

# A study of Revelation

Lesson 8

## Clues in Revelation – Part 2

### ► Clues:

- are pieces of evidence(s) or **information** used in the detection or solving of something, a mystery, puzzle, ...
- some have **exact order** in which things will take place associated with certain events
- may be defined **markers**
  - E.g. the Feasts of the Lord



## Clues in Revelation – Church or churches

- Many **traditional views** give us the impression that the entity of **'the church'** was mentioned only up to chapter 3,
  - and it is absent from chapter 4 onwards.
  - So many assumed that 'the church' must be raptured
    - before any of the things in chapter 4 begins till the end of the book happened.
- But chapter 2 and 3 is not talking about 'the church.'
  - These chapters talks about **'churches'**, small assemblies.
- These two chapters are giving out instruction of how the 144,000 (Jews) should live during this period of time.
  - **Rev 3:10** "Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth."

## Clues in Revelation

- continued ...
- We don't see the bride of Christ until almost the end of the book of Revelation,
  - actually after the 1,000 years of the reign of Christ.
  - It is clear to us that the wedding supper of the lamb should not be the first event after believers arrived in heaven.

## Clues in Revelation – OT Ref

### ► Revelation

- uses symbols and imagery to 'tell the story'.
- uses both **Old and New Testament** references to 'flesh out' the symbols and imagery.
- They are expanded using biblical stories and themes found in other parts of scripture.
  - E.g. Balaam; Noah; Lot

## Clues in Revelation (2:14)- Balaam

- **Balaam** was a wicked prophet but not a false prophet
- **False prophet** is someone who says they are speaking God's Word but they are NOT.
  - They are either speaking from a demon or from their own mind; or saying things that they think other people wants to hear.
- **Balaam** did hear from God, and God did give him some true prophecies to speak.
  - However, Balaam's heart was not right with God, and eventually he showed his true colors by betraying Israel and leading them astray.

## Clues in Revelation

### ► Numbers 22—24

#### ► WHO:

- Balaam, a prophet from Mesopotamia along the Euphrates River (Numbers 22:5)
- The Israelites
  - King Balak
  - Donkey
  - Angel

#### ► WHAT:

- King Balak of Moab wanted to weaken the Israelites
- Balak sent for Balaam and asked him to curse Israel in exchange for a reward.

## Clues in Revelation

### ► Numbers 22—24

#### ► WHERE: Moab

- WHY: The Israelites were had moved in on Moab's territory.
- WHEN: The Israelites were on their way to Canaan
- Balaam was apparently willing to do this but said he needed God's permission (verse 8).
  - However, God told Balaam, "You must not put a curse on those people, because they are blessed" (verse 12).

## Clues in Revelation

### ► Numbers 22—24

- King Balak then sent more distinguished officials to entice Balaam (verse 16), promising a handsome reward.
  - This time God said, “Go with them, **but do only what I tell you**” (verse 20).
- Balaam, donkey, and the angel - incident!
  - **WHY was this incident necessary!**
  - The angel told Balaam that he certainly would have killed Balaam had not the donkey spared his life. Ironically, a dumb beast had more wisdom than God's prophet.
  - The angel then **repeated** to Balaam the instruction that he was only to speak what God told him to speak concerning the Hebrews.



## Clues in Revelation

### ► Numbers 22—24

- Balaam's three prophecies of blessing on Israel infuriated the king of Moab, who told the prophet to go back home with no reward.
- Before he left, Balaam reminded the king that he had said from the very beginning he could only say what God told him to say.
  - Then he gave the king four more prophecies.
    - In the fourth prophecy, Balaam foretold of the Messiah: "A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the people of Sheth" (**24:17**).
- Balaam's seven prophecies were seven blessings on God's people; it was God's enemies who were cursed.

## Clues in Revelation

### ► Numbers 22—24

- However, later on Balaam figured out a way to **get his reward from Balak**. He could not curse Israel directly, **so he came up with a plan** for Israel to bring a curse upon themselves.
  - Balaam advised the Moabites on how to entice the people of Israel with prostitutes and idolatry.
  - Balak followed Balaam's advice, and Israel fell into sin, worshiping Baal of Peor and committing fornication with Midianite women.
    - For this God plagued them, and 24,000 men died (Numbers 25:1–9; Deuteronomy 23:3–6).

