

A Messianic Study of Revelations

The History of Things to Come

Introduction

Before you can begin to study any part of the Bible or that matter any part of history you must first set the stage of the historical, cultural, and political foundation by starting off with these basic questions:

WHO:

WHO IS THE SPEAKER WHO IS HIS AUDIENCE?

WHAT:

WHAT IS THE EVENT WHAT ARE THE POLITICAL ISSUES?

WHEN:

WHAT TIME IS IT (YEAR, HOLIDAY, SPECIAL EVENT)

WHERE:

WHAT PART OF THE WORLD IS IN PLAY?

WHY:

WHY WAS THIS BOOK WRITTEN?

Now let us add two more questions to our list. The first question one must continuously be asking as we study the "Book of Revelation" is "**what is changing or what has changed?**". The second is "**how does this effect me today?**" and has it changed since the Scripture was written? These are questions we should be asking during and after each lesson. (**Note: If we are to study with proper exegesis we must accept the idea that we are a third-party observer, as well as the target audience.**)

Before we begin!

When studying the book of Revelation or any other book of biblical prophecy we must realize that the Scriptures speak of the future and that's a foretelling of things to come. As we come closer to the time of Messiah our understanding begins to unfold. We are like people looking through a dirty window, where we understand in part but not in full. This brings us to the point of caution because prophecy that has not yet become history forces us to speculate. Prophecy is history that has yet to unfold. A word of caution should be given here, you cannot build theology on prophecy, you cannot build theology on that which has not yet been revealed.

In our history both Jews and Christians will have had a number of teachers and scholars speculate on what symbols and images mean. During World War II the Assembly of God perceived Adolf Hitler as the Antichrist and in fact he was "an" antichrist, but not the Antichrist. At the close of World War II with the antichrist defeated, many thought the time of Jesus' return was at hand. Such speculation's backlash created collateral damage among believers who thought the time of their deliverance was at hand. Such speculation is our attempt to write ourselves into the story and the book, and I guess someday in the future there will be a generation that will be right. It is not my desire to discourage anyone from studying prophecy. In fact, Yeshua said that we are to discern the signs of the time. But a certain level of caution in our

proclamation must be made. As history unfolds and prophecies become true, then our clarity will become clearer and clearer. Thus let discerning begin as we study the book of Revelation along with the Torah and the other books of prophecy!

Background: Who is John The Revelator?

John is one of Yeshua's original 12 apostles (Talmidim). In the Gospels he is referred to as the one whom Yeshua loved. He was part of the inside circle of three with Peter and James. John by trade was a fisherman from the Galilee. However, later in life he would become the second most prolific writer of the New Covenant. John is the author of the Gospel of John, First, Second and Third John, as well as the book Revelation. One of the unique things about John's writings is that he always refers to Yeshua as "The Word". By referring to Yeshua as The Word then it is indirectly referencing him as the living Torah. John writes this letter from the island of Patmos where for a season he was exiled after an attempt to take his life by boiling him in oil. Of the 12 original apostles only John died of natural causes.

Chapter 1

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified *it* by His angel to His servant John, ² who bore witness to the Word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. ³ Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Rabbi's Commentary: If you would please note, John starts off his book by declaring it to be a Revelation in essence and an unveiling of things to come. What makes John's Revelation unique is the fact that it is not your traditional prophecy in the sense that John literally saw visions unfold. He also states that he was guided and accompanied by one of the holy Angels. We often think of prophecy as Holy Spirit coming upon someone giving them a vision. Here John says concerning his revelation that it was "to all things that he saw".

Seven Churches

⁴ John, to the seven churches which 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, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.

Rabbi's Commentary: When studying prophecy as well as the book of Revelation there are a number of opportunities to get it wrong. This is one of them. Throughout Christian history many teachers through the ages have tried to assign special meanings to the seven churches. Those who follow hyper dispensationalism have attempted to declare

that these are the seven church ages that will take place before the Messiah return. Others have declared that the seven churches represent seven individuals and the issues and pitfalls of Christian life. However, mainstream Christianity recognizes the seven churches as seven churches each unique within itself. Problems arise when they hyper inflate or create definitions and meanings to biblical things for which there is no basis. The seven churches are just that, seven churches from which we are to learn their mistakes and nothing more. Zondervan's parallel New Testament Greek and English Bible points out that the seven spirits of the seven churches is really just one multiplicity spirit. From my perspective, of course it's only one. It is the Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh). However, there is another thought that the seven spirits are seven angels who watch over the communities. The old Jewish mindset would declare each spirit/angel is the guardian of the churches.

The chapter refers to the seven spirits as 7 candlesticks, when in fact it's not candlesticks at all but seven oil lamps, not wax candles. However, even that is not completely correct because the seven oil lamps could be just one seven branch menorah!

To Him who loved us and washed^[a] us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶and has made us **kings and priests** to His God and Father, to Him *beglory* and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

*Rabbi's Commentary: The King James and the New King James Bible makes a major faux pas in verse five when they declare that believers are to be made **kings and priests**. As believers, we recognize there is only one king and that it is not us. The text should read "he has made us to be a kingdom of priests", which is substantiated by the Greek as well as other endless versions. Origin of the text comes from the book of Exodus chapter 19 verse six.*

Revelation 1:5-6 (NIV)

*⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and has made us to be **a kingdom and priests** to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.*

Exodus 19:5-6 (NIV)

⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine,⁶ you^[a] will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

The New Testament believer is joined with Israel in the Priesthood of Israel in which we together declare the "Shema" (Deut. 6:4 and Acts 1:8) that we are his witness.

⁷ Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

Zechariah 12:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit^[a] of grace and supplication. They will look on^[b] me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. ⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,”^[c] says the Lord,^[d] “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Zechariah 14:5 (NIV)

⁵ You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake^[a] in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

¹² Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Rabbi's Commentary: Verse eight refers to Yeshua as the Alpha and Omega where in fact, in the Hebrew Scriptures God is referred to as the first and the last, the Alef and the Tav, which are the first and the last letters in the Hebrew alphabet.

Vision of the Son of Man

⁹ I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, ¹¹ saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and,^[f] “**What you see**, write in a book and send *it* to the seven churches which are in Asia:^[g] to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”:

Rabbi's Commentary: The "book" of Revelation is actually a letter, originally written by the apostle John to contemporary (i.e. existing at the same time) Christians in seven

cities in what is today western Turkey. At the time of the writing, John was being held as a prisoner of the Romans on the island of Patmos, just off the nearby coast.



¹² Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. ¹⁴ His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵ His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶ He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength. ¹⁷ And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, ¹⁸ *I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen.*

Rabbi's Commentary: In verses 12 through 16 it is commonly accepted to be a prophetic image of Yeshua the Messiah in glorified form. Later in the book of Revelation we will see a second prophetic image of Yeshua as the Lamb that was slain. These two images are related to the concept that the Messiah is both Lion and Lamb. Once again, more prophetic images. In verse 17 we have a vision of a time of resurrection.

Hebrews 4:12

*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.*

In verse seventeen we see the statement “I am the first and the last” which is a title that God uses to speak of Himself in the book of Isaiah 44:6 as well as in chapter 48:12. It is another evidence that Yeshua is God!

The image we see in verse 16 is that of the double-edged sword proceeding from the mouth of the Messiah. This is obviously a prophetic image. Most scholars would agree with Hebrews chapter 4 verse 12 that the sword represents the written word of God. So, allow me the opportunity to speculate for a moment the reason it is a double edged sword is because every commandment has two edges. One edge is to bless and the other edge is to curse. I find it important to note that in the Last Days the written word of God is seen as a two-edged sword. (Torah and New Covenant)

And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. ¹⁹ **Write the things which you have seen,** and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. ²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars which 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 which you saw^[1] are the seven churches.

Rabbi's Commentary: The question arises who are the seven starred angels? After much research and study in multiple languages over various numbers of text I have concluded I don't know and even moreso, nobody can know. The Bible doesn't say, so anything beyond this is church tradition and speculation. My personal position is if it was important it would have been written. When the Bible gives us symbols we must recognize that the definition of those symbols does not change from book to book or from teacher to teacher. Thus the case with the symbol for the seven angels being stars. Later in this book it speaks of the “one third of the stars of heaven” that fell from heaven. This of course is a reference to angels that have/or are falling from God's grace.

Concerning the seven angels of the churches according to the Wycliffe Bible Rabbi's Commentary, some believe that the seven angels are really 7 leaders of those various congregations. This is based on the idea that the term angel is translated as messenger. Other scholars hold to the idea that a church or congregation has a guardian angel. If this is true, then in today's world they are all working overtime.

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Chapter 2

*Rabbi's Commentary: As we look at the churches that are to be reviewed, each one of them has a common sin of immorality. This is due to one of the earliest heresies that was taught in the first century called **antinomianism**". Antinomianism only requires believers to mentally ascend to the acceptance of the reality that there is a God. However, by Greek thought one may separate their spiritual/ mental being from their flesh/body so it becomes possible to pollute/sin in the body without polluting/sinning in the mind or spirit. Such doctrines permit the dismissal of Torah and its regulations for things pertaining to the physical world.*

*Definition of **antinomianism**. Antinomianism is 1: one who holds that under the gospel dispensation of grace (see ¹grace 1a) the moral law is of no use or obligation because faith alone is necessary to salvation. Sends seven churches and my friends at the Methodist love you because one sin 2: one who rejects a socially established morality. (Merriam Webster)*

What I personally find fascinating is that the very issues we find with the seven churches are all listed in Acts chapter 15 in references for the first Gentile believers. These commandments cover everything from eating food offered to idols as well as sexual immorality.

Ephesus

2:1 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write,

'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: ²"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; ³and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

⁴Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. ⁶But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

⁷“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”

Rabbi's Commentary: The Congregation of Ephesus is special as it is most likely the oldest of the seven churches. In the book of Acts chapter 18 Paul the Apostle inquires of them concerning baptism. The response was that they had been baptized with John's baptism (John the Baptist). From this we may surmise that this community of believers existed as followers of Messiah possibly even before his death. This is in light of the fact that he did not know or receive the baptism of Acts chapter 2 into his name.

Ephesus was the largest city of Asia at this time. It was also the home of the idol worshipers of Diana. In fact, it was the place where her idols were made. According to Acts chapter 19, because of the believers in Yeshua a riot broke out and Paul was placed at the center of the disruption. The idolatry and adultery of Ephesus was world famous because both were direct products of the worship of Diana.

When Revelations speaks of their endurance against evil it is referencing the worship of Diana. The rebuke in chapter 2 is because people had lost their fire and had become complacent against such things. The commandment given to this church was to return to your first works and your first love.

*However, there is this one thing in their favor: “**But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate**”. The question now arises who are the Nicolaitans? The Nicolaitans are/were those who held/hold to the doctrine of “antinomianism” which makes the fatal mistake that a man can freely partake in sin because the Law of God is no longer binding. It held the truth on the gratuitous reckoning of righteousness, but supposed that a mere intellectual "belief" in this truth alone had the saving power.*

Nicolaitans of the 2nd century seem to have continued and extended the views of the 1st century adherents, holding to the freedom of the flesh and sin, and teaching that the deeds of the flesh had no effect upon the health of the soul and, consequently, no relation to salvation.

Smyrna

⁸“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write,

‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: ⁹“I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and *I know* the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but *are* a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw *some* of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

¹¹“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.”

Rabbi's Commentary: While referencing the church of Smyrna we are reminded that this is the book of prophecy and it speaks of difficulties that are yet to come. Most Rabbi's Commentary writers will admit they know very little about the events of the church in Smyrna or its trials and difficulties. However, we do know that their first Congregational leader was Polycarp who was also one of the earliest martyrs of the faith. But the scholars do speculate that the 10 days equal 10 years of difficult.

***Polycarp** (Greek: Πολύκαρπος, Polýkarpos; Latin: Polycarpus; AD 69 – 155) was a 2nd-century Christian bishop of Smyrna. According to the Martyrdom of Polycarp he died a martyr, bound and burned at the stake, then stabbed when the fire failed to touch him Polycarp is regarded as a saint by the Church Father in the Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran churches. His name 'Polycarp' means 'much fruit' in Greek.*

Pergamos

¹²“And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write,

‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: ¹³“I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. ¹⁴But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. ¹⁵Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. ¹⁶Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

¹⁷“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.”

Rabbi's Commentary: According to many ancient writers as well as commentators Pergamos was most likely the most wicked and liberal city in all of Asia. It boasted a multitude of temples to the gods of Rome. It was considered to be a city of education because of its many schools of medicine. It was also known as the most immoral city of all Asia for its Temple of prostitution.

*On the largest Hills in Pergamos was the Temple of Zeus. Zeus was often referred to as the **savior god** because Pergamos had the great Temple of Zeus which early believers referred to as the throne of Satan. Along with its many sins it held to the doctrine of the*

Nicolaitans as well as the doctrine of Balaam. In both cases it gave permission for the immoral and most often very erotic perversions.

*Pergamos was also the home of the great martyr Antipas. Many Christian traditions believe **Saint Antipas** of Revelation 2:13, as the verse says: "I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth." The "faithful martyr" of Pergamos, according to Christian tradition, John the Apostle ordained Antipas as bishop of Pergamos during the reign of the Roman emperor Domitian. The traditional account goes on to say Antipas was martyred in 92 AD by burning in a brazen bull-shaped altar for casting out demons worshiped by the local population.*

Thyatira

¹⁸ "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write,

'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: ¹⁹ "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last *are* more than the first."²⁰ Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. ²¹ And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. ²² Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. ²³ I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

²⁴ "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. ²⁵ 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 ²⁷ 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels as I also have received from My Father; ²⁸ and I will give him the morning star. ²⁹ "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

Rabbi's Commentary: "*Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.*" Thyatira was smallest of the seven churches mentioned in Revelation and was one of the first congregations to break away from the tradition of male leadership. The woman Jezebel (though probably not her real name) in many ways resembled the Jezebel of the Old Testament, thus the name and reference. "**Nevertheless I have a few things against you,**

because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols". This false prophetess had already condemned herself by her false prophecy and further condemned herself through her sexual immorality. Some hold the opinion that her prophecies may have come to her in the midst of her immorality. The Scripture goes on to tell us that she was given opportunity to repent and chose not.

Now in referencing verse 24 it says: "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden." The question arises what doctrine? It is, of course, the doctrine of antinomianism".

A Messianic Study of Revelations

The History of Things to Come

Chapter 3

Sardis

3:1 “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write,

‘These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. ²Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. ³Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore, if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. ⁴You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

⁶“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.””

