

# "Applying the Principles of Interpretation to the Book of Revelation"

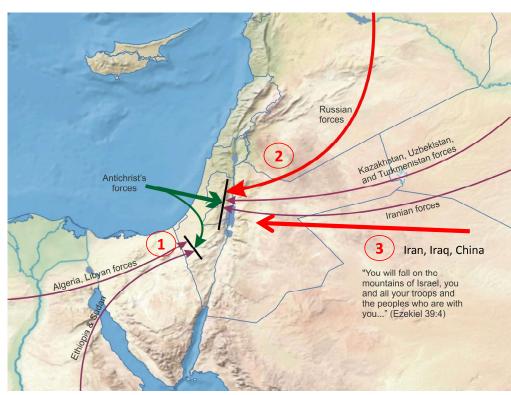
Jan. 26, 2020

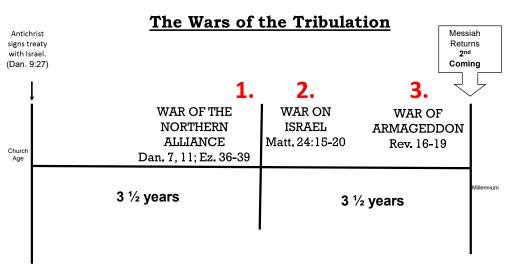
# Quiz

1. There are 7 pauses (chapters) in Revelation to stop and praise God:

Chapters 4,5,7,11,12,15,19.

2. What is the following map showing?





#### Quiz

1. There are 7 pauses (chapters) in Revelation to stop and praise God:

Chapters 4,5,7,11,12,15,19.

2. What is the following map showing?

The first war of the Tribulation – who and where.

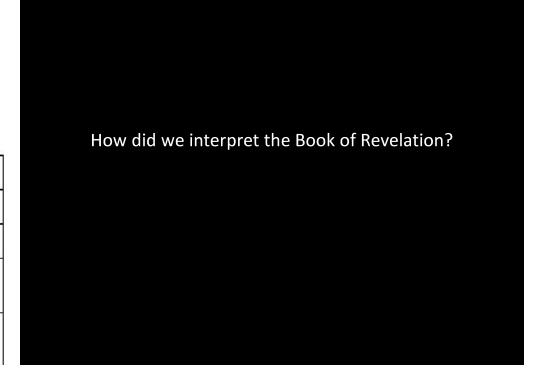
3. Who are the "brethren" (4 groups) in verse 40 and why are they in need of care (food, water, clothing, & care while sick and in prison)?

40 "The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

# 4 groups of "brethren":

- 1. 144,000 (Rev. 7:4)
- 2. 2 witnesses (Rev. 11:3)
- 3. Jews fleeing for safety from the Antichrist (Matt. 24:16-20)
- 4. Gentile believers (Rev. 7:9)

Brethren's Problem	Cause	Sheep's Response
Lacking food and water	Unable to buy or sell (Rev. 13:17)	Given food and drink
Naked	Unable to buy or sell (Rev. 13:17)	Clothed
Stranger, foreigner without housing	Flight of Jewish believers (Mat. 24:15; Rev. 12:13)	Taken in, given a place to stay
Sick and in prison	Persecution of all believers, but especially Jewish believers (Rev. 7:3-8)	Visited



**Axiom** – a statement universally accepted as true. An established principle or law that needs no proof because the truth is obvious.

#### 5 Axioms of communication:

- 1. The purpose of speech is the impartation of thought.
- 2. The purpose of interpretation is to apprehend the exact thought of the author.
- 3. Words and language are reliable mediums of communication.
- 4. Usage determines the meaning of words. Therefore the meaning of a word depends on its association with other words.
- 5. By one expression one thought is conveyed, and only one.

#### Scripture is logical.

- " non-contradictory.
- " clear.
- " is subject to mental assessment.

#### There are no errors.

- " no inconsistencies.
- " no lies.
- " no unsound principles.
- " no fantasies.
- " no absurdities.
- " no myths.
- " no legends.

It is infallible and inerrant down to every jot and tittle.

#### Scripture is God's truth.

- It is God's truth whether you understand it or not
- It is God's truth whether you've experienced it or not.
- It is God's truth whether you have lived or not.
- The truth is not dependent on you or anyone else.
- Scripture is the same for everyone and its interpretation is the same for everyone.
- What the Bible means to you and what you think the truth is, is irrelevant to its truthfulness.
- The Bible is true whether it affects anyone or not.
- Scripture has 1 true meaning and that 1 true meaning is determined by God.
- God revealed all of His truth in 1 book and only 1 book.
- Our task then is to determine what God meant by what He has revealed in that 1 book.