## Clues in Revelation

- **Balaam** was a wicked prophet
  - He was used as a negative examples in the **NT**
    - Peter compares false teachers to Balaam, “who loved the wages of wickedness” (**2 Peter 2:15**).
    - Jude associating Balaam with the selling of one's soul for profit (**Jude 1:11**).
    - Jesus speaks of Balaam when He warns the church in Pergamum of their sin: “There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality” (**Revelation 2:14**).
  - It is **a warning for believers not to lead people astray!**

## Clues in Revelation – OT/NT Refs

- ▶ **Revelation** tells a specific story using events from the OT
  - ▶ however, we need to resist the urge to 'import' other characters (like **Noah** or **Lot**) into this story,
  - ▶ even though they appear in other end time passages found in other books of the Bible.
- ▶ Contrast to Balaam, Noah (**Gen 6:4**) and Lot (**Gen 19:1-14**) are mentioned in **Matt 24:37-44** and **Luke 17:26-32**, but they aren't found in the book of Revelation.
  - ▶ Balaam – the personality; Noah and Lot are not mentioned.
  - ▶ Days of Noah and Lot – event, activities
- ▶ We can dovetail, the Matthew 24 Olivet Discourse, end time scenario with the events in the book of Revelation.
- ▶ The book of Revelation is the complete end time book

## Clues in Revelation

- ▶ **Jesus spoke about the Coming of His Kingdom**
  - ▶ (Luke 17:20-37; Matt 24:37-44 )
- ▶ **Days of Noah** (Luke 17:26,27) "26 "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. 27 People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all."
- ▶ **Days of Lot** (Luke 17:28,29) "28 "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. 29 But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all."



## Clues in Revelation – Days of Noah

### ► **Genesis 6:1-7, 11-12**

“Now when men began to multiply on the face of the earth and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they took as wives whomever they chose. 3 So the LORD said, “My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days shall be 120 years.” 4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and afterward as well—when the sons of God had relations with the daughters of men. And they bore them children who became the mighty men of old, men of renown.”

“Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great upon the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was altogether evil all the time. 6And the LORD regretted that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7So the LORD said, “I will blot out man, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—every man and beast and crawling creature and bird of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them...”

Now the earth was **corrupt** in the sight of God, and full of **violence**.12And God looked upon the earth and saw that it was corrupt; for all living **creatures** on the earth had corrupted their ways.”

## Clues in Revelation

### ► **Days of Noah were noted for:**

- 1) elicit sexual relations between (fallen) angels (sons of God) and human women (vv 2, 4)
  - **Nephilim** – “mighty men,” giants, “crafted people”
- 2) violence (v 11) #2555 cruelty, damage, false, injustice, oppressor, unrighteous, violence against, done.
- 3) continuous inclination towards wickedness and evil (v5)
- 4) the corruption of all flesh/creatures (v 12)
  - Corrupt - ruined, destroyed
  - human, genetic and otherwise

## Clues in Revelation

### English Bible Translations of **Genesis 6:12**

- **New International Version** “God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.”
- **New Living Translation** “God observed all this corruption in the world, for everyone on earth was corrupt.”
- **English Standard Version** “And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.”
- **Berean Standard Bible** “And God looked upon the earth and saw that it was corrupt; for all living creatures on the earth had corrupted their ways.”
- **King James Bible** “And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.”
- **New King James Version** “So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.”

## Clues in Revelation

### ▶ **Jesus spoke about the Coming of His Kingdom**

▶ (Luke 17:20-37; Matt 24:37-44 )

▶ **Days of Noah** (Luke 17:26,27) “26 “Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. 27 People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.”

▶ **Days of Lot** (Luke 17:28,29) “28 “It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. 29 But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.”

## Clues in Revelation – Days of Lot

▶ Again...all seems to be ‘normal’...**but** is it really?