Rabbi's Commentary: Very little is known about the community of Sardis other than it was the ruined capital of ancient [Lydia](#), about 50 miles (80 km) west of present [İzmir, Turkey](#). Strategically located on a spur at the foot of Mount Tmolus (Boz Dağ), it commanded the central plain of the Hermus Valley and was the western terminus of the [Persian](#) royal road. Sardis was the capital of the flourishing Lydian kingdom of the 7th century BCE and was the first city where [gold](#) and [silver coins](#) were minted. Taken by the Persians (c. 546 BCE), then to the Romans in 133 BCE. Under the Roman Empire it was the metropolitan capital and a center of judicial administration of the Roman province of Lydia. Destroyed by an earthquake in 17 CE, the city was rebuilt and remained until the later [Byzantine](#) period. It was obliterated in 1402 by the Mongol [Timur](#) (Tamerlane).

The community of Sardis is not known for its great works or deeds in the Lord. In fact, it is defined as lacking any spiritual significance. However, it does reference a few people the Scripture believed to be significant while all the others are cautioned that their names could be removed from the Book of Life. The warning to Sardis is that if it did not

prosper in the Lord their candlestick would be moved. It really is quite possible that's why Sardis is only a ruin today. As Yeshua said in the Gospel of John, branches that do not bear fruit will be gathered up only to be thrown into the fire.

Philadelphia

⁷“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write,

‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”:^[c] ⁸“I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it;^[d] for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. ⁹Indeed I will make *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. ¹⁰Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. ¹²He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And *I will write on him My new name.*

¹³“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.””

Rabbi's Commentary: The message to the church of Philadelphia contains no word of rebuke. Even today this community still has a Christian community in it: Philadelphia. The word Philadelphia means “brotherly love” and of all the communities it is probably the only one that is worthy of the name. Because of their faithfulness the Scripture says concerning them, “He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.” Please note this is more than just being saved. It is the honor of having Yeshua's name written upon them. By placing His name upon them He makes a statement of approval and ownership.

Laodicea

¹⁴“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans^[f] write,

‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: ¹⁵“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot,^[g] I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— ¹⁸I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. ¹⁹As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. ²⁰Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

²²“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Rabbi's Commentary: More is written about the church of the Laodiceans than any of churches of Revelation. It is because so many of the congregations of Jews, Messianics, and Christians fall in this category. In fact, of the seven churches the Laodiceans received no commendation from the Lord. Where the other church's laws were mentioned they did receive commendation for what they were doing correctly. No such commendation is listed here. In fact, the Laodiceans are so lukewarm, middle-of-the-road, sitting on the fence, indecisive that their very existence is at risk. In my opinion, in today's world the church of the Laodiceans has become the dominant denomination!

*Yet there is hope for the Laodiceans as well as for ourselves. Here are the instructions for life renewal. **“I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. ¹⁹As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. ²⁰Behold, I stand at the door and knock”.** We must remember that repentance is a three-step process. The first step is an acknowledgment of our sin of complacency. Second is to have a contrite heart that grieves over our sin. The third is restitution, which is going back and correcting all actions, follies of our sins.*

A Messianic Study of Revelations

The History of Things to Come

Chapter 4

Rabbi's Commentary: When studying the book of Revelation one cannot simply ignore the rest of the prophetic books, especially books of Ezekiel and Zachariah. As stated before, the book of Ezekiel is a parallel book to Revelation. In chapter 4 we will see the same images as in the book of Ezekiel. Ezekiel is an expression for the nation, the people of Israel. The book of Revelation is God's warning to mankind on a global scale. But the dominant image that we see in both Ezekiel and Revelation is the throne room of God. In Hebrew the throne room is referred to as the Merkava, which implies the judgment seat of God. The book of Revelation, like the book of Ezekiel, is not a call to repent, but a book of judgment.

Special Messianic Note:

In the Book of Ezekiel, the prophet is referred to by the title "Son of Man". The term "Son of Man" appears more than 100 times in the book of Ezekiel. And once in the book of Daniel. Other than that, Yeshua is the only other person who is referred to as the Son of Man. The term Son of Man is to show the relationship of the prophet to his audience. The same thing is true with Yeshua as the term once again represents the relationship of Yeshua to mankind.

Chapter 4

The Throne Room of Heaven

4 After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard *was* like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

Rabbi's Commentary: Come up here!

Ezekiel 8:1-3 (NIV)

8 In the sixth year, in the sixth month on the fifth day, while I was sitting in my house and the elders of Judah were sitting before me, the hand of the Sovereign LORD came on me there. ²I looked, and I saw a figure like that of a man.^[a] From what appeared to be his waist down he was like fire, and from there up his appearance was as bright as glowing metal. ³He stretched out what looked like a hand and took me by the hair of my head. The Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and in visions of God he took me to Jerusalem,

²Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and *One* sat on the throne. ³And He who sat there was^[h] like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and *there was* a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

Rabbi's Commentary: The image of God from the book of Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 1:1 *In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month on the fifth day, while I was among the exiles by the Kebar River, **the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.***

² *On the fifth of the month—it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin—³ the word of the LORD came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, by the Kebar River in the land of the Babylonians. There the hand of the LORD was upon him.*

⁴ *I looked, and I saw a windstorm coming out of the north—an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light. The center of the fire looked like glowing metal, ⁵ and in the fire was what looked like four living creatures. In appearance their form was that of a man, ⁶ but each of them had four faces and four wings. ⁷ Their legs were straight; their feet were like those of a calf and gleamed like burnished bronze. ⁸ Under their wings on their four sides they had the hands of a man. All four of them had faces and wings, ⁹ and their wings touched one another. Each one went straight ahead; they did not turn as they moved.*

¹⁰ *Their faces looked like this: Each of the four had the face of a man, and on the right side each had the face of a lion, and on the left the face of an ox; each also had the face of an eagle. ¹¹ Such were their faces. Their wings were spread out upward; each had two wings, one touching the wing of another creature on either side, and two wings covering its body. ¹² Each one went straight ahead. Wherever the spirit would go, they would go, without turning as they went. ¹³ The appearance of the living creatures was like burning coals of fire or like torches. Fire moved back and forth among the creatures; it was bright, and lightning flashed out of it. ¹⁴ The creatures sped back and forth like flashes of lightning.*

Revelation 4:5-8

⁵From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. Before the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. ⁶Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. ⁷The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. ⁸Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.”
NIV

Rabbi's Commentary: Insights from Rabbi's Commentary on the book of Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 1:15 As I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the ground beside each creature with its four faces. ¹⁶ This was the appearance and structure of the wheels: They sparkled like chrysolite, and all four looked alike. Each appeared to be made like a wheel just intersecting a wheel. ¹⁷ As they moved, they would go in any one of the four directions the creatures faced; the wheels did not turn about as the creatures went. ¹⁸ Their rims were high and awesome, and all four rims were full of eyes all around.

*What is the Merkabah? The Merkabah is the “**Divine Chariot Throne**” of God.*

***Merkabah** (the traditional Jewish View) (Hebrew: מְרַכְבֵּת, מֵרַכְבָּה, and מְרַכְבֵּת “chariot”, derived from the consonantal root r-k-b with general meaning “to ride”) is the throne-chariot of **God**, the four-wheeled vehicle driven by four “chayot” (Hebrew: “living creatures”), each of which has four wings^[1] and the four faces of a man, lion, ox, and eagle. The word Merkabah is also found 44 times in the Old Testament^[2] and though the concept of the Merkabah is associated with Ezekiel's vision (1:4-26), the word isn't explicitly written in Ezekiel 1.^[3]*

Several movements in Jewish mysticism, including the Ma'asei Merkavah of the late Hellenistic period following the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE, and later, students of the Kabbalah, have focused on these passages from Ezekiel, seeking underlying meaning and the secrets of Creation in what they argued was the metaphoric language of the verses. Due to the concern of some Torah scholars that misunderstanding these passages as literal descriptions of God's image might lead to blasphemy and/or idolatry, there was great opposition to studying this topic without the proper initiation. Jewish biblical commentaries emphasize that the imagery of the Merkaba is not meant to be taken literally; rather the chariot and its accompanying angels are analogies for the various ways that God reveals Himself in this world.^[4] Hasidic philosophy and Kabbalah discuss at length what each aspect of this vision represents in this world, and how the vision does not imply that God is made up of these forms. Jews customarily read the Biblical passages concerning the Merkaba in their synagogues every year on the holiday of Shavuot, and the Merkabah is also referenced in several places in traditional Jewish liturgy.

Jewish Encyclopedia

*The Heavenly Throne; hence “Ma'aseh **Merkabah**,” the lore concerning the heavenly Throne-Chariot, with especial reference to Ezek. i. and x. The conception of Yhwh riding upon cherubim, or fiery cloud-birds, upon the heavens or the clouds, is certainly genuinely Hebrew (see Ps. xviii. 11 [A. V. 10]; Deut. xxxiii. 26; Ps. lxxviii. 5 [A. V. 4]; Isa. xix. 1); hence His “war-chariot” (Hab. iii. 8 and Isa. lxvi. 15, Hebr.) and the name “chariot” for the ark with the cherubim (I Chron. xxviii. 18). Just as the Assyrian*

*sunchariot with its horses is employed in the legend of the ride of Elijah to heaven (II Kings ii. 11; comp. Enoch lxx. 2, lxxii. 5, lxxiii. 2), so did the prophet Ezekiel in his vision, probably suggested by Babylonian sculpture, see Yhwh riding on the Throne-Chariot when leaving the doomed Temple at Jerusalem (see Müller, "Ezechielstudien," 1895, pp. 8-11; Bertholet, "Das Buch Hezekiel," 1897, p. 12). To a later age Ezekiel's picture became a sacred mystery known by the term "Merkabah" as early as the time of Ben Sira (Ecclus. xlix. 8). The ancient Mishnah lays down the rule: "The Ma'aseh **Merkabah** should not be taught to any one except he be wise and able to deduce knowledge through wisdom ('gnosis') of his own" (Hag. ii. 1). Job beheld the throne of God, and his daughters sang the doxology of the Ma'aseh **Merkabah**.*

*"R. Eleazar ben 'Arak was riding on a mule behind R. Johanan b. Zakkai, when he asked for the privilege of being initiated into the secrets of the **Merkabah**. The great master demanded proof of his initiation into the gnosis, and when Eleazar began to tell what he had learned thereof, R. Johanan immediately descended from the mule and sat upon the rock. 'Why, O master, dost thou descend from the mule?' asked the disciple. 'Can I remain mounted upon the mule when the telling of the secrets of the **Merkabah** causes the Shekinah to dwell with us and the angels to accompany us?' was the answer. Eleazar continued, and, behold, fire descended from heaven and lit up the trees of the field, causing them to sing anthems, (the song "The Trees of the Field") and an angel cried out, 'Truly these are the secrets of the **Merkabah**.' Whereupon R. Johanan kissed Eleazar upon the forehead, saying, 'Blessed be thou, O father Abraham, that hast a descendant like Eleazar b. 'Arak!' Subsequently two other disciples of R. Johanan b. Zakkai walking together said to each*

*other: Let us also talk together about the Ma'aseh **Merkabah**'; and no sooner did R. Joshua begin speaking than a rainbow-like appearance [Ezek. i. 28] was seen upon the thick clouds which covered the sky, and angels came to listen as men do to hear wedding-music. On hearing the things related by R. Jose, R. Johanan b. Zakkai blessed his disciples and said: 'Blessed the eyes that beheld these things! Indeed I saw myself in a dream together with you, seated like the select ones [comp. Ex. xxiv. 11] upon Mount Sinai; and*



Photo from the Synagogue in Capernaum, thought to be from the Years of 100 BCE to 200 CE

I heard a heavenly voice saying: “Enter the banquet-hall and take your seats with your disciples and disciples’ disciples, among the elect, the highest (‘third’) class””



¹⁹ When the living creatures moved, the wheels beside them moved; and when the living creatures rose from the ground, the wheels also rose. ²⁰ Wherever the spirit would go, they would go, and the wheels would rise along with them, because

Israel’s Modern day Merkabah

the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. ²¹ When the creatures moved, they also moved; when the creatures stood still, they also stood still; and when the creatures rose from the ground, the wheels rose along with them, because the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. (Some believe that this a transporter system, yes its SYFI)

²² Spread out above the heads of the living creatures was what looked like an expanse, sparkling like ice, and awesome. ²³ Under the expanse their wings were stretched out one toward the other, and each had two wings covering its body. ²⁴ When the creatures moved, I heard the sound of their wings, like the roar of rushing waters, like the voice of the Almighty, like the tumult of an army. When they stood still, they lowered their wings.

²⁵ Then there came a voice from above the expanse over their heads as they stood with lowered wings. ²⁶ Above the expanse over their heads was what looked like a throne of sapphire, and high above on the throne was a figure like that of a man. ²⁷ I saw that from what appeared to be his waist up he looked like glowing metal, as if full of fire, and that from there down he looked like fire; and brilliant light surrounded him. ²⁸ Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him.

This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. When I saw it, I fell facedown, and I heard the voice of one speaking.

⁴Around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns^[i] of gold on their heads. ⁵ And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. ⁱSeven lamps of fire *were* burning before the throne, which are the^[k] seven Spirits of God.

Rabbi’s Commentary: *While studying the book of Revelation never forget to whom the book is written. It is the seven congregations/churches who are the recipients of the book. Though the book is a world view, its target audience is the seven lampstands (churches).*

The question that now arises is who are the 24 elders who sit on the thrones in white robes and wear a crown? According to the Wycliff Bible Rabbi’s Commentary no one can be sure with a certainty who the 24 elders are. However, there are several qualified speculations. The first, and most commonly held within Christian circles, is that the 24

elders are made up of the 12 sons of Jacob and the 12 disciples of Yeshua. However, Dr. David Stern suggests a different possibility that the 24 elders are members of the 24 clans of the priesthood. This has some merit to it as it was the priests were first empowered by the Torah as judges.

⁶Before the throne *there was*^[1] a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, *were* four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. ⁷The first living creature *was* like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature *was* like a flying eagle. ⁸*The* four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:

“Holy, holy, holy,^[m]
Lord God Almighty,
Who was and is and is to come!”

Ezekiel 1:25-28 (NIV)

²⁵*Then there came a voice from above the vault over their heads as they stood with lowered wings.* ²⁶*Above the vault over their heads was what looked like a throne of lapis lazuli, and high above on the throne was a figure like that of a man.* ²⁷*I saw that from what appeared to be his waist up he looked like glowing metal, as if full of fire, and that from there down he looked like fire; and brilliant light surrounded him.* ²⁸*Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him.*

This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. When I saw it, I fell facedown, and I heard the voice of one speaking.

Isaiah 6:1-5 (NIV)

⁶*In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple.* ²*Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.* ³*And they were calling to one another:*

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴*At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.*

⁵*“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”*

⁹Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

¹¹“You are worthy, O Lord,
To receive glory and honor and power;
For You created all things,
And by Your will they exist and were created.”

