

Revelation for Beginners-Essay

This is the Apokalupsis of Yeshua the Messiah, which Yahweh gave him to show to his servants the things which must happen soon . . . Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things that are written in it, for the time is at hand.

Revelation remains a mystery to many people. They say that the images and symbols in this book are too hard to understand. But are they really that hard to understand?

Scripture, especially prophecy, in light of history can be both interesting and daunting at the same time. Many people spend hours and hours attempting to link every historical item into the Biblical narrative. I call this method the Spend Hours Eagerly Linking Finds (S.H.E.L.F.) method. Others, like myself, who have finally tired of wracking our little minds and sweating bullets over this process, now subscribe to the K.I.S.S. (Keep it simple, scholar!) method and have placed our former method on the shelf, as it were. (I now have a modicum of free time to enjoy life after switching methods!)

What's in a Name?

Matthew 1:23 – “*They shall call his name Immanuel, which translated means, ‘God with us’.*”

Revelation 2:17 – “*I, Yeshua, will give everyone who conquers a new name that no one else knows*” Scripture regularly uses names to convey a much deeper meaning.

- **Yahweh** [יְהוָה H3068] means the self-Existent or Eternal, the I AM. Yahweh is written “*the LORD*” over 3900 times in scripture.
- **Yeshua** [יֵשׁוּעָה H3444] means “*Salvation of Yahweh*”.
- **Isaac** [יִצְחָק H3327] means “*Laughter*”, given because his mother, Sarah, laughed when told she would bear a child at her old age of ninety (Genesis chapters 17-18).

Here are some more familiar names:

- David = expressively fond or loving.
- Jacob = he catches by the heel, he supplants.
- Samuel = heard of Yahweh, Yahweh listens.
- Benjamin = son of the right hand.
- Josiah = founded of Yahweh.
- Daniel = judge of Yahweh, Yahweh judges.
- Peter = a small, easily moved pebble.
- Lucas = bringer of morning, light.
- John = favored of Yahweh.
- Miriam = (Mary) rebelliously bitter
- Rebekah = beautiful
- Rachel = a ewe, a good traveler
- Leah = tired, worn out
- Sarah = a mistress

What's in a Name – Genesis?

The Genesis account gives us Yahweh's plan of redemption. The ten generations listed in Genesis Chapter Five give a detailed account of Yahweh's plan of redemption.

The ten names are: Adam, Seth, Enosh, Kenan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, and Noah.

Together, they compose the statement:

Man is appointed mortal sorrow. The blessed God shall come down teaching that His death shall bring the despairing comfort and rest.

What's in a Name – Revelation?

The Revelation account outlines the completion of the plan.

Likewise, the Hebrew meanings of the ten generations mentioned in Revelation Chapter Seven tell the completion of the plan.

The ten names are: Judah, Reuben, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Manassah, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin.

Together, they compose the statement:

I will praise the Lord for He has looked on me and granted good fortune. Happy am I because my struggle with sin and the Law, God has caused me to forget. God hears me and is joined to me. He has purchased me a dwelling. God will add to me the Son of His right hand.

Consecutive Events – Or not!

My Experience: At the Ball Game

Judges 9:48 – “Then he said to those with him, ‘Quick! Do just what you saw me do’!”

I once watched a baseball game. **I saw** the ball head from the pitcher to the batter. It went straight towards the batter and the catcher, with the umpire looking over the catcher's shoulder.

The players on the field adjusted their positions, and the runners on the bases took steps toward the next base – lots of action. The fans sat at the edge of their seats, barely breathing.

It was really quiet. **Then I saw** the ball curve down just before getting to the batter.

There was silence for a few seconds and **then I saw** the ball heading straight towards the batter, and curving right –*again, quiet in the stadium.*

But then, after a few seconds, the stadium got really noisy and **then I heard** the fans shouting with joy at the strikeout.

John's Experience: In Heaven

I saw the Lamb break the first of the seven seals, the second, the third, the fourth, the fifth, and the sixth. Horses were let loose, earthquakes struck, and the mountains and islands all moved away from their normal places.

When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, *there was silence* in heaven for what seemed like half an hour.

Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and they were given seven shofars. Hail, fire, polluted waters, darkness, stars falling, pits opening, smoke everywhere, people everywhere being killed – lots of action.

Then I saw another sign in heaven, a great and wonderful one — seven angels with the seven bowls full of the plagues that are the final ones. More devastation, more blood, more burnt dead bodies, more lightning, thunder, and earthquakes.

Then I heard what sounded like the roar of a huge crowd in heaven, shouting, “Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah!”