▶ “Then the LORD said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, 21 I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.” **Genesis 18:20,21**

▶ **More** violence and **more** sexual relations with fallen angels:

▶ “Before they had gone to bed, all the men of the city of Sodom, both young and old, surrounded the house. 5 They called out to Lot, saying, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Send them out to us so we can have relations with them!” **Genesis 19:4,5**

## Clues in Revelation

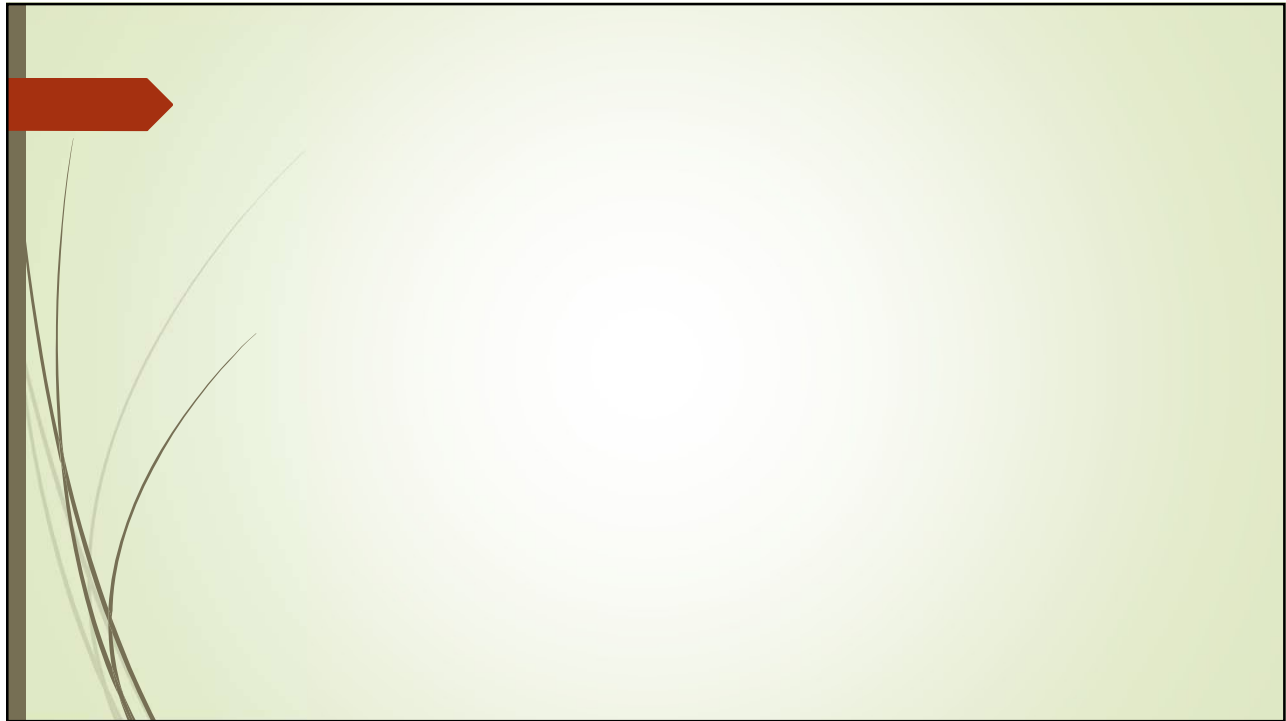
### Days of Lot

- **Genesis 19:4** "... all the men" #582 enosh, 'mortal, man, mankind'; possibly even women, too
- **Jude 5,7** "In like manner, Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, who indulged in sexual immorality and pursued strange (lit. 'different') flesh (lit. body), are on display as an example of those who sustain the punishment of eternal fire."
- In the **days of Noah**, the (fallen) angels desired relations with human women. In the **days of Lot** – In and around Sodom, men and women (not just men) desired relations with (fallen) angels.

## Clues in Revelation

### Jesus spoke about the Coming of His Kingdom

- Luke 17:20-37; Matt 24:37-44; Gen 6;19
- Why were "**Days of Noah** and **Days of Lot**" mentioned?
  - Jesus mentioned it in Matthew and Luke,
  - But it was not mentioned (directly) in Revelations
  - So, what's the significance?
    - People eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage were and are "normal"
- The difference is shown in Genesis 6 and 19
  - **Chaotic activities by the fallen angels (with humans)**
  - Three groups of fallen angels comes to earth:
    - (1) Rev 12:4 – 1/3 fallen angels
    - (2) Rev 9:3 – locust army (fallen angels from Gen 6 & 19)
    - (3) Rev 12:9 – rest of the fallen angels with Satan



## The Issue of **Dominion**

- 1. God is a '**Delegator**'.
- 2. He delegates His authority to others
  - He gives others dominion and authority over various aspects of His creation.
  - a. Angels have dominion.
  - b. Man has dominion
- 3. Because all dominion is 'delegated', all those who exercise dominion must give an account of their stewardship.

