

Epistle to the Hebrews

Jerusalem Temple, Time of Christ



"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2)

1

Epistle to the Hebrews

■ Authorship: Not identified in the text

- The attribution to Paul in the superscription (title) appears late
- Strictly speaking it is an anonymous letter

■ "And the fourteen letters of Paul are obvious and plain, yet it is not right to ignore that some dispute the Epistle to the Hebrews, saying that it was rejected by the Church of Rome as not being by Paul, and I will expound at the proper time what was said about it by our predecessors."

Eusebius, *Hist. Eccl.* 3.1 4-5 (c. A.D. 260–340)

2

As for the **Epistle to the Hebrews**, he [Clement] says indeed that it is Paul's, but that it was written for Hebrews in the Hebrew tongue, and that Luke, having carefully translated it, published it for the Greeks; hence, as a result of this translation, the same complexion of style is found in this Epistle and in the Acts: but that the [words] 'Paul an apostle' were naturally not prefixed. For, says he, 'in writing to Hebrews who had conceived a prejudice against him and were suspicious of him, he very wisely did not repel them at the beginning by putting his name.'"

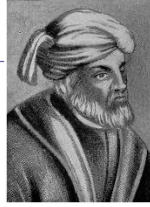
Clement cited by Eusebius *Ecclesiastical History* 6.14.1–3



Clement of Alexandria
Early Christian writer
c. 200 A.D.

3

“There exists an Epistle to the Hebrews under the name of Barnabas — a man sufficiently accredited by God, as being one whom Paul has stationed next to himself.”



Tertullian of Carthage
Early Christian writer
c. 200 A.D.

Tertullian of Carthage, *On Modesty*, Book 20.

4

Does the inspiration of Hebrews hinge only on Pauline authorship?

■ **NO!**

■ *Hebrews is inspired no matter if Paul or Barnabas or even Luke wrote it.*

■ *Barnabas or Luke can be just as inspired as Paul.*

5

Epistle to the Hebrews

■ **Date: Unknown**

- Could have been written in A.D. 60's, *before* the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple (which is never mentioned)

■ **Place of Composition:**

Not identified

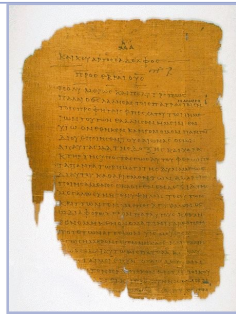
- Greetings are extended from “those *from Italy*” (13:24).
- If written by Paul it was likely written when he was in Rome

■ **To: Not specified**

- Presumably to Jewish Christians (hence the title “To the Hebrews”) or to other Christians attracted to or influenced by the Jewish temple cult

■ **Genre:**

■ *Doesn't seem much like a letter; it does like a sermon/discourse.*



6

What does “Hebrews” mean?

Genesis 10:21

“To Shem also, the father of all the children of **Eber**, the elder brother of Japheth, children were born.”

Genesis 14:13

“Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the **Hebrew**, who was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and of Aner; these were allies of Abram.”

Philippians 3:5

“circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a **Hebrew born of Hebrews**; as to the law, a Pharisee;”

2 Corinthians 11:22

“Are they **Hebrews**? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I.”

7

Why was Hebrews Written?

■ General Problem:

- Christians slipping into Jewish practices (an old problem!)

■ What is the overriding theme in the Epistle to the Hebrews?

■ The superiority of Christ

- Christ is superior to the Prophets 1:1-3
- Christ is superior to the Angels 1:4-11
- Christ is superior to Moses 3:1-6
- Christ is superior to Joshua 4:1-11
- Christ is superior to the Jewish priesthood 4:14-5:10, 7:1-29
- Christ is minister of a superior covenant 8:1-13
- Christ is minister in a superior tabernacle 9:1-28
- Christ makes a superior sacrifice 10:1-18

8

Hebrews 1

¹ God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, ² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; ³ Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Hebrews 1:1-3

⁴ For unto which of the angels said he at any time, *Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee?* And again, *I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?*

⁶ And again, when he bringeth in the firstborn into the world, he saith, *And let all the angels of God worship him.*

⁷ And of the angels he saith, *Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.*

⁸ But unto the Son *he saith*, *Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.*

⁹ Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, *even thy* God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

¹⁰ And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:

¹¹ They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment:

¹² And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

¹³ But to which of the angels said he at any time, *Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?*

Psalm 2:7

2 Samuel 7:14

Psalm 97:7

Psalm 104:4

Psalm 45:6-7

Psalm 102:25-27

Psalm 110:1

9

Lower than the Angels

Hebrews 2:9–10



**Jesus became a little lower than the angels = Jesus condescended to come to earth as a lowly human being.*

Something about suffering was essential for Jesus [“he that sanctifies”] and is essential for us [“they who are sanctified”].

“What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visit him? *For thou has made him a little lower than the angels*, and has crowned him with glory and honor. Thou made him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; *thou has put all things under his feet.*” (Psalms 8:4-6)

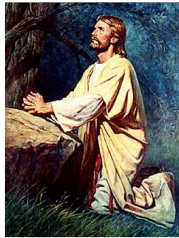
“He that ascended up on high, as also he descended below all things, in that he comprehended all things.” (D&C 88:6)

10

“In all things it behooved [Christ] to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself has suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted.” (Hebrews. 2:17-18)

**Jesus became like us “in all things.”*

**He knows what it is like to be tempted.*



11

Why did Jesus have to truly be tempted?

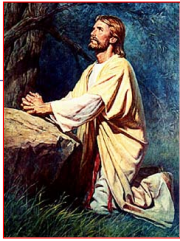
Alma 7:10–11

11 And he shall go forth, suffering pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind; and this that the word might be fulfilled which saith he will take upon him the pains and the sicknesses of his people.

12 And he will take upon him death, that he may loose the bands of death which bind his people; and he will take upon him their infirmities, *that his bowels may be filled with mercy, according to the flesh, that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities.*



12



**Thus he is able
to give us mercy*

¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a **great high priest**, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession.

¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; **but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**

¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, **that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**

Hebrews 4:14–16

13

Jesus vs. Moses

Hebrews 3:1–6



**Jesus is greater than Moses.*

**How or why?*

Just as angels, Moses was God's **servant, but Christ is God's **Son**.*



“[The LORD] said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. **My servant Moses** is not so, who **is faithful in all mine house**. With him will I speak mouth to mouth.” (Numbers 12:6-8)

14

Ancient Gospel

Hebrews 4:1–2



* “us” = *Christians*

* “them” = *Children of Israel*

**The children of Israel were given the Gospel (at first), but it didn't help them.*

**Why not?*

Because of unbelief

“[Moses] sought diligently to sanctify his people... **but they hardened their hearts**... Therefore, the Lord in his wrath, for his anger was kindled against them... took Moses out of their midst, and the Holy Priesthood also.” (D&C 84:23-25)

15

High Priests

Jesus vs. Mosaic



¹ For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: ² Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity. ³ And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins. ⁴ And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. ⁵ So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, *Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.* ⁶ As he saith also in another place, *Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.* ⁷ Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; ⁸ Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; ¹⁰ Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec. (Hebrews 5:1-10)

16

Melchizedek

¹ For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; ² To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; ³ Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually. ⁴ Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.

Hebrews 7:1-4



Abraham Paying Melchizedek Tithes

17

Melchizedek

¹ For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; ² To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; ³ Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually. ⁴ Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.

Hebrews 7:1-4

D&C 84:14

Which Abraham received the priesthood from Melchizedek, who received it through the lineage of his fathers, even till Noah;

Alma 13:14, 17-18.

¹⁴ Yea, humble yourselves even as the people in the days of Melchizedek, who was also a high priest after this same order which I have spoken, who also took upon him the high priesthood forever . . .

¹⁷ Now this Melchizedek was a king over the land of Salem; and his people had waxed strong in iniquity and abomination; yea, they had all gone astray; they were full of all manner of wickedness;

¹⁸ But Melchizedek having exercised mighty faith, and received the office of the high priesthood according to the holy order of God, did preach repentance unto his people. And behold, they did repent; and Melchizedek did establish peace in the land in his days; therefore he was called the prince of peace, for he was the king of Salem; and he did reign under his father.

18

Melchizedek

¹ For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;
² To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;
³ Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.
⁴ Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.

Hebrews 7:1-4

JST Hebrews 7:3

For this Melchizedek was ordained a priest after the order of the Son of God, which order was without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life. And all those who are ordained unto this priesthood are made like unto the Son of God, abiding a priest continually. (See also JST Gen 14:26-29)



Abraham Paying Melchizedek Tithes

19

Melchizedek

Hebrews 7:6-7

Who was Melchizedek, and how was he related to Abraham?

- * "he" = Melchizedek
- * "them" = Abraham & Levi
- * Melch. was a contemporary of Abr.
- * Melch. was not related to Abraham and his descendants.
- * Melch. was a Gentile high priest.



20

The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, ***Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.***

Psalms 110:4

¹⁴ For it is evident that *our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.*

¹⁵ And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest,
¹⁶ Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.

¹⁷ For he testifieth, *Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.*

Hebrews 7:14-17

21

Two Covenants

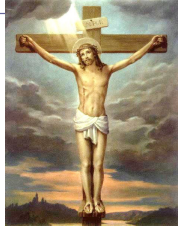
Hebrew 8

*"first covenant" = Law of Moses
 *"second covenant" = Gospel of Jesus Christ

*The fact that a 2nd covenant was needed,
 shows the faulty nature of the 1st covenant.

For if that first covenant had been
faultless, then should no place have been
 sought for the second.

Hebrews 8:7



"Finding fault with [the first covenant], [God] said, '...I will make a **new**, **covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant.' [Jer. 31:31-32]." (Heb. 8:8-9)

22

Jesus Institutes the Sacrament

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-20

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:

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.

²⁵ After the same manner also *he took* the
 cup, when he had supped, saying, **This cup**
is the new testament in my blood: this do
ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of
me.

²⁶ For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink
 this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he
 come.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26



Jeremiah 31:31-33

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD,
 that **I will make a new covenant with the**
house of Israel, and with the house of
 Judah . . . I will put my law in their
 inward parts, and write it in their hearts;
 and will be their God, and they shall be
 my people.

