

The Book of Revelation

PART 1

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This is the first in a two part lesson on the book of Revelation.

Most people have been taught all their lives that the book of Revelation is the story of some future catastrophic event that is to take place in the near future. Because of this they live in constant fear. But we realize from the other studies in this series that the book of Revelation is actually just the opposite. From these we see that the events found in Revelation were to take place immediately after John wrote of them. Plus we have seen that Jesus said in the book of Matthew, which parallels the book of Revelation, that these would take place before that generation would pass away.

These evidences show that the book of Revelation is biblical imagery, which deals with the destruction of Jerusalem that took place at the end of that particular generation to which Jesus was speaking. We know now, through history, that this destruction took place between 67 and 70 AD. This leaves most of Revelation history. There are still parts that apply to us today since the Church is still in existence. It had its fulfillment at the beginning of the Church time, but still continues on in the Church. One example of this would be the New Jerusalem, which I will deal with during the second part of this lesson. We are still part of the New Jerusalem today; even though there was a fulfillment of this when the early Church entered into the New Covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ and became a part of that symbolic picture.

To understand the book of Revelation one needs to understand three key points concerning this book. I want to talk briefly about all three even though I will only deal with the first two in this lesson and the third in the last session.

The first thing to realize about the book of Revelation is that much of the language used in the prophetic visions of Revelation are biblical imagery and are not to be taken as literal statements. Some say they interpret all of Revelation "literally," and some say they interpret it all "spiritually." Truth is neither of these is correct because you must use both the literal and the spiritual to properly interpret Revelation. You have to use the context of the given scripture to properly decide whether or not it is dealing with biblical imagery or a literal situation.

To get the proper meaning of these images you must use the biblical hermeneutics already found in the Old Testament. Follow their example and apply that same pattern in the New Testament. This will help explain the meaning of such terms as "sun," "moon," and "cloud," as they are found in the Old Testament and New Testament.

When dealing with biblical imagery used in Revelation there are a few points you need to consider and understand in order to draw the proper interpretation from the Bible. The book of Colossians 2:16-17 that the things that happened in the Old Testament were a "shadow of things to come."

There is a slight difference between a type and shadow and the apocalyptic language used in a prophetic vision.

Let's first talk about types and shadows. These are actual events that took place that portray something that was to take place in the future in God's plan for mankind. An example of this would be the tabernacle plan. There was a literal tabernacle built, but in its outlay was a plan for the future of the New Covenant Church. This would be seen in the priest killing the sacrifice representing repentance, as he would wash the sacrifice it represented baptism, as he entered the tabernacle to receive the fire of God it represented us receiving the Spirit of God. So the tabernacle was full of types and shadows that pointed to the New Testament Church.

That is what we call “types and shadows,” which is an actual event that pointed to a future truth. Most of the Old Testament is either prophecy concerning the New Covenant, or else it is a type and shadow that literally pointed to the New Covenant. Like Noah’s flood where eight souls were saved by water, 1 Peter 3:21 says, “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us.” So Noah’s flood became a type of water baptism according to the Word of God. It was an actual event that pointed to a future event in which the Church would be saved through water baptism.

Next we will deal with the apocalyptic language used in a prophetic vision. This type of language is a symbolic picture of something that portrays a literal event that is to take place. It uses biblical imagery rather than literal language to describe the coming occurrence. The picture itself was never intended to be literal; it was always to be understood in a symbolic way. A good example of this is the two women in the book of Revelation. The first is a harlot city that rides the back of the beast. There has never been a literal harlot woman that fits the description given in Revelation. This is a biblical picture, which is apocalyptic language that is being used to describe a harlot woman that represents a harlot people. Then the other woman is described as a virgin bride. This again is not to be seen as a literal woman, but is apocalyptic language that represents the true Church of God.

The second thing you must understand to properly understand Revelation is the central theme that runs throughout the entire Old Testament and the New Testament. Jesus is described as the “Logos” or “plan” of God. This plan was in God’s mind before the foundation of the world. Everything that is in God’s plan was foreordained and preplanned in the mind of God—nothing is an accident. This theme of thought is found interwoven throughout the Bible and is its central theme of thought. This theme is the curse and the blessing of God.

