present):**

Opening exhortations to the churches under John's care

### **First Vision ch 4-5 (past, present):**

The Triumph of the Cross, the King steps into office, Worship

### **Second Vision ch 6-9 (coming soon):**

Executive Order: Fulfill the Requirements of the Law (Deut 29), fall of Jerusalem, Worship

### **Third Vision ch 10-11 (present, coming soon):**

A last call to repentance (witnesses), completion of destruction of Jerusalem, Worship

### **Fourth Vision ch 12 (past, present, coming soon) Climax A:**

The Holy Woman (God's remnant) and the Son (Jesus), Satan dethroned,

### **Fifth Vision ch 13-15:4 (present, coming soon):**

The two beasts (Rome and Jerusalem), the triumph of the Saints, the harvest of Israel, destruction of Jerusalem, Worship

### **Sixth Vision ch 15:5-19:10 (coming soon):**

Executive Order: Fulfill the Seven Woes of Christ (Mat 23); The Whore Woman (Jerusalem) and the Beast (Rome, personified in Nero), Fall of Jerusalem, Worship

### **Seventh Vision ch 19:11-22:5 (present, future) Climax B:**

Triumph and Finality of Christ's Words and the beginning of the present age, Satan and Death thrown in Lake of Fire; All things New, Heaven and Earth become one,

### **Encounter with Jesus Concludes ch 22:6-22:21 (present):**

closing exhortations to the churches under John's care

## *Encounter with Jesus Begins ch 1-3 (present)*

Opening exhortations to the churches under John's care

-Seven Churches (ch 1b-3)

-The seven churches were real communities of faith. The exhortations were for them in the 60s AD.

-Jesus quotes various Psalms of victory and his Bride.

## *First Vision ch 4-5 (past, present)*

The Triumph of the Cross, the King steps into office, Worship

-The Triumph of the Cross from Heaven's Perspective

- John was present for Jesus' crucifixion. Because John was faithful to the end and witnessed what took place on the cross, Jesus honours John and allows him to see what took place in the spirit realm during that same event.

-The contrast here is shocking: In the natural realm, Jesus on the cross is seen as a defeat and a humiliation, while onlookers mock and ridicule. Yet heaven's perspective of the same event is met with awe, wonder, the fear of the Lord and worship. Selah.

## *Second Vision ch 6-9 (coming soon)*

Executive Order: Fulfill the Requirements of the Law (Deut 29), fall of Jerusalem, Worship

-fulfillment of the curses of Deuteronomy 28

-Four horsemen, 4 Roman generals, what they would inflict.

-OT and NT saints killed in Israel.

-Balance of power shaken in spirit realm.

-the righteous blood is avenged (Matt 23:31-36)

### **Ch 7**

-who are the 144,000 (ch 7)? Military census of 12 tribes (Num 1). God's new people.

-They came away from (escaped) the tribulation, the Roman invasion.

## Ch 9

-Roman legions arrive at Jerusalem

-5 month siege of Titus.

-9:5 “And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months.”

-Scorpions (weapons), locust are Roman warriors.

-Abaddon is fulfillment of Job 31:3, “Is it not Abaddon (destruction) for the wicked, and disaster for the workers of iniquity?”

-v. 16 the number is 20,000, or, 4 legions.

-v. 18 mankind, no, men

-v. 20 The people still don't repent

-1/3 of people (Ez 5)

## *Third Vision ch 10-11 (present, coming soon)*

A last call to repentance (witnesses), completion of destruction of Jerusalem, Worship

-John likely received this vision just before the siege began in 68 AD

Ezekiel 36-40, 43 law of the temple, testify to Israel, 44, the temple testified to Israel of their iniquity. 47 river of life and healing. 48 ends with name of new city, "the Lord is there"

Ezekiel 3: Eats scroll. Ezekiel is a watchman. To the captive people. HE THEN PORTRAYS THE SEIGE OF JERUSALEM. 8. Abominations. 9. Slay everyone. 10. Glory departs.

Measuring foretells destruction (Ezk, Zech, Rev).

John's role is like Ezekiel, and his message is the book of Zechariah.

Rev 11 ends with Jesus the High Priest (Joshua in Zech 3).

11:1-2, “Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, “Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. 2 But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.”

-The Two Witnesses? (ch 11) Direct image out of Zechariah 4 (Zerubbabel and Joshua)

Could be:

Paul and Peter (both killed in Rome same year)

The Spirit and the Bride of Christ (Rev 22:17)

Likely to be:

The Law and the Prophets (The Old Testament as a witness to Israel). Moses and Elijah, Law and the Prophets, continue to testify to Israel (John 5:45, Matt 23:37). Moses and Elijah both stood before the Lord during the transfiguration of Jesus.

Sackcloth = message of repentance. The message was to repent. That is the message of the OT prophets, right up to John the Baptist.

Zerubbabel and Joshua oversaw the rebuilding. Now Moses and Elijah oversee destruction.

v. 8 Sodom and Egypt (fulfilled Ezk 16)

v. 13 Earthquake, confirmation of God's word, angelic presence, judgement.

v. 15 3rd Woe

v. 19 Jesus is risen, takes the scroll, and now takes his seat upon this he throne as king of kings.