23

Jesus and the Aaronic High Priest

Hebrew 9-10



Temple Priests Pronouncing the
 Priestly Benediction



24

The High Priest

- He alone could enter the Holy of Holies (Lev. 16:3, 15, 33-34)
- He alone could make atonement for the people, the priests and own house (Lev 4:3ff; 9:8ff; 16:6)
- He alone officiated at the ceremony of the two goats (one was slain and the other was driven into the wilderness (Exo 30:10; Lev 16:8-10)



25

Once Every Year Hebrew 9:7



**No one allowed to enter Holy of Holies, except high priest once a year on Day of Atonement (Hebrew: Yom Kippur).*

**The people themselves could not enter Holy of Holies.*

**High priest offered sacrifice and sprinkled blood in Holy of Holies in behalf of the people*

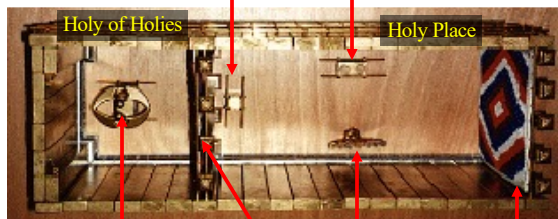
26

The Tabernacle and Its Furnishings

Altar of Incense
(representing prayer)



Table of Shewbread



Ark of the Covenant



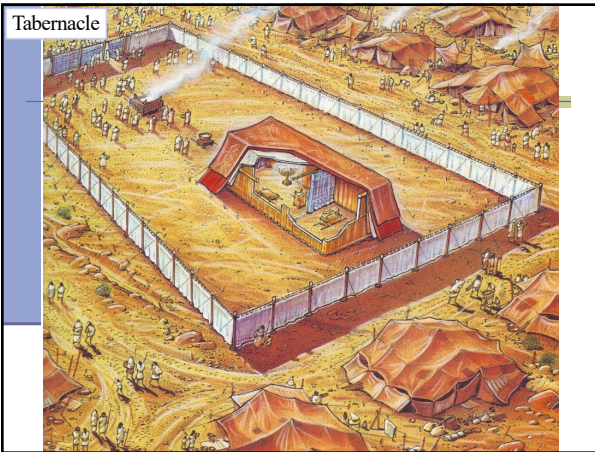
Second Veil

Menorah
(light and power of the Holy Ghost)

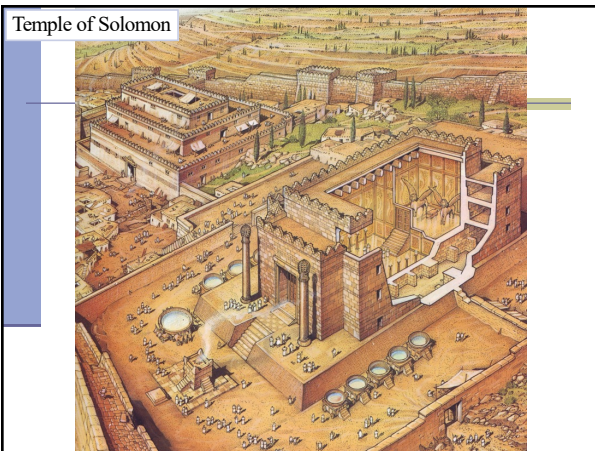


First Veil

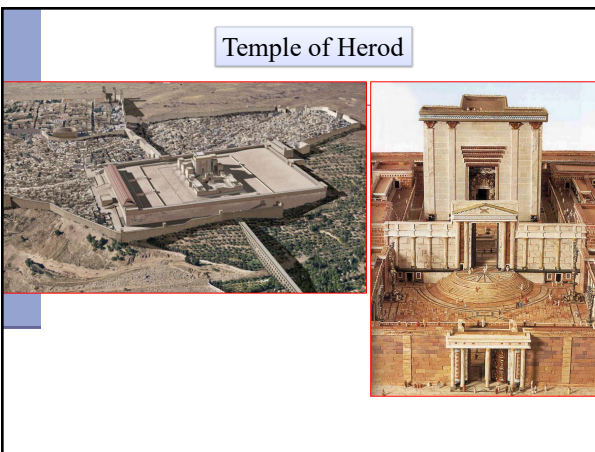
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28



29



30

“Thou shalt put [the altar of incense] before the veil that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee.” (Exod 30:6)

**The Holy of Holies symbolized the presence of God.*



31

High Priest

High Priest stood before the Mercy Seat and offered blood before returning without the veil

Aaronic Priests offer incense (prayer), shewbread, and light the menorah in the Holy Place

High Priest passes through the veil once a year (Yom Kippur) with sacrificial blood to enter the Holy of Holies

Ark of the Covenant



32

What are the Point of these verses?

“But now once in the end of the world has [Christ] appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself... So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many... We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all...but this man [Jesus] after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God... For by one offering he has perfected forever them that are sanctified.”
(Heb. 9:26,28; 10:10,12,14)

**Christ offered himself only once, and it worked permanently!*

**Christ didn't need to repeat his sacrifice every year like Levitical high priests.*



33

Christ, the New High Priest

High Priest stood before the Mercy Seat and offered blood before returning without the veil	Aaronic Priests offer incense (prayer), shewbread, and light the menorah in the Holy Place
High Priest passes through the veil once a year (Yom Kippur) with sacrificial blood to enter the Holy of Holies	

Christ sat down in the presence of the Father and remains to bring us all into his presence	Christ passed through the veil once with his own blood
--	---

When Christ died on the cross, the veil of the temple was rent (Matt 27:51), symbolizing that all (not just the high priest) now had access to the presence of God through Christ

34

What is Faith?

Hebrews 11

“Faith is the assurance which men have of the existence of things which they have not seen, and the principle of action in all intelligent beings.”

Lectures on Faith 1:9

**“Through faith our ancestors received commendation from God”*

**This commendation is manifest through our actions.*

“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (JST Heb. 11:2)

Ether 12:6
 And now, I, Moroni, would speak somewhat concerning these things; I would show unto the world that faith is things which are hoped for and not seen; wherefore, dispute not because ye see not, for ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith.

35

Hebrews 11	Discourse on Faith
v. 4	Faith of Abel
v. 5	Faith of Enoch
v. 7	Faith of Noah
v. 10	Faith of Abraham
v. 11	Faith of Sarah
vv. 17–19	Faith of Abraham
v. 20	Faith of Isaac
v. 21	Faith of Jacob
v. 22	Faith of Joseph
vv. 23–29	Faith of Moses
vv. 30–31	Faith of those in the conquest
vv. 32–34	Faith of David, Samuel and the prophets

36

³⁶ And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

³⁸ (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and *in* mountains, and *in* dens and caves of the earth.

³⁹ And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

⁴⁰ God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

Hebrews 11:36–40



JST 11:40: "God having provided some better things for them through their sufferings, for without sufferings they could not be made perfect."

37



Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (**Hebrews 12:2**)

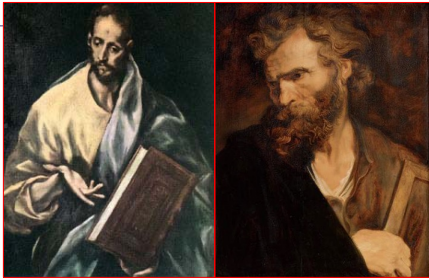
38

Hebrew 13: Exhortations

- v.1: Love one another
- v. 2: Show hospitality to strangers
- v. 3: Remember those imprisoned
- v. 4: Marriage is honorable; avoid fornication
- vv. 5–6: ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" (NRSV)
- v. 7, 17: Honor the leaders in the church
- v. 8: Do not be moved by diverse and strange doctrines

39

Epistles of James & Jude

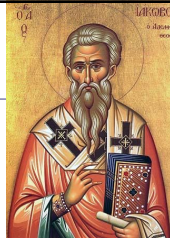


1

Which James?

James the Brother of John
James the “Great”

James the “Just”
James the Brother of Jesus



Known as “**the just**” because of his apparent adherence to certain parts of the Jewish law

Known as the “**Brother of Jesus**” because he was the actual brother (half-brother) of Jesus (along with Jude)

2

Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, **James**, and **Joses**, and **Simon**, and **Judas**? (Mat 13:55)



3

“His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou does... If thou do these things, show thyself to the world. For neither did his brethren believe in him.

(John 7:3-5)

*“brethren” = biological brothers (half-brothers)
(not simply “disciples” or “brethren of the church”)*

“After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples; and they continued there not many days.” (John 2:12)

“A prophet is not without honor, but in his own country, and among his own kin [i.e. “family”], and in his own house.” (Mark 6:4)

**James (and Jude) may have not believed Jesus at first.*

4



²⁵ Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

²⁶ When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

²⁷ Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

John 19:25-27

5

“After three years I [Paul] went up to Jerusalem to see Peter... But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.” (Gal. 1:18-19)

“[Christ] was buried, and...rose again the third day ... [and] was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve... After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me [Paul] also.”
(1 Cor. 15:4-8)



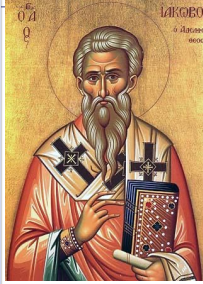
6

Stoning of James

A.D. 62

When, therefore, Ananus was of this disposition, he thought he had now a proper opportunity to exercise his authority. Festus was now dead, and Albinus was but upon the road; so he assembled the Sanhedrin of judges, and brought before them the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James, and some others, and, when he had formed an accusation against them as breakers of the law, he delivered them to be stoned:

Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews* 20:200



7

“I have an old edition of the New Testament in the Latin, Hebrew, German and Greek languages... It tells about Jacobus, the son of Zebedee. It means Jacob. In the English New Testament it is translated as James... The Latin says Jacobus, which means Jacob; the Hebrew says Jacob, the Greek says Jacob and the German says Jacob.”

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 349.