The Common Factor

No doubt to you, the reader, the (tall) tale sure sounded like an experience of consecutive pitches or events, didn't it! My experience at the ball game was a description of only ONE pitch but from three different cameras.

Today we have the wondrous technology of replay from every imaginable angle, so what appeared at first to be a tale of three pitches turns out to be only a single pitch.

No doubt, you, the reader have been told more than once that the seal, shofar, and bowl judgments are separate, consecutive events. It seems like they should be, as John says, "and then I saw"

However, I am becoming more and more convinced that what John saw was not a series of consecutive events, but many of the same events from different angles. Talk about being ahead of your time, eh?

And it doesn't get much simpler than viewing the Biblical narrative much like a baseball game, in which there are **only two teams** – ***The Jews and the Gentiles***. The first two innings were played within the Jewish family, but the third inning saw a new team begin to play – the Gentiles. And since summer is here and it is time for baseball, let's take a quick look at the Biblical baseball game and see what has transpired in each inning.

• Inning 1

Abraham's children, Isaac and Ishmael, are the captains of the two teams at bat. Yahweh determines that His chosen team will be Isaac and his descendants.

• Inning 2

Jacob and Esau step up to bat. Jacob, of course, is Isaac's son, and Yahweh continues to choose Isaac's descendants as His team.

• Inning 3

Egypt is the first Gentile team to take the field. The inning is a long one, and Egypt appears to be winning. Abraham's descendants are in slavery and bondage. But Yahweh has other plans. After all, Isaac's and Jacob's descendants, now known as the Jews, are His chosen team. Yahweh saves the day, and the Jews head for the Promised Land.

• Inning 4

The Jews are finally in the Promised Land, and Assyria now steps up as the main players on the Gentile team. Because the Jews are no longer listening to Yahweh, and bickering amongst themselves over which players are the best, he lets the northern players be deported.

• Inning 5

Babylon becomes the third nation to lend players to the Gentile team. Because the remaining Jews are still failing to listen to Yahweh, he also lets the southern half of their players be deported.

• Inning 6

Medo-Persian players run the Babylonians off the field, thinking they can do a better job and score more runs. The Jews return to the Promised Land but do not play an especially amazing inning. It's a short inning.

• Inning 7

Now the Grecian players take their turn, running the Medo-Persians off the field, also thinking they can do a better job and score more runs. The Jews continue to play poorly. It's another short inning.

• Inning 8

The Romans now step up to the plate. After many years, the Jews' captain, Yeshua, arrives in person but the Jews refuse to accept him or listen to him. Yahweh calls a time out and benches the Jews.

Intermission

Yahweh benches the Jews in 70AD. For the next 1878 years, the Jews are not in the game. In fact, most of their players aren't even in the stadium, but have been dispersed to the four corners of the globe. The Gentiles, meanwhile, under their same captain, Satan, continue to hone their game, pulling in players from dozens of other nations. This period is generally termed the "Time of the Gentiles" or "Daniel's Gap" between the 69th and 70th weeks. I call it the "Jewish Time Out". Intermission lasts until 1948.

• Inning 9

1948. The Jewish Time Out is over, and the Jews return to the game. Both halves are present, and they are no longer bickering amongst themselves as to which half has the better players. At long last, they are a truly united Jewish team. After watching the Gentiles practice for nearly two thousand years, the Jews are hot to play. They've watched the moves and their jealousy has been aroused.

The Gentiles, meanwhile, realizing that none of the other nation's players are worth their salt, once again start to re-form the Roman team. The game resumes, but for the last seventy-seven years, both teams have spent the time warming up. Real play is just beginning. It will be an exciting inning, with runs scored by both teams, but at the bottom of the inning, Captain Yeshua will come back to save the day and the Jews will win the game – Scripture guarantees this outcome.

Analysis

Understanding prophecy can be a daunting task, especially prophecy that has not yet been fulfilled. Trying to place Gentile historical events into the Biblical narrative during the Jewish Time Out to see if any prophecies have been fulfilled, simply will not work. Scripture is all about Yeshua and how Yahweh is working with His chosen team – the Jews! If the Jews are not in the game, then whatever the Gentiles are doing is just warm up, is just honing their skills, is just practice. It is not, however, part of the actual game, even though practice can and does impact the game once play resumes. One team literally cannot play the game by itself, both teams must be present. From 70AD until 1948AD, the Jewish team was not in the game. Now that they are back, the game can continue until the ninth inning is finished and the winner declared.

Creation (Genesis) vs. Destruction (Revelation)

Revelation shows distinct connections between creation and judgment, seen especially in the Shofar judgments.