To understand Scripture one must use one's brain.

It is not understood mystically.

- " experientially.
- " intuitively.

Scripture is understood with reason.

-like how you solve a math problem.

$$(x-4)5x^3-x^2+0x+6$$

The answer is,

$$\frac{5x^3 - x^2 + 6}{x - 4} = 5x^2 + 19x + 76 + \frac{310}{x - 4}$$

To understand Scripture one must use one's brain.

It is not understood mystically.

" experientially.

" intuitively.

Scripture is understood with reason.

-like how you solve a math problem.

- " an engineering problem.

- " read a schematic diagram.

- " follow a road map.

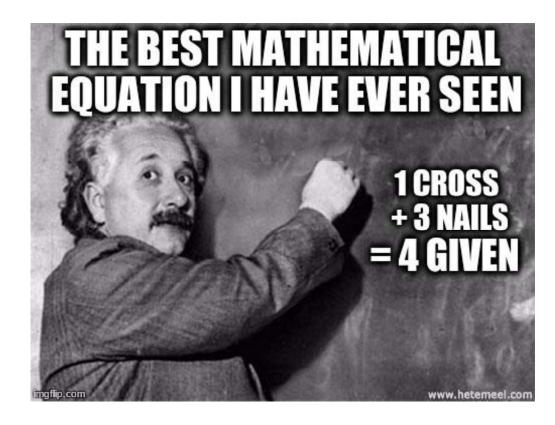
- " diagnose an illness.

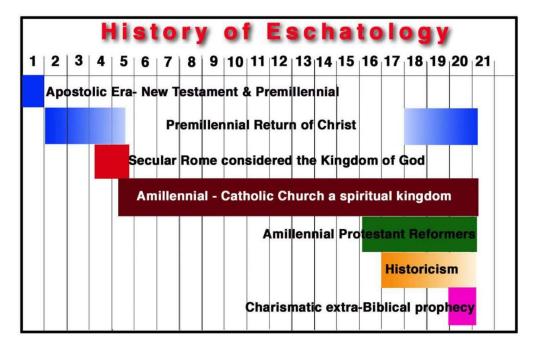
- " perform surgery.

- It is the same way you build a house.
- in the same way you process any information that's how the Bible is to be understood.

What someone thinks it means doesn't matter.

What someone would like it to mean doesn't matter.





# The 6 Major Principles of Interpretation

#### I. The principle of LITERAL interpretation.

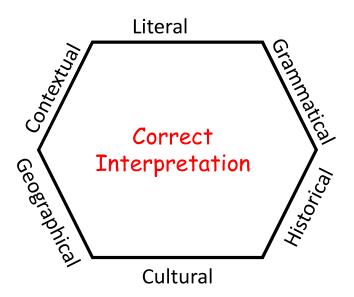
"Understanding the meaning of a sentence in its usual, ordinary, or normal way it is used in writing or conversation."

## II. The principle of GRAMMATICAL interpretation.

"Paying close attention to the words of a sentence - meaning, order, syntax, parts of speech, action of the verbs, are all investigated to determine what is meant by what is said."

#### III. The principle of HISTORICAL interpretation.

"Studying the history of a particular setting in the Bible - a nation, race, country, kingdom, city, etc."



#### IV. The principle of CULTURAL interpretation.

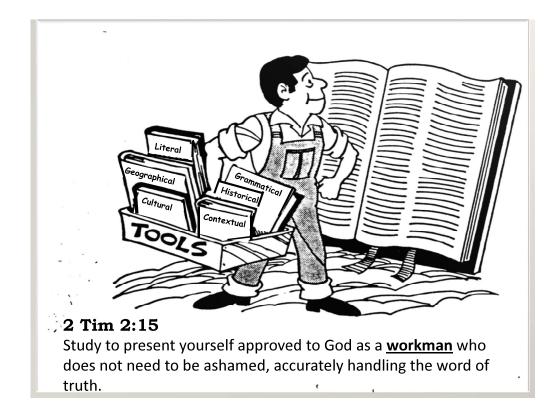
"Understanding the culture of the day in which the Bible was written - customs, traditions, dress, food, manners, entertainment, marriage, family, occupations, etc."

#### V. The principle of GEOGRAPHICAL interpretation.

"Studying atlases, maps, etc. to determine where a particular event or span of time took place - the climate, temperature, terrain, distance, etc."

#### VI. The principle of CONTEXTUAL interpretation.

"Paying close attention to the material surrounding a passage of Scripture, both before and after. Immediate, chapter, book, O.T. or N.T. all are a critical consideration as they will have great bearing on the meaning of a given word, sentence and/or passage."