The ark of the New Covenant is seen.

## *Fourth Vision ch 12 (present, coming soon)*

The Holy Woman (God's remnant) and the Son (Jesus), Satan dethroned,  
Climax A

-The remnant of Israel gives birth to Jesus. The Jewish followers of Jesus escape to Pella.

-1260 days = 3.5 years, the length of the siege (time, times and a half time v. 6 and v. 14).

-Jesus sits on his throne; Satan dethroned.

-Satan deceives "whole world". This is not Kosmos (all creation), it is οἰκουμένη = Roman Empire.

-The devil is cast down. Woe to the "land, region" = Israel, and "sea" = Rome.

-How does he wage war in this time period (30-70 AD)? Persecution of the Saints and destroying the land of Israel. The saints overcame and endured by the Blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony.

## *Fifth Vision ch 13-15:4 (present, coming soon)*

The two beasts (Rome and Jerusalem), the triumph of the Saints, the harvest of Israel, destruction of Jerusalem, Worship

-Beast of the Sea: Roman Empire under Nero. "Mare nostrum".

-v. 7 persecution of Nero

-v. 3 The fatal wound = Nero killed himself in 68 AD, turmoil in the Empire. But Vespasian recovers Rome from distress.

-v. 5 42 months = 3.5 years (time, times and a half time)

-13:9-10 "If anyone has an ear, let him hear He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints."

The saints are instructed to endure and not retaliate with violence.

-Beast of the Land: Apostate Israel under religious leaders.

### Mark of the beast:

Homage needed to be paid before entering the agoras (marketplaces). Ash was taken and market either on the forehead or on the hand to mark prior to entry. The ability to buy, sell and trade had to be validated by worship to either the Roman Emperors or their deities.

Romans needed to have a papyrus document called a "libellus", which you could only receive by burning incense and declaring, "Caesar is lord".

Anti-Shema (Deut 6:4-8), thoughts and actions

### The beast: Nero Caesar personifying Rome

"Nero Caesar" in the Hebrew alphabet is נרון קסר NRON QSR, which when used as numbers represent 50 200 6 50 100 60 200, which add to 666.

-Kingdom of the Earth is of His People (ch 14); see Matthew 28, Daniel 7



-Armageddon (ch 15) = Location of many battles (Jud 5:19; 2 Kings 23:29, see also Ezk 38-39)

-Jesus and His Bride are prepared for Satan's attack on the Church through Rome and Apostate Israel. Name on foreheads in contrast to name of Nero (Possessed by Satan) on foreheads.

-The first followers of Jesus are cleansed because they are born anew. Worship is their first weapon of warfare.

-Jesus comes against Apostate Israel. Jews and Gentiles who choose apathy will be caught in the crossfire. The Saints must resist the temptation to give into Roman rule and religion. John is told to write a memorial in honour of the Saints who resisted apathy in during this time.

-The faithful of Jesus in Apostate Israel are reaped. They are sent to Pella and nearby regions into safety.

14:19-20, "So the angel thrust his sickle into the "land, region" and gathered the vine of the "land, region", and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles."

-Those who have forsaken Jesus and the testimony of the Law and the Prophets in Apostate Israel concerning him are reaped and given over to the Roman invaders under General Titus.

## *Sixth Vision ch 15:5-19:10 (coming soon)*

**Executive Order: Fulfill the Seven Woes of Christ (Mat 23); The Whore Woman (Jerusalem) and the Beast (Rome, personified in Nero), Fall of Jerusalem, Worship**

### **The seven woes of hypocrisy are:**

1. They taught about God but did not love God (Matt 23:14)
2. They preached God but converted people to dead religion (Matt 23:15)
3. They taught that an oath sworn by the temple or altar was not binding (Matt 23:16-22)

4. They taught the law but did not practice justice, mercy, faithfulness to God (Matt 23:23-24)
5. They presented an appearance of being 'clean' (Matt 23:25-26)
6. They exhibited themselves as righteous (Matt 23:27-28)
7. The righteous blood shed from Abel to Zechariah was on them (Matt 23:29-36)

## **Ch 15**

v. 8 no one can enter the Temple until the Apostate Temple is destroyed.

16:13-14, “And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon (Satan), out of the mouth of the beast (Rome), and out of the mouth of the false prophet (Nero). For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the “land, region” = Israel and of the “entire inhabited region” = Roman Empire, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”

Satan wants to see bloodshed. So he pits Rome against Israel. Not the first time this has happened in Israel’s history. The mystery here is that God uses it for a greater purpose, just like He did before.

16:5, “Behold, I am coming as a thief.”

Direct reference to Matthew 24:43-44 “But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

v. 16 Armageddon (Jud 5:19; 2 Kin 23:29)

## **Ch 17 The Whore?**

11:8, “And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.” = Jerusalem

17:6 “I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.”

17:18 “And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the “land, region” = Israel.

18:4, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.” Immediate warning of destruction of Jerusalem.

18:20, “Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged

you on her!”