## The Issue of Dominion - Angels

- ▶ 2.a Partial list of **Angelic dominion and authority**
  - ▶ 1. Over water (Revelation 16:5 “And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say, “Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments.”)
  - ▶ 2. Over the fire (Revelation 14:18 “And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, “Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe.”)

## The Issue of Dominion

- ▶ 2.a Partial list of **Angelic dominion and authority**
  - ▶ 3. Over nations (Daniel 10:20 “Then he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come.”)
  - ▶ 4. Over Israel (Daniel 12:1 “At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.”)

## The Issue of Dominion

- ▶ 2.a Partial list of **Angelic dominion and authority**
  - ▶ 5. Over the air (Ephesians 2:1,2 1And you were dead in your trespasses and sins 2in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler who exercises authority over the lower heavens, the spirit now working in the disobedient." Holman Bible)
  - ▶ 6. Over an age (2 Corinthians 4:4 "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.")

## The Issue of Dominion - **Man**

- ▶ 2.b **Man has dominion**
  - ▶ 1. Over animals (Genesis 1:26 "Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.")
  - ▶ 2. Over all the earth (Genesis 1:26b "... over all the earth...")

## The Issue of Dominion - **Woman**

- ▶ 2.b.1 Then God created **Woman**
  - ▶ God created wo-man, from Adam (man)
    - ▶ An integral part of the image of God.
  - ▶ Up until the creation of man, no female had ever existed outside of God.
  - ▶ Man and his wife, in union together, became the living, breathing reflection of God
    - ▶ They were able to pro-create (Gen 1:28)

## The Issue of Dominion - **Angels and Humans**

- ▶ 2.b.2 angels and humans
  - ▶ Angels were "sons of God"
    - ▶ Angels were suppose to be "Watchers" of humans
  - ▶ There were no female angels!
    - ▶ So they could not pro-create!
    - ▶ Some of the angels became **jealous** of humans
  - ▶ Not every angels were happy with God
    - ▶ Some began to **rebel**
    - ▶ Satan **wanted** to be like God
      - ▶ Satan **tempted** Eve
        - ▶ **Genesis 3:15** "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and **her seed**; **he shall bruise your head**, and you shall bruise his heel."



## The Issue of Dominion

- 2.b.2 angels and humans
  - “Now when men began to multiply on the face of the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they took as wives whomever they chose....4The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and afterward as well—when the sons of God had relations with the daughters of men. And they bore them children who became the mighty men of old, men of renown.” **Genesis 6:1,2,4**
  - “And the angels who did not stay within their own domain but abandoned their proper dwelling—these He has kept in eternal chains under darkness, bound for judgment on that great day.” **Jude 6**

## The Issue of Dominion - Accountability

- 3. All ‘delegated’ must give an **account of their stewardship**.
  - The fallen angels (with the exception of Satan) will be judged during the last days (**when Jesus returns**) and will be casted into the **Lake of Fire**
    - this includes fallen angels (bad watchers), demons, the Beast (Apollyon), False Prophet, those with the Mark of the Beast and those made in the image of the Beast.
  - Satan will be judged at the end of his final rebellion (at the **Great White Throne**, after the Millennium) and will be casted into the **Lake of Fire**.

## The Issue of Dominion

- ▶ 3. All 'delegated' must give an account of their stewardship.
  - ▶ Unbelievers will be held accountable at the **Great White Throne**, after the Millennium.
    - ▶ Sheep will enter the **New Earth (Jesus' Kingdom)**
    - ▶ Goats will go into the **Lake of Fire**
  - ▶ Believers will give an account of their stewardship at the **Bema Seat (Judgment Seat of Christ)** when Jesus returns)
    - ▶ 2 Corin 5:10; Romans 14:10

You also, be patient.

**ESTABLISH  
YOUR HEARTS,**

for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

**JAMES 5:8**



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