- The first, second, third, fourth, and fifth Shofars judge creation. The first Shofar judges the land, plants and trees (*Genesis Day Three*).
- The second and third Shofars judge the water and its inhabitants (*Genesis Day Two and Day Five*).
- The fourth Shofar judges the Sun and Moon (*Genesis Day Four*).
- The fifth Shofar judges the creation of light (*Genesis Day One*).
- The third Shofar and third Bowl would bring about the deaths seen in Seals three and four -- no water -- death quickly follows.
- Seal six and the seventh Bowl both address the mountains and islands flying away like fools, as Gandalf would say. Surely this only happens once!
- Seal six and seventh Shofar both address the veil being ripped open, and heaven being seen into. Again, probably a one time event.
- Seal seven and Shofar seven sound incredibly alike. Okay, Yahweh loves to put on a show - thunder, lightning, earthquakes, but it still sounds like the same event to me.

Genesis 1:1-5 – Day One

Light is created. Darkness is overcome.

Revelation 9:1-2 – The Fifth Shofar; Sun and Air Darkened Worldwide

The bottomless pit is opened and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit.

Revelation 16:10-11 – The Fifth Bowl; Darkness in the Beast's Kingdom

The throne of the beast and his kingdom is darkened.

Genesis 1:6-8 – Day Two

The waters are divided. There do not appear to be any direct judgments against this divine action.

Genesis 1:9-13 – Day Three

Dry land appears. Yahweh calls the dry land Earth, and the waters he calls Seas. Grass, plants and trees, each yielding its own kind of seed, are produced.

Revelation 8:7 – The First Shofar; A Third of the Lands Burned Up

A third of the earth is burned up, a third of the trees is burned up, and all the green grass is burned up.

Revelation 16:17-21 – The Seventh Bowl; Total Devastation of the Lands

Thunder and lightning, and a great earthquake. So great, that every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. The land is totally devastated.

Genesis 1:14-19 – Day Four

The stars in the heavens are created. The two great lights are also created. Yahweh calls them the sun and moon.

Revelation 8:12 – The Fourth Shofar; Sun and Moon Darkened

A third of the sun, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars is struck. Both day and night have a third less light.

Revelation 16:8-9 – The Fourth Bowl; Sun Overheats

The sun heats up and burns people with fire. The kingdom of the beast becomes dark.

Genesis 1:20-23 – Day Five

The seas, or waters, teem with swarms of living creatures. The air teems with birds. The fish are to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the water of the seas, and the birds are also to multiply on the earth.

Revelation 8:8-9 – The Second Shofar; A Third of the Sea Turned to Blood

A third of the sea is turned to blood and a third of the living creatures in the sea died.

Revelation 8:10-11 – The Third Shofar; A Third of the Rivers Turned to Blood

A third of the rivers and the springs of water become bitter, undrinkable.

Revelation 16:3 – The Second Bowl; Total Blood Seas

The seas turn to blood and every living thing in the seas dies.

Revelation 16:4-7 – The Third Bowl; Total Blood Rivers

Likewise, the rivers all turn to blood as well.

Genesis 1:9-10 – Day Six

The land brings forth every kind of livestock, crawling animal, and wild beast. Yahweh makes mankind in his own image and likeness. Yahweh gives every kind of seed-bearing plant and every tree with seed-bearing fruit to man and beast as food to eat.

Revelation Shofar 9:1-12 – The Fifth Shofar; Locusts and Calvary

Locusts appear that are allowed to harm the people so fully that the people will seek death but will be unable to find it. The four bound angels are released, along with 200 million cavalry soldiers, who kill a third of mankind with fire, smoke, and sulfur that issues from the horses' mouths.

Revelation 16:2 – The First Bowl; Sores on People

Loathsome and malignant sores come upon the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.

Analysis

While the **Seal** judgments are primarily against mankind and their kings, priests, and subjects, the **Shofar** and **Bowl** judgments are primarily against the creation itself, then secondly against mankind and kingdoms. The entire creations are judged, sometimes in the same order as they were created. Yahweh is thorough in his judgment of the planet, the animal kingdoms, and mankind.

Yeshua, The Kohen Ha'Gadol

Visions

Revelation 1:1 – *“This is the revelation which Yahweh gave to Yeshua the Messiah, so that he could show his servants what must happen very soon.”*

Revelation starts out with the statement that a disclosure of information has been given to Yeshua regarding what is going to happen. This statement should not be surprising, as Yahweh says he does nothing without first warning his prophets (**Amos 3:7**), and Yeshua is the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee (**Matthew 21:11, Revelation 19:10**).