The curse and the blessing started with the two trees in the Garden of Eden. One tree was the Tree of Life. It was symbolic of Jesus Christ because Jesus became our tree of life! The other was the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. This was a type of the Law. “The Law,” Paul said, “brought a knowledge of sin,” and he said that this knowledge “slew me.” Why? Because it brought a curse upon him.

The third thing I will deal with briefly here, and in more detail in the next lesson, is that we must understand the time period in which the book of Revelation was prophesied to take place. We do this by looking at the various time texts statements given in both the Old and New Testaments. One important factor is the time of the writing of the book of Revelation. Was it written in the early 60’s before the 70 AD fall of Jerusalem, or was it written after the destruction of Jerusalem sometime in 96 AD? This becomes very important as we try to start to understand the timing of Revelation. I will give this subject more time in the next lesson.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

In this lesson we are focusing on the foundation of the book of Revelation. As I said, the entire Bible deals with the curse and the blessing. In this lesson we are going to look at some foundational scriptures regarding this subject. These are pictured in the New Testament as two cups that we are offered. We must choose which one of these we will drink from. Even though this theme begins in the book of Genesis with the two trees in the garden, and runs through the entire word of God, it becomes evident in the New Testament that it was pointing to and eventually referring to the two covenants of Law and grace. Law is the curse because it brought the knowledge of sin; Jesus is the blessing, because He delivered us from the curse of the Law by the New Covenant in His blood. We will now cover some of the scriptures that prove this.

*As you read this study, please keep in mind that the **bolds**, underlines, and (parenthesis’s) in the scriptures were added by me to emphasize certain key points.*

(1 Cor 10:16) The **cup of blessing which we bless**, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

(1 Cor 10:17) For we being many are one bread, and one body: for **we are all partakers of that one bread**.

(1 Cor 11:23) For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

(1 Cor 11:24) And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

(1 Cor 11:25) After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, **This cup is the new testament [New Covenant] in my blood:** this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

(1 Cor 11:26) For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come.

FINAL VIAL OF GOD'S JUDGMENT BEING POURED OUT

(Rev 16:17) And **the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air;** and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, **It is done.**

(Rev 16:18) And there were **voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake,** such as **was not since men were upon the earth,** so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

(Rev 16:19) And the great city was **divided into three parts,** and the cities of the nations fell: and **great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.**

These scriptures show a picture of two cups which we must choose from: "**the cup of the new testament in his blood,**" or "**the cup of his wrath,**" which will be poured out on those who rejected the blessing (New Covenant), and trusted in the curse (Law) for deliverance.

Further proof of these statements is found in Galatians 3:10-16.

(Gal 3:10) For **as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse:** for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

(Gal 3:11) But that **no man is justified by the law in the sight of God,** it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

(Gal 3:12) And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

(Gal 3:13) **Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law,** being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

(Gal 3:14) That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

(Gal 3:15) Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.

(Gal 3:16) Now **to Abraham and his seed were the promises made.** He saith **not, And to seeds, as of many;** but as **of one,** And to thy **seed, which is Christ.**

REVELATION 14:1-10: EXAMPLE OF THE DRINKING OF THE TWO CUPS

(Rev 14:1) And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

(Rev 14:2) And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

(Rev 14:3) And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, **which were redeemed from the earth.**

(Rev 14:4) These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, **being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.**

(Rev 14:5) And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

(Rev 14:6) And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

(Rev 14:7) Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

This is the end of the first cup and the beginning of the second cup.

(Rev 14:8) And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

(Rev 14:9) And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

(Rev 14:10) **The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation;** and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

The book of Revelation is dealing with the curse and blessing of the law in Deuteronomy 11 & 28 and Leviticus 26 and also Deuteronomy 32 – Song of Moses. Look what happened when Moses went into the mount to get the Law and compare that to the language of the 7th seal, trumpet, and vial. God uses Biblical Imagery and Apocalyptic Language in the Book of Revelation, which contained words similar to the description of the experiences Moses encountered while receiving the Law in the mount, because He was showing his judgments being poured out on Jerusalem according to the Law.

(Exo 19:16) And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were **thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount,** and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.

(Exo 19:17) And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount.