Joseph Smith
Prophet: 1830-1844

8

Genre and Focus of James

- Shaped in letter format only in its opening (1:1)
- Overall a Sermon
- Focuses on practical religion
 - Based also on the teachings of Jesus
 - Provides a witness to the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount independent of Matthew
 - Topics include testing, economic behavior, speech and interpersonal interactions, endurance, and encouragement

9

James 1:1
James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

Apparently to Jewish Christians of the Diaspora (or after the scattering of the Jerusalem Church in Acts 8:1), although it could refer to the Church as a whole as "New Israel" (cf. today's lineage in patriarchal blessings)

10

"I was at this time in my 15th year... I was one day reading the Epistle of James, 1st chapter and 5th verse, which reads: *'If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that gives to all men liberally, and upbraids not, and it shall be given him.'* Never did any passage of scripture come with more power to the heart of man than this did at this time to mine. It seemed to enter with great force into every feeling of my heart. I reflected on it again and again, knowing that if any person needed wisdom from God, I did." (JS-H 1:7,10-13)

Joseph Smith
Prophet: 1830-1844
**Ideal example for us. Do we study scriptures this way?*
**Diligently search, seriously ponder, and actively apply to our lives*

11

James 1:12
¹² Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Different Types of Crowns

"stephanos"
A sign of athletic or military prowess

"diadema"
A sign of political authority

12

James 1

- “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:” (v. 19)
- “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” (v.22)
- “If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.” (v. 26)

13

Pure Religion

James 1:27

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

*“Religion” = worship
(Greek: *thrēskeia*)

*“Religion” (or “worship”)
in its purest form is serving
others who are in need.



“When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God.” (Mosiah 2:17)

14

“Respect of Persons”

James 2:2–9

* “gay” = fine

*Church meetings should not be a popularity contest or a fashion show (to attract a mate).

*Church services are not about what you look like, but about worshipping God.

³⁶ And I know that ye do walk in the pride of your hearts; and there are none save a few only who do not lift themselves up in the pride of their hearts, unto the wearing of very fine apparel, unto envying, and strifes, and malice, and persecutions, and all manner of iniquities; and your churches, yea, even every one, have become polluted because of the pride of your hearts. ³⁷ For behold, ye do love money, and your substance, and your fine apparel, and the adorning of your churches, more than ye love the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted.

Mormon 8:36–37

15

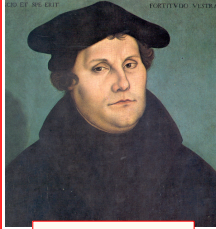
Faith & Works

James 2:12–26

■ Martin Luther and the Epistle of James

■ In the earliest editions of the German Bible Luther wrote his now famous comment:

- “St. James Epistle is really an epistle of straw, compared to [St. Paul’s letters], for it lacks this evangelical character”
- “I maintain that some Jew wrote it [the Book of James] who probably heard about Christian people but never encountered any.”



Martin Luther
German Reformer
1483 – 1546

16

Saved by Faith or Works?



“Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? See thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect... Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.”
(James 2:17-18, 21-24)

*Paul used the example of Abraham to make the opposite point.

*Was Abraham justified by works (James) or by faith (Paul)?

“If Abraham were justified by works, he has whereof to glory; but... Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness... Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace... to that also which is of the faith of Abraham.” (Rom 4:2-3, 16)

17

He Who Defines the Term Controls the Term “FAITH”

■ The definition of faith varies for Paul and James

■ **Paul:** Active belief coupled with good deeds (because we are new creatures in Christ).

■ **James’ audience:** Passive belief, not coupled with good deeds.

■ How are you justified?

■ **Paul:** By faith alone, because true faith automatically includes works in the covenant.

■ **James:** By faith and works, because mere passive belief does not include works.

18

“Regarding the debate about faith and works: It’s like asking which blade in a pair of scissors is most important.”



C.S. Lewis
1898–1963

19

Sins of Speech: Taming the Tongue

James 3:1–12

■ ¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For all of us make many mistakes. *Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle.* ³ If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴ Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.
(James 3:1–4 NRS)

■ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. *How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire!* (James 3:5 NRS)

■ KJV “matter” = Forrest

■ But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. *With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.* (James 3:8–10 NKJV)

20

“Men and women of Christ are quick to praise, but are also able to restrain themselves. They understand that on occasion the biting of the tongue can be as important as the gift of tongues.”



Neal A. Maxwell
Apostle:
1981–2004

Neal A. Maxwell,
“Put Off the Natural Man, and Come Off Conqueror,” *Ensign*
(Nov. 1990), p. 16.

21

Conjectural Emendation to James 4:2

ἐπιθυμεῖτε καὶ οὐκ ἔχετε, **φονεύετε** καὶ ζηλοῦτε καὶ οὐ δύνασθε ἐπιτυχεῖν, μάχεσθε καὶ πολεμεῖτε, οὐκ ἔχετε διὰ τὸ μὴ αἰτεῖσθαι ὑμᾶς,

φονεύετε = “you (pl.) murder”

φθονευετε = “you (pl.) are jealous, envious”

22

Draw Nigh



Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **James 4:8**

¹⁵ When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. ¹⁶ Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, **Isaiah 1:15-16**

“Behold I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice and **open the door**, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” (Rev. 3:20)

**If a relationship is not established with Christ, it is our fault, not his!*

23

Prayer of Faith

James 5:13–18

- “Are any among you suffering? They should pray. **Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise.**” (5:13 NRSV)
- “Are any among you sick? **They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick,** and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.” (5:14–15)
- Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. **The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.**” (5:16)
- “Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and **he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.** And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.” (5:17–18 NKJV)

24

Epistle of Jude

- **Genre:** a general letter (“Catholic” epistle) of exhortation not addressed to any particular community but treating the problem of false teachers or “intruders”
- **Authorship:** “Jude (Greek for *Judas*), the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James” (v.1)
 - “Is not this the carpenter [Jesus], the son of Mary and brother of **James** and **Joses** and **Judas** and **Simon**, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.” (Mark 6:3)
 - Jude never identifies himself as the brother of Jesus, but as the brother of James.
 - There were many Jameses. Which James? He doesn’t say.

25

Why is Jude Writing?

Jude 3–4

³ Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

⁴ For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

26

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*False teachers have “crept in” (i.e. into the church).

*Again, note the description of apostasy from within; these false teachers were members of the church.

“Grievous wolves shall enter in among you... Of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.”
(Acts 20:29–30)

27

Examples of Disobedience and Punishment (Six Examples)

- **V.5 – The first generation of Israelites were destroyed in the wilderness.**
 - “The LORD spoke unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, ‘How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me?... Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all... from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me.’” (Numbers 14:26–29)
- **V.6 – Those who rebelled in the pre-mortal life were cast out.**
 - “[Satan] rebelled against me...and also a third part of the hosts of heaven turned he away from me because of their agency; And they were thrust down, and thus came the devil and his angels; And, behold, there is a place prepared for them from the beginning, which place is hell.” (D&C 29:36–38)
- **V.7 – Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by the Lord.**
 - “The men of Sodom called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? Bring them out unto us, that we may know them... Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven.” (Gen. 19:5, 24)

28

Examples of Disobedience and Punishment (Six Examples)

- **V.11 – Cain was punished for killing Abel.**
 - “Cain loved Satan more than God... [and] rose up against Abel, his brother, and slew him. And Cain gloried in that which he had done... And Cain said unto the Lord... my punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the Lord... and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that he that finds me will slay me, because of mine iniquities.” (Moses 5:18,32–33,38–39)
- **V. 11 – Balaam was punished for disobeying the Lord.**
 - “God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them... And Balaam rose up in the morning... and went with the princes of Moab. And God’s anger was kindled because he went; and the angel of the LORD stood in the way... When the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam’s foot... And Balaam’s anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff. And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said to Balaam, What have I done unto thee?” (Numbers 22:12–35)
- **V. 11 – Those who rebelled against Moses were destroyed.**
 - “Korah... the son of Levi... took men... and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron... And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods.” (Num 16:1–3, 31–3)

29

Positive Example

But when the archangel Michael contended with the devil and disputed about the body of Moses, he did not dare to bring a condemnation of slander against him, but said, “**The Lord rebuke you!**”

Jude 1:9

This is not in our Bible

It is in an ancient Jewish document (which has not survived)

The Assumption of Moses

“In ***The Assumption of Moses***, a book which the apostle Jude mentions in his epistle, Michael the archangel when disputing with the devil about the body of Moses says that the serpent was inspired by the devil and so became the cause of the transgression of Adam and Eve.”

(Origen [c. 200 A.D.], *On First Principles* 3.2.1)

30

Positive Example

¹⁴ And **Enoch** also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying,
 “Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,
¹⁵ To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are
 ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they
 have ungodly committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which
 ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

This is not in our Bible
 Comes from the **Book of Enoch**

31

Book of Enoch



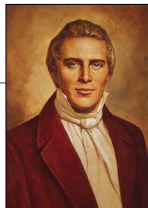
Guido Reni
1636

“And behold! He cometh with
 ten thousands of His holy
 ones to execute judgment
 upon all, and to destroy all
 the ungodly: and to convict
 all flesh of all the works of
 their ungodliness which they
 have ungodly committed, and
 of all the hard things which
 ungodly sinners have spoken
 against Him.”

1 Enoch 1:9

32

“Much conjecture and conversation
 frequently occurred among the
 Saints, concerning the books
 mentioned, and referred to, in various
 places in the Old and New
 testaments, which were now nowhere
 to be found. The common remark
 was, ‘They are *lost books*;’ but it
seems that the Apostolic Church had
some of these writings, as Jude
mentions or quotes the Prophecy of
Enoch, the seventh man from Adam.”



Joseph Smith
Prophet: 1830-1844

Joseph Smith,
*History of the
 Church* 1:132-
 133.

33

“Because of our belief in continuing revelation, we Latter-day Saints maintain that the canon (the authoritative body) of scriptures is open.”

Dallin H. Oaks, “Scripture Reading and Revelation”
Ensign (Jan. 1995), p. 7.



Dallin H. Oaks
Apostle: 1984-present

“In the true Church, where there are apostles and prophets to give the mind and will and voice of the Lord to the Church and the world... nothing is better known or more greatly appreciated than the fact that the canon of scripture is not now and never will be full.”

Bruce R. McConkie, “A New Commandment: Save Thyself and Thy Kindred!”
Ensign (Aug. 1976), p. 7.



Bruce R. McConkie
Apostle: 1972-1985

34

“What makes us different from most other Christians in the way we read and use the Bible and other scriptures is our belief in continuing revelation. For us, the scriptures are not the ultimate source of knowledge, but what precedes the ultimate source. The ultimate knowledge comes by revelation...through those we sustain as prophets, seers, and revelators.”

Dallin H. Oaks, “Scripture Reading and Revelation,” *Ensign* (Jan. 1995), p. 7.



Dallin H. Oaks
Apostle: 1984-present

35

1 & 2 Peter



"When thou [i.e. Peter] was young, thou girded thyself, and walked whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou would not. This spoke he, signifying by what death he should glorify God."