A Messianic Study of Revelations

The History of Things to Come

Chapter 5

Rabbi's Commentary: A look back at chapter four. I was asked by my daughter to explain more about the four living creatures in Revelation chapter four. Do they have a special meaning? Do they represent more than just a type of angel?

Question: "Who are the four living creatures in Revelation?"

Answer: The four living creatures are found in Revelation 4:6–9; 5:6–14; 6:1–8; 14:3; 15:7; and 19:4. The texts that describe these creatures do not indicate that they are figurative—they are real, actual beings. The four living creatures (literally “beings”) are a special, exalted order of angelic being or cherubim. This is clear by their close proximity to the throne of God. Ezekiel 1:12–20 suggests that they are in constant motion around the throne. <https://www.gotquestions.org>

THE FOUR BANNERS OF ISRAEL

(<http://www.biblefragrances.com/studies/fourbanners.html>)

Although there is no Biblical testimony to indicate what the images were on the four banners described at Numbers 2:2, there is considerable information available so that we are able to make some very probable conclusions.

The research on this subject has been collected by Tony Garland (www.SpiritAndTruth.org) and is quoted here.

As to the contents of each camp's standard, tradition tells us that each camp had a different symbol upon its standard:

Neither the Mosaic law nor the Old Testament, generally, gives us any intimation as to the form or character of the standard (degel). According to rabbinical tradition, the standard of Judah bore the figure of a lion, that of Reuben the likeness of a man or of a man's head, that of Ephraim the figure of an ox, and that of Dan the figure of an eagle;

*so that the four living creatures united in the cherubic forms described by Ezekiel were represented upon these four standards.*⁷

*Jewish tradition says the “four standards” under which Israel encamped in the wilderness, to the east, Judah, to the north, Dan, to the west, Ephraim, to the south, Reuben, were respectively a lion, an eagle, an ox, and a man, while in the midst was the Tabernacle containing the Shekinah symbol of the Divine Presence.*⁸

*The Talmud saw in these four creatures the four primary forms of life in God’s creation. It also noted that the twelve tribes of Israel camped under these four banners; some with Reuben (symbolized by a man), others with Dan (symbolized by an eagle), others with Ephraim (symbolized by the calf, or ox), and the rest with Judah (symbolized by a lion).*⁹

*The Jewish writers tell us, that the standard of each tribe of Israel took the color of the stone which represented it in the high priest’s breastplate, and that there was wrought upon each a particular figure—a lion for Judah, a young ox for Ephraim, a man for Reuben, and an eagle for Dan.*¹⁰

*No further information is provided about the size, color or representation on these standards. Jewish tradition, however, does provide a clue to the way in which later generations of Jews viewed the standards. The Aramaic paraphrase of the Torah, called Targum Jonathan, and the ancient Rabbi’s Commentary on Numbers, called Bemidbar Rabbah, suggest that each tribe was assigned a color corresponding to the color of its respective stone in the high priest’s breastplate. Thus, the color of Dan would be blue because a sapphire is blue. The four standards, therefore, were composed of the colors of the three tribes of each triad. The tradition continues that each of the four standards depicted a living being. Judah’s animal was a lion, Reuben’s a man, Ephraim’s an ox and Dan’s an eagle. This tradition may have been influenced by the cherubim in Ezekiel’s vision who also had four faces (Ezek. 1:10; see also Rev. 4:7+). It should be emphasized that there is no solid biblical or historical basis for these descriptions of the standards. The Jewish tradition, however, does provide the most logical suggestion for their descriptions, particularly in the case of Judah and Ephraim (see Gen. 49:9 and Deu. 33:17).*¹¹

Chapter 5

The Lamb Takes the Scroll

5 And I saw in the right *hand* of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ²Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” ³And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

Rabbi’s Commentary: Who is the strong angel? In medieval times it was common for the King to have a Court Crier who would announce important matters as well as important people. It is thought that the tradition of a Court Crier came from Biblical times. Historical practice would lead us to believe that the Court Crier was a type of Sgt. at Arms or as the King’s Court secretary who would also set appointments and announce dignitaries.

⁴So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. ⁵But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, **has prevailed** to open the scroll and to lose its seven seals.” ⁶And I looked, and behold, [□] in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, **stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.** ⁷Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Rabbi’s Commentary: Chapter 5 begins with the unveiling of who Yeshua is. Note verse five as it states, “do not weep behold the lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has prevailed”. Let’s start with the declaration that Yeshua is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. Judah, of course, is the kingly tribe that rules over Israel. The concept of the Lion of Judah goes back to Genesis chapter 49 when Jacob was pronouncing a final blessing upon his sons. The book Exodus states “that a scepter shall rise up out of Judah”, which is a prophetic pronouncement of the future King. In both the books of Chronicles and Kings the Lord God promises King David that there will always be a man to sit on the

throne. The term *Root of David* is a declaration of Yeshua's birthright as the son of King David.

However, what was most often overlooked in verse 5 are the words **“has prevailed”**. Just what does that mean “He has prevailed”? The very idea that He prevailed applies a contest of a sort.

Revelation 1:18-19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. ¹⁹ Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

*His victory over death and hell is important to us as modern-day believers. Because of His abundant mercy He shares His victories with us that we too may **prevail**.*

Matthew 16:16-18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

However, let us be careful not to be arrogant as some have become who thought the victory and prevailing over the enemy would leave them unscathed. Let us remember the price Yeshua paid for such a victory. No wonder He says to his disciples “he who shall lose his life shall save it”

Verse 6 begins with, “⁶ And I looked, and behold,^[r] in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.” It is taught in many Christian circles that Yeshua will bear the marks of the cross for all eternity. This is based on the phrase “stood a Lamb as though it had been slain”. It is true that our picture here shows a slain lamb, but there is no evidence that this is the eternal image of Yeshua. (Is 53:7-8)

*Verse 7 states that Yeshua received the scroll directly from the hand of God. “**Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne**”. This is*

now a scroll of judgment. Once delivered a scroll of judgment becomes irreversible. Thus the seven disasters that have fallen upon mankind.

Revelation 5:8-10 (NIV)

⁸ And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased for God
persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.
¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign^[a] on the earth.”

Rabbi's Commentary: Once again we see that God's non-Jewish believers have been joined to the priesthood of Israel. This priesthood, of course, was established in the book of Exodus. Sadly enough, many believers recognize that they are part of the priesthood, but do not know the job description or the expectation of being part of this priesthood of Israel.

Exodus 19:6 (NKJV)

⁶ And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

Exodus 19:6 (NIV)

⁶ you^[a] will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

Exodus 19:6 (TLV)

⁶ So as for you, you will be to Me a kingdom of kohanim and a holy nation.' These are the words which you are to speak to Bnei-Yisrael.”

Revelation 5:10 (CJB)

¹⁰ You made them into a kingdom for God to rule, cohanim to serve him; and they will rule over the earth.”

Revelation 5:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

Revelation 5:10New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁰ “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
To receive power and riches and wisdom,
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

¹³ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:

“Blessing and honor and glory and power
Be to Him who sits on the throne,
And to the Lamb, forever and ever!”^[v]

¹⁴ Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four^[w] elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

A Messianic Study of Revelations

The History of Things to Come

Chapter 6

Rabbi's Commentary: In chapter 5 we saw the Lamb take the scroll with the seven seals from the hand of God! What does this mean? The one who receives the scroll is the one who is responsible for carrying out its contents! This is a scroll of judgement that has been given to the "Lamb of God" to carry out. It is at this point we no longer see Yeshua as a Lamb but as a King, Warrior, Lion! He is now the "Go'el" the redeemer of the blood.

Romans 5:7-8

⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Kinsman-Redeemer

Bible Dictionaries - Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology - Kinsman-Redeemer

Kinsman-Redeemer

Male relative who, according to various laws found in the Pentateuch, had the privilege or responsibility to act for a relative who was in trouble, danger, or need of vindication.

Although the term "kinsman-redeemer" is used only seven times in the NIV (all in the Book of Ruth) and "avenger of blood" is used twelve times, the Hebrew verb ga'al [l;a"G], from which both of these terms are translated, is used over 100 times and rendered by such additional terms as "redeemer" or "near relative." The Hebrew term designates a male relative who delivers or rescues (Gen 48:16 ; Exod 6:6); redeems property (Lev27:9-25) or person (Lev 25:47-55); avenges the murder of a relative as a guiltless executioner (Num 35:9-34); and receives restitution for wrong done to a relative who has since died (Num 5:8). The unique emphasis of the redemption/salvation/vindication associated with the kinsman-redeemer is the fact that this action is carried out by a

kinsman on behalf of a near relative in need. This idea is most clearly illustrated in the Book of Ruth.

God is Israel's Redeemer, the one who will defend and vindicate them. The idea that God is a kinsman to Israel can be defended by those passages of Scripture that identify him as Israel's Creator and Father (Exod 4:22-23 ; Deut 32:6), Deliverer (Exod 20:2), owner of the land (Lev25:23), the one who hears innocent blood crying out for vengeance (Deut 19:10 ; 21:6-9), and the King who has made his covenant with the people (Exod 6:2-8). David, in his use of the term (Psalms 19:14 ; 103:4), doubtless has in mind the actions of his great-grandfather Boaz (Ruth 4:9-10).

First, Second, Third and Fourth Seal: The Four Horseman of the Apocalypse



6 Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals;^[y] and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.” **2** I looked, and there before me was a **white horse**! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.

3 When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!” **4** Then another horse came out, a fiery **red one**. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other. To him was given a large sword. **5** When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a **black horse**! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. **6** Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, “Two pounds^[a] of wheat for a day’s wages,^[b] and six pounds^[c] of barley for a day’s wages,^[d] and do not damage the oil and the wine!”

7 When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!” **8** I looked, and there before me was a **pale horse**! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

Rabbi’s Commentary: The first principle and understanding of prophetic Scripture is recognizing that the symbols and signs and the definitions in the Bible do not change from book to book. When we see a symbol in one book and understand its meaning and

its definition, then that definition is true every time we see that same symbol in the Bible. Thus, as we look at the book of Revelation's four Horseman of the Apocalypse we must also look at the four chariots (same color horses) as in the book of Zechariah. The book



of Revelation explains the job description of the four Horsemen, while the book of Zechariah gives us their appointed arena of operation.

Zechariah 6:1-7 (NIV) Four Chariots of the Apocalypse

6 I looked up again, and there before me were four chariots coming out from between two mountains—mountains of bronze.² The first chariot had **red horses**, the second **black**,³ the third **white**, and the fourth **dappled**—all of them powerful.⁴ I asked the angel who was speaking to me, “What are these, my lord?”

⁵ The angel answered me, “These are the four spirits^[a] of heaven, going out from standing in the presence of the Lord of the whole world. **6 The one with the black horses is going toward the north country, the one with the white horses toward the west,^[b] and the one with the dappled horses toward the south.**”

⁷ When the powerful horses went out, they were straining to go throughout the earth. And he said, “Go throughout the earth!” So they went throughout the earth.

Let us now note the job description the book of Revelation and the location of the book of Zechariah. What conclusions can we draw based on history concerning the four Horsemen? The white horse went out with a bow in his hand to conquer. The Western world has been full of desires to colonize and dominate other people groups. The black horse went north with a pair of scales in his hands to measure out wheat and barley. The pale horse went south and had the power to kill by sword, famine, plague, and wild beast. The red horse was given power to take peace from the earth and to cause men to slay one another. This, of course, is the horse of war, but where did it go?

The four Horsemen have always been an object of prophetic discussion and, unfortunately, the object much “bellagan” (confusion) and with that confusion a number of theological mistakes. The Commentary in the New International Bible believes that the white horse who carries a bow is the Messiah, while the red horse would represent Satan. And from there it goes downhill.

Fifth Seal

⁹When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had

maintained. ¹⁰ They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?” ¹¹ Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters,^[e] were killed just as they had been.

Rabbi's Commentary: In the fifth seal the slain cry out to God who is their “Go’el”, “how long before you Sovereign Lord avenge our blood?” The modern-day believer should take note of the answer, “Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.” The only conclusion we can draw from that statement is that the days of martyrdom are not yet over. A historical look at the Jewish people and the church should teach us that the Jewish people have always grown in strength and dedication through persecution. The Christian church in like manner has always grown and strength, size and authority when facing persecution. A side note and opinion is that in both cases the Jewish people and the Church grew under persecution even when being persecuted by their own people.

The fifth seal now marks the beginning of the renewed days of martyrdom for the Believers. It would be good from this point on to track the persecution of both the Church and the Messianics, as well as Jews.

The Sixth Seal

¹² I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, ¹³ and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. ¹⁴ The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

Rabbi's Commentary: What was it Jeremiah said?

Jeremiah 4:20-28 (KJV)

²⁰ Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled: suddenly are my tents spoiled, and my curtains in a moment. ²¹ How long shall I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet? ²² For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge. ²³ I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. ²⁴ I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly.

25 I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. 26 I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger. 27 For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end.

*28 For this shall the earth mourn, and the heavens above be black; because I have spoken it, **I have purposed it, and will not repent, neither will I turn back from it.***

15 Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. **16** They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us^[f] from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! **17** For the great day of their^[g] wrath has come, and who can withstand it?”

Rabbi's Commentary: What was it that Isaiah said concerning the Great Day of the Lord?

Isaiah 13:9-13 (KJV)

9 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. 10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

11 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

12 I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. 13 Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

A Messianic Study of Revelations

The History of Things to Come

Chapter 7

Rabbi's Commentary: Let us take a moment and look at the chronological order of the book of Revelation up to this point. In the first chapter we have the revelation of the risk of Messiah. In chapter 2 and chapter 3 we had the message to the seven churches to whom the book of Revelation was written. In chapter 4 we step into the throne room of God as he sits on the judgment seat before all creation. Chapter 5 is significant in the fact that at this point we see the Lamb of God being declared as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. We also see the souls of martyrs crying out to God that he might avenge their blood. In chapter 6 Yeshua takes the judgments scroll from the hand of God and begins to open its seals. The first four seals are the four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. In chapter 7 we shall see the Saints and the 144,000 sealed for their protection.

144,000 Sealed

7 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the

sea or on any tree. ²Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, **having the seal of the living God**. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: ³**“Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.”**⁴Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

Rabbi's Commentary: Before we look at the 12 tribes of Israel, we want to acknowledge the fact that the tribe of Dan is not mentioned in the text. Dr. David Stern attributes the absence of Dan to a scribal error in which it was accidentally omitted. However, I take another view in following many of the Christian Rabbi's Commentary writers that Dan was omitted because as a tribe they went into idolatry and then latter abandoned their ancestral land and then disappeared. My problem with Dr. Stern's position is based on the fundamental principle that the Scripture is correct in its original form. However, the problem is still more complicated as the tribe of Dan does appear in Ezekiel chapter 48 where the tribes of Israel received their inheritance. Also, according to the book of Ezekiel chapter 48 one of the 12 gates of the new Jerusalem is named after the tribe of Dan. Go figure! If you find a better answer please let me know.