The Parallels

- **Ezekiel 12:27-28** – “Human being, look! People from the house of Israel are saying, ‘The vision he sees concerns the distant future; he is prophesying about a time far off.’ Therefore, say to them that Adonai Yahweh says, ‘None of my words will be delayed any more, but the word that I speak will be accomplished,’ says Adonai Yahweh.”
- **Zephaniah 1:14** – “The great Day of Yahweh is near, near and coming very soon; Hear the sound of the Day of Yahweh! When it’s here, even a warrior will cry bitterly.”
- **Isaiah 5:19** – “They say, ‘Let him hurry, let him act quickly, so we can see; let the plan of the Holy One of Israel take shape and come to pass, then we will know it!’”

The High Priest - Yeshua

Revelation 1:7, 14-15– *“Look! He is coming with the clouds! Every eye will see him, including those who pierced him; and all the tribes of the Land will mourn him. His head and hair were as white as snow-white wool, his eyes like a fiery flame, his feet like burnished brass refined in a furnace, and his voice like the sound of rushing waters.”*

The image of God Almighty having white hair, fiery eyes, and brass feet are well known in Older Covenant scriptures, as well as his coming in the clouds, and his having been pierced.

The Parallels

- **Psalms 104:3** –He makes the clouds his chariot, and travels along on the wings of the wind.”
- **Ezekiel 43:2** – “I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east; the sound was like that of rushing water; and the earth radiated his glory.”
- **Daniel 7:9** – “As I watched, thrones were set in place; and the Ancient One took his seat. His clothing was white as snow, the hair on his head was like pure wool. His throne was fiery flames, with wheels of burning fire.”
- **Daniel 9-10** – “His attire was white like snow; the hair of his head was like lamb’s wool. His throne was ablaze with fire and its wheels were all aflame. A river of fire was streaming forth and proceeding from his presence.”
- **Daniel 10:6** – “His body resembled yellow jasper, and his face had an appearance like lightning. His eyes were like blazing torches; his arms and feet gleamed like polished bronze. His voice thundered forth like the sound of a big crowd.”
- **Zechariah 12:10** – “They will look to me, the one they have pierced.”

The High Priestly Garments

Revelation 1:13 – *“In the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across his chest with a golden sash.”*

Revelation is not the only place that the robe and golden sash is mentioned. In fact, the clothing is identical to the clothing that the High Priest wore!

The Parallels

- **Exodus 28:1-43; Exodus 39:1-31** – “Here are the items that need to be made: a breast piece, a priestly vest, a robe, an embroidered shirt, a turban, and a sash. These sacred clothes are to be made for your brother Aaron and his sons who will be my priests. Only gold and fine linen, woven with blue, purple, and red wool, are to be used for making these clothes.”
- **Daniel 10:5** – “I looked up and saw a man clothed in linen; around his waist was a belt made of gold from Uphaz.”

The Robe Dipped In Blood

Revelation 7:14 – *“These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”*

Revelation 19:13 – *“He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.”*

The robe dipped in blood, or the blood of grapes, is also well known in the Older Covenant scriptures, both in conjunction with the High priest and with prophecies about Yeshua.

The Parallels

- **Genesis 49:10-11** 10 – “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and the obedience of the peoples is his. Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey’s colt to the choice vine, he washes his garments in wine and his robe in the blood of grapes . . .”
- **Leviticus 8:30** – “Then Moses took some of the anointing oil and of the blood that was on the altar and sprinkled it on Aaron and his garments, and also on his sons and his sons’ garments. So he consecrated Aaron and his garments, and his sons and his sons’ garments with him.”

Treading the Winepress

Revelation 19:14-15 – *“And the armies of heaven, wearing fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. And out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron; he will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of Yahweh the Almighty.”*

Revelation gives us the answer to the question posed in Isaiah. The treading of the winepress is what stains the robe with blood.

The Parallel

- **Isaiah 63:2-3** – “Why is your apparel red, and your garments like the one who treads in the winepress? ‘I have trodden the wine trough alone, and from the peoples there was no man with me. I also trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; and their lifeblood is sprinkled on my garments, and I stained all my raiment. For the day of vengeance is in my heart, and the year of my redeemed is come’.”

The Authority of Yeshua and His Rod of Iron

Revelation 2:26-27 *“To him who wins the victory and does what I want until the goal is reached, I will give him authority over the nations; he will rule them with a staff of iron and dash them to pieces like pottery.”*

Revelation 12:5 *“She gave birth to a son, a male child, the one who will rule all the nations with a staff of iron.”*

Revelation 19:15 *“And out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down nations - “He will rule them with a staff of iron.”*

The Parallel

Psalms 2:8-9 “Ask me, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance, the ends of the earth as your personal property. You will break them with an iron scepter; you will smash them like a potter’s jar!”