#### I. The principle of LITERAL interpretation.

"Understanding the meaning of a sentence in its usual, ordinary, or normal way it is used in writing or conversation."

# **Cold-Stunned Iguanas Falling From Florida Trees**

MIAMI — The National Weather Service routinely warns people about falling rain, snow and hail, but temperatures are dropping so low in South Florida the forecasters warned residents Tuesday about falling iguanas.

"This isn't something we usually forecast, but don't be surprised if you see Iguanas falling from the trees tonight as lows drop into the 30s and 40s. Brrrr!" NWS Miami tweeted.

The low temperatures stun the invasive reptiles, but the iguanas won't necessarily die. That means many will wake up as temperatures rise Wednesday.

Iguanas aren't dangerous or aggressive to humans, but they damage seawalls, sidewalks, landscape foliage and can dig lengthy tunnels. The males can grow to at least 5 feet long and weigh nearly 20 pounds.

Female iguanas can lay nearly 80 eggs a year, and South Florida's warm climate is perfect for the prehistoric-looking animals. Iguanas are native to Central America, tropical parts of South America and some Caribbean islands.

Iguanas are allowed to be kept as pets in Florida but are not protected by any law except anti-cruelty to animals. They've been in South Florida since the 1960s, but their numbers have increased dramatically in recent years.





Are those literal Iguanas? Are they literally falling from literal trees? Is this predicted to happen literally on Tuesday? Are the 30's and 40's literal temperatures? Are the Iguanas literally "stunned?" Can Iguanas do literal damage? Can they literally reach 5' and 20 pounds? Can the female literally lay 80 eggs/year?

Have they literally been in Florida since the 1960's?

- I think this is a figurative story about Cuban refugees landing in Florida, doing damage to property, and multiplying rapidly.
- I think this is about large numbers of unregistered voters allowed to vote ("falling") in future elections and thus are doing great damage to our political system.
- I think this is about the new attraction at Disney World that gives the appearance of Iguanas falling from trees onto the tourists and they walk through a jungle-like adventure.
- \*\*All 3 of these belong in Disney World in Fantasyland.

#### Numbers in the book of Revelation are all used literally:

7 churches

7 messengers

12 tribes

12 apostles

10 lamps

5 months

1/3 of mankind

2 witnesses

42 months

1,260 days

12 stars

10 horns

200 miles

three demons

five fallen kings

42 months

Millions of angels

666

3 ½ years

7,000 people

¼ of the earth

1/3 of all ships

1,2,3,4,5,6,7 Seals

1,2,3,4,5,6,7 Trumpets

1,2,3,4,5,6,7 Bowls

1/3 of the moon

4 angels

144,000

2 horns

3 ½ days

200,000,000 horseman

6 wings

7 gold lampstands

7 heads

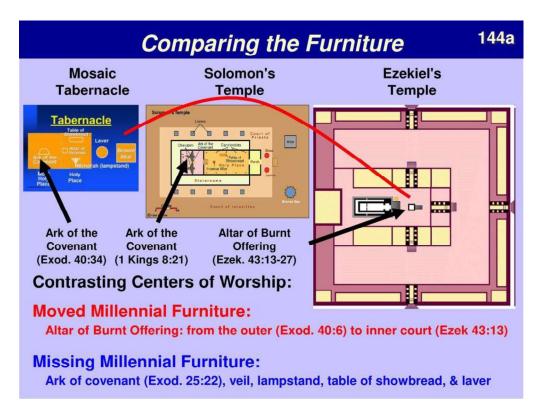
10 crowns

12 stars

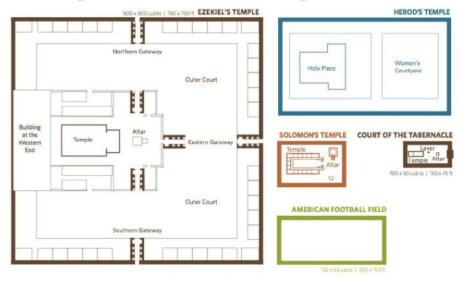
24 elders

4 living creatures

1,000 years



# **Temple Size Comparisons**



#### **Self-Interpreting Symbols**

Rev 1:20 Seven stars "they are" the seven angels of the churches

Rev 1:20 Seven lampstands "they are" the seven churches

Rev 4:5 Seven lamps before "which are" the seven spirits of God

Rev 5:6 The seven horns and "which are" The seven spirits of God sent into all the earth

Rev 5:8 Gold bowls full of "which are" The prayers of the saints

Rev 7:14 The multitude in "these are" The saints coming out of the tribulation

Rev 11:4 The two witnesses "these are" the two olive trees and two lampstands standing before the Lord

Rev 14:4 The 144,000 "these are" Those who did not defile themselves and they followed the Lamb

Rev 17:9 The seven heads of "they are" They are seven hills (Rome)

Rev 19:8 The pure white "for ... is" The righteous deeds of the saints

**Feet:** "were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace,"

- The red-hot, glowing feet of the Lord Jesus Christ picture Him moving through His church to exercise His refining ministry.
- As Christ reports what He finds in the churches His goal is to bring them forth refined by fire.

