

## **The Old Testament and the Book of Revelation**

To understand the Book of Revelation, you have to understand the Old Testament  
Revelation 21.3

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Scripture Reader and Reading: Jacob Noveske – Revelation 21.1–3  
Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Phil Joseph – No Suggestions

### **Prelude:**

#### **I. Years ago, the last sentence of Revelation 19.10 said something to me**

- A. about the relationship between
- B. the Old Testament and the Book of Revelation:

**10b ...the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**

**– Revelation 19.10**

#### **II. Also, when I learned from the Old Testament**

- A. how God makes multiple prophecies of the same people and events,
- B. I saw that He continued that method in the Book of Revelation.
  - 1. Almost everyone sees the Book of Revelation
  - 2. as one long chronological view of the future.
    - a) Consider the Book of Daniel.
    - b) Consider Pharaoh's dreams.
- C. Consider all the different things said about the Messiah,
  - 1. the fact that multiple prophecies and promises,
  - 2. types and shadows pointed to the same person.

#### **III. Another thing that I have spoken to you is The Family Promise of God.**

- A. There are five elements to this promise.
- B. It is in the Book of Revelation where you see all five come together.

#### **IV. John uses all kinds of material from the Old Testament.**

- A. Creation, the Flood, the Exodus, David, Babylon and

1. John made references to Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel.
2. John also used Zechariah, Joel, Amos, and Hosea.
3. He used the Psalms.
  - a) In fact, I used to go to a lectureship in Texas every year, and
  - b) one year it was on Revelation.
    - (1) The lectureship was five days from 9am to 9pm
    - (2) of lectures on the Book of Revelation.
      - (a) As you can imagine we heard a lot of information.
      - (b) The last speaker's job was to summarize Revelation.
        - i) He walked to the pulpit and
        - ii) do you know what the first words out of his mouth were?
          - (1) Several quotations from the Book of Psalms
          - (2) without commentary on his part, but
            - (a) he knew what we had been experiencing and
            - (b) he knew we would see the truths of those Psalms.

B. I am fully persuaded that this commentator had it right:

**“...whoever endeavors to comprehend Revelation without a thorough knowledge of the Old Testament will find it virtually impossible to understand the book.”**

**– Ranko Stefanovic**

1. As you read Revelation,
  - a) you will see many times
  - b) where John speaks as the Old Testament.
2. No other New Testament Book
  - a) has more Old Testament references than the Book of Revelation, yet,
  - b) John ever quotes directly from the Old Testament.

- (1) John was like the early Restoration Movement preachers or
- (2) the early Restoration Movement preachers were like John,
  - (a) in that they just spoke Bible.
  - (b) America's Founding Fathers were the same way.
    - i) They spoke as the Bible spoke
    - ii) without telling people what they were saying because
      - (1) everyone knew what they were saying.
      - (2) They all read the Bible constantly.

C. By the way, John also used Judges, Proverbs, the Song of Solomon, and Job.

### **Persuasion:**

#### **I. Ranko states that:**

**"the vision in Revelation 4-5 is built on the coronation of Israelite kings (cf. Deut. 17:18-20; 2 Kings 11:12); that the Old Testament covenant curses (cf. Lev 26:21-26) lie in the background of the vision of the seven seals; that the 144, 000 standing victoriously on the sea of glass and singing the song of Moses and of the lamb is a clear allusion to Exodus 15; and that the scene of Revelation 16:12-18:24 is built on the capture of historical Babylon by Cyrus the Persian and his armies (cf. Isa. 44:26-45:7; Jer 50-51)."**

#### **II. Some Comparisons**

##### **A. All Nations**

- 1. Daniel 7.14
- 2. Revelation 5.9

##### **B. Horses and Chariots**

- 1. Zechariah 6
- 2. Revelation 6

##### **C. Sealing God's Servants**

- 1. Ezekiel 9.1-8

2. Revelation 7.1–8

D. A Great Harvest

1. Joel 3.11–13

2. Revelation 14.14–20

E. Babylon's Overthrow

1. Jeremiah 51.60–64

2. Revelation 18.21

F. Locusts

1. Joel 2.10, 31; 3.15 and Revelation 9.2

2. Joel 2.4 and Revelation 9.7

3. Joel 1.6 and Revelation 9.8

4. Joel 2.5 and Revelation 9.9

G. The Witnesses

1. Zechariah 4

2. Revelation 11.3–6

H. The Beast

1. Daniel 7.2–3 and Revelation 13.1

2. Daniel 7.8, 11, 20, 25; 11.36 and Revelation 13.1, 5, 6

**III. Revelation 12 | That Serpent of Old**

**9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

**– Revelation 12.9**

**IV. What We Lost in Genesis, We Regain in Revelation**

**A. Natural Creation**

1. Gained: Gen 1.1

2. Lost: Rev 20.11

## **B. A Home for Man**

1. Gained: Gen 2.8
  - a) Lost: Gen 3.22–24
2. Revelation 21 and 22 show a Garden of Eden-like setting

## **C. The Serpent**

1. Gained: Gen 3.1
2. Lost: Rev 20.10

## **D. Pain and Sorrow**

1. Gained: Gen 3.8
2. Lost: Rev 7.13–17; **21.4**

## **E. The Curse**

1. Gained: Gen 3.16–19
2. Lost: Rev 22.3–4

## **F. The Tree of Life**

1. Gained: Gen 2.9
  - a) Lost: Gen 3.22–24
2. Regained: Rev 22.2, 14

## **G. The Light**

1. Gained: Gen 1.3
2. Better: Rev 21.23–26; 22.5

## **Exhortation:**

### **I. If you have read the Book of Revelation before and**

- A. noted things that sounded familiar, but
- B. perhaps you could not identify it all,
  1. you need to know that it was not accidental nor coincidental.

2. Jesus sent His angel to John

- a) to show these things intentionally, and
- b) John had grown up in the Hebrew Scriptures, and
  - (1) he never stopped reading them and using them.
  - (2) To read the Hebrew Bible is to read the words of the Holy Spirit.
    - (a) To speak as the Hebrew Bible does
    - (b) is to speak the words of the Holy Spirit.

**II. The Book of Revelation brings together in one place**

- A. the entire biblical message and
- B. if you read the entire Bible repeatedly,
  - 1. you will see that happening.

**III. The Book of Revelation does not quote the Old Testament directly, but**

- A. it uses the language, stories, figures, images, and so on
- B. of the Old Testament
  - 1. so that someone familiar with the overall message of the Bible
  - 2. will get the message of the Book of Revelation and
    - a) will not fear that message, but
    - b) will see it for why God revealed it to John:
      - (1) A message of hope.
      - (2) John expected his readers to be familiar with all the stuff that he uses from the Hebrew Bible.
        - (a) He was like Jude in verse 11 of his book.
        - (b) Jude expects us
          - i) to know what the way of Cain is,
          - ii) to know how Balaam ran greedily for profit, and
          - iii) to know what the rebellion of Korah was.