More Connections And Parallels

The Open and Shut Doors

Revelation 3:7 *“Here is the message of Ha’Kodesh, the True One, the one who has the key of David, who, if he opens something, no one else can shut it, and if he closes something, no one else can open it.”*

The Parallel

Isaiah 22:22 “I will place the key to the house of David on his shoulder. When he opens the door, no one can close it; when he closes the door, no one can open it.”

The Book Sealed

Revelation 10:4 *“When the seven peals of thunder had spoken, I was about to write; and I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken and do not write them.”*

Revelation 22:10 *“Then he said to me, “Don’t seal up the words of the prophecy in this book.”*

The Parallel

Daniel 12:4-9 “But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. He said, ‘Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end’.”

The Sweet Scroll Becomes the Bitter Book

Revelation 10:8-10 “And the voice which I heard from heaven, I heard again speaking with me, and saying, “Go, take the book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land.” So I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little book. And he said to me, “Take it and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.” I took the little book out of the angel’s hand and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet as honey; and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter.”

The Parallel

Ezekiel 2:8-3: 3 “But you, son of man, hear what I say to you; Be not rebellious like that rebellious house: open your mouth, and eat that I give you. And when I looked, behold, a hand was sent to me; and, lo, a roll of a book was therein; And he spread it before me; and it was written within and without: and there was written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe. He said to me, O mortal, eat what is offered to you; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel. So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat. He said to me, Mortal, eat this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it. Then I ate it; and in my mouth it was as sweet as honey.”

Gathering Together to Read the Scroll

In Revelation 5:5-7 the king enters the platform at the Temple and reads from the Seven Sealed Scroll, a parallel image to the letters received from the King by the Cohen Ha’Gâdôl (High Priest) in the Nehemiah and Ezra passages.

The Parallel

According to Nehemiah and Ezra, all of the people would gather at the Temple Mount for a great assembly, at which time they would celebrate the appointed feasts, read the Torah Scroll and also any letters received from the King in Babylon which were given to the Governor by the Cohen Ha’Gâdôl (High Priest).

The Trees of Healing

Revelation 22:1-2 “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of Yahweh and of the Lamb. In the middle of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bore twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”

The Parallel

Ezekiel 47:12 “On both sides of the river’s banks, every kind of tree will grow for food. Their leaves will not wither nor will their fruit fail, but they will bear fruit every month, because their water source flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing.”

A New Song is Sung

Revelation 14:3 “*They sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the one hundred forty-four thousand who have been redeemed from the earth.*”

Revelation 15:3 “*They sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God.*”

The Parallel

Deuteronomy 31, 32 Moses is given the words to a new song. “Moses and Joshua, I am going to give you the words to a new song. Moses wrote down the words to the song right away, and he taught it to the Israelites.”

The New Heavens and Earth

Revelation 21:1 “*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had passed away, and the sea was no longer there.*”

The Parallels

Isaiah 65:17 “Look, I am ready to create new heavens and a new earth! The former ones will not be remembered; no one will think about them anymore.”

Isaiah 66:22 “For just as the new heavens and the new earth I am about to make will remain standing before me,” says the LORD, “so your descendants and your name will remain.”

Heaven Comes To Earth

Revelation 21:3 “*I heard a loud voice from the throne say, “See! Yahweh’s Shekinah is with mankind, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and he himself, Yahweh-with-them, will be their God.”*

The Parallels

Leviticus 26:11-12 “I will put my tabernacle in your midst and I will not abhor you. I will walk among you, and I will be your God and you will be my people.”

Jeremiah 31:3 “I will be their God and they will be my people.”

Ezekiel 37:27 “My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

The Bride Adorned

Revelation 21:2 “I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from Yahweh, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

The Parallels

2 Samuel 17:3 “I will bring all the people back to you as a bride comes home to her husband.”

Isaiah 61:10 “As a bridegroom is dressed for his wedding and decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”

Bowls of Incense Waived before Yahweh

Revelation 5:8 “*When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.*”

Revelation 8:3-4 “*Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before Yahweh out of the angel’s hand.*”

The Parallels

Leviticus 16:12-13 “Aaron shall take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before Yahweh, and two handfuls of sweet incense beaten small, and he shall bring it inside the veil and put the incense on the fire before the Lord.”

Deuteronomy 33:10 “they shall put incense before you and whole burnt offerings on your altar.”

Yahweh and Yeshua Unleash Their Wrath

Yahweh Tzav’ot – God of Heaven’s Armies

Revelation 11:16-17 “*The twenty-four elders sitting on their thrones in God’s presence fell on their faces and worshipped God, saying, “We thank you, Yahweh, God of heaven’s armies, the One who is and was, that you have taken your power and have begun to rule. [Also in **Revelation 1:8, 4:8, 11:17, 15:3, 16:7, 19:6, 19:15, 21:22]***

The Parallels

Psalms 80:14 “God of armies, please come back! Look from heaven, see, and tend this vine!”