(Exo 19:18) And mount Sinai was altogether on a **smoke,** because the LORD descended upon it in **fire:** and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and **the whole mount quaked greatly.**

(Exo 19:19) And when the **voice of the trumpet sounded long,** and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and **God answered him by a voice.**

(Exo 19:20) And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.

(Exo 20:18) And all the people saw **the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking;** and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

To further prove this, let's continue reading...

(Rev 14:18) And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

(Rev 14:19) And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and **cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.**

(Rev 14:20) And the winepress was **trodden without the city,** and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

(Rev 15:1) And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the **seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.**

(Rev 15:2) And I saw as it were a **sea of glass mingled with fire**: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

This is in reference to the brazen sea of Solomon's Temple & New Testament salvation.

(Rev 15:3) **And they sing the song of Moses** [judgment] the servant of God, and **the song of the Lamb** [salvation and blessing], saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

(Rev 15:4) Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; **for thy judgments are made manifest.**

Part of the reason for the judgment is revealed.

(Rev 16:6) **For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.**

The conclusion of the judgment was part of our text.

(Rev 16:17) And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

(Rev 16:18) And there were **voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.**

(Rev 16:19) And the **great city** was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and **great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.**

Let's go now to the Old Testament and get the foundation for what happened in Revelation.

(Deu 11:1) Therefore thou shalt love the LORD thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, always.

(Deu 11:13) And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,

(Deu 11:14) That I will give you the rain of your **land** in his due season, **the first rain and the latter rain**, that thou mayest gather in **thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.**

This is the blessings of God on the corn, wine, and oil. God is using symbolic language here to describe the blessings of God, as proven in the next verse.

(Hos 2:22) And the earth shall hear **the corn, and the wine, and the oil**; and they shall hear Jezreel.

We will cover the meaning of this verse later in the lesson.

(Deu 11:15) And I will send **grass in thy fields** for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full.

(Deu 11:16) Take heed to yourselves, that **your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them;**

(Deu 11:17) And then **the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you**, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that **the land yield not her fruit**; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.

This is the curse of God on their land if they don't serve him. This is why the book of Revelation uses symbolic language describing God's judgment on the land, trees, grass, etc. It was all a part of the curse of God on the disobedient, which broke his Law.

(Deu 11:26) Behold, I set before you this day **a blessing and a curse;**

(Deu 11:27) **A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God**, which I command you this day:

(Deu 11:28) And **a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God**, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

(Deu 11:29) And it shall come to pass, when the LORD thy God hath brought thee in unto the land whither thou goest to possess it, that thou shalt put **the blessing upon mount Gerizim**, and **the curse upon mount Ebal**.

CHANGE WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER THE LAND

(Deu 12:8) **Ye shall not do after all the things that we do here this day, every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes.**

(Deu 12:9) For ye are not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance, which the LORD your God giveth you.

Moses gave commandment to Israel about the blessing and the curse.

(Deu 27:11) And Moses charged the people the same day, saying,

(Deu 27:12) These shall stand upon **mount Gerizim to bless the people, when ye are come over Jordan**; Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Joseph, and Benjamin:

(Deu 27:13) And these shall stand upon **mount Ebal to curse**; Reuben, Gad, and Asher, and Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.

(Deu 27:14) And the Levites shall speak, and say unto all the men of Israel with a loud voice,

(Deu 27:15) Cursed be the man that maketh any graven or molten image, an abomination unto the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and putteth it in a secret place. And all the people shall answer and say, Amen.

Verses 16-26 continued the curses. Read more about this later. We will move on now to save time.

Deuteronomy 28:1-13 tells of the blessings God will give to the obedient.

(Deu 28:1) And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

(Deu 28:2) And **all these blessings shall come on thee**, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

(Deu 28:3) Blessed shalt thou be **in the city**, and blessed shalt thou be **in the field**.

(Deu 28:9) The LORD shall **establish thee an holy people unto himself**, as he hath sworn unto thee, **if thou shalt keep the commandments** of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways.

(Deu 28:10) And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee.

(Deu 28:11) And the LORD shall make thee **plenteous in goods**, in the **fruit of thy body**, and in the **fruit of thy cattle**, and in the **fruit of thy ground**, in the land which the LORD swore unto thy fathers to give thee.

(Deu 28:12) The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and **to bless** all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

(Deu 28:13) And the LORD shall **make thee the head, and not the tail**; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; **if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God**, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:

Deuteronomy 28:14-68 deals with the curse for disobedience.