John 21:18-19

1

1 Peter

- **Date:** mid A.D. 60s
- **To:** Christian congregations, mostly in northern Asia Minor and perhaps proselytized by the Jerusalem Church rather than by Paul
 - Referred to as "exiles of the diaspora," this is probably an application of the "scattering" image to Christian Gentiles
 - "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia."



2

1 Peter

- **Genre:** Reads like a general (Catholic) epistle
- **Theme:** Rather than abandon the world, Christians must make a positive difference in society and set an example of the believers. Must endure in times of intense hardship.
- **From:**
 - "The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son." (1 Pet. 5:13)
 - While this could be a reference to Babylon on the Euphrates, this seems highly unlikely.

- "And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, **BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**"
Revelation 17:5
- "And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The **seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.**"
Revelation 17:9



Urbs septicollis = Rome (Vergil, *G.* 2.535; *Aen.* 6.783; Horace, *Carm.* 7)

3



Living Hope in Face of Trials

1:3-9



“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a **lively hope** by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,” (v. 3)

- *Scriptural usage of “**hope**” is “anticipation based upon testimony.”
- “I would speak unto you concerning hope... And what is it that ye shall hope for?... Ye shall have hope through the atonement of Christ and the power of his resurrection, to be raised unto life eternal.” (Moroni 7:40-42)

4



Neal A. Maxwell
Apostle:
1981-2004

“Our everyday usage of the word hope includes how we ‘hope’ to arrive at a certain destination by a certain time. We ‘hope’ the world economy will improve. We ‘hope’ for the visit of a loved one... Ultimate hope is a different matter. It is tied to Jesus and the blessings of the great Atonement, blessings resulting in the universal Resurrection... Real hope is much more than wishful musing... Hope is realistic anticipation.”

Neal A. Maxwell, “Hope through the Atonement of Jesus Christ,” *Ensign* (Nov. 1998), pp. 61-62.

5



Living Hope in Face of Trials

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- ⁶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: ⁷ **That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth,** though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: (1 Peter 6-7)

6

Liberty Jail

March, 1839



7 And if thou shouldst be cast into the pit, or into the hands of murderers, and the sentence of death passed upon thee; if thou be cast into the deep; if the billowing surge conspire against thee; if fierce winds become thine enemy; if the heavens gather blackness, and all the elements combine to hedge up the way; and above all, if the very jaws of hell shall gape open the mouth wide after thee, know thou, my son, that **all these things shall give thee experience, and shall be for thy good.** 8 **The Son of Man** hath descended below them all. Art thou greater than he?

D&C 122:7–8

7

Redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb

(1:10–25)

¹⁹ But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

²⁰ Who verily was **foreordained before the foundation of the world**, but was manifest in these last times for you, (1 Peter 1:19-20)

[You] who by him do believe in God,
that raised him [Christ] up from the dead, and gave him glory;
that your faith and hope might be in God.

Seeing ye have purified your souls
in obeying the truth through the Spirit
unto unfeigned love of the brethren,

see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Being born again,
not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible,
by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

For all flesh is as grass,
and all the glory of man as the flower of grass.

The grass withereth,
and the flower thereof falleth away:
But the word of the Lord endureth for ever.

(1 Peter 1:21–25a, quoting Isaiah 40:6–8 in vv. 24–25a)

8

God's People: a Royal Priesthood

(2:1–10)

But ye **are** a **chosen generation**, a **royal priesthood**, an **holy nation**, a **peculiar people**; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: (2:9)

■ *Modern use of “peculiar” = weird or strange

■ **“Peculiar” = possession or property (Greek: *peripoiēsin*)/ [Latin *peculiaris* = private property]

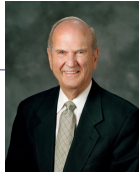
■ “If ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a **peculiar treasure** unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine.” (Exod. 19:5)

■ **“Peculiar treasure” = personal property (Hebrew: sēgūllā)*

■ ****Peculiar people = completely owned or purchased by God***

9

“The adjectives chosen, royal, and holy we recognize as elevating. But what about peculiar? A modern dictionary defines peculiar as ‘unusual,’ ‘eccentric,’ or ‘strange.’ What kind of compliment is that? But the term peculiar as used in the scriptures...means ‘valued property,’ or ‘treasure’... or ‘possession,’... Thus, we see that the scriptural term peculiar signifies ‘valued treasure,’ ‘made’ or ‘selected by God.’”



Russell M. Nelson
Apostle:
1984-2018
President
2018-present

Russell M. Nelson, “Children of the Covenant,” *Ensign* (May 1995), p. 34.

10

Christian Behavior in a Pagan World

1 Peter 2:11–3:12

- **Honorable Conduct an Example to the Gentiles** (2:11–12)
 - “Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honorable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge.” (2:11–12 NRSV; KJV “conversation” = “conduct, way of life”)
- **Respecting Government** (2:13–17)
 - For the Lord’s sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For it is God’s will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. Honor everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honor the emperor.” (2:13–17 NRSV; cf. D&C 98:5–10, etc.)
- **Duty of Slaves** (2:18–25)
- **Wives and Husbands** (3:1–12)

11

Christian Behavior in the Face of Persecution (3:13–4:19)



Yet if *any man suffer* as **a Christian**, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.
1 Peter 4:16

“*They shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you*, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name’s sake... Ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; *and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake.*” (Luke 21:12–17)

12

Nero and the Christians, A.D. 64



Therefore, to check this rumour Nero substituted as culprits and afflicted with the most exquisite tortures those who were called **Christians by the mob and hated for their abominations**. Christ, from whom the name originated, had been crucified by the procurator Pontius Pilate in the reign of Tiberius. Though checked for the time this deadly superstition again broke out, not only in Judea, where the evil originated, but even in the city, where all things atrocious and shameful from every part of the world come together and flourish. Therefore, first those who confessed were arrested, then from their disclosures a great multitude was convicted, not so much for the crime of incendiarism, as for their hatred for mankind. **Mockery was added as they perished, for some, covered with the skins of wild beasts, were mangled by dogs, many were crucified or given to flames, still others were used as a nightly illumination after the daylight had faded.** Nero had offered his gardens for this spectacle, and was giving games fit for the circus, where in the dress of a charioteer he mingled with the people or else stood on high in his chariot. Therefore, although they were guilty and deserved the most severe punishment, a feeling of pity arose, since they were being put to death not for public welfare but to satisfy the rage of one person.

Tacitus, *Annals* 15.44

“Think it not strange concerning the **fiery trial** which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you. But **rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings**... If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye... Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glory God on this behalf.”

1 Peter 4:12–14, 16

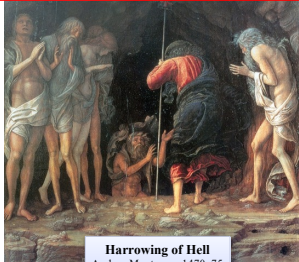
13

Gospel Proclaimed to the Dead

(3:18–20; 4:6)

“For Christ also has once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit. By which also **he went and preached unto the spirits in prison**; which [at] sometime were disobedient. . . . **For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead**, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.”

1 Peter 3:18–20; 4:6

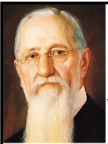


Harrowing of Hell
Andrea Mantegna, 1470–75

14

Gospel Proclaimed to the Dead

(3:18–20; 4:6)



■ Joseph F. Smith, D&C 138 (1918) – Revelation about Spirit World

■ “The Lord went not in person among the wicked and the disobedient who had rejected the truth, to teach them... Our Redeemer spent his time during his sojourn in the world of spirits, instructing and preparing the faithful spirits of the prophets who had testified of him in the flesh; that they might carry the message of redemption unto all the dead, unto whom he could not go personally.” (vv. 36–37)

■ “Thus was the gospel preached to those who had died in their sins, without a knowledge of the truth, or in transgression, having rejected the prophets ... And so it was made known among the dead, both small and great, the unrighteous as well as the faithful.” (vv. 31–32)

■ “These were taught **faith in God, repentance from sin, vicarious baptism for the remission of sins, the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands**, And all other principles of the gospel that were necessary for them to know in order to qualify themselves that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.” (vv. 33–35)

15

“The dead who repent will be redeemed, through obedience to the ordinances of the house of God, and after they have paid the penalty of their transgressions, and are washed clean, shall receive a reward according to their works, for they are heirs of salvation.” (D&C 138:57-59)



“For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.”

1 Peter 4:6

16

Question: Who is not saved and will be condemned to Hell?

“Those who have never heard the gospel, those who have heard it and who have been changed for the better by it but who have not received the grace of perseverance, those who have heard the gospel and who have failed to respond, . . . those who were too young to believe and who died without baptism — all these are exactly the same as the great mass of those who are condemned.”

On Rebuke and Grace 7(12)



17

2 Peter Background

- **Date:** Shortly before Peter's martyrdom, c. A.D. mids 60s (compare to 2 Timothy)
- **To:** Same audience as 1 Peter (3:1)
 - it is assumed that the recipients are by this time familiar with some of Paul's letters (3:15-16)
- **From:** Probably Rome
- **Purpose:** Additional exhortation and encouragement; stresses the scriptural and authoritative basis necessary to counter false teaching; teaches the reality of the Second Coming, even if it is delayed

18



Martyrdom of St. Peter
Caravaggio, 1601

¹³ Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting *you* in remembrance; ¹⁴ Knowing that shortly I must put off *this* my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.
2 Peter 1:13-14

“When thou [i.e. Peter] was young, thou girded thyself, and walked whither thou would: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou would not. This spoke he, signifying by what death he should glorify God.”
John 21:18–19

19

¹⁶ For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.
¹⁷ For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.
¹⁸ And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.
2 Peter 1:16–18

To what does this passage refer?