⁵From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed,

from the tribe of Reuben 12,000,

from the tribe of Gad 12,000,

⁶from the tribe of Asher 12,000,

from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000,

from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000,

⁷from the tribe of Simeon 12,000,

from the tribe of Levi 12,000,

from the tribe of Issachar 12,000,

⁸from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000,

from the tribe of Joseph 12,000,

from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.

Rabbi's Commentary: With everything in place for the Apocalypse to begin, the last event is to seal the 144,000 Messianic male virgin Jewish believers. There have historically been many Christian groups and pseudo-Christian groups which claim to be part of the 144,000. However, they ignore the fact that the 144,000 are really Jewish men, as the Scripture states 12,000 from each tribe.

Revelation 14:1-4 (NKJV) The Lamb and the 144,000

14 Then I looked, and behold, a^[a] Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having^[b] His Father's name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. ³ They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. ⁴ These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

But what about the church? Are they also sealed? In fact, the question arises when were they sealed and by what?

2 Corinthians 1:20-22 (NKJV)

²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. ²¹ Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, ²² who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Ephesians 1:13 (NKJV)

¹³ In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Ephesians 4:29-30 (NKJV)

²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

We should not be surprised concerning the idea of God placing a seal upon his people for the sake of their protection. When Cain fell from grace the Lord God marked him as a warning to anyone who would attempt to take his life. During the Passover, the Jewish people were instructed to place the Lamb's blood upon the door so when the destroyer would come into the camp he would see the blood and Passover.

The Great Multitude in White Robes

⁹After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, **from every nation, tribe, people and language**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.”

¹¹All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying:

“Amen!
Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honor
and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!”

¹³Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

Rabbi's Commentary: As I have stated earlier, I would like you to keep track of the Messianic and the Christians throughout the book Revelation. Though they represent two different groups of people they both are members in the same singular body of Messiah. In the last days both groups will suffer great persecution. In fact, the Apocalypse events of this book do not affect those that had been sealed with the Spirit of God. The great tribulation for believers will come at the hand of unbelievers, NOT by the hand of God.

Isaiah 56:6-8 (NIV)

⁶And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant— these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.” ⁸The Sovereign LORD declares he who gathers the exiles of Israel: “I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered.”

John 10:14-16 (NIV)

¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

¹⁴ I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “**These are they who have come out of the great tribulation;** they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Therefore,

“they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne
will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶ ‘Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.

The sun will not beat down on them,^[h]
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷ For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will be their shepherd;

‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’^[i]

‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’^{[j]”}

***R**abbi’s Commentary: In verses 15-17 the Scripture references many of the acts of punishment and wrath that are yet to come. Verse 14 identifies these people as those who came at great tribulation and stand before the throne of God and serve Him day and night.*

A Messianic Study of Revelations

The History of Things to Come

Chapter 8

Rabbi's Commentary: Up to this point we could refer to chapters 1-7 as the staging chapters. However, from this point on it is the full blown Apocalypse!

Chapter 8 The Seventh Seal and the Golden Censer

8:1 When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. ² And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

³ Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne. ⁴ The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand. ⁵ Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

Rabbi's Commentary: In the Scriptures when we see trumpets being blown it is a heralding of things to come. Interestingly enough this has always been true throughout history, even in the secular world. Trumpets would sound for the coronation of the King. They would announce the time for celebration. Even in our own American history we've always had a bugler who would tell us it was time to rise, time to gather, time to advance or time to retreat. Such were the seven trumpets announcing the judgments of God being executed. Note that the incense that goes up before the LORD from the altar represents the prayers of the saints. Judgment now begins when the incense and the fire from the altar are thrown to the earth.

Of the seven trumpets the first four affect nature directly and people indirectly. However, with the last three trumpets it is the reverse where the primary effect is upon man and secondarily upon the earth.

The Trumpets

⁶Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them. ⁷The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

Rabbi's Commentary: It was Michael Brickley who pointed out to me several years ago that the judgments of the book Revelation are directly out of the Torah itself. When Egypt refused to let the children of Israel go, the 10 plagues came upon them. Among those plagues there was hail that burned like fire and blood in the waters.

Why it is important for us to remember is because it was Egypt who persecuted God's people. Now it's the world who have persecuted and murdered God's people. (Jew, Christian and Messianic) In this first trumpet we see the continuity of the Bible and the continuity of God Himself: the same crime, the same outcome.

Exodus 9:13-21 The Plague of Hail

Exodus 9:13 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning, confront Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me,¹⁴ or this time I will send the full force of my plagues against you and against your officials and your people, so you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth.¹⁵ For by now I could

have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth. ¹⁶ But I have raised you up^[a] for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth. ¹⁷ You still set yourself against my people and will not let them go. ¹⁸ Therefore, at this time tomorrow I will send the worst hail storm that has ever fallen on Egypt, from the day it was founded till now. ¹⁹ Give an order now to bring your livestock and everything you have in the field to a place of shelter, because the hail will fall on every person and animal that has not been brought in and is still out in the field, and they will die.’”

²⁰ Those officials of Pharaoh who feared the word of the LORD hurried to bring their slaves and their livestock inside. ²¹ But those who ignored the word of the LORD left their slaves and livestock in the field.

⁸The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, ⁹ a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

Rabbi's Commentary: The water being turned into blood had also taken place in the book of Exodus as a judgment against the Egyptians.

Exodus 7:14-21 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go. ¹⁵ Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes out to the river. Confront him on the bank of the Nile, and take in your hand the staff that was changed into a snake. ¹⁶ Then say to him, ‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the wilderness. But until now you have not listened. ¹⁷ This is what the LORD says: By this you will know that I am the LORD: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. ¹⁸ The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.’”

¹⁹ The LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt—over the streams and canals, over the ponds and all the reservoirs—and they will turn to blood.’ Blood will be everywhere in Egypt, even in vessels^[a] of wood and stone.”

²⁰ Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD had commanded. He raised his staff in the presence of Pharaoh and his officials and struck the water of the Nile, and all the water was changed into blood. ²¹ The fish in the Nile died, and the river smelled so bad that the Egyptians could not drink its water. Blood was everywhere in Egypt.

¹⁰The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water— ¹¹ the name of

the star is Wormwood.^[k] A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.

Rabbi's Commentary: **Wormwood - Uses, Side Effects, and More**

OTHER NAME(S): Absinth, Absinthe, Absinthe Suisse, Absinthii Herb

Side Effects

When taken by mouth: Thujone-free wormwood is commonly consumed in foods and beverages, such as bitters and vermouth. Thujone-free wormwood is possibly safe when used as medicine, short-term. But wormwood that contains thujone is possibly unsafe. Thujone can cause seizures, kidney failure, vomiting, and other serious side effects.

¹² The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.

¹³ As I watched, I heard **an eagle** that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: “Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!”

*Rabbi's Commentary: There appears to be some question concerning the definition of the word **Eagle**. The King James and the New King James Bibles use the term **angel** instead of **Eagle**. However, Dr. Stern suggests it may be neither and possibly should be translated as **vulture**. Which would make more sense, because **eagle and angel** would both represent a messenger where, on the other hand, **a vulture would follow the carcasses of the dead**.*

Jeremiah 9:14-16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ *but they have walked according to the dictates of their own hearts and after the Baals, which their fathers taught them,”* ¹⁵ *therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: “Behold, I will feed them, this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink. ¹⁶ I will scatter them also among the Gentiles,*

whom neither they nor their fathers have known. And I will send a sword after them until I have consumed them.”

¹² The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.

A Messianic Study of Revelations

The History of Things to Come

Chapter 9

The trumpets # 5-7

9 The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. ² When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. ³ And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. ⁴ They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵ They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes. ⁶ During those

days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

Rabbi's Commentary: Verse 4 reveals to us that God does distinguish between peoples. In the book of Exodus, we see that God did distinguish between the Egyptians who he caused to suffer the 10 plagues and the Jews whom he protected. Note that the judgments that are coming upon the earth do not include the righteous believers. The believers in the book of Revelation will suffer, but not by the hand of God, but by the very people whom God is judging. Of the 2,333,333,333 who perished in the first judgment there was not a believer among the dead.

⁷The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. ⁸Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. ⁹They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. ¹⁰They had tails with stingers, like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months. ¹¹They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer).



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRUfMPcc-B4>

Rabbi's Commentary: Abaddon the Destroyer is the only other fallen angel ever mentioned by name in the English Bible.

¹²The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.

¹³The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the four horns of the golden altar that is before God. ¹⁴It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." ¹⁵And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and

day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind. ¹⁶ The number of the mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand. I heard their number.

Rabbi's Commentary: This is the first full-scale judgment upon mankind for the acts of disobedience to the Scripture. You will note that one third of all mankind perishes in this text. We start with 7 billion people on the earth and a third of them (2,333,333,333) are lost in this act of judgment. The new balance of the earth's population now totals 4,666,666,666.

¹⁷ The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur. ¹⁸ A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths. ¹⁹ The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.

*Rabbi's Commentary: WOW! I don't know what to think of this. There is nothing to compare it to so any opinion would be science fiction speculation at best. Some speculators have tried to tie this image to the locusts and you have already noticed their description that was given earlier. Thus, we can conclude this is something distinctly different. In Hal Lindsay's book *The Late Great Planet Earth* he described images as giant attack bugs from outer space. Others have believed these images are some mechanized futuristic weapons. But who really knows until it happens.*

*If we start with 7 billion people on the earth and a third of them (2,333,333,333) were lost in the first wave of judgment, then the new balance of the earth's population becomes 4,666,666,666. Now we have the second wave of judgment which adds another one third of the earth's population to the death count. Starting with 4,666,666,666 minus 1,555,555,555 leaves the Earth's population with a total of **3,111,111,111**.*

²⁰ The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. ²¹ Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Rabbi's Commentary: Please note in verse 20 through 21 that there was no repentance even though a third of the earth's population had perished. Their failure to repent will bring about further destruction. However, as a side note on the subject of repentance, using the word repentance implies that they were aware that their actions were sinful and yet they continued down the path of destruction.

The History of Things to Come

Chapter 10

Let us remember the Rabbi's Commentary

In chapter 9 we start off with 7 billion (7,000,000,000) people on the earth and a third of them (2,333,333,333) were lost in the first wave of judgment. Then the new balance of the earth's population became 4,666,666,666. And now we have the second wave of judgment which adds another one-third of the earth's population in the death count. Now we start with 4,666,666,666 minus 1/3 (1,555,555,555) leaving the earth's population at a total of 3,111,111,111.

Revelation 10-15 (NIV) The Angel and the Little Scroll

10 Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. ²He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, ³and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven

thunders spoke. ⁴ And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.”

⁵ Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. ⁶ And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, “There will be no more delay! ⁷ But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.”

Rabbi's Commentary: Who is the Angel? “I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. ² He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand.” “Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. ⁶ And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, “There will be no more delay!”

Many think as I do that by deduction the angel could only be Yeshua, based on the earlier text in chapter one.

John's Vision of Christ

Rev. 1:9 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus..... ¹² I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lamp stands was someone like a son of man, ^[d] dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters..... His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

Rev. 5:1 *Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open*

the scroll?”³ But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.⁴ I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.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 triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits^[a] of God sent out into all the earth.⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

Yet another opinion is that this powerful angel is in fact the “Angel of the Lord”. Both may be wrong or right, who knows? However, the scroll cannot be the one given to the Lamb because there are portions of the prophecies yet to be fulfilled.

⁸ Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: “Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.”

⁹ So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, “Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but ‘in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.’^[a]”¹⁰ I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour.¹¹ Then I was told, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings.”

Rabbi’s Commentary: Why eat the scroll? Was this done before? Both Christian and Messianic commentators believe the scroll was sweet because it is the word of God and yet bitter because of judgment.

Ezekiel 3:1 (NKJV)

Moreover, He said to me, “Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.”² So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll.

³ *And He said to me, “Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you.” **So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness.***

⁴ *Then He said to me: “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them.⁵ For you are not sent to a people of unfamiliar speech and of hard language, but to the house of Israel,⁶ not to many people of unfamiliar speech and of hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, had I sent you to them, they would have listened to you.⁷ But the house of Israel will not listen to you, because they will not listen to Me; for all the house of Israel are impudent and hard-hearted.⁸ Behold, I have made your face strong against their faces, and*

your forehead strong against their foreheads. ⁹ Like adamant stone, harder than flint, I have made your forehead; do not be afraid of them, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they are a rebellious house.”

¹⁰ Moreover He said to me: “Son of man, receive into your heart all My words that I speak to you, and hear with your ears. ¹¹ And go, get to the captives, to the children of your people, and speak to them and tell them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD,’ whether they hear, or whether they refuse”

In the Book of Revelation the outcome is the same as it was for Ezekiel. They did not listen, so they perished.

A Messianic Study of Revelation

The History of Things to Come

Chapter 11

The Two Witnesses

11 I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers. ² But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.

*Rabbi’s Commentary: Why not measure the outer court of the Gentiles? Isn’t it a part of the Temple? Verse 12 may best be read as “But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given **over** to the Gentiles.” This is best understood*

when incorporating the next sentence. “They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.” How long is the “Time of Jacob’s Trouble/Tribulation? In our speculation, on which side of the “Abomination that causes Desolation” do we count 42 months?

³And I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” ⁴They are “the two olive trees” and the two lampstands, and “they stand before the Lord of the earth.”^[b]

Rabbi’s Commentary: How long is 1260 days according to the Hebrew calendar?

*These rules are implemented by adding an extra day to Marcheshvan (making it **30 days** long) or by removing one day from Kislev (making it **29 days** long). Accordingly, a common Hebrew calendar year can have a length of **353, 354 or 355 days**, while a leap Hebrew calendar year can have a length of **383, 384 or 385 days**.*

Rabbi’s Commentary: Who are the two witnesses and what are the two olive trees?

There are several opinions about the identity of the two witnesses. The first one is that it would be Enoch and Elijah. The second is that it could be Elijah and Moses. The support proof for Enoch and Elijah is that neither man has died and both are prophets. As the Scripture teaches us it is appointed unto every man once to die and then to judgement.

Concerning the idea of Elijah and Moses, it is based on the Mt. of Transfiguration where the Law and the Prophets are represented.

However, no one questions that one will be Elijah because of the text in Malachi chapter 4, verses 5 through 6.

Malachi 4:5-6 (NKJV)

⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet

Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

⁶ And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children,

And the hearts of the children to their fathers,

Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”

Zechariah 4 (NKJV) Vision of the Lampstand and Olive Trees

⁴ Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep. ² And he said to me, “What do you see?”