(Deu 28:14) And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, **to go after other gods to serve them**.

(Deu 28:15) But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that **all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:**

(Deu 28:20) **The LORD shall send upon thee cursing**, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, **until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly;** because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me.

(Deu 28:21) The LORD shall make the **pestilence** cleave unto thee, until he have **consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it.**

(Deu 28:22) The LORD shall smite thee with a **consumption**, and with a **fever**, and with an **inflammation**, and with an **extreme burning**, and with the **sword**, and with **blasting**, and with **mildew**; and **they shall pursue thee until thou perish.**

(Deu 28:23) And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron.

(Deu 28:24) The LORD shall **make the rain of thy land powder** and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, **until thou be destroyed.**

(Deu 28:25) The LORD shall cause thee **to be smitten before thine enemies:** thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and **shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.**

(Deu 28:26) And **thy carcase shall be meat unto all fowls of the air, and unto the beasts of the earth, and no man shall fray them away.**

This is the vulture's feast of Revelation 19:17-18, Ezekiel 39:17-23, Matthew 24:28, Luke 17:37, & Psalms 79:1-3.

(Psa 79:1) A Psalm of Asaph. O God, the **heathen** are come into thine inheritance; thy holy **temple** have they defiled; **they have laid Jerusalem on heaps.**

(Psa 79:2) **The dead bodies of thy servants have they given to be meat unto the fowls of the heaven, the flesh of thy saints unto the beasts of the earth.**

(Psa 79:3) **Their blood have they shed like water round about Jerusalem;** and **there was none to bury them.**

(Deu 28:32) **Thy sons and thy daughters shall be given unto another people**, and thine eyes shall look, and fail with longing for them all the day long: and there shall be no might in thine hand.

(Deu 28:33) The fruit of **thy land**, and all thy labours, **shall a nation which thou knowest not eat up; and thou shalt be only oppressed and crushed alway:**

(Deu 28:37) And **thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations** whither the LORD shall lead thee.

(Deu 28:45) Moreover **all these curses shall come upon thee**, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, **till thou be destroyed;** because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee:

(Deu 28:46) And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever.

(Deu 28:47) Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

(Deu 28:48) Therefore shalt thou **serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things:** and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, **until he have destroyed thee.**

(Deu 28:49) **The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far**, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;

(Deu 28:50) **A nation of fierce countenance**, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor show favour to the young:

(Deu 28:51) And he shall eat the **fruit of thy cattle**, and the **fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed:** which also **shall not leave thee either corn, wine, or oil**, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, **until he have destroyed thee.**

(Deu 28:52) **And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates**, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the LORD thy God hath given thee.

(Deu 28:53) **And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the LORD thy God hath given thee, in the siege**, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee:

(Deu 28:57) And toward **her young one** that cometh out from between her feet, and toward her children which she shall bear: for **she shall eat them for want of all things secretly in the siege** and straitness, wherewith thine enemy shall distress thee in thy gates.

(Deu 28:58) If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD;

(Deu 28:59) Then the **LORD will make thy plagues wonderful**, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore **sicknesses**, and of long continuance.

(Deu 28:60) Moreover **he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt**, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee.

(Deu 28:61) Also **every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law**, them will the LORD bring upon thee, **until thou be destroyed**.

(Deu 28:62) And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; **because thou wouldst not obey the voice of the LORD thy God**.

(Deu 28:63) And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; **so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it**.

(Deu 28:64) And the LORD shall **scatter thee among all people**, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and **there thou shalt serve other gods**, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.

(Deu 28:68) And the LORD shall **bring thee into Egypt again with ships**, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again: and there **ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you**.

All these things were fulfilled during the 67 ad to 70 AD destruction of Jerusalem.

Let's go now to where Joshua is fulfilling the commandment.

(Jos 8:33) And all Israel, and their elders, and officers, and their judges, stood on this side the ark and on that side before the priests the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, as well the stranger, as he that was born among them; **half of them over against mount Gerizim, and half of them over against mount Ebal**; as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel.

(Jos 8:34) And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and cursings, according to all that is written in the book of the law.

(Jos 8:35) There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were conversant among them.