Amos 3:13 “Yahweh, the sovereign God who commands armies, is speaking!”

Amos 4:13 “For here he is! . . . Yahweh, the God who commands armies, is his name!”

Isaiah 24:21 “When that day comes, Yahweh will punish the armies of the high heaven and the kings of the earth.”

The Kings Hide

Revelation 6:15-16 “*Then the earth’s kings, the rulers, the generals, the rich and the mighty — indeed, everyone, slave and free — hid himself in caves and among the rocks in the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us, and hide us from the face of the One sitting on the throne and from the fury of the Lamb’!*”

The Parallel

Hosea 10:8 “Then they will say to the mountains, ‘Cover us!’ and to the hills, ‘Fall on us’!

The Rage Unleashed

Revelation 11:18 “*The Goyim raged. But now your rage has come, the time for the dead to be judged.*”

The Parallel

Psalms 2:1 “Why do the nations rebel? Why are the countries devising plots that will fail?”

Reaping The Harvest – The Angel Speaks

Revelation 10:5-6 “*Then the angel I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven and swore by the one who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, and the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, “There will be no more delay!”*

The Parallels

Daniel 12:7 “Then I heard the man clothed in linen who was over the waters of the river as he raised both his right and left hands to the sky and made an oath by the one who lives forever: ‘It is for a time, times, and half a time. Then, when the power of the one who shatters the holy people has been exhausted, all these things will be finished’.”

Deuteronomy 32:40 “For I raise up my hand to heaven, and say, ‘As surely as I live forever’ . . .”

Nehemiah 9:6 “You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, along with all their multitude of stars, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them.”

Exodus 20:11 “For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that is in them, and he rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.”

Reaping The Harvest – The Great Dragon Thrown Down

Revelation 12:9 “*Another sign was seen in heaven: there was a great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns...*

Revelation 12:9 “*The great dragon was thrown out, that ancient serpent, also known as the Devil and Satan [the Adversary], the deceiver of the whole world. He was hurled down to the earth, and his angels hurled down with him.*

Revelation 20:2 “*And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.*”

The Parallels

Isaiah 27:1 “In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.”

Isaiah 51:9 “Wasn’t it you who hacked Rahab to pieces, you who pierced the dragon that is in the sea?”

Ezekiel 29:3 “Behold, I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lies in the middle of his rivers.”

Reaping The Harvest – Mountains and Islands Laid Waste

Revelation 16:20 *“And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.”*

The Parallels

Job 9:5 “He moves the mountains, although they don’t know it, when he overturns them in his anger.”

Job 14:18 “Just as a mountain erodes and falls away, its rock is removed from its place.”

Isaiah 42:15 “I will make waste mountains and hills . . .”

Isaiah 54:10 “For the mountains may leave and the hills be removed, but my grace will never leave you, and my covenant of peace will not be removed,” says Yahweh, who has compassion on you.”

Jeremiah 4:24 “I looked at the mountains, and they shook — all the hills moved back and forth.”

Zechariah 14:4 “On that day . . . half of the mountain will move toward the north, and half of it toward the south.”

Reaping The Harvest – Treading the Winepress

Revelation 19:14-15 *“And the armies of heaven, wearing fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. And out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron; he will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of Yahweh the Almighty.”*

The Parallel

Isaiah 63:2-3 “Why is your apparel red, and your garments like the one who treads in the winepress? “I have trodden the wine trough alone, and from the peoples there was no man with me. I also trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; and their lifeblood is sprinkled on my garments, and I stained all my raiment”. For the day of vengeance is in my heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.”

Yahweh and Yeshua Provide

Yeshua Provides -- Fly You Fools, Fly

Revelation 12:14 *“Israel flew to her place in the desert, where she is taken care of for a season and two seasons and half a season.”*

The Parallels

Psalms 12:7 “You, LORD, will protect them; you will continually shelter each one from these evil people.”

Daniel 7:25 “The Devil will speak words against the Most High. He will harass the holy ones of the Most High continually. They will be delivered into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.”

Daniel 12:7 “The man dressed in linen who was above the water of the river raised his right and left hands toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times and a half, and that it will be when the power of the holy people is no longer being shattered that all these things will end.”

Yeshua Provides -- The Never Hungry

Revelation 7:16 *“They will never again be hungry, they will never again be thirsty, the sun will not beat down on them, nor will any burning heat.”*

The Parallel

Isaiah 49:10 “They will not be hungry or thirsty; the sun’s oppressive heat will not beat down on them, for one who has compassion on them will guide them; he will lead them to springs of water.”