Matthew 17:1–9
¹ And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,
² And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light...
³ While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.
Matthew 17:1–2, 5



Mount of Transfiguration

20

Condemnation of False Teachers (2:1–22)

¹ But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. ² And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

2 Peter 2:1–2

- Peter draws freely from Jude, but he omits the non-canonical material
 - Sodom and Gomorrah (2 Pet. 2:6/Jude 7)
 - Balaam (2 Pet. 2:15–16/Jude 11)
 - Cast out angels in preexistence (2 Pet. 2:4/Jude 6)

21

Second Coming

2 Peter 3:3–10

**Some people (then and now!) made fun of Christians because Christ had not come back yet.*

**Peter was speaking of his own days!!*

“But concerning the coming of the Lord, beloved, I would not have you ignorant . . .” (JST 2 Peter 3:8)

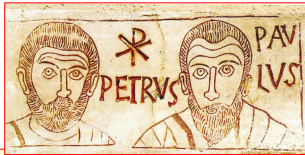
“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise and coming,” (JST 2 Peter 3:9)

**God is not “slacking” on the job. Jesus will come back.*

**Just as we don’t know when a thief will come in the night, we don’t know when Jesus will return.*

22

Peter on Paul



“Our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given unto him, has written unto you. As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.”

2 Peter 3:15–16

23

1, 2 & 3 John

“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. . . We love him, because he first loved us.”

1 John 4:9–11, 19



John the Apostle
Hans Memling, 1468

1

1 John

1 John

- No name is given in this Letter, though John's authorship is likely
- Probably written *after* the gospel to strengthen the faith of Christians who were being disturbed by false teachers
- Style and topics, however, connect it closely with the Gospel
 - *The language of 1-3 John is very similar to the Gospel of John (imagery using love-hate, light-darkness, truth-lies, flesh-spirit, etc.).

Written to:

- *"My Beloved Little Children" (cf. 1 John 2:1, 12, 18, 28, etc.)
- *Probably means John's converts or his congregation (or if Peter is dead, then John could be addressing the church in general).
- *Normally grouped with the other "Catholic Epistles."
- *1-3 John are traditionally the last written material in the New Testament (even later than the Book of Revelation).

2

Concerning John the Apostle



John the Evangelist
El Greco, 1606-07

²⁰ Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? ²¹ Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what *shall* this man *do*? ²² Jesus saith unto him, if I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. ²³ Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, if I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?

John 21:20-23

3

D&C 7

Concerning John the Apostle

- 1 And the Lord said unto me: John, my beloved, what desirest thou? For if you shall ask what you will, it shall be granted unto you.
- 2 And I said unto him: **Lord, give unto me power over death, that I may live and bring souls unto thee.**
- 3 And the Lord said unto me: **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, because thou desirest this thou shalt tarry until I come in my glory, and shalt prophesy before nations, kindreds, tongues and people.**
- 4 And for this cause the Lord said unto Peter: If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? For he desired of me that he might bring souls unto me, but thou desiredst that thou mightest speedily come unto me in my kingdom.
- 5 I say unto thee, Peter, this was a good desire; but my beloved has desired that he might do more, or a greater work yet among men than what he has before done.
- 6 Yea, he has undertaken a greater work; **therefore I will make him as flaming fire and a ministering angel; he shall minister for those who shall be heirs of salvation who dwell on the earth.**
- 7 And I will make thee to minister for him and for thy brother James; and unto you three I will give this power and the keys of this ministry until I come.
- 8 Verily I say unto you, ye shall both have according to your desires, for ye both joy in that which ye have desired.

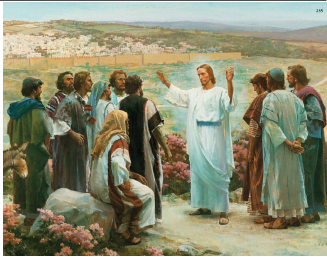
4

“And [many] shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”

Matt. 24:10–12

Jesus warned his disciples (including John) that people would **hate one another and that **false teachers** would arise.*

**Both of these things are happening among John's congregation (and among Christians in general).*



5

Docetism

■ Docetism: the human existence of Jesus was not salvifically significant

- Forerunners of the later “Gnostics” (those with special *gnōsis* or knowledge) who thought that secret doctrines ostensibly taught by Jesus were more important than what he did in dying as the Lamb of God
- Later heretics claimed that the divine Jesus never even became flesh, he only “seemed” to live and die

■ The Johannine Epistles (see 1 John 4:2–3) stress that not only was **Jesus the Son of God**, but that in his earthly career Jesus actually lived, had a body of flesh and blood and died as he did . . . **in other words, that he was the Lamb of God!**

6

1 John 1:1–4

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

² (For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it*, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) ³ That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.



- Emphasis on physical nature of the **witnesses experiences**—they have heard, seen, and touched

7

Testing Faith (2:18–27)

Warning against the Antichrists

- “Little children, **it is the last time**: and as ye have heard that **[an] antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists**; whereby we know that it is the last time. **They went out from us**, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.” (2:18–19)

- “[an] antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists,” one who fights against Christ, tries to replace Christ, here, teaches falsehoods about Christ
- “**They went out from us**,” the secessionists who left John’s churches

The false teaching of the antichrists

- “Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? **He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father . . .**” (2:22–23a)
- “For many deceivers are entered into the world, **who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.**” (2 John 1:7)

8

True Disciples Have Love

- ¹⁰ He that **loveth** his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. ¹¹ But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

1 John 2:10-11

- ¹¹ For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should **love** one another.

1 John 3:11

- ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we **love** the brethren. He that **loveth** not his brother abideth in death.

1 John 3:14

- ¹⁸ My little children, let us not **love** in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

1 John 3:18

- ²³ And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and **love** one another, as he gave us commandment.

1 John 3:23

- ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another: for **love** is of God; and every one that **loveth** is born of God, and knoweth God. ⁸ He that **loveth** not knoweth not God; for God is **love**.

1 John 4:7-8

9

Docetism Again

¹ Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

² Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: *Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:*

³ *And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist,* whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

1 John 4:1-3

10

1 John 5:7-8

⁷ For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. ⁸ And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

⁷ ὅτι τρεῖς εἰσιν οἱ μαρτυροῦντες,
⁸ τὸ πνεῦμα καὶ τὸ ὕδωρ καὶ τὸ αἷμα, καὶ οἱ τρεῖς εἰς τὸ ἓν εἰσιν.

Desiderius Erasmus

October 28 1466 – July 12, 1536



Hans Holbein (the younger), 1523

11

Clear Scribal Interpolation For Doctrinal Purpose

1 John 5:7b-8a

~~⁷ For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.~~

~~⁸ And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.~~

ὁμοῦ ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ, πᾶρ, λόγος, καὶ πᾶν ἅγιον,
καὶ οὗτοι οἱ ἱερεῖς, ἐν ἑσὶ: καὶ τρεῖς ὄντι οἱ μαρτυ-
ροῦντες ἐν τῇ γῇ, πᾶν, ὕδωρ, καὶ αἷμα, ἡ τὴν
μαρτυρίαν τῶν ὁνούν λαμβανόμεν, ἡ μαρτυρία τοῦ
θεοῦ μόνον ἐστίν, ὅτι αὕτη ἐστὶ ἡ μαρτυρία τοῦ θεοῦ, ὅτι
μεμαρτύρηκε περὶ τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ.

12

1 John 5:6–8

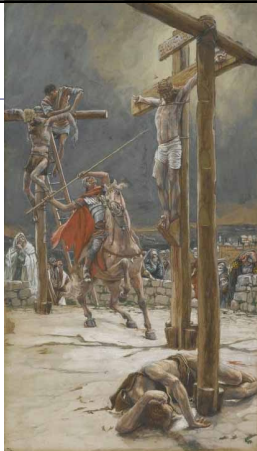
⁶ This is the one who came by **water** and **blood**, Jesus Christ, not with the **water** only but with the **water** and the **blood**. And the **Spirit** is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.
⁷ There are three that testify:
⁸ the **Spirit** and the **water** and the **blood**, and these three agree.

1 John 5:6–8

13

“But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.”

John 19:34



14

Tres sunt qui testimonium dant in coelo.) In Graeco codice tantum hoc reperio de testimonio triplici, ὅτι τρεῖς εἰσιν οἱ μαρτυροῦντες, τὸ πνεῦμα καὶ τὸ ὕδωρ καὶ τὸ αἷμα, id est, Quoniam tres sunt qui testificantur, spiritus, et aqua, et sanguis. Divus Hieronymus praeluquens in epistolas canonicas, suscipiat hunc locum fuisse depravatam a Latinis interpretibus, et a nonnullis omissum fuisse testimonium patris, filii, et spiritus sancti.

There are three who give testimony in heaven.) In the Greek manuscript(s) I only found this concerning the testimony of the three: there are three testifying, the spirit and the water and the blood, it is, because there are three that testify, the spirit, and the water, and the blood. The divine Jerome announced beforehand in his canonical letters, that this passage was suspected to be a corruption from the Latin interpreters, & the testimony of “the Father Son, & Holy Spirit” was omitted by several.

¶ Tres sunt qui testimonium dant in coelo.) In Graeco codice tantum hoc reperio de testimonio triplici, ὅτι τρεῖς εἰσιν οἱ μαρτυροῦντες, τὸ πνεῦμα καὶ τὸ ὕδωρ καὶ τὸ αἷμα, id est, Quoniam tres sunt qui testificantur, spiritus, et aqua, et sanguis. Divus Hieronymus praeluquens in epistolas canonicas, suscipiat hunc locum fuisse depravatam a Latinis interpretibus, et a nonnullis omissum fuisse testimonium patris, filii, et spiritus sancti.

Erat hoc efficax telum adversus Arianos

This [verse] was a powerful dart against the Arians,

15

... ad haec Paulus Bombasius vir doctus & integer, meo rogatu locum hunc ad verbum descripsit ex bibliothecae vaticanae codice pervetusto, in quo habebatur testimonium patris, verbi, & spiritus. Si movet auctoritas vestustatis, liber erat antiquissimus: si Pontificis, ex illius bibliotheca petitum est testimonium. Cum haec lectione consentit aeditio Aldina.

To this Paolo Bombasio, a learned and blameless man, at my enquiry described this passage to me word for word from a very old codex from the Vatican library, in which it does not have the testimony "of the father, word, and spirit." If anyone is impressed by age, the book was very ancient; if by the authority of the Pope, this testimony was sought from his library.