He journeyed with them through the land and brought them back to the same valley of Shechem.

(Jos 24:14) Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and **put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD**.

(Jos 24:15) And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, **choose you this day whom ye will serve**; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

(Jos 24:16) And the **people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods;**

The people made an agreement to serve God.

(Jos 24:20) If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.

(Jos 24:21) And the **people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the LORD.**

(Jos 24:22) And Joshua said unto the people, **Ye are witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen you the LORD, to serve him. And they said, We are witnesses.**

(Jos 24:23) Now therefore put away, said he, the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Israel.

(Jos 24:24) And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

(Jos 24:25) So **Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and set them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem.**

(Jos 24:26) And **Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak, that was by the sanctuary of the LORD.**

(Jos 24:27) And Joshua said unto all the people, Behold, **this stone shall be a witness unto us;** for it hath heard all the words of the LORD which he spake unto us: it shall be therefore a witness unto you, lest ye deny your God.

This is the same oak under which Jacob hid his false gods

(Gen 35:1) And God said unto Jacob, Arise, **go up to Bethel,** and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother.

(Gen 35:2) Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, **Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments:**

(Gen 35:3) And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.

(Gen 35:4) And they **gave unto Jacob all the strange gods** which were in their hand, and all **their earrings which were in their ears;** and **Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem.**

The stone was a type of Jesus becoming a witness against them.

(Jos 24:31) And Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the LORD, that he had done for Israel.

(Jos 24:32) And **the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem,** in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.

When they entered the land Achan took of the accursed thing and they brought him into the valley of Achor (trouble and affliction) and stoned him to death with stones, yet the Lord prophesied in Hosea that he would make the valley of Achor a door of hope.

Hosea 1:9-11

(Hos 1:9) Then said God, Call his name Loammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God.

(Hos 1:10) Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, **Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God.**

This is quoted by Paul in Romans 9:26.

(Hos 1:11) Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves **one head,** and they shall come up out of the land: for great shall be the **day of Jezreel.**

Fulfilled in Christ.

(Hos 2:1) Say ye unto your brethren, **Ammi; (My people) and to our sisters, Ruhamah. (Having obtained mercy)**

(Hos 2:12) Plead with your mother, plead: for she is not my wife, neither am I her husband: let her therefore **put away her whoredoms** out of her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts;

(Hos 2:13) And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgat me, saith the LORD.—**FAN MAN**

(Hos 2:14) Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her.

(Hos 2:15) And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and **the valley of Achor for a door of hope:** and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.

(Hos 2:16) And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, that **thou shalt call me Ishi; (My husband)** and shalt call **me no more Baali. (My master)**

(Hos 2:17) For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name.

(Hos 2:18) And in that day will I make a **covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground:** and I will **break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.**

This was perfectly fulfilled in Acts 10 when he gave the New Covenant to the Gentiles as well as the Jews.

(Acts 10:11) And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

(Acts 10:12) Wherein were all manner of fourfooted **beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.** (*Gentiles*)

(Acts 10:13) And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.

(Acts 10:14) But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.

(Acts 10:15) And the voice spake unto him again the second time, **What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.**

(Hos 2:19) And **I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.**

(Hos 2:20) I will **even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD.**

(Hos 2:21) And it shall come to pass in that day, I will hear, saith the LORD, I will hear the heavens, and they shall hear the earth;

(Hos 2:22) **And the earth shall hear the corn, and the wine, and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel.** (*Whom God soweth*)

(Hos 2:23) And **I will sow her unto me in the earth;** and **I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy;** and **I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.**

Paul quoted this in Romans 9:24-26 and applied it to the Church.

In the lesson on “The True Israel of God”, I read in Deuteronomy 30 and proved the restoration of Israel mentioned in that chapter was fulfilled by the New Covenant according to Paul’s words in Romans 10.

Moses gathered Israel and spoke unto them the **Song of Moses**, which was a song of their destruction in the last generation of the Jewish age. He not only destroyed Jerusalem, but destroyed their temple and their ability to physically perform temple sacrifices any longer. Christ had now become the one sacrifice for all

mankind forever. He first gives them the time for the fulfillment of the vision, which is in the setting for the vision.

(Deu 31:28) Gather unto me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their ears, and call heaven and earth to record against them.