So I said, "I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps.³ Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left."⁴ So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, "What are these, my lord?"

⁵ Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?"

And I said, "No, my lord."⁶ So he answered and 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....."

¹¹ Then I answered and said to him, "What are these two olive trees—at the right of the lampstand and at its left?"¹² And I further answered and said to him, "What are these two olive branches that drip into the receptacles^[b] of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?"

¹³ Then he answered me and said, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord."¹⁴ So he said, "These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth."

⁵ If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. (*This was done in the past by Elijah*) This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. ⁶ They have power to shut up the heavens so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; (*This was done in the past by Elijah*) and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want. (*This was done in the past by Moses*)

⁷ Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. ⁸ Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city—which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt—where also their Lord was crucified. ⁹ For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial.

Rabbi's Commentary: Why will they lie in the street for three and a half days? If you think it is in relationship to Yeshua's resurrection you are wrong. For the Scripture teaches His body will not see corruption (decay). However, Lazarus was in the grave for four days and they said his body stinks. Jewish law says you are truly dead on the fourth day. According to Talmud it is a great sin on the family, the synagogue, and the community when they do not bury their dead.

¹⁰ The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.

¹¹ But after the three and a half days the breath^[c] of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. ¹² Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.

*C*ommentary: Surprise!!!

¹³ At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

¹⁴ The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon. The Seventh Trumpet

¹⁵ The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said:

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.”

¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying:

“We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. ¹⁸ The nations were angry, and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small— and for destroying those who destroy the earth.”

¹⁹ Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a severe hailstorm.

A Messianic Study of Revelation

The History of Things to Come

Chapter 12

The Woman and the Dragon

12 A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head.² She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.

Rabbi's Commentary: Just who is this woman that the Scripture is speaking about? Just who or what is she pregnant with?

It is always best to let Scripture define itself. This is not the first time we have seen this image of the sun and moon and stars. It first appears in the book of Genesis.

Genesis 37:1-9 NKJV Joseph Dreams of Greatness

Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan. ² This is the history of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father.

³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors. ⁴ But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

⁵ Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. ⁶ So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: ⁷ There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf."

⁸ And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

⁹ Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."

¹⁰ So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?" ¹¹ And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Without doubt we can say that the woman, the sun, the moon, and the stars are Israel. In the book of Genesis, we saw only 11 stars because Joseph's vision left his star out. We do note in verse 10 that Jacob understood that the image was of Israel as he responds to Joseph with, "Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down". But the question arises who or what is her pregnancy?

Most of the Christian church accepts the fact that the woman is Israel and they perceive the pregnancy to be that of Yeshua. However, I believe this to be an erroneous position as we are looking at a prophetic book, not historical text. So who or what is the pregnancy?

Dr. David Stern suggests that the pregnancy is the birth or rebirth of Israel once again as the nation which was put in place in 1948. If we look at the text of Isaiah we can deduce that the woman can only be Israel and that the child (He) would be the Jewish people of the end times.

Isaiah 66:7-12 (NKJV)

⁷ “Before she was in labor, she gave birth; Before her pain came, She delivered a male child. ⁸ Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children. ⁹ Shall I bring to the time of birth, and not cause delivery?” says the LORD. “Shall I who cause delivery shut up the womb?” says your God.

¹⁰ “Rejoice with Jerusalem, And be glad with her, all you who love her; Rejoice for joy with her, all you who mourn for her; ¹¹ That you may feed and be satisfied With the consolation of her bosom, That you may drink deeply and be delighted With the abundance of her glory. This will be further clarified at the end of the chapter.

³Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. ⁴Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth.

Rabbi's Commentary: Now is the first time the Dragon enters upon the stage of the Apocalypse. All theologians, Jewish and Christian, would recognize the image to be Satan. Jewish people have a hard time with the image of Satan. Sometimes he is referred to as “the setra ahtra” that would come from below. I believe the issue may stem from a lack of New Covenant Theology.

In chapter 11 we first saw the beast be revealed. Now in chapter 12 there is the presence of the Dragon. Soon you will be introduced to the false prophet who comes as the forerunner before the beast. Many Christian theologians have thought that the false prophet was really the antichrist. This is once again an erroneous thought concerning the end times. We know that the evil one must come as a counterfeit in order to fool the Elect. Let me paint you a picture of what is really going on. There is a holy Trinity, not to be confused with the Godhead, made up of the Father, Messiah and Elijah the prophet. And there is an unholy Trinity made up of the Dragon (Satan), The Beast (antichrist) and the False Prophet.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 (NKJV) The Great Apostasy

*2 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ²not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ^[a] had come. ³Let no one deceive you by any means; for **that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin^[b] is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called***

God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God^[e] in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷ **For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He^[d] who now restrains will do so until He^[e] is taken out of the way.** ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

More to come on this later!

The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. ⁵ She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.”^[d] And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.

Rabbi's Commentary: Verse 5 says the woman will have a male child who will be snatched up to heaven and will rule with an iron scepter. This raises a questionable theological mystery. Is the child in this text Yeshua or is it the 144,000 of chapter 7 and chapter 14. Chapter 14 shows the 144,000 before the throne of God. Please note:

Isaiah 66:7:

“Before she was in labor, she gave birth; Before her pain came, She delivered a male child.” If the truth be known I cannot give you an absolute answer.

⁶ The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days. (*42 months by the Jewish calendar*)

⁷ Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸ But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. ⁹ The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Rabbi's Commentary: When this text is read most theologians will tell you that the war of heaven has already taken place and that one third of the angels have fallen. However, the Scripture does not support that idea.

Matthew 11:12

*And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers **violence**, and the violent take it by force.*

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV)

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age,^[a] against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. ¹¹ They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. ¹² Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

¹³ When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴ The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach. ¹⁵ Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. ¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. ¹⁷ Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God's commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.

Rabbi's Commentary: The newest version of the NIV Bible does not do justice to verse 17. As you can see it reads differently in other translations. Why does this matter? Because with the proper definition we can identify the other “offspring” of the woman.

The other offspring of the woman are the Messianics and even more particularly the other Messianics of Israel.

Revelation 12:17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷ And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.^[a]

Revelation 12:17 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁷ So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her ^[a]children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Revelation 12:17 Complete Jewish Bible (CJB)

¹⁷ The dragon was infuriated over the woman and went off to fight the rest of her children, those who obey God's commands and bear witness to Yeshua.

A Messianic Study of Revelation

The History of Things to Come

Chapter 13

Again, before we begin!

When studying the book of Revelation or any other book of biblical prophecy we must realize that the Scriptures speak of the future and that's a foretelling of things to come. As we come closer to the time of Messiah our understanding begins to unfold. We are like people looking through a dirty window, where we understand in part but not in full. This should bring us to the point of caution because prophecy that has not yet become history forces us to speculate. Prophecy is history that has yet to unfold. A word of caution should be given here, you cannot build theology on prophecy, you cannot build theology on that which has not been revealed as of yet.

Rabbi's Commentary: Before we can begin chapter 13, we must first read from the book of Daniel chapter 7. Daniel chapter 7 is in direct relationship to our text in the book of

Revelation. It goes far beyond just comparison. They are in all aspects co-texts referring to a very specific time in prophetic history.

Daniel 7 (NIV) Daniel's Dream of Four Beasts

7 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying in bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.

2 Daniel said: "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. 3 Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea.

4 "The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a human being, and the mind of a human was given to it.

5 "And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh!'

6 "After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.

7 "After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.

8 "While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

*9 "As I looked, "thrones were set in place,
and the Ancient of Days took his seat.
His clothing was as white as snow;
the hair of his head was white like wool.
His throne was flaming with fire,
and its wheels were all ablaze.*

*10 A river of fire was flowing,
coming out from before him.
Thousands upon thousands attended him;
ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.*

***The court was seated,
and the books were opened.***

11 "Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and

thrown into the blazing fire.¹² (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.)

¹³ “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man,^[a] coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

The Interpretation of the Dream

¹⁵ “I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me.¹⁶ I approached one of those standing there and asked him the meaning of all this.

“So he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things:¹⁷ ‘The four great beasts are four kings that will rise from the earth.¹⁸ But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever.’

¹⁹ “Then I wanted to know the meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others and most terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze claws—the beast that crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left.²⁰ I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell—the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully.²¹ As I watched, this horn was waging war against the holy people and defeating them,²² until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the holy people of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.

²³ “He gave me this explanation: ‘The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it.²⁴ The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings.²⁵ He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.^[b]

²⁶ “‘But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever.²⁷ Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.’

²⁸ “This is the end of the matter. I, Daniel, was deeply troubled by my thoughts, and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself.”

The Beast out of the Sea

13 The dragon^[e] stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. ²The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

Rabbi's Commentary: In chapter 12 we discovered that the Dragon is none other than Satan himself. Now the beast that is being described here in chapter 13 is often referred to as the Antichrist in Christian circles and as the Lo-Moshiach in Messianic circles. The Beast of chapter 13 is a composite of the four Beasts we find in the book of Daniel chapter 7. Most likely the reason that the Beast appears in this form as a composite image is because the composite image is built upon the earlier kingdoms and principalities that have historically existed before the Beast.

³One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast. ⁴People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?"

Rabbi's Commentary: When we study prophecy, we must realize that some prophecies are multiplicity, which simply means they may be repeated multiple times. It's my opinion that the Beast who had the fatal wound is such a multiplicity prophecy. On July 20, 1944 there was an assassination attempt on the life of Adolf Hitler who, in my opinion, was a type of the Lo-Moshiach. Though the assassination attempt did kill a handful of Hitler's inner circle, it left him with a head wound. The attempted assassination left Adolf Hitler temporarily paralyzed on his left side. However, he appeared to have a most miraculous recovery. In my opinion, Adolf Hitler was the prototype of the Beast in the book of Revelation chapter 13.

⁵The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its **authority for forty-two months.** ⁶It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. ⁷**It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.**

Rabbi's Commentary: In verses five through seven there are three important factors for us to look at. The first one is the timetable of 42 months, which is consistent with the same timetable in chapter 12. Just a reminder that these are 42 Jewish calendar months, not the Gregorian calendar. The Beast has the power to make war against the Saints and to overcome them. In my opinion the Saints are the Church which comes from every nation and every tribe and tongue. This is global.

⁸All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear. ¹⁰"If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed^[g] with the sword, with the sword they will be killed." This calls for patient

Daniel 7:8 "While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully

Daniel 7:11 "Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire

DANIEL 7:23 "he gave me this explanation: 'the fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it.'²⁴ the ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. ²⁵ he will speak against the most high and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a

DANIEL 7:9 "as i looked, "thrones were set in place, and the ancient of days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. ¹⁰ a river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.

endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people.

Rabbi's Commentary: In verses 8-10 we see a very terrifying text which implies there are no more people left to be saved! The text refers to the names of those who are already in the Book of Life as being separated from the rest of the inhabitants of the world. However, more disturbing is the statement, "10 "If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed^[e] with the sword, with the sword they will be killed." This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people". If I accept the premise that this is a courtroom and God is the judge, then He has just passed sentence on mankind. It appears from this text that everyone's fate has now been set. However!

The Beast out of the Earth

¹¹ Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. ¹² It exercised all the authority of the first beast **on its behalf**, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, **whose fatal wound had been healed**. ¹³ And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. ¹⁴ Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth.

Rabbi's Commentary: Some may ask why the display of power through false signs and lying wonders? It's simple. The religious Jews of today are still looking for the return of Elijah as stated in the book of Malachi. Later in the book of Revelation the false prophet will call down fire from heaven just like Elijah did.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 (NKJV)

⁹ The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

It ordered them to **set up an image in honor of the beast** who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. ¹⁵ The second beast was given **power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak** and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.

Rabbi's Commentary: The false prophet will give the **image that was set up** (not the Antichrist himself) power to speak and whoever does not obey in worship is put to death. Many of the scholars from the school of science fiction believe this could be a hologram or robot cyborg image. Who really knows? This talking image of the Antichrist, it is thought by most legitimate Christian scholars and a few Jewish scholars, will be placed in the **HOLiest OF HOLIES**. The Scripture refers to this event as the **Abomination that causes Desolation**. Now let me help you understand why this abomination is so horrendous. It is because it will either sit on the Ark of the Covenant or in place of the Ark of the Covenant. The Torah teaches that God himself will speak to the people from that place. Exodus 29:42 "For the generations to come this burnt offering is to be made regularly at the entrance to the tent of meeting, before the LORD. There I will meet you and speak to you;"

If you remember from the book of Isaiah chapter 14 Satan states, "I will be like the most high". Thus, his need for imitation.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (NIV)

³ Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness^[a] is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴ He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

Matthew 24:15

"So when you see standing in the holy place 'the **abomination that causes desolation**,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—

Daniel 9:27

He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an **abomination that causes desolation**, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

Daniel 11:31

"His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the **abomination that causes desolation**.

Daniel 12:11

"From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the **abomination that causes desolation** is set up, there will be 1,290 days.

Matthew 24:15

*“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the **abomination** that causes **desolation**,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—*

Mark 13:14

*“When you see ‘the **abomination** that causes **desolation**’ standing where it does not belong—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*

¹⁶ It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the Beast or the number of its name.

¹⁸ This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the Beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666.

Rabbi’s Commentary: In every book written on end time prophecy there are chapters upon chapters devoted to the subject of the Mark of the Beast. Over the last 50 years the definition of the mark of the Beast has changed. First it was thought to be a tattoo and then it was thought to be a barcode (like on canned goods) and then some thought it would be a chip buried underneath the skin. However, Dr. David Stern in his commentary on the book of Revelation agrees with me that it is not any of these. In fact, we hold to the concept that it is a perverted form of phylacteries (tefillin). Working from the premise that the Lo-Moshiach has come to deceive the Jewish people first and then the nations, we can surmise in light of this chapter that the mark of the Beast would have to be in some way palatable to the religious Jew. If you are a religious Jew, each morning when you go to prayer you put on your tefillin before prayer starts. A right-handed Jewish man places his tefillin on his left arm and then on his forehead. However, if you are a left-handed Jewish man, you place that tefillin on your right hand and on your forehead. This was seen to be within keeping with our text in the book of Revelation concerning the placement of the mark of the Beast.

Historically when a notable Rabbi has come on the scene, his disciples often choose to imitate him in how he dresses or how he looks, as well as how he approaches prayer. The use of tefillin is no different, except maybe in the size or the design of the tefillin. Ashkenazi Jews wear a rather large set of phylacteries while the Sephardic Jews wear a much smaller set. It all depends on who your Rabbi is. There are some Hungarian Jews

who wear two sets of tefillin when they pray. Thus, it is not far-fetched to think that the antichrist would persuade his disciples to wear the tefillin on their left hand and their forehead.