18:23-24, “The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore... And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.” Reference to Matthew 23 (righteous blood shed) and 25 (The bridegroom who comes unexpectedly).

### **The Whore sits on Rome**

17:9-10, “The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. 10 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.”

Seven hills of Rome.

Five kings have fallen:

Julius Caesar, Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, Caludius;

One is: Nero;

One comes for a little while: Galba (June 68 to Jan 69 AD, six-month reign)

### **Ch 18**

-v. 4 come out of Jerusalem

-v. 20, 24 Righteous blood avenged (Matt 23)

### **Ch 19**

-The son of man comes on the clouds.

-Apostate Jerusalem captured. The beast and false prophet are the principalities using Rome and it's emperors (see 16:13-14).

19:7 The Wedding Celebration Begins...

“for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.”

Word is "wedding-banquet"

2 “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, 3 and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. 4 Again, he sent out other servants, saying, “Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.” 5 But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another

to his business. 6 And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. 7 But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. 8 Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9 Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ 10 So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

11 “But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. 12 So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

14 “For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Luke 16:16-18; 16 “The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it. 17 And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail.

18 “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced from her husband commits adultery.

Rom 7:1-4; Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? 2 For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. 3 So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man. 4 Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead...

Gal 4 ; 21 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. 23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, 24 which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar— 25 for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her

children — 26 but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. 27 For it is written:

“Rejoice, O barren,  
You who do not bear!  
Break forth and shout,  
You who are not in labor!  
For the desolate has many more children  
Than she who has a husband.”

28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. 29 But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now. 30 Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.”[f] 31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

Heb 4:12-13; For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

## *Seventh Vision ch 19:11-22:5 (present, future)*

Triumph and Finality of Christ's Words and the beginning of the present age, Satan and Death thrown in Lake of Fire; All things New, Heaven and Earth become one,  
Climax B

v. 21 The word of the Lord (OT prophecies and prophecies of Jesus) are fulfilled. He does not kill. His word comes to pass.

We are in the 1000 year reign. 1000 is an idiom for eternity, a great number. (Saul killed his 1000, David 10,000s; God owns the cattle on 1000 hills; a day in the Lord is like 1000 years; etc).

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

What began in 70AD is still present today:

Jesus is our Captain,

He is the slain lamb (clothes dipped in blood),

we His army follow his lead as laid down lovers of God,

The word and testimony of Jesus is our weapon against the kingdom of darkness; the armor of God with the Sword of Truth (Eph 6:10-18), and we do not fight against flesh and blood (humans), but against principalities (Eph 6:12), thoughts, mindsets and lofty things (2 Cor 10:5).

## Moving Past 70AD into eternity future

The strong man being bound and Satan being bound. This is a proclamation of what has been decreed in heaven, and now it is our responsibility to carry it out on the Earth.

**Matt 12: 22** *Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. 23 And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"*

*24 Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."*

*25 But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. 26 If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? 27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. 28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29 Or how can one enter a strong man's house and*

plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.  
30 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

31 “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. 32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

**Luke 10:17-20; 17** Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.”

18 And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

**1 Cor 15:20-28; 20** But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming. 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. 27 For “He has put all things under His feet.” But when He says “all things are put under Him,” it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. 28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

**1 Cor 15:50-55; 50** Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

55 “O Death, where is your sting?  
O Hades, where is your victory?”

**20:1** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

-Rev 2:25-27 *But hold fast what you have till I come. 26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—*

*'He shall rule them with a rod of iron;  
They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'*

-Rev 1:18 I have the keys of Hades and of Death

-The strong man is bound. He demons are not.

-Acts 2, Heb 1, and 1 Cor 15 all quote Psalm 110 – his enemies will be made his footstool.

## Climax – Renewed Heaven and Earth (21-22)

-The great wedding celebration is concluded, and the marriage is consummated

-heaven and earth become one

## *Encounter with Jesus Concludes ch 22:6-22:21 (present)*

-Closing exhortations to the churches under John's care



# Concluding Remarks

One of John's unique role in the grand narrative of God is that he concludes the lineage and tradition of the great Old Testament prophets by means of imagery, style and direct quotations. Yet he does so in the New Covenant.

John saw;

-What was: life, death and resurrection of Jesus on earth and in heaven

-What is: Jerusalem, Rome, and the end of age of the Law

-What is to come: end of the apostate Jerusalem, Heaven and earth become one, evil is removed

John is the first major New Testament prophet. His writing concludes an era, and introduces the new age we live in. One of the climatic scenes of Revelation is juxtaposed to the Old Testament: Joshua led the people of God to literally wage war and conquer their enemies through bloodshed. Yeshua now leads the people of God having shed HIS blood, and instead of taking lives he demands that we lay ours down. Why? Because this is how we disarm and defeat our true enemy, the Kingdom of darkness.

John was present for Jesus' crucifixion. Because John was faithful to the end and witnessed what took place on the cross, Jesus honours John and allows him to see what took place in the spirit realm during that same event. The contrast here is shocking: In the natural realm, Jesus on the cross is seen as a defeat and a humiliation, while onlookers mock and ridicule. Yet heaven's perspective of the same event is met with awe, wonder, the fear of the Lord and worship.