(Deu 31:29) For I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and **evil will befall you in the latter days; because ye will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger** through the work of your hands.

(Deu 31:30) And **Moses spake in the ears of all the congregation of Israel the words of this song, until they were ended.**

The first four verses of this chapter deals with God offering them a chance to be saved through the New Covenant message given by the Rock, Jesus Christ, while the rest of the chapter deals with his judgments on them in the generation of their rejection of the New Covenant. Notice that it is a judgment that will befall a particular generation in the latter days. We know now it was the generation of Jews which killed the Messiah, the Apostles, and the saints of the early Church, which Jesus gave one generation or 40 years to repent and accept the gospel or suffer the wrath of God according to the Law.

(Deu 32:1) Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

(Deu 32:2) **My doctrine shall drop as the rain**, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as **the showers upon the grass:**

(Deu 32:3) Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God.

(Deu 32:4) **He is the Rock**, his work is perfect: for **all his ways are judgment:** a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

(Deu 32:5) They have corrupted themselves, their spot is not the spot of his children: **they are a perverse and crooked generation.**

Remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 23 about that being the generation this would happen to.)

(Deu 32:15) But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then **he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.**

That rock was Christ!

(Deu 32:16) They **provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger.**

(Deu 32:17) They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not.

(Deu 32:18) **Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful**, and hast forgotten God that formed thee.

(Deu 32:19) And **when the LORD saw it, he abhorred them**, because of the provoking of his sons, and of his daughters.

(Deu 32:20) And he said, I will hide my face from them, **I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation**, children in whom is no faith.

(Deu 32:21) They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; **I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.** *(Quoted in Romans as being fulfilled in the Church)*

(Deu 32:22) For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

(Deu 32:23) **I will heap mischiefs upon them;** I will spend mine arrows upon them.

(Deu 32:24) They shall be **burnt with hunger**, and devoured **with burning heat**, and with **bitter destruction:** I will also send the teeth of **beasts** upon them, with the poison of serpents of the dust.

(Deu 32:25) The **sword without, and terror within**, shall destroy both the young man and the virgin, the suckling also with the man of gray hairs.

(Deu 32:26) I said, **I would scatter them into corners, I would make the remembrance of them to cease from among men:**

(Deu 32:27) Were it not that I feared the wrath of the enemy, lest their adversaries should behave themselves strangely, and lest they should say, Our hand is high, and the LORD hath not done all this.

(Deu 32:28) For they are a nation void of counsel, neither is there any understanding in them.

(Deu 32:29) **O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!**

(Deu 32:30) How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?

(Deu 32:31) For their rock is not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges.

(Deu 32:32) For their vine is of the **vine of Sodom**, and of the fields of **Gomorrah**: their grapes are grapes of gall, their clusters are bitter:

(Deu 32:33) Their wine is the poison of dragons, and the cruel venom of asps.

(Deu 32:34) Is not this laid up in store with me, and sealed up among my treasures?

(Deu 32:35) **To me belongeth vengeance, and recompense;** their foot shall slide in due time: **for the day of their calamity is at hand**, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

During the vision, everything becomes at hand, but we must get the true time from the setting of the vision, which states it will happen in the latter days. The same is true of the Book of Revelation, and this is in perfect harmony with true biblical hermeneutics, as proven in the song of Moses itself.

THE TIME TEXT OF REVELATION IS LOCATED WITHIN THE SETTING AND NOT THE VISION ITSELF

(Rev 1:1) **The Revelation of Jesus Christ**, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants **things which must shortly come to pass**; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

(Rev 1:3) Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: **for the time is at hand**.

(Rev 22:6) And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel **to show unto his servants the things which must shortly be done**.

(Rev 22:10) And he saith unto me, **Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand**.

(Deu 32:36) For **the LORD shall judge his people**, and repent himself for his servants, when he seeth that their power is gone, and there is none shut up, or left.

(Deu 32:37) And he shall say, Where are their gods, their rock in whom they trusted,

(Deu 32:38) Which did eat the fat of their sacrifices, and drank the wine of their drink offerings? let them rise up and help you, and be your protection.

(Deu 32:39) See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: **neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand**.

(Deu 32:40) For I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, I live for ever.

(Deu 32:41) If I whet my glittering sword, and mine hand take hold on judgment; **I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me**.