Throughout my lifetime the number 666 has taken on many definitions as the technology of each new day changes. However, I believe the answer may not be found in today's current technology trends but in the historical understanding of Gematria (Jewish numerology). However, before I explain that let me tell you it takes years of training under a true Kabbalistic Rabbi to even begin to understand the Gematria. Just as a side note you must be 40 years of age before a Kabbalistic Rabbi will consider you as a potential student. However, back to the number 666. In Hebrew every letter is also a number as well as a musical note. The Hebrew letter that is also the number six has three definitions. The first is that it is the number of imperfections, the second is that it is the number of sin, and last it is the number of man. If we put it all together it would mean "the imperfect sinful man".

Although some say profiling is politically incorrect, we can learn a lot about a person or group of people through the art of profiling. I would like to offer you my amateur attempt to profile of the Antichrist (Lo Moshiach).

The Antichrist must be Jewish.

The Antichrist must be a Levite.

The Antichrist must be a Cohen.

The Antichrist must be Yeshiva educated.

The Antichrist must come from an old and wealthy family with status.

The Antichrist must have dual citizenship with Israel and a country of Europe.

The Antichrist must be left-handed.

A Messianic Study of Revelation

The History of Things to Come

Chapter 14

The Lamb and the 144,000

14 Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. ³ And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

Rabbi's Commentary: The 144,000 represents 12,000 each of the tribes of Israel as stated in chapter 7. This 144,000 are all male who have never known a woman, but even more impressive the hundred 144,000 had never lied and are called blameless in verse five. One of the things that makes the 144,000 unique is that they have the name of both the Father and Son on their forehead. Because of the uniqueness of the 144,000 many commentary writers have tried to assign a purpose for this assembly. Some have suggested they are evangelists while others have suggested that they represent the remnant of Israel. However, verse four clearly shows us that they are an entourage of Messiah and anything beyond that would be speculation.

The beginning of chapter 14 states that the 144,000 are standing on Mount Zion, while at the same time they are singing a new song before the throne of God and before the four living creatures. This raises the question of whether they are in Heaven or Jerusalem or Mt. Zion or Pueblo, Colorado or someplace else on earth?

⁴ These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they remained virgins. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among mankind and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb. ⁵ No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.

The Three Angels

⁶ Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. ⁷ He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour

of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

Rabbi's Commentary: In chapter 13 I stated, “In verses eight through ten we see a very terrifying text which implies there are no more people left to be saved! The text refers to the names of those who are already in the Book of Life as being separated from the rest of the inhabitants of the world. However, more disturbing is the statement, “¹⁰“If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed.” This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God’s people”. If I accept the premise that this is a courtroom and God is the judge, he has just passed sentence on mankind. It appears from this text that everyone’s fate has been set.” Though I still hold to the same premise, it brings up the question of the timing of chapter 13 in light of the ministry of the first angel who proclaims eternal Gospel. The proclamation of the Gospel creates within itself questions, the first being are people being saved or just being reminded of what they missed? In verse nine the third angel appears to be calling out a warning to those who could potentially take the mark of the Beast.

⁸ A second angel followed and said, “‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great,’^[1] which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.”

Rabbi's Commentary: Verse 8 speaks of Babylon the Great which has fallen. The Bible does not tell us who or what Babylon the Great is. However, a historical look through the Bible would reveal to us that at multiple time periods Babylon was the personification of evil starting with the Tower of Babel in the book of Genesis. Later in the book of Isaiah it speaks of the king of Babylon as a reference to Satan as well as Babylon the destroyer of the Temple. However, there have also been many false claims about who Babylon the Great is. Some have thought that it is the Catholic Church while others believe it's the United States and still others believe it's Israel. The problem with this type of identification is that it is born out of the bigotry of the day by various groups with NO biblical basis.

⁹ A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, ¹⁰ they, too, will drink the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the

holy angels and of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever.

*Rabbi's Commentary: Did you note the term "for ever and ever"? Many Christians and Jews both have a misconception concerning the eternal torment of the wicked. It is thought people go to hell and there they find themselves forever in torment. Yet the Bible tells us that hell is **not** the final resting place of the wicked. The final resting place for hell and those who are in it shall be the Lake of Fire. This is where hell itself shall be disposed of.*

Revelation 20:14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name." ¹² This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.

¹³ Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

*Rabbi's Commentary: This is the second time we have seen this phrase which states, "this calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God." The first time we read it was in chapter 13 when it spoke of the believers from **every nation, tribe and tongue (The Church)**. However, chapter 14 speaks specifically to the Messianics when it says, "**who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus**". Both the Church and the Messianic community are given the same commandment. Why, you may ask. It is because there is **only one body of the Messiah**, only one faith, only one salvation. Yes, we are one!*

Harvesting the Earth and Trampling the Winepress

¹⁴ I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. ¹⁵ Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to

reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.”¹⁶ So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

¹⁷ Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. ¹⁸ Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, “Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth’s vine, because its grapes are ripe.” ¹⁹ The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath. ²⁰ They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses’ bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.

Rabbi’s Commentary: Throughout the Scripture when we see a symbol of the sickle in reference to anything other than grain it is a statement of judgment. As a side note grapes are picked, not harvested with a sickle. The use of a sickle shows disdain for the harvest.

In reference to verses 17 through 20 many think that this is a prelude to the battle of Armageddon as described in chapter 16. We have seen similar language before referencing judgment upon the nations, the nations that tormented Israel. According to the commentary Midrash Rabbah this has already happened once before in the Kidron Valley. Midrash Rabbah stated concerning the blood flow that it was “as high as the horse’s bridles”.

Joel 3:9-13 (NIV)

⁹ Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare for war! Rouse the warriors! Let all the fighting men draw near and attack. ¹⁰ Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weakling say, “I am strong!” ¹¹ Come quickly, all you nations from every side, and assemble there.

Bring down your warriors, LORD! ¹² “Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side. ¹³ Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow so great is their wickedness!”

Commentary: *The Valley of Josaphat (variants: Valley of Yehoshephat) is a Biblical place mentioned by name in Joel 3:2 and Joel 3:12: “I will gather together all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Josaphat: “Then I will enter into judgment with them there”, on behalf of my people and for My inheritance Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations and they have divided up My land.”; “Let the nations be*

roused; Let the nations be aroused and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side". This location is also referred to as the Valley of Decision. I believe it is the Valley of Armageddon

A Messianic Study of Revelation

The History of Things to Come

Chapter 15

Seven Angels With Seven Plagues

15 I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God’s wrath is completed. ² And I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name. They held harps given them by God ³and sang the song of God’s servant Moses and of the Lamb:

Rabbi’s Commentary: In verse 2 an interesting question is raised. Just how did the Saints become victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name?

Hebrews 10:38

*And, “But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who **shrinks** back.”*

Revelation 12:11

*They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to **shrink** from death.*

Rabbi’s Commentary: Now we ask the question, what is the identity of those who sing the song of Moses and of the Lamb?

Deuteronomy 32:1-43 (NIV)

32:1 Listen, you heavens, and I will speak; hear, you earth, the words of my mouth. ² Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants.

³ I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! ⁴ He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

⁵ They are corrupt and not his children; to their shame they are a warped and crooked generation. ⁶ Is this the way you repay the LORD, you foolish and unwise people? Is he not your Father, your Creator, who made you and formed you?

⁷ Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past.

Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you.

⁸ When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all mankind, he set up boundaries for the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel. ⁹ For the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted inheritance..... They abandoned the God who made them and rejected the Rock their Savior. ¹⁶ They made him jealous with their foreign gods and angered him with their detestable idols.

¹⁷ They sacrificed to false gods, which are not God gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared, gods your ancestors did not fear.

¹⁸ You deserted the Rock, who fathered you; you forgot the God who gave you birth. ¹⁹ The LORD saw this and rejected them because he was angered by his sons and daughters.

²⁰ "I will hide my face from them," he said, "and see what their end will be; for they are a perverse generation, children who are unfaithful. ²¹ They made me jealous by what is no god and angered me with their worthless idols.

I will make them envious by those who are not a people; I will make them angry by a nation that has no understanding. ²² For a fire will be kindled by my wrath, one that burns down to the realm of the dead below.

It will devour the earth and its harvests and set afire the foundations of the mountains.

²³ "I will heap calamities on them and spend my arrows against them.

²⁴ I will send wasting famine against them, consuming pestilence and deadly plague; I will send against them the fangs of wild beasts, the venom of vipers that glide in the dust.

²⁶ I said I would scatter them and erase their name from human memory, but I dreaded the taunt of the enemy, lest the adversary misunderstand and say, 'Our hand has triumphed; the LORD has not done all this.' ²⁸ They are a nation without sense, there is no discernment in them. ²⁹ If only they were wise and would understand this and discern what their end will be!

³⁰ How could one man chase a thousand, or two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, unless the LORD had given them up?

³¹ For their rock is not like our Rock, as even our enemies concede.

There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no one can deliver out of my hand.

⁴⁰ I lift my hand to heaven and solemnly swear: As surely as I live forever, ⁴¹ when I sharpen my flashing sword and my hand grasps it in judgment, I will take vengeance on my adversaries and repay those who hate me.

⁴² I will make my arrows drunk with blood, while my sword devours flesh: the blood of the slain and the captives, the heads of the enemy leaders."

⁴³ Rejoice, you nations, with his people, for he will avenge the blood of his servants;

he will take vengeance on his enemies and make atonement for his land and people.

“Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty.

Just and true are your ways, King of the nations.

⁴Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name?

For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

Rabbi’s Commentary: The answer to “who are these that sing the song of Moses” is not Israel or at least not Israel alone! It was those who did not shrink back. In chapter 13 He was given power over every tribe, nation and tongue. (The Church).

⁵After this I looked, and I saw in heaven The Temple—that is, The Tabernacle of the covenant law—and it was opened.

Rabbi’s Commentary: Why the Tabernacle and not the Temple? Paul seeks of the Tabernacle not the Temple in Hebrews chapter 9.

Hebrews 9:1-5 (NIV)

⁹Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. ²A Tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand and the table with its consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. ³Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, ⁴which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron’s staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. ⁵Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. But we cannot discuss these things in detail now.

Hebrews 9:11 (NIV)

¹¹But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here,^[a] he went through the greater and more perfect Tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation.

Exodus 25:9 (NIV)

Make this Tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.

Hebrews 9:23-25 (NIV)

²³It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence. ²⁵Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own.

Rabbi's Commentary: Now for my opinion on why the Tabernacle and not the Temple. The Tabernacle was not set up like the Temple with its divisions between men and women and Jew and Gentile. The Tabernacle layout included the Most Holy place (The Holy of Holies), the Holy Place (the altar room) and the court yard (the common hall). Thus, the Heavenly Tabernacle is for all who are part of the body of Messiah. (All Believers)

⁶Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests. ⁷Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever. ⁸And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

Commentary: The Tabernacle and the first earthly Temple.

Exodus 40:34-36 (NIV)

³⁴Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the Tabernacle. ³⁵Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the Tabernacle.

1 Kings 8:10-11 (NIV)

¹⁰When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the LORD. ¹¹And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled his temple.

A Messianic Study of Revelation

The History of Things to Come

Chapter 16

The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

16:1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go, pour out the seven bowls of God’s wrath on the earth.”

²**The first angel** went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly, *festering sores broke out on the people* who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

Rabbi's Commentary: As Solomon said, there is nothing new under the sun!

Exodus 9:8-9 Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Take handfuls of soot from a furnace and have Moses toss it into the air in the presence of Pharaoh.⁹ It will become fine dust over the whole land of Egypt, and festering boils will break out on people and animals throughout the land.”

³**The second angel** poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead person, and every living thing in the sea died.

⁴**The third angel** poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. ⁵Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say:

Rabbi's Commentary: It is the Moses story all over.

Exodus 7:14-18 (NIV)

¹⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go. ¹⁵Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes out to the river. Confront him on the bank of the Nile, and take in your hand the staff that was changed into a snake. ¹⁶Then say to him, ‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may

worship me in the wilderness. But until now you have not listened. ¹⁷ This is what the LORD says: By this you will know that I am the LORD: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. ¹⁸ The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.’”

“You are just in these judgments, O Holy One, you who are and who were;
⁶ for they have shed the blood of your holy people and your prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve.”

⁷ And I heard the altar respond: “Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments.”

⁸ **The fourth angel** poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was allowed to scorch people with fire. ⁹ They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.

¹⁰ **The fifth angel** poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in agony ¹¹ and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.

Rabbi's Commentary: In verse 8 the sun is so intense that it burns. In verse 10 the sun is gone, but the pain and the sores remain.

Exodus 10:21-23 (NIV)

²¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness spreads over Egypt—darkness that can be felt.” ²² So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days. ²³ No one could see anyone else or move about for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.

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

Commentary from the internet:

What is causing the Euphrates river to dry up?

The top reason the Euphrates River is drying up is low rainfall. Along with droughts, Iraq and the surrounding area also suffer from climate change and rising temperatures. More than 7 million people are affected by the river drying up. Apr 23, 2023

¹³ Then I saw three impure spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. ¹⁴ They are demonic spirits that perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

Rabbi's Commentary: Pre-Armageddon! However, did you note that this bowl of wrath is directed to the area of the Euphrates? What countries would this effect?



¹⁵ “Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed.”

¹⁶ Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

¹⁷ **The seventh angel** poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, “It is done!” ¹⁸ Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since mankind has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. ¹⁹ The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. ²⁰ Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found.

Rabbi's Commentary: Jeremiah speaks of such a time as this.

Jeremiah 4:23-28 (NIV)

²³ I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone. ²⁴ I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking; all the hills were swaying. ²⁵ I looked, and there were no people; every bird in the sky had flown away. ²⁶ I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert; all its towns lay in ruins before the LORD, before his fierce anger.

²⁷ This is what the LORD says: “The whole land will be ruined, though I will not destroy it completely. ²⁸ Therefore the earth will mourn and the heavens above grow dark, because I have spoken and will not relent,

Rabbi’s Commentary: There is a question that arises concerning “Babylon the Great” since Babylon is no longer an active living city. So, who or what is “Babylon the Great”?

²¹ From the sky huge hailstones, each weighing about a hundred pounds,^[a] fell on people. **And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail,** because the plague was so terrible.

Rabbi’s Commentary: This is even worse than in Egypt.

Exodus 9:18-19 (NIV)

¹⁸ Therefore, at this time tomorrow I will send the worst hailstorm that has ever fallen on Egypt, from the day it was founded till now. ¹⁹ Give an order now to bring your livestock and everything you have in the field to a place of shelter, because the hail will fall on every person and animal that has not been brought in and is still out in the field, and they will die.”

A Messianic Study of Revelation
The History of Things to Come
Chapter 17

Babylon, the Prostitute on the Beast

17 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits by many waters. ²With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.”

³Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. ⁴The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. ⁵The name written on her forehead was a mystery:

BABYLON THE GREAT

THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES

AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

⁶I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God’s holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.