16

True Disciples Have Love

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1 John 2:10-11
- ¹¹ For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should **love** one another.
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- ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another: for **love** is of God; and every one that **loveth** is born of God, and knoweth God. ⁸ He that **loveth** not knoweth not God; for God is **love**.
1 John 4:7-8

17

2 John

- **Author:**
- Identified only as "the Elder," but clearly a general leader with authority over many congregations
- Points of style and the theme love connect it closely with 1 John and support the assumption that it was the apostle John
- **To:**
- Written to "the elect lady and her children"
- **Probably a church and its members**
 - Seemingly Johannine Christians distant from the elder who are threatened by traveling teachers preaching schismatic doctrines, probably the same as those contested in 1 John
- **2 John contains the same themes as 1 John:**
- 1. *Members who do not love one another (2 John 1:5-6)
- 2. *False teachers who teach Docetism, that Jesus did not come to earth in a physical body (2 John 1:7)
- 3. *Concern with apostasy/rebellion from within (2 Jn 1:9-11)

18

2 John

Why is 2 John so short?

- *John says that he will visit them and tell them much more in person.
 - "Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink. But I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full." (2 John 1:12)

19

3 John

■ Author:

- The author only identifies himself as "the elder" (3 John 1:1).

■ To:

- "Unto the well-beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth." (3 John 1:1)
 - Gaius was a member of the Christian congregation over which Diotrephes was the leader.
- Why didn't John write directly to Diotrephes, the leader?
 - Because Diotrephes was rebelling against the apostolic leadership.

20

"I wrote unto the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, receives us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he does: prating against us with malicious words. And not content therewith, neither does he himself receive the brethren, and forbids them that would, and casts them out of the church." (3 John 1:9-10)

1. John wrote to the entire congregation, through their leader Diotrephes, but Diotrephes refused John's letter.

21

"I wrote unto the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, receives us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he does: prating against us with malicious words. And not content therewith, neither does he himself receive the brethren, and forbids them that would, and casts them out of the church." (3 John 1:9-10)

2. Diotrephes loves his position as leader of their congregation.

22

"I wrote unto the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, receives us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he does: prating against us with malicious words. And not content therewith, neither does he himself receive the brethren, and forbids them that would, and casts them out of the church." (3 John 1:9-10)

3. Diotrephes says evil things against John and other church leaders

23

"I wrote unto the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, receives us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he does: prating against us with malicious words. And not content therewith, neither does he himself receive the brethren, and forbids them that would, and casts them out of the church." (3 John 1:9-10)

4. Diotrephes refuses to let other Christians (including leaders like John) visit and teach his congregation

24

"I wrote unto the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, receives us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he does: prating against us with malicious words. And not content therewith, neither does he himself receive the brethren, and forbids them that would, and casts them out of the church." (3 John 1:9-10)

5. Diotrephes forbids his members to receive other Christian teachers (including leaders like John).

25

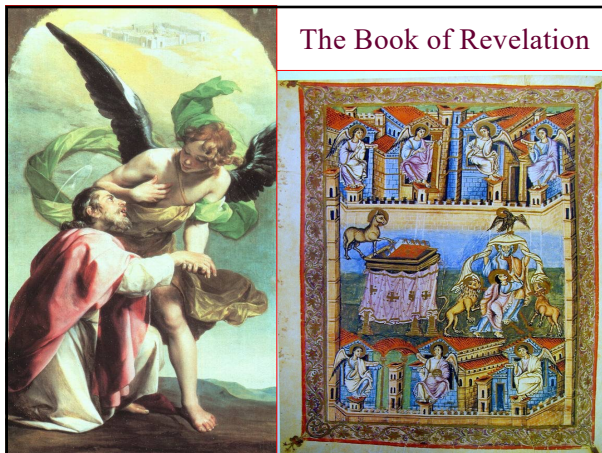
"Demetrius has good report of all men, and of the truth itself; yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true."
(3 John 12)

**Demetrius is probably the person who brought this letter from John to Gaius. John assures Gaius that Demetrius can be trusted.*

"I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee. But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face."
(3 John 13-14)

**Even though Diotrephes has forbidden the members of his congregation to associate with John, John assures Gaius that they will be able to meet very soon and discuss these serious matters.*

26



The Book of Revelation

1

The Book of Revelation

- PLEASE NOTE: It is the “**Book of Revelation**” (Singular!), not the “**Book of Revelations**” (Plural)
- It is also known as the “Apocalypse of John”
 - Apocalypse = “unveiling / disclosure” (i.e. Revelation)
 - Greek: *apokalypsis*: Ἀποκάλυψις Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἣν ἔδωκεν αὐτῷ ὁ θεὸς δεῖξαι τοῖς δοῦλοις αὐτοῦ ἃ δεῖ γενέσθαι ἐν τάχει, καὶ ἐσήμανεν ἀποστείλας διὰ τοῦ ἀγγέλου αὐτοῦ τῷ δούλῳ αὐτοῦ Ἰωάννῃ, (Rev 1:1)
- What is an Apocalypse?
 - Apocalypse: **Disclosure** of heavenly information that pertains to the things which must come to pass, usually before the END
 - Best example of an Apocalypse in Old Testament is the Book of Daniel
- **Disclosure** is made primarily through imagery & symbolism
 - **White** = **Purity**; **Red** = **Blood, death**; **Green** = **life, goodness**; **Black** = **evil, death**
 - **Eyes** = **Knowledge**; **Horn** = **Power**; **Wings** = **Ability to move & act**
 - 4, 7, 10, 12, 100, 1000 = perfection, completeness
 - Disclosure given in symbolism so only those in the “know” can fully understand

2

“Revelation is one of the plainest books God ever caused to be written.”

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 290 = 8 Apr 1843

3

D&C 77

Revelation given to Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Hiram, Ohio, about March 1832. Joseph Smith's history states, "In connection with the translation of the Scriptures, I received the following explanation of the Revelation of St. John."



4

D&C 77 follows a question and answer format regarding the Book of Revelation

which we saw, which we were commanded to write while we were yet in the Spirit.

114 But "great and marvelous are the works of the Lord, and the mysteries of his kingdom which

manifestation of the Spirit, while in the flesh, they may be able to "bear his presence in the world of glory. 119 And to God and the Lamb be glory, and honor, and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

SECTION 77

Revelation given to Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Hiram, Ohio, about March 1832. Joseph Smith's history states, "In connection with the translation of the Scriptures, I received the following explanation of the Revelation of St. John."

1-4, Beasts have spirits and will dwell in eternal felicity; 5-7, This earth has a temporal existence of 7,000 years; 8-10, Various angels restore the gospel and minister on earth; 11, The sealing of the 144,000; 12-14, Christ will come in the beginning of the seventh thousand years; 15, Two prophets will be raised up to the Jewish nation.

Q. What is the "sea of glass spoken of by John, 4th chapter, and 6th verse of the Revelation?"

A. It is the "earth, in its sanctified, immortal, and eternal state."

2 Q. What are we to understand by the four beasts, spoken of in the same verse?

A. They are "figurative expressions, used by the Revelator, John,

110a Philip 2:10 (9-11).
111a to Good Works.
b Rev 20:12 (12-13).
c Dan. 7:27.
d John 14:2; D&C 99:2, 81:6.
112a to Servant.
b D&C 29:29.
c Rev 21:27 (9-27).
d D&C 43:33 (18, 33).
e Eph. 3:21.
114a 1 Chr. 16:9.
Ps. 98:36; 40:5; 92:5.
Rev. 15:3.

Morm. 9:16 (16-20);
D&C 88:47.
Moses 1:4 (3-5).
Jacob 4:8; D&C 19:10.
115a 2 Cor. 12:4.
3 Ne. 28:14 (12-14).
116a 3 Ne. 5:18; 12:16 (15-25);
19:32 (30-36).
D&C 76:10.
b Ezek. 12:2.
c 1 Cor. 2:11 (10-12).
to Holy Ghost.
Mission of.

d D&C 20:31.
117a to God, Privilege of Seeing.
118a D&C 88:22.
b to God, Presence of.
119a Matt. 6:13.
77:1a Book 1:22; Rev. 4:6.
b to Earth, Destiny of.
c D&C 130:9.
to Sanctification.
d to Immortality.
e to Celestial Glory.
2a to Symbolism.

5

Purpose of this Revelation:

"To show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass...for the time is at hand." (Rev. 1:1,3)

"Write the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter." (Rev. 1:19)



13th Century Illuminated Manuscript of Revelation

At least two applications:

1) **John's day**; 2) **Our day**

6

Was this Revelation seen before John's time?

"One of the twelve apostles of the Lamb...shall also write concerning the end of the world... The things which this apostle of the Lamb shall write are many things which thou has seen; and behold, the remainder shalt thou see. But the things which thou shalt see hereafter thou shalt not write; for the Lord God has ordained the apostle of the Lamb of God that he should write them. And also others who have been to them has he shown all things, and they have written them; and they are sealed up.... And I, Nephi, heard and bear record, that the name of the apostle of the Lamb was John." (1 Nephi 14:20-27)

"The Lord... showed unto the brother of Jared all the inhabitants of the earth which had been, and also all that would be... And said unto him: Write these things and seal them up." (Ether 3:25,27)

"What thou see, write in a book... Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book." (Rev. 1:11; 22:10)

*John, Nephi, the
Brother of Jared shown
similar visions*

**Nephi:
don't write all of it*

**The Brother of Jared:
write it and seal it*

**John:
write it & don't seal*

7

What are the Signs of the Times Which Precede the Lord's Second Coming?

"Read the **24th chapter of Matthew**-particularly that inspired version as contained in the Pearl of Great Price. Then read the **45th section of the Doctrine and Covenants** where the Lord, not man, has documented the signs of the times. Now turn to **section 101 and section 133 of the Doctrine and Covenants** and hear the step-by-step recounting of events leading up to the coming of the Savior. Finally, turn to the promises the Lord makes to those who keep the commandments when these judgments descend upon the wicked, as set forth in the **Doctrine and Covenants, section 38.**"



Harold B. Lee
Apostle: 1941-1972
Prophet: 1970-1972

Harold B. Lee,
Conference
Report (Oct.
1972), p. 128.

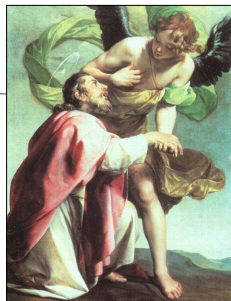
8

Divine Investiture of Authority

"[The angel said], Behold, I come quickly..." (Rev. 22:6-7)

"And I John...fell down to worship before the feet of the angel... Then said he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow-servant, and of thy brethren the prophets and of them which keep the sayings in this book: worship God." (Rev. 22:8-9)

"[The angel said], Behold I come quickly... I am Alpha and Omega." (Rev. 22:12-13)



9

Divine Investiture of Authority

Father by Divine Investiture of Authority

- “... in all His dealings with the human family Jesus the Son has represented and yet represents Elohim His Father in power and authority ... Thus the Father placed His name upon the Son; and Jesus Christ spoke and ministered in and through the Father's name; and so far as power, authority and Godship are concerned *His words and acts were and are those of the Father.*” Clark, 31-32)

“By divine investiture of authority... the Father, Elohim, has placed his name upon the Son, has given him his own power and authority, and has authorized him to speak in the first person as though he were the original or primal Father.”