Yeshua Provides -- The Tears Wiped Away

Revelation 7:17 *“For the Lamb at the center of the throne will shepherd them, will lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”*

The Parallel

Isaiah 25:8 “The sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from every face, and remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. Indeed, the LORD has announced it!”

Hope Throughout the Scriptures

1 Peter 3:25 – “*Sanctify Yeshua as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope ^[G1680] that is in you.*”

The word translated in English as hope is the Greek word *elpis* [ἐλπίς ^{G1680}] which comes from the root word *elpizō* [ἐλπίζω ^{G1679}]. Both mean to anticipate, usually with pleasure or confidence, an expected outcome. In other words, hope is the anticipation of a favorable conclusion under Elohim’s guidance and the confidence that what Yahweh has done for us in the past guarantees what Yahweh will do in the future.

Throughout the Bible, there are several words that are used to express or connote “hope”. In the Old Testament, three primary words are used: *yachal* (to trust), *tiqva* (to look for something with eager expectation), and *batach* (to rely on something reliable). In the New Testament the primary words used are: *apokaradokia* (intense anticipation, earnest expectation), *prosdokao* (to expect or to await), and *elpis* (to anticipate with expectation or confidence).

None of these words, however, are used in Revelation! But, a trustful expectation, despite the immediate situation, is what Revelation addresses. Revelation is filled with hope, the depiction of what Yahweh is yet to do, in fulfillment of his promises, and this is what we will investigate.

Revelation A Book of Hope

1 Peter 1:13 – “*Be steadfast in your unwavering hope of the grace that Yeshua Ha’Mashiach will bring to you when he is revealed.*”

Many consider the Book of Revelation to be a book of war, plague, pestilence, wrath and other terrifying things – a book of absolute terror. While this is true to an extent, Revelation is also a book of hope. Revelation contrasts the Bad Guys, Ha’Satan and his minions, with the Good Guy, Yeshua. And guess what, just like a bedtime story told by a loving parent to his little child, the Good Guy wins! There are the bad guys and the Good Guy; troubles and frightful beasts, peace and glorious visions. There is destruction of all that is evil, and the coming of the beautiful, new city. No matter how bad it sounds at first, Yahweh wins the final battle, and all is made right and good; hope is fulfilled.

Revelation 1:3 – “*Blessed is the one who reads the words of Yeshua’s message, and blessed are the people who hear this message and do what is written in it. The time is near when all of this will happen.*”

Revelation begins, by reminding us that Yeshua, who was, who is, and who is to come, is coming again. “Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him” we are told (1:7). And Revelation’s last verse confirms this, saying “Yeshua, the one who testifies to these things says: ‘Surely I am coming soon’.” (22:20). Right from the very first verses, our hope begins to climb, to soar.

Only three verses into the book, Yeshua states that reading the words of the apocalypse (Revelation) aloud, hearing them spoken, and obeying their message are a blessing and a joy (1:3). Next, through John, our guide, we see a glorious vision of one like the Son of Man, and are told not to be afraid, for we are standing in Yeshua’s midst. Then we are told that Yeshua is alive forever more and that Yeshua has the “keys of Thanatos and of Hades”, commonly called “death and the grave” (1:18). If these keys are in the hands of Yeshua, then neither Death nor Hades has any power over us, being in themselves subject to the one who has control over us. Our hope begins to soar.

Chapters Two and Three have many positive messages and bring much hope: we get eternal life (2:7, 10-11); hidden manna, a new name (2:17, 3:12); authority over the nations (2:26, 3:21); white clothing (3:4); immunity from the time of testing (3:10); and sitting down to a fine meal with Yeshua (3:20). We next hear the pronouncements concerning the seven churches. While at first glance these seem judgmental, our hope

continues to soar, for in each case endurance or repentance brings us surely to Yeshua's side; "He who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne" (3:21). Our hope reaches even higher heights than before.

Chapters Four, and Five, show us a Lamb who is very much alive, and who is greatly worshiped and praised. As chapter five begins, our hope appears to leave us, and we begin "to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it" (5:4). But our hope is not gone for long; the Lamb goes and takes the seven sealed scroll from the right hand of the one who is seated on the throne, and all surrounding the throne break forth in worship and praise (5:7).

Chapter six shows Yeshua still very much alive. Chapter seven tells us that 144,000 servants are sealed and go forth with the gospel to all the world. Many are saved, never go hungry again, and every tear is wiped from their eyes (7:16-17). Our hope again soars even higher than before. A brief interlude of terror strikes our hearts again as each of the seven seals is broken, but quickly disappears as we see the 144,000, and then the great multitude that no one could count, gathered in praise of Yeshua before the last seal is broken.