Rabbi’s Commentary: As stated in an earlier commentary, “Babylon the Great” has been thought to be everything from the Catholic church to the USA or Israel. And in each case the designation of Babylon the Great was based on personal bias or the events of the moment. In our quest to find the identity of “Babylon the Great” we have to look at all

the evidence. Did you note verse 6, “I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God’s holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.” When in the city of Babylon’s history did she ever persecute the follower of Yeshua? Historically we cannot even point to the time of the Southern Kingdom’s captivity, and that was God ordained. The identity of Babylon the Great (that woman) is still hidden from us, but we will know Her by two pieces of evidence. The first proof is all the kings of the earth are in harmony with Babylon. “With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.” The second proof is that Babylon the Great will be active in persecuting the Saints.

When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. ⁷ Then the angel said to me: “Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns. ⁸ The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction.

Rabbi’s Commentary: Without doubt, Babylon the Great, who is “The woman”, rides the Antichrist as we had discovered earlier. (What symbolism can be more confusing than this?) The real unasked question is what is the relationship between the Beast (Antichrist) and “BABYLON THE GREAT”. Is this Babylon the Great the seat of the Anti-Christ? Does Babylon the Great represent the Antichrist’s power and does it do his will? Is it even a real city?

The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come.

Rabbi’s Commentary: This may be more of a side note, but the phrase, “The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the Book of Life from the creation of the world” implies one of two things. The first is the doctrine of “Selection for Predestination.” Under Calvinism God decided who would be saved from the foundation of the earth. If you were not part of that “Preordained” group then there is nothing you could do to gain salvation and if you were selected there is nothing you could do to lose it.

Calvinism

Predestination is a doctrine in Calvinism dealing with the question of the control that God exercises over the world. In the words of the Westminster Confession of Faith, God "freely and unchangeably ordained whatsoever comes to pass." The second use of the word "predestination" applies this to the salvation, and refers to the belief that God appointed the eternal destiny of some to salvation by grace, while leaving the remainder to receive eternal damnation for all their sins, even their original sin. The former is called "unconditional election", and the latter "reprobation". In Calvinism, people are predestined and effectually called in due time (regenerated/born again) to faith by God.

The second theory is that God foreknew who would be saved from the foundation of the earth, but He did not violate free will of his creation.

Arminianism

Christians who were influenced by the teachings of Jacobus Arminius (such as Methodists) believe that while God is all-knowing and always knows what choices each person will make, he still gives them the ability to choose or not choose everything, regardless of whether there are any internal or external factors contributing to that choice.

Like John Calvin, Arminius affirmed total depravity, but Arminius believed that only prevenient grace allowed people to choose salvation.

⁹“This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. ¹⁰They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for only a little while. ¹¹The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.

¹²“The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast.

Rabbi's Commentary: In the past many modern-day Bible teachers have thought the European Common Market (EU) would be the basis of the Anti-Christ's power. This theory comes from the vision in the book of Daniel chapter two of the great statue. Daniel interpreted the dream of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. The king saw a gigantic statue made of four metals, from its gold head to its feet of mingled iron and clay; as he watched, a stone "not cut by human hands" destroyed the statue and became a mountain filling the whole world. Daniel explained to the king that the statue represented four successive kingdoms beginning with Babylon, while the stone and mountain signified a kingdom established by God which would never be destroyed nor given to another people. (The dream and its interpretation are given in verses 31-45). Nebuchadnezzar

then acknowledges the supremacy of Daniel's God and raises him to high office in Babylon.



¹³They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of Lords and King of Kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.”

Rabbi's Commentary: The ten Kings will support the agenda of the Beast (Anti-Christ) and along with the Anti-Christ they will persecute. However, look closely to what it says. To make war directly against the “Lamb” and his follower they would have to be present.

Deuteronomy 33:3

*Surely it is you who love the people; all the **holy ones** are in your hand. At your feet they all bow down, and from you receive instruction,*

Zechariah 14:5

*You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the **holy ones** with him.*

1 Thessalonians 3:13

*May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and **holy** in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his **holy ones**.*

Jude 1:14

*Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his **holy ones**”*

¹⁵ Then the angel said to me, “The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. ¹⁶ **The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.** ¹⁷ For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to hand over to the beast their royal authority, until God’s words are fulfilled. ¹⁸ The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.”

*Rabbi’s Commentary: To me this is the oddest part of the chapter. “**16 The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.**” This seems so out of place because the Beast and the ten Kings were her adulterous partners. The Scriptures do not tell us why they turned on her other than God had put it in their hearts. Think about what it is saying. He put it in the hearts of the BEAST and of the ten KINGS who were making war on him. Wow!*

A Messianic Study of Revelation

The History of Things to Come

Chapter 18

Rabbi's Commentary: Chapter 17 foretells of Babylon the Great's demise and her destruction while chapter 18 we see it carried out.

1Rev. 17:15 Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. ¹⁶The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. ¹⁷For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to hand over to the beast their royal authority, until God's words are fulfilled. ¹⁸The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth."

Lament Over Fallen Babylon

18 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. ²With a mighty voice he shouted:

“Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!’ She has become a dwelling for demons and a haunt for every impure spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal. ³For all the nations have drunk the

maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.”

Rabbi's Commentary: When dealing with “Babylon the Great” we often think about it as an ideology or maybe a place. When looking at this text in chapter 18 we come to a conclusion that it is a place because all foul spirits, demons, and unclean birds gather there. So here is what we know from a simple profile even though we are forced to speculate. It is a place where nations and their governments and commerce collide. Babylon the Great created a global environment of immoral excesses.

Warning to Escape Babylon's Judgment

⁴Then I heard another voice from heaven say: **“Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins,** so that you will not receive any of her plagues; ⁵for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes. ⁶Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Pour her a double portion from her own cup. ⁷Give her as much torment and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself. In her heart she boasts, ‘I sit enthroned as queen. I am not a widow; I will never mourn.’⁸Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.

Rabbi's Commentary: Verse 4 holds for us several revelations concerning who is involved in the adulteries with the Whore of Babylon. The first revelation is that some of God's people are in the city of Babylon. However we are not sure if they were partakers in Babylon's sins. As Lot was in Sodom and did not take part in the sin, so is it possible the same is true here? And so like Sodom, God is calling out his people, not unbelievers. The second revelation is found in the phrase, “In her heart she boasts, ‘I sit enthroned as queen. I am not a widow; I will never mourn.’” This is a statement of being self-made, as if to say it is by my own hand.

Threefold Woe Over Babylon's Fall

⁹“When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. ¹⁰Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry:

“Woe! Woe to you, great city, you mighty city of Babylon! In one hour your doom has come!”

¹¹ “The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes anymore— ¹² cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; ¹³ cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; **and human beings sold as slaves.**

Rabbi's Commentary: Human trafficking, which is more than prostitution, is real slave trade. This is still big business today.

Countries with the most enslaved people

While many believe slavery is an issue of the past, it remains a real, yet largely hidden, problem. An estimated 35.8 million people are enslaved worldwide, according to a recent report by the Walk Free Foundation, a human rights organization.

Modern-day slavery differs from traditional slavery. In traditional slavery, which is illegal in each of the 167 countries reviewed in the 2014 Global Slavery Index, people were considered legal property. However, modern slavery, which is defined as possession or control of a person that deprives them of their rights with the intention of exploiting them, exists in each of the 167 nations.

In some countries, the number of enslaved people is especially high. Five countries alone account for 61% of all people believed to be living in modern slavery, and 70% of all enslaved people live in 10 countries. India had the highest number of people living in modern slavery, at over 14 million. Based on figures from the 2014 Global Slavery Index, these are the countries with the most slaves.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2014/11/23/247-wall-st-countries-most-slaves/70033422>

¹⁴ “They will say, ‘The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your luxury and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.’ ¹⁵ The merchants who sold these

things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn ¹⁶and cry out:

“Woe! Woe to you, great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls! ¹⁷In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!’

“Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. ¹⁸When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, ‘Was there ever a city like this great city?’ ¹⁹They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out:

“Woe! Woe to you, great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin!’

²⁰“Rejoice over her, you heavens! Rejoice, you people of God! Rejoice, apostles and prophets! For God has judged her with the judgment she imposed on you.”

The Finality of Babylon’s Doom

²¹Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said:

“With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again. ²²The music of harpists and musicians, pipers and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. No worker of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again. ²³The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again. Your merchants were the world’s important people. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray. ²⁴In her was found the blood of prophets and of God’s holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth.”

Rabbi’s Commentary: The phrase “The voice of the bridegroom and the bride” is found several times in both Scripture as well as in Jewish prayer. It is the term that declares a future. It declares God’s lasting blessing on his people. Each week at the Shabbat table this phrase is said to the woman of the house. (wife)

Jeremiah 7:34 (NKJV)

34 Then I will cause to cease from the cities of Judah and from the streets of Jerusalem the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride. For the land shall be desolate.

Rabbi's Commentary: Please compare verse 24 to verse 4.

Messianic Study of Revelation

The History of Things to Come

Chapter 19

Chapter 19

19 After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting:

“Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

Rabbi's Commentary: The key to understanding the sentence “He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.” is found in Revelation 6:10.

Revelation 6:10

*They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and **avenge** our blood?”*

³And again they shouted: “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever.” ⁴The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: “Amen, Hallelujah!”

⁵Then a voice came from the throne, saying: “Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both great and small!”

⁶Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

“Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns. ⁷Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. ⁸Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)

Commentary: In the marriage supper of the Lamb, the groom is Yeshua and the Bride is those Jews and Gentiles who believe.

Although various sources describing the practice of Jewish marriage at the time of Messiah differ in the details from today, there is general agreement concerning its major elements. Unlike Western marriage practices, the Jewish marriage has a greater degree of formalism involving numerous steps. Jewish marriage today includes the first historical step, which is a betrothal contract called a “Tenaim”. This document sets the date for the wedding and promises of fidelity and the paying of the Bride’s purchase price. In doing this the first marriage (engagement covenant) contract is put into effect.

Steps two and three and four in Biblical times were very formal and closely adhered to. The groom after the signing of the Tenaim remained separate from his bride for 12 months, during which time he prepared their living accommodations.

The third in Biblical days was when the groom would come for his bride at a time not known exactly to her, at the groom’s father’s instruction. The fourth and final step is that he return with her to the groom’s father’s house to consummate the marriage and to celebrate the wedding feast for the next seven days (during which

the bride remained closeted in her bridal chamber). In today's Jewish world the wedding feast is part of the wedding itself and the consummation takes place afterwards. And nobody locks up the Bride.

Side note: Although this last sentence “Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.” appears in the Biblical text, many scholars believe that it is not Biblical text, but is commentary placed there by the King James publishers and scholars. That is why most modern translations place this sentence in brackets.

⁹Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”

¹⁰At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus.”

Rabbi’s Commentary: Verse 10 is a VERY STRONG warning about worshipping anything other than the God of Heaven / The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Also, we may not have any other mediator other than God’s own son Yeshua.

Exodus 20:2-4 (NIV)

² “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ³ “You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

Exodus 23:13 (NIV)

¹³ “Be careful to do everything I have said to you. Do not invoke the names of other gods; do not let them be heard on your lips.

Deuteronomy 6:13-15 (NIV)

¹³ Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name. ¹⁴ Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you;¹⁵ for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land.

1 Timothy 2:5-6 (NIV)

⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.

The Heavenly Warrior Defeats the Beast

¹¹ I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. ¹² His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the **Word of God**.

Rabbi's Commentary: John who wrote Revelation (merely a secretary of the Holy Spirit), the Book of John, 1st John, 2nd John and 3rd John, overuses the term "Word of God". This is the same reference in all of John's writings as he refers to Messiah as the Living Torah.

¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

¹⁷ And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the **birds flying in midair**, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, ¹⁸ so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small."

Rabbi's Commentary: The reference of "birds flying in midair" has been defined by many writers in many different sources. For example, Wycliffe Bible Commentary holds to the idea that this event is not literal but figurative and stops there. David Stern does not comment on the text at all. Modern day Christian artist Larry Norman refers to it as a feast for demons. The problem with dismissing it as a literal translation is that at some point the heavenly realm will invade our earthly existence and the bodies of the dead will be overwhelming. Larry Norman's position, if it is literal, believes the birds of the air are

fallen angels. But who these birds/angels are is still open for debate. However, in both Europe and Israel there is an ongoing massive resurgence in the vulture population.

Now for a little look ahead at verse 21: ‘The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.’ Most conservative writers see this passage as the beginning of Armageddon. However, the description here of the rider on the horse, and any symbolism attached to it, is beyond my scope if it is not the Messiah himself!

19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse **and his army.**

Rabbi’s Commentary: Now it is time to review the Book of Zachariah chapter 14. The following is in part notes from the class taught in December of 2022 at Shammash Ariel in Pueblo, Colorado.

Notes From The Study Of Book of Zechariah Chapter 14

The Day of the LORD

14 Behold, the **Day of the LORD is coming**, And your ^[Q]spoils will be divided in your midst. ² For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses ^[Q]rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

*Rabbi’s Commentary: **The Day of the Lord** is not just like any other day nor is it just another spiritualized term that has no definition. No, **The Day of the Lord** is the final day with judgment at hand. And I do mean unequivocally the final day.*

Isaiah 13:9

⁹ Behold, the **Day of the LORD comes**, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger,
To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it.

Malachi 4:4-6

⁴ “Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. ⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the **Great and Dreadful Day of the LORD**. ⁶ And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”

³ Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle. ⁴ And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east.

Rabbi's Commentary: Please note that in verse 3 it says “then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations.” What makes this phrase unique is that it is one of the few times in all the Scripture that we see the LORD himself enter in to battle on behalf of His people. It's not an angel, it is not the armies of heaven, it is the Tetragrammaton Himself.

*Rabbi's Commentary: It is important to note that when His foot touches the Mount of Olives, the Mount of Olives will split and a great valley will be created. The question we now ask is who is the **He** in this text? The only name given in the text is the TETRAGRAMMATON, which is the formal name for God. Both Christians and Messianic's are taught that when the Messiah comes it is **His** foot that touches the Mount of Olives and then it will split. Orthodox Jews believe also it is the foot of the Messiah. Is it possible that both are wrong or is there something hidden here? Both the Christian and religious Jew are correct and also the Hebrew is correct. The only possible answer is that the Messiah (Jesus) is God.*

And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.

⁵ Then you shall flee *through* My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee As you fled from the earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. (*The earthquake took place in the year of 752 B.C.E.*)

Thus the LORD my God will come, *And* all the saints with ^[a]You. ⁶ It shall come to pass in that day *That* there will be no light; The lights will diminish. ⁷ It shall be one day Which is known to the LORD— Neither day nor night. But at evening time it shall happen *That* it will be light.