Bruce R. McConkie
Apostle 1972-1985

Bruce R. McConkie, *The Promised Messiah*, p. 63.

10

Isle of Patmos

I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was **in the isle that is called Patmos**, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Revelation 1:9)



11

Acts of John

Charles Le Brun

Next after Nero, **Domitian** persecuted the Christians, and under him the apostle **John was exiled to the island of Patmos, where, as they say, he saw in vision the Apocalypse**, which Irenaeus explains. ... Domitian ordered the descendants of David to be put to death that no one of Jewish royalty might be left. Bruttius writes that many Christians suffered martyrdom under Domitian. Also Flavia Domitilla, the daughter of the sister of the consul Flavius Clemens, escaped to the Island of Pontia, since she confessed that she was a Christian.

Jer. Ab. Abr. CCXVIII. XIV, XVI

This story presupposes a date sometime in the early AD 90s

12

Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the **number of the beast**: for it **is the number of a man**; and his number **is Six hundred threescore and six.**
Revelation 13:18

Isopsephy (Grk.)

Α	Β	Γ	Δ	Ε	Σ	Ζ	Η	Θ	Ι
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

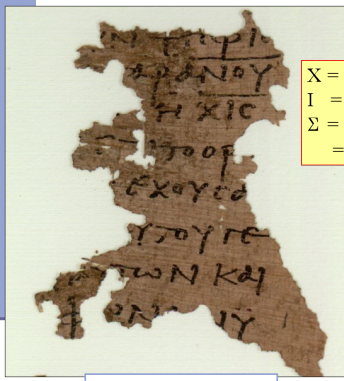


Greek form
 Neron Caesar (נרון קסר)
 = 666

Gematria (Heb.)

א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט	י
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

13



X = 600
 Ι = 10
 Σ = 6
 = 616

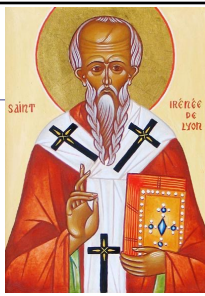
Latin form
 Nero Caesar (נרו קסר)
 =616

Fragment of P.Oxy. LXVI 4499
 Late 3rd/Early 4th cent. A.D.

14

"Such, then, being the state of the case, and *this number being found in all the most approved and ancient copies [of the Apocalypse]*, and those men who saw John face to face bearing their testimony [to it]; while reason also leads us to conclude that the number of the name of the beast, [if reckoned] according to the Greek mode of calculation by the [value of] the letters contained in it, *will amount to six hundred and sixty and six (i.e. 666)*; that is, the number of tens shall be equal to that of the hundreds, and the number of hundreds equal to that of the units (for that number which [expresses] the digit six being adhered to throughout, indicates the recapitulations of that apostasy, taken in its full extent, which occurred at the beginning, during the intermediate periods, and which shall take place at the end).—*I do not know how it is that some have erred following the ordinary mode of speech*, and have vitiated the middle number in the name, deducting the amount of fifty from it, so *that instead of six decades they will have it that there is but one (i.e. 616).*"

Irenaeus, *Against Heresies* 5.30.1



Irenaeus of Lyon
 Church Father
 Mid to late Second Century

This evidence presupposes a date sometime in the mid AD 60s

15

The Seven Churches of Asia Minor

Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, **What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia;** unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Revelation 1:11



17

Ephesus

¹ Unto the angel of the church of **Ephesus** write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; ² I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: ³ And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. ⁴ Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. ⁶ But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ **He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God**

Revelation 2:1-7



18

Smyrna

⁸ And unto the angel of the church in **Smyrna** write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; ⁹ I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. ¹¹ **He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.**

Revelation 2:8-11



19

Pergamum

¹² And to the angel of the church in **Pergamos** write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. ¹⁵ So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. ¹⁶ Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷ **He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.**

Revelation 2:12-17



20

Thyatira

¹⁸ And unto the angel of the church in **Thyatira** write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet *are* like fine brass; ¹⁹ I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the *last to be* more than the first. ²⁰ Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, sacrificed unto idols. ²¹ And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. ²² Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. ²³ And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. ²⁴ But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. ²⁵ But that which ye have *already* hold fast till I come. ²⁶ **And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: ²⁷ And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. ²⁸ And I will give him the morning star. ²⁹ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

Revelation 2:18-29

³⁰ And to him who overcometh, and keepeth my *commandments* unto the end, will I give power over *many kingdoms*; ³¹ And he shall rule them *with the word of God*; and they shall be in his hands as the vessels of clay in the hands of a potter; and he shall govern them by faith, with equity and justice, even as I received of my Father. **JST Revelation 2:26-27**

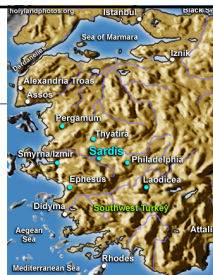


21

Sardis

¹ And unto the angel of the church in **Sardis** write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. ² Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. ³ Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. ⁴ Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. ⁵ **He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. ⁶ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

Revelation 3:1-6



22

Philadelphia

⁷ And to the angel of the church in **Philadelphia** write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; ⁸ I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. ⁹ Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. ¹⁰ Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. ¹¹ Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. ¹² **Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out; and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.** ¹³ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:7-13

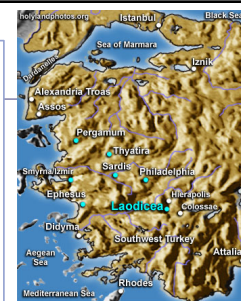


23

Laodicea

¹⁴ And unto the angel of the church of the **Laodiceans**, write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; ¹⁵ I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. ¹⁷ Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: ¹⁸ I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. ¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. ²¹ **To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.** ²² He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:14-22



24

Promises to the Seven Churches

Church	Promise
Ephesus	⁷ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God
Smyrna	¹¹ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.
Pergamum	¹⁷ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.
Thyatira	²⁶ And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: ²⁷ And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. ²⁸ And I will give him the morning star. ²⁹ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.
Sardis	⁵ He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. ⁶ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.
Philadelphia	¹² Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out; and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. ¹³ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.
Laodicea	²¹ To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. ²² He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

25

**Revelation 4-5
Celestial Vision**



Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry

Revelation 4:1-4

¹After this I looked, and, behold, a door *was* opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard *was* as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

²And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *one* sat on the throne. ³And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and *there was* a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

⁴And round about the **throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.**

Q. What are we to understand by the four and twenty elders, spoken of by John? (D&C 77:5)

A. We are to understand that these elders whom John saw, **were elders who had been faithful in the work of the ministry and were dead; who belonged to the seven churches, and were then in the paradise of God.**

26

And before the throne *there was* a **sea of glass** like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, *were* four beasts full of eyes before and behind. (**Revelation 4:6**)

Q. What is the sea of glass spoken of by John, 4th chapter, and 6th verse of the Revelation?

A. It is the earth, in its sanctified, immortal, and eternal state. D&C 77:1

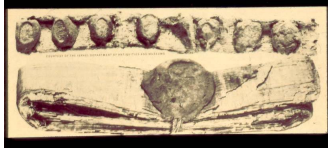
Q. What are we to understand by the four beasts, spoken of in the same verse?

A. They are **figurative expressions**, used by the Revelator, John, in describing heaven, the paradise of God, the happiness of man, and of beasts, and of creeping things, and of the fowls of the air; that which is spiritual being in the likeness of that which is temporal; and that which is temporal in the likeness of that which is spiritual; the spirit of man in the likeness of his person, as also the spirit of the beast, and every other creature which God has created. D&C 77:2

27

The Book Scroll with Seven Seals

Revelation 5



28

Four Horsemen Rev 6:1-8



And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.
(Revelation 6:2)

29

Opening of the First Seal

¹ And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. ² And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer. (Revelation 6:1-2)

- Adams' ministry begins, wickedness spreads, repentance taught by prophets, Adam blesses his children and dies



30

Opening of the Second Seal

³ And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. ⁴ And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword. (Revelation 6:3-4)

- Enoch's ministry, City of Enoch taken up, Noah's ministry, Flood, Tower of Babel, Jaredites



31

Opening of the Third Seal

⁵ And when he had opened the **third seal**, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a **black horse**; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. ⁶ And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine. (**Revelation 5:5-6**)

- Abraham's ministry, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Conquest of the land of Canaan



32

Opening of the Fourth Seal

⁷ And when he had opened the **fourth seal**, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. ⁸ And I looked, and behold a **pale horse**; and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth. (**Revelation 6:7-8**)

- Israel Divided, Ten tribes conquered, Babylonian captivity, Judah restored, periods of complete Apostasy



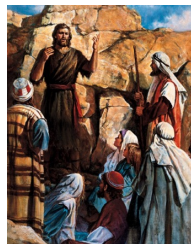
33

Opening of the Fifth Seal

⁹ And when he had opened the **fifth seal**, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? ¹¹ And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled. (**Revelation 6:9-11**)

What time does the fifth seal refer to?

- John the Baptist's Ministry, Jesus, Church established, Persecution, Gospel taken from the earth, Apostasy



34

Opening of the Fifth Seal

⁹ And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held. ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? ¹¹ And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled. (Revelation 6:9-11)



Future Orientation of Revelation

The first five seals are dealt with in only eleven verses (only 3% of the total verses) while 281 verses (70%) deal with the events of the sixth and seventh seals and the final glory of the earth.

35

Opening of the Sixth Seal

¹² And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; ¹³ And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. (Revelation 6:12-13)

- Renaissance, Reformation, Industrial revolution, Restoration, Growth of the church, Calamities begin to befall the world because of wickedness, Zion established, up to period of the Second Coming



36

Events Having to do with the Sixth Seal

D&C 88:87-91

⁸⁷ For not many days hence and the earth shall tremble and reel to and fro as a drunken man; and the sun shall hide his face, and shall refuse to give light; and the moon shall be bathed in blood; and the stars shall become exceedingly angry, and shall cast themselves down as a fig that falleth from off a fig-tree.