(Deu 32:42) I will make mine **arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh; and that with the blood of the slain and of the captives**, from the beginning of revenges upon the enemy.

(Deu 32:43) Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: **for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, and to his people**.

(Deu 32:44) And **Moses** came and spake all the words of this **song** in the ears of the people, he, and Hoshea the son of Nun.

LEVITICUS 26: A KEY FOUNDATIONAL CHAPTER FOR THE BOOK OF REVELATION

God says in Leviticus 26 that He will send four sevenfold judgments against the breakers of His covenant, each one to be more severe than the other, until He has destroyed them. The way for them to escape this judgment was to repent. This is exactly what you find written in the Book of Revelation. This chart will help you understand what we are looking for as we read the 26th chapter.

7 Seals—A one-quarter judgment—if they don't repent, God will send 7 stronger judgments—Revelation 5 & 6, Leviticus 26:18

7 Trumpets—A one-third judgment—if they don't repent, God will send 7 stronger judgments—Revelation 8 & 9, Leviticus 26:21

7 Thunders—Not revealed (possibly a one-half judgment)—if they don't repent, God will totally destroy them—Revelation 10, Leviticus 26:24

7 Vials—The final judgment—the total destruction of Jerusalem—Babylon is fallen—Revelation 16, Leviticus 26:28

(Lev 26:9) For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, **and establish my covenant with you.**

(Lev 26:10) And ye shall eat old store, and bring forth the old because of the new.

(Lev 26:11) And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you.

(Lev 26:12) And **I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.**

This is the same language as the New Covenant prophecy given in the book of Jeremiah and quoted as having its fulfillment in the New Covenant as quoted in the book of Hebrews.

(Lev 26:13) I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright.

(Lev 26:14) **But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments;**

(Lev 26:15) And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that **ye break my covenant:**

(Lev 26:16) I also will do this unto you; **I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart:** and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

(Lev 26:17) And **I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies:** they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you.

(Lev 26:18) And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, **then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.**

First seven—7 seals—a one-quarter judgment—Revelation 5 & 6 (the amount of each judgment is found by reading the corresponding scriptures of Revelation)

(Lev 26:19) And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass:

(Lev 26:20) And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your **land** shall not yield her increase, neither shall the **trees** of the land yield their **fruits.**

Notice that the language is the same as used in the judgments of God in the book of Revelation.

(Lev 26:21) And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; **I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins.**

Second seven—7 Trumpets—a one-third judgment—Revelation 8 & 9

(Lev 26:22) I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of **your children**, and destroy your **cattle**, and **make you few in number;** and your high ways shall be desolate.

(Lev 26:23) And **if ye will not be reformed by me by these things,** but will walk contrary unto me;

(Lev 26:24) Then will I also walk contrary unto you, **and will punish you yet seven times for your sins.**

Third seven—7 Thunders—unrevealed—probably a one-half judgment, but at least more severe—Revelation 10

(Lev 26:25) **And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall avenge the quarrel of my covenant: and when ye are gathered together within your cities, I will send the pestilence among you; and ye shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.**

(Lev 26:26) And when I have broken the staff of your bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall deliver you your bread again by weight: and ye shall eat, and not be satisfied.

(Lev 26:27) And **if ye will not for all this hearken unto me,** but walk contrary unto me;

(Lev 26:28) Then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; **and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins.**

Fourth seven—Final destruction, captivity, and scattering of Israel—Revelation 16

(Lev 26:29) **And ye shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall ye eat.**

History states women killed, cooked, and ate their babies during the three and one-half year siege of Jerusalem.

(Lev 26:30) And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and **cast your carcasses upon the carcasses of your idols,** and my soul shall abhor you.

History estimates 1.1 million Jews were killed during this time.

(Lev 26:31) And I will **make your cities waste,** and bring **your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odours.**

The city and the Temple were destroyed.

(Lev 26:32) **And I will bring the land into desolation:** and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it.

(Lev 26:33) And **I will scatter you among the heathen,** and will draw out a sword after you: and **your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.**

About 90,000 Jews were taken captive into all nations in 70 AD.