As Chapter eight comes to a close, again, another interlude of devastation and terror is shown, depicted by the vision of the seven trumpets, and a dampening of our spirits and hope begins to take place, as evil seems to be getting the upper hand. The beast "that comes up from the bottomless pit" (11:7) makes war on our two heroes, the two witnesses, and kills them, letting their dead bodies lie in the street to rot, but Chapter Eleven ends with thanks and praise (11:16-17). Again, a message of hope and our hope soars.

The beast "that comes up from the bottomless pit" (11:7) makes war on our two heroes, the two witnesses, and kills them, letting their dead bodies lie in the main street of the city of Jerusalem to rot (11:8). But, lo, after three and a half days, the two olive trees and the two lampstands come back to life (11:12). As they ascend into heaven in a cloud, our hope soars with them, and Chapter Eleven ends with thanks and praise (11:16-17).

Chapter Twelve details the protection of the chosen (12:6), and even in heaven, though, it seems that there is war and destruction, for Michael and his angels are fighting against the dragon (Satan) and his angels (12:7-9). Satan is thrown down to earth, no longer allowed to enter into heaven. Our hope begins to fade away

But in short order the dragon and his minions are defeated, and the announcement is made, "The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Yeshua have come" (12:10). We then see the dragon and his beasts futile attempts to overcome those on the earth, but we also see the 144,000 and the hosts of heaven arrayed for battle, including the one who has "a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand!" (14:14). Our hope again begins to soar.

As Chapter sixteen begins we see terror once again striking the earth, this time in a vision of seven bowls of wrath. Our hope soars, only to once again fade away. By now, however, we begin to sense that these visions, too, will be temporary, and our hope continues to soar, expecting the outcome Yahweh has promised throughout all of scripture. Quickly, then, the seven bowls are emptied. By now, we are sitting on the edge of our seats, waiting for the story to be concluded. Another chapter flies by, and chapter eighteen arrives, and sure enough, the angel calls out in a loud voice, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon, the great!" (18:1-2). The next chapter begins, and we hear "the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, 'Hallelujah!'" (19:1), and again, 'Hallelujah' three more times (19:3, 4, and 6). Our hope is restored!

The final chapters detail the tossing of Ha'Satan into the abyss, then heaven opens, a white horse appears with its rider called Faithful and True, and all the armies of heaven follow, also on white horses (19:11-14). Satan is bound and thrown into the bottomless pit (20:1). For the next one-thousand years, earth has peace until Satan is once again let out, only to be judged and thrown into the lake of fire (20:10).

Chapter twenty-one begins with the vision of the new heaven and the new earth, and it is here and in the following chapter that what began in Genesis comes full circle and all of Elohim's promises are seen being fulfilled. Our hope again soars even higher than before.

We see in these twenty-two chapters of Revelation that our hopes and dreams for full restitution are given full expression, the anticipation of a favorable outcome under Yahweh's guidance has been guaranteed and completed. Satan, all evil people, Death, and Hades are thrown into the lake of fire (20:10-14), the new heaven and earth appear (21:1). Yahweh resumes his walk with his people: "See, the home of Yahweh is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and Yahweh himself will be with them" (21:3). Hope is satisfied and soars even higher than before.

Death is gone forever, as are tears, mourning, crying, and pain; all have passed away (21:4). The sun, too, is gone, no longer needed for light, "for the glory of Yahweh is its light, and its lamp is Yeshua, the Lamb" (21:23), and no sin will enter into the new kingdom (21:27). Those who belong to Yeshua will see Yahweh's face and will have his name on their foreheads (22:4). They will eat of the tree of life (22:14), and will drink freely of the water of life (22:17). Our hope soars to its highest point, much higher than before.

Final Conclusions

Our bedtime story, Revelation, has been told.

The bad guys have lost and the Good Guy has won.

Yahweh, in Yeshua, has won the final battle, and all has been made right and good; hope has been fulfilled. Our anticipation of the favorable outcome under Yahweh's guidance, coupled to our visions of the final scenes of Revelation give us confidence that guarantees our participation in what Yahweh will do in the future.

Yahweh has won, we have seen the outcome, we can endure anything the world, Satan, or evil puts in our path. For our hope is not in what we can accomplish, but in what Yahweh has already accomplished through Yeshua.

Oh, thank Yahweh/Yeshua/Ruach Ha'Kodesh. Our hope is that we, too, are one of the multitude who praises Yeshua in heaven! Now I lay me down to sleep, my hope to waken at Yeshua's call, the angel's voice, and to hear the trump of Yahweh as he raptures us home.