⁸⁸ And after your testimony cometh wrath and indignation upon the people.

⁸⁹ For after your testimony cometh the testimony of earthquakes, that shall cause groanings in the midst of her, and men shall fall upon the ground and shall not be able to stand.

⁹⁰ And also cometh the testimony of the voice of thunders, and the voice of lightnings, and the voice of tempests, and the voice of the waves of the sea heaving themselves beyond their bounds.

⁹¹ And all things shall be in commotion; and surely, men's hearts shall fail them; for fear shall come upon all people.

37

Revelation 7

¹ And after these things I saw **four angels** standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

² And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

³ Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

8. Q. What are we to understand by the four angels, spoken of in the 7th chapter and 1st verse of Revelation?

A. We are to understand that they are four angels sent forth from God, to whom is given power over the four parts of the earth, to save life and to destroy; **these are they who have the everlasting gospel to commit to every nation**, kindred, tongue, and people; **having power to shut up the heavens**, to seal up unto life, or to cast down to the regions of darkness.

38

Revelation 7

¹ And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

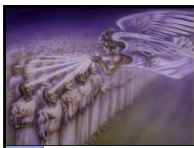
² And I saw **another angel ascending from the east**, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

³ Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

9. Q. What are we to understand by the angel ascending from the east, Revelation 7th chapter and 2nd verse?

A. We are to understand that the angel ascending from the east is he to whom is given the seal of the living God over the twelve tribes of Israel; wherefore, he crieth unto the four angels having the everlasting gospel, saying: Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. **And, if you will receive it, this is Elias which was to come to gather together the tribes of Israel and restore all things.**

39



⁴ And I heard the number of them which were sealed: *and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.*

(Revelation 7:4)

11 Q. What are we to understand by sealing the one hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel—twelve thousand out of every tribe?

A. We are to understand that those who are sealed are high priests, ordained unto the holy order of God, to administer the everlasting gospel; for they are they who are ordained out of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, by the angels to whom is given power over the nations of the earth, to bring as many as will come to the church of the Firstborn.

“I beheld...a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations...clothed with white robes...These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” (Rev. 7:9,14)

The 144,000 sealed by God on foreheads (& innumerable multitude) symbolically represent all who belong to God because they entered into gospel covenant and endured to end.

40

Opening of the Seventh Seal

"And when he had opened the seventh seal...I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets." (Rev. 8:1-2)



- Final Destruction of the wicked, Christ comes to reign, earth receives its paradisiacal glory, earth celestialised at close of millennium

41

Opening of the Seventh Seal

"And when he had opened the seventh seal...I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets." (Rev. 8:1-2)



- Final Destruction of the wicked, Christ comes to reign, earth receives its paradisiacal glory, earth celestialised at close of millennium

Q. What are we to understand by the sounding of the trumpets, mentioned in the 8th chapter of Revelation?

A. We are to understand that as God made the world in six days, and on the seventh day he finished his work, and sanctified it, and also formed man out of the dust of the earth, even so, in the beginning of the seventh thousand years will the Lord God sanctify the earth, and complete the salvation of man, and judge all things, and shall redeem all things, except that which he hath not put into his power, when he shall have sealed all things, unto the end of all things; and the sounding of the trumpets of the seven angels are the preparing and finishing of his work, in the beginning of the seventh thousand years—the preparing of the way before the time of his coming.

42

Revelation 8–11



⁶ And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

Chapter 8

v.7 The first Angel sounded . . .
v.8 The second Angel sounded . . .
v.10 The third Angel sounded . . .
v.12 The fourth Angel sounded . . .

Chapter 9

v.1 The fifth Angel sounded . . .
v.13 The sixth Angel sounded . . .

Chapter 11

v.15 The seventh Angel sounded . . .

43

Revelation 10 – Interlude



⁸ And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.
⁹ And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.
¹⁰ And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey; and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.
¹¹ And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

14 Q. What are we to understand by the little book which was eaten by John, as mentioned in the 10th chapter of Revelation?

A. We are to understand that it was a mission, and an ordinance, for him to gather the tribes of Israel; behold, this is Elias, who, as it is written, must come and restore all things.

44

John Whitmer said: “The Spirit of the Lord fell upon Joseph [Smith] in an unusual manner, and he prophesied that John the Revelator was then among the Ten Tribes of Israel who had been led away by Shalmaneser, king of Assyria, to prepare them for their return from their long dispersion, to again possess the land of their fathers.”

John Whitmer, History of the Church, 1:176



45

Two Witnesses

³ And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. ⁴ These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. ⁵ And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. ⁶ These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. **(Revelation 11:3-6)**



46

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15. Q. What is to be understood by the two witnesses, in the eleventh chapter of Revelation?

A. They are two prophets that are to be raised up to the Jewish nation in the last days, at the time of the restoration, and to prophesy to the Jews after they are gathered and have built the city of Jerusalem in the land of their fathers.

47



⁷ And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast... shall overcome them, and kill them." ⁸ And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom, and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. (Revelation 11:7-8)

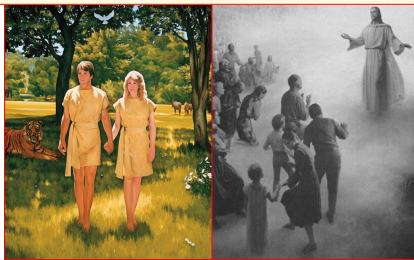


48

Revelation

Revelation 5 – 11

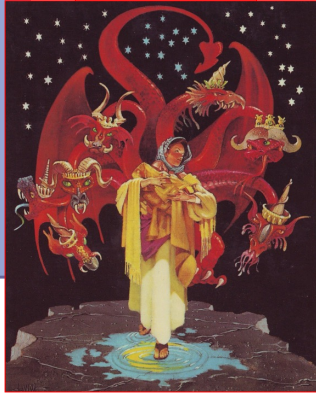
History of the world from Adam (6:2-3) to the Second Coming (11:15-17)



*Revelation 12 – 22 will repeat the history of the world with different symbols to teach additional doctrines and reinforce the message of the book

49

Revelation 12-13



- Dragon = Satan (v. 3)
- Child = Christ (& followers of Christ?) (v. 5)
- Birthing woman = Old Israel, Righteous Jews who bring forth Church. (v. 5)
- Persecuted woman = New Israel, Righteous Christians in Church (v. 6)

50

And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a **beast rise** up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.
(Revelation 13:1)

Beasts = Satan's helpers = Roman rulers (Emperors & Governors)

- ⁴ And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who *is* like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?
⁵ And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty *and* two months.
⁶ And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.
⁷ And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

51

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Complete Apostasy!

52

"And I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth." (Rev. 14:6)



■ Warnings of the angels in Rev. 14:

1. Listen to Christian message and worship true God (instead of beast) (Rev. 14:6-7)
2. Babylon the great is about to fall. (Rev. 14:8)
3. Those who worship beast will suffer God's wrath. (Rev. 14:9-11)

■ *Point: The Lord does not bring destruction without plenty of warning. Those who are destroyed have rejected the Lord's warnings.*

53

"And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues...[and they were given] seven golden vials full of the wrath of God." (Rev. 15:1,7)



■ These are the same seven angels that appeared earlier Chaps. 8-9

■ Whom does the pouring affect?:

- Those who worship beast (Rev. 16:2)
- Those who kill saints & prophets (Rev. 16:6)
- Those who blaspheme & repent not (Rev. 16:9)
- Those who deceive people (Rev. 16:14)

54

Armageddon

¹⁵ Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. ¹⁶ And he gathered them together into a place called in *the Hebrew tongue Armageddon*
Revelation 16:15-16



55

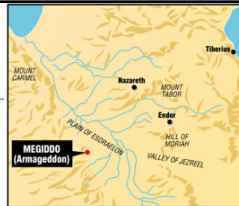
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Revelation 16:15–16



הַר מְגִדּוֹ

56



57



Revelation 17:4-5, 9

⁴ The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her fornication;

⁵ and on her forehead was written a name, a mystery: **"Babylon the great, mother of whores and of earth's abominations."** . . .

⁹ "This calls for a mind that has wisdom: **the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated;**

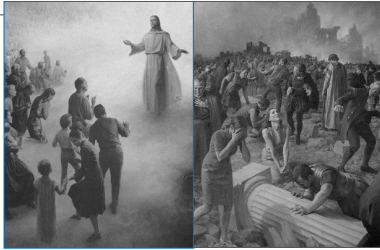
THIS beast = Satan & his forces

= This woman represents the power and oppression of the Roman Empire (which is supported by the beast—Satan and his forces)



58

Revelation 19 – Second Coming “The Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord”



For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.
(Malachi 4:1)

59

The Millennium

Revelation 20:4

“... and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”



60

Judgment Day

Revelation 20:11-15

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and the one who sat on it; the earth and the heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, the book of life. And the dead were judged according to their works, as recorded in the books.

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and all were judged according to what they had done.

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

¹⁵ and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.



The Last Judgment
Michelangelo

61

Revelation 22:18-21

¹⁸ For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book;
¹⁹ And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.
²⁰ He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.
²¹ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

¹⁸ Μαρτυρῶ ἐγὼ παντὶ τῷ ἀκούοντι τοὺς λόγους τῆς προφητείας τοῦ βιβλίου τούτου· ἐάν τις ἐπιθῇ ἐπ' αὐτά, ἐπιθήσει ὁ θεὸς ἐπ' αὐτὸν τὰς πληγὰς τὰς γεγραμμένας ἐν τῷ βιβλίῳ τούτῳ,
¹⁹ καὶ ἐάν τις ἀφέλῃ ἀπὸ τῶν λόγων τοῦ βιβλίου τῆς προφητείας ταύτης, ἀφελεῖ ὁ θεὸς τὸ μέρος αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τοῦ ξύλου τῆς ζωῆς καὶ ἐκ τῆς πόλεως τῆς ἁγίας τῶν γεγραμμένων ἐν τῷ βιβλίῳ τούτῳ.
²⁰ Λέγει ὁ μαρτυρῶν ταῦτα· ναί, ἔρχομαι ταχύ. Ἀμήν, ἔρχου κύριε Ἰησοῦ.
²¹ Ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ μετὰ πάντων.

2 Nephi 29:10

Wherefore, because that ye have a Bible ye need not suppose that it contains all my words; neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written.

62

Revelation 22:18-21

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63