Rabbi's Commentary: When the Lord comes He will not be alone for He will bring with Him all the saints!

Jude 14-15

¹⁴ Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, ¹⁵ to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

⁸ And in that day it shall be *That* living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, Half of them toward the eastern sea And half of them toward the western sea; In both summer and winter it shall occur. ⁹ And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be— “The LORD *is* one,” And His name one.

Rabbi's Commentary: Verse 9 is in reference to the Shema which is found in Deuteronomy chapter 6:4. Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God the Lord is one!

¹⁰ All the land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. ^[a]*Jerusalem* shall be raised up and inhabited in her place from Benjamin's Gate to the place of the First Gate and the Corner Gate, and *from* the Tower of Hananel to the king's winepresses.

¹¹ *The people shall dwell in it; And no longer shall there be utter destruction, But Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited.*

Rabbi's Commentary: Once again permit me to remind you that this is future prophecy and that this prophecy of peace and security has not come yet. The fulfillment of this prophecy and its details may be found in the book of Jeremiah chapter 31.

The Remnant of Israel Saved

31 “At the same time,” says the LORD, “I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people.”

² Thus says the LORD: “The people who survived the sword Found grace in the wilderness Israel, when I went to give him rest.” ³ The LORD has appeared ^[a] of old to me, *saying*: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. All ⁴ Again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel!

¹³ “Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, And the young men and the old, together; For I will turn their mourning to joy, Will comfort them, And make them rejoice rather than sorrow. ¹⁴ I will satiate the soul of the priests with abundance, And My people shall be satisfied with My goodness, says the LORD.”

¹² And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall ^[v] dissolve while they stand on their feet, Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, And their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.

¹³ It shall come to pass in that day *That* a great panic from the LORD will be among them. Everyone will seize the hand of his neighbor, And raise his hand against his neighbor's hand; ¹⁴ Judah also will fight at Jerusalem.

Rabbi's Commentary: Let us not forget that Judah will fight at Jerusalem, but as we learned earlier they start off in opposition to Jerusalem only to change sides and tip the balance of the scales in favor of the people of Jerusalem.

And the wealth of all the surrounding nations Shall be gathered together: Gold, silver, and apparel in great abundance.

¹⁵ Such also shall be the plague On the horse *and* the mule, On the camel and the donkey, And on all the cattle that will be in those camps. So *shall* this plague *be*.

Rabbi's Commentary: You may have noted by this time that there is no real conversation about Armageddon other than possibly verse 15. However, we did learn in chapter 14 that it is God the TETRAGRAMMATON that fights for his Jewish people. So, what did the nations do that so offended God the TETRAGRAMMATON that He will bring them to such a wholesale slaughter?

God Judges the Nations

Joel 3:1-3 “For behold, in those days and at that time, When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, ² I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land. ³ They have cast lots for My people, Have given a boy *as payment* for a harlot, And sold a girl for wine, that they may drink.

Joel 12-16 “Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. ¹³ Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; For the winepress is full, The vats overflow For their wickedness *is* great.”

¹⁴ Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD *is* near in the valley of decision. ¹⁵ The sun and moon will grow dark, And the stars will diminish their brightness. ¹⁶ The LORD also will roar from Zion, And utter His

voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the LORD will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel.

The Nations Worship the King

¹⁶ And it shall come to pass *that* everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. ¹⁷ And it shall be *that* whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain. ¹⁸ If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they *shall have no rain*; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. ¹⁹ This shall be the ^[w]punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Rabbi's Commentary: Now after the great battle of Jerusalem and the battle of Armageddon, the Lord requires the survivors of those nations to participate in the Feast of Tabernacles.

²⁰ In that day “HOLINESS TO THE LORD” shall be *engraved* on the bells of the horses. The pots in the LORD’s house shall be like the bowls before the altar. ²¹ Yes, ^[x]every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the LORD of hosts. Everyone who sacrifices shall come and take them and cook in them. In that day there shall no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.

Now back to the Book of Revelation

Rabbi's Commentary: Just who is His army? Is it angels or saints?

Revelation 12New (NIV)

12 A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head.² She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.³ Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads.⁴ Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born.⁵ She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.” And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.⁶ The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

⁷ Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.⁸ But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.⁹ The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Zechariah 14:5

*You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the **holy ones** with him.*

1 Thessalonians 3:13

*May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and **holy** in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his **holy ones**.*

²⁰ But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. **The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.**

Rabbi's Commentary: Did you note that the “Beast” (anti-Christ) and the False Prophets both are cast into the Lake of Fire? They are the first two that will enter the judgement of the Lake of Fire.

²¹ The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and **all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.**

A Messianic Study of Revelation
The History of Things to Come
Chapter 20

The Thousand Years

20 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. ²He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

Rabbi's Commentary: Here we see that Satan will be bound for a thousand years which we call the "Millennial Age", also the "Time of the Messiah". The time of the Messiah is the time of his reign. Though most Christian theologians agree that such a time will exist, they seldom quote the source for their theology, which is the Talmud.

Sanhedrin 97a5 – 97b1:

The following Baraisa (teaching) gives the earliest possible date of Messiah's arrival. The Academy of Eliyahu taught the following Baraisa, the world is destined to exist for six thousand years. The first two thousand years were for nothingness, the second two thousand years of Torah, the third two thousand years should have been "The Days of Messiah", but because of our sins, which are numerous (the years) they have gone from the Messianic era.

The Gospel says

Luke 13:34-35 (NIV)

³⁴ "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.³⁵ Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'^[a]"

Luke 19:41-45 (NIV)

⁴¹ As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it ⁴²and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. ⁴³The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."

Rashi says:

Because of our sins the Messiah did not come at the end of the fourth millennium. The final two millenniums which were supposed to have been the Messianic era have turned out differently, for the Messiah has still not come.

The Zohar 1:119a says:

Happy are those left alive at the end of the sixth millennium to enter the millennium of the Shabbat.

I believe that the Talmud and Rashi in part are correct as the Messiah did come after four thousand years and because of their sin did not bring about the “Kingdom Age”. However, millennium four and five is/became the “Age of Grace” where the Messiah’s ongoing presence is found in his Holy Spirit. I do not believe the “Age of Grace” was “plan B” or a substitute, but without doubt Israel lost something they could have had.

Now the “Millennial Age” is described in part in Zechariah chapter 14.

Zechariah 14:16-19 (NIV)

¹⁶ Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles. ¹⁷ If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, they will have no rain. ¹⁸ If the Egyptian people do not go up and take part, they will have no rain. The LORD^[a] will bring on them the plague he inflicts on the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles. ¹⁹ This will be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles.

⁴I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of 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. ⁵(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection.

Rabbi’s Commentary: To whom is he speaking concerning this “first resurrection”? It is clearly those who came out of the time of Jacob’s Trouble (The Tribulation), those who had resisted the Beast and his mark. These are martyrs and most likely Messianic because of the phrase “who had been beheaded because of their testimony about

Jesus and because of the word of God". Do note when John penned these words there was no New Testament (yet). However, one could say the same about Christian martyrs. To these He gave a place in the first resurrection and authority to rule with Him.

However, I cannot limit the first resurrection to just these martyrs because of 1st Thessalonians chapter four.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NIV)

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

⁶Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

Rabbi's Commentary: Who are these priests he speaks of?

Revelation 5:9-10 (NIV)

*⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons **from every tribe and language and people and nation.** ¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign^[a] on the earth."*

*Remember the rule of interpretation, you cannot change the meaning of a sign or symbol or a phrase once it is given. "**from every tribe and language and people and nation**" can only be the complete body of Messiah (Church).*

The Judgment of Satan

⁷When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle.

Rabbi's Commentary: Just who or what is "Gog and Magog"? Gog and Magog are not new to Biblical prophecy as they also appear in the Book of Ezekiel 38-39. In Ezekiel 38 Gog is the Prince of Magog who will lead armies against Israel. In my opinion, Ezekiel is giving us a prophecy of multiplicity.

Ezekiel 38:1-6 (NIV)

38:1 The word of the LORD came to me: ²“Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of¹ Meshek and Tubal; prophesy against him³ and say: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshek and Tubal. ⁴I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army—your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords.⁵ Persia, Cush¹ and Put will be with them, all with shields and helmets,⁶ also Gomer with all its troops, and Beth Togarmah from the far north with all its troops—the many nations with you.

The question that now arises is what and whom will be modern day Gog and Magog?

In number they are like the sand on the seashore. ⁹They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God’s people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Rabbi’s Commentary: “The city whom he loves” is Jerusalem. As a side note remember the last part of the text concerning the city he loves. **“They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”**

The Judgment of the Dead

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.

Rabbi's Commentary: Without faith we cannot please God, but faith requires action. A person cannot just mentally ascend to God and consider that to be enough. We are called to serve our Lord, not just accept that He is.

John 15:1-6 (NIV)

¹⁵ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes¹ so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

James 2:14-24 (NIV)

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. ²⁰ You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless^[a]? ²¹ Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did

when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³ And the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,”^[b] and he was called God’s friend. ²⁴ You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.¹⁵ Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

A Messianic Study of Revelation

The History of Things to Come

Chapter 21 and 22

21:1 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”^[1] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

Rabbi's Commentary: With the “New Heaven and the New Earth” there must be a passing of old things. The Law has now run its course and has come to an end.

Matthew 5:16-19 (NIV)

¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. ¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them.

Rabbi's Commentary: At this time all prophecy must be fulfilled, including the names of God.

Matthew 1:23 (NIV)

²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”^[a] (which means “God with us”).

They will be **his** people, and God **himself** will be with them and be their God. ⁴‘**He** will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’^[g] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵**He** who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new! ”Then **he** said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

Rabbi’s Commentary: Who is the Alpha and the Omega (Alef Tav) and who is it that gives the water of life?

Revelation 1:8

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

Revelation 1:11

saying, “I am **the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,**” **and,** “What you see, write in a book **and** send it to **the** seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, **and** to Laodicea.”

Revelation 21:6

And He said to me, “It is done! I am **the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.** I will give of **the** fountain of **the** water of life freely to him who thirsts.

Revelation 22:13 **I the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.**”

John 4:10-15 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”

¹¹ The woman said to Him, “Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? ¹² Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?”

¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

¹⁵ *The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.”*

⁷ Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. ⁸ But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

Rabbi’s Commentary: The Talmud speaks to this in tractate Sanhedrin 98a6, “all Israel has a share in the world to come as it is stated and your people Israel are all righteous, forever shall they inherit the land the branch of my planting, my handiwork in which to take pride. However, the following are the ones who do not have a share in the world to come; one who says that there is no reference to the resurrection of the dead in the Torah, or that the Torah is not from heaven or and apikoros (one who belittles the Scripture or believers). Shaul says, one pronounces the name of God according to its letters Or he denies the resurrection of the dead”. The Talmud goes on to mention three kings and four commoners who will not see heaven because of their blasphemy and witchcraft. Among them is Balaam.

The New Jerusalem, the Bride of the Lamb

⁹ One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹ It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹² It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. ¹³ There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. ¹⁴ The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Rabbi’s Commentary: For detailed insight on the new Jerusalem and its construction refer to the last half of the book of Ezekiel or get our Ezekiel Commentary here on line.

¹⁵ The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. ¹⁶ The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia^[1] in length, and

as wide and high as it is long.¹⁷ The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits thick. *(this makes the wall almost 300 feet thick).*¹⁸ The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass.¹⁹ The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald,²⁰ the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.^[k]²¹ The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

²² I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

Rabbi's Commentary: The Scripture says there is no Temple, but the real answer is yes and no!

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)

*Or do you not know that your body is **the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; **therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit**, which are God's.*

1 Peter 2:4-5 (NKJV)

⁴ Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

²³ The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴ The **nations** will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵ On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶ The glory and honor of the **nations** will be brought into it. ²⁷ Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Rabbi's Commentary: Did you notice the term "nations"? This seems a little out of place since a new heaven and new earth have been made. The reference to nations is not a reference to countries. Nations in the Bible may represent geographical territories, but

always represents people groups first and foremost. And let us remember these are all glorified super naturalized holyfied citizens of the New World.

A Messianic Study of Revelations
The History of Things to Come
Chapter 22

Eden Restored

22 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Rabbi's Commentary: As you may recall in the Garden of Eden there was only one Tree of Life, but here at the end of days there are two. In the Garden of Eden there was no mention of the 12 manners of fruit or that the leaves would be for the healing of the "Nations". The difference may be (speculation) that for Adam and Eve there was no need for the 12 manners of fruit for healing since they walked perfect and untainted before the fall. It may also explain why the way back into the garden was blocked after being expelled. With reentrance they could have taken of the fruit of the Tree of Life and lived forever without spiritual regeneration.

³No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Rabbi's Commentary: Here we have an ongoing mystery where the text speaks of "The throne of God and of the Lamb". This is now the second time we have read this phrase "The throne of God and of the Lamb". But what follows is the mystery "and his servants will serve him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads". Who is "him/his"? The answer may be found in the Shema and in verse five. The Shema first: "Hear oh Israel, the LORD your GOD is One". The word LORD is the tetragrammaton and the word GOD is Elohim meaning our God, but the mystery answer is in the word One. It is a singular plural (confused yet?) which is understood as many facets making up one whole. Simply put there is only One God revealed in multiple facets. I will make it simpler: One God one Throne. However, the last thing is to permit yourself to be finite in your understanding. After all, it is a mystery.

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה

אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד

John 14:5-11 (NKJV)

Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

⁷ “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.”⁸ Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”

⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.¹¹ Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

⁶The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.”

⁷“Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.”

⁸I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. ⁹But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!”

Rabbi’s commentary: This is the second time John has fallen down before the angel to worship him and this is the second time John was reminded that the angels are just fellow servants, nothing more.

¹⁰Then he told me, **“Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near.”**¹¹Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy.”

*Rabbi’s Commentary: The command “DO NOT SEAL” up the words of this prophecy simply means do not hide them. Which makes sense after reading verse 7 which says “Blessed is the one **who keeps** the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.” I*

perceive that verse 10 is telling us that the Book of Revelation is part of our Gospel message to be preached everywhere.

¹²“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.” ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

¹⁴“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.” ¹⁵Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

Rabbi's Commentary: To best understand verse 15 you have to ask the question concerning those who are “outside”. Outside of what, since this is the new heaven and the new earth. Now these “dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood” are now outside of creation because everything else has passed away. “21:1 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth”, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them.

¹⁶“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

¹⁸I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. ¹⁹And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.

Rabbi's Commentary: This is the number one sin of every cult, false prophet, and sham preacher. This includes replacement theology, the law is dead theology, greasy grace, narcissism, and Gnosticism.

Deuteronomy 12:32 (NKJV)

³² *“Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.*

Proverbs 30:5-6 (NKJV)

⁵ *Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.*

⁶ *Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.*

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. ²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.