Jesus referred to this same judgment in **Matthew 23:29-38**. There He told **why it would happen, to whom it would happen,** and **when it would take place.** He told the Jews that He was talking to at that time that these judgments would take place **during “their generation.”** Keep in mind that Matthew 23 sets the foundation for Matthew 24, which we have proven in previous lessons deals with the destruction of Jerusalem which concluded in 70 AD. It also helps to remember that Matthew 24, Luke 21, and Mark 13 are parallel scriptures with the book of Revelation, which means they are describing the same event.

(Mat 23:29) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,

(Mat 23:30) And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

(Mat 23:31) Wherefore **ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.**

(Mat 23:32) **Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.**

Finish the transgression as found in Daniel 9:24. They fulfilled this by killing the Messiah, by killing His followers, and by rejecting the New Covenant Gospel.

(Mat 23:33) Ye serpents, **ye generation of vipers**, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

(Mat 23:34) Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

Here Jesus foretold their killing of the Apostles and those of the early church.

(Mat 23:35) That **upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth**, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

This is the exact wording of the reasons for the destruction of Babylon the Great in Revelation 18:24, "And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth."

(Mat 23:36) Verily I say **unto you, All these things shall come upon THIS GENERATION.**

This scripture proves **this judgment will come in their generation**. The next scripture confirms upon whom it is to fall.

(Mat 23:37) **O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets**, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

(Mat 23:38) Behold, **your house is left unto you desolate.**

This clearly proves Jesus is speaking of the destruction of Jerusalem, which means the book of **Revelation has to be speaking of the same event since it is parallel with Matthew 24**. Remember Jesus concluded his predictions in Matthew 24 by saying that, "Before this generation passes, all these things will be fulfilled."

ISAIAH PROPHESED OF THIS SAME JUDGMENT AND THE REASONS FOR IT

(Isa 28:9) Whom shall he teach knowledge? and **whom shall he make to understand doctrine?** them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

(Isa 28:10) For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

(Isa 28:11) **For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.**

(Isa 28:12) To whom he said, **This is the rest** wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and **this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.**

Here he prophesies the offering of the New Covenant to the Jews and their refusal to hear it. He then goes on to show that they are trusting in the Law instead.

(Isa 28:15) Because ye have said, We have **made a covenant with death**, and with hell are we at agreement; when the **overflowing scourge shall pass through**, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:

(Isa 28:16) Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, **I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation:** he that believeth shall not make haste.

(Isa 28:17) Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.

(Isa 28:18) And **your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.**

(Isa 29:1) Woe to Ariel, to Ariel, [Jerusalem] the **city where David dwelt!** add ye year to year; let them kill sacrifices.

(Isa 29:2) Yet I will distress Ariel, and there shall be heaviness and sorrow: and it shall be unto me as Ariel.

(Isa 29:3) And **I will camp against thee round about,** and **will lay siege against thee with a mount,** and I will raise forts against thee.

(Isa 29:4) And thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust.

(Isa 29:5) Moreover the multitude of thy strangers shall be like small dust, and the multitude of the terrible ones shall be as chaff that passeth away: yea, it shall be at an instant suddenly.

(Isa 29:6) **Thou shalt be visited of the LORD of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire.**

This is almost identical language as the 7th seal, 7th trumpet, and the 7th vial, which is showing God's judgment according to the Law.

Seventh Seal—(Revelation 8:5) And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were **voices,** and **thunderings,** and **lightnings,** and an **earthquake.**

Seventh Trumpet—(Revelation 11:19) And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were **lightnings,** and **voices,** and **thunderings,** and an **earthquake,** and **great hail.**

Seventh Thunder—Unrevealed, but why would the language be different from the other three?

Seventh Vial—(Revelation 16:17) And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

(Rev 16:18) And there were **voices,** and **thunders,** and **lightnings;** and there was a **great earthquake,** such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. ng His wrath upon that city.

The Book of Revelation is the final book of the New Testament. The title came into usage from the first word of the book in Koine Greek: apokalupsis, meaning "unveiling" or "revelation" (the author himself not having provided a title).¹ More recent methods of scholarship, such as textual criticism, have been influential in suggesting that John the Apostle, John the Evangelist and John of Patmos were three separate individuals. Differences in style, theological content, and familiarity with Greek between the Gospel of John, the epistles of John, and the Revelation are seen by some scholars as indicating three separate authors.[13].