**Voice:** "was like the sound of many waters"

- The roar and rush of a large volume of water (i.e. waterfall)
- Christ will speak with great authority, majesty, and power to the churches.

#### Rev 4:6-7

- 6 and before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind.
- 7 The first creature was like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle.

#### **Rev 10:3**

and he cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars;

#### Rev 9:1-2

- 9 Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him.
- 2 He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace;

#### Rev 20:1-3

- 20 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.
- 2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

# Were these prophecies in Zech. fulfilled literally or figuratively?

The Messiah will come humbly, riding on a donkey (9:9).

He will be hailed as a king (9:9).

He will be betrayed by a friend (13:6).

He will be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (11:12).

The betrayal money will be used to purchase a potter's field (11:13).

The Messiah will be forsaken by His disciples (13:7).

The Messiah will be pierced (12:10 & 13:6).

#### II. The principle of GRAMMATICAL interpretation.

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**χρονοσ** - sequential time - second, minute, hour, day, week, year. Calender time.

**KCLPOO** - seasons, eras, epochs. Large chunk of time.

#### "strong angel"

- Gabriel = strength of God

**"proclaiming"** κηρυσσω – to hearld (public crier), to shout, to announce loudly.

"loud" –  $\mu\epsilon\gamma\alpha\sigma$  – megas. mega – gigantic, huge.

The angel wants his voice to penetrate every corner of the universe.

"worthy" –  $\alpha \xi \iota o \sigma$  - axios – having weight

# παντοκρατωρ

"to have strength and might over all. One who has his hand on everything. One who has a firm grip."

It speaks of the great sovereign control of the Lord Jesus over everything – past, present, and future.

He is Almighty in sustaining His people, yet equally Almighty in judgment on His enemies.

# "παρουσια"parousia"coming (22 X) or presence (2X)"

#### Matt 24:3

As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your parousia, and of the end of the age?"

#### Mat 24:27

"For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the **parousia** of the Son of Man be.

#### Mat 24:37

"For the *parousia* of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.

#### Mat 24:39

and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the *parousia* of the Son of Man be.

#### 1Co 15:23

But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His *parousia*,

#### 1Co 16:17

I rejoice over the *parousia* of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have supplied what was lacking on your part.

#### Rev 17:1-3

- 1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,
- 2 with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality."

"παρουσια"
parousia
"the coming of Christ"

#### 2 Part Coming

Part 1

"Christ comes FOR
His saints IN the clouds"

WITH the clouds"

- "immorality"  $\pi$ oρνευ $\omega$  to prostitute, practice prostitution or sexual immorality generally, but also used figuratively to denote the practice of idolatry.
- So the kings of the earth spiritually fornicate with her.
- They unite with her. They become one with her.
- They sell themselves out to her.
- They become "putty" in her hands.

#### Rev 2:1-7

- 1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

  The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:
- 2 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;
- 3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.
- 4 'But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.
- 5 'Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place unless you repent.
- 6 'Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
- 7 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.'

The Greek word for angels is  $\alpha\gamma\gamma\epsilon\lambda\sigma\sigma$ . It is not only used for heavenly angels, but also used for human messengers, such as John the Baptist (Matthew 11:10, Mark 1:2, Luke 7:27)

#### Matt 11:10

10 "This is the one about whom it is written,
'BEHOLD, I SEND MY **MESSENGER** AHEAD OF YOU,
WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.'

# "abominations" - βδελυγμα - bdelugma — something so vile that when it is brought before God it arouses his wrath. It includes all forms of idolatry — anything that distracts from the worship of God.

"unclean things"  $-\alpha\kappa\alpha\theta\alpha\rho\tau\sigma\nu$  – akatharton - refers to filth. That which pollutes the mind and soul. It refers to the ideas, doctrines, philosophies of man-made religion.

#### Rev 6:12-14

- 12 I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood;
- 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.
- 14 The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

αποχωριζω from απο which means "from," showing source, separation, departure," plus χωριζω which means "to separate, divide."

This compound verb means to tear apart, split or separate as when a huge curtain is separated or pulled back to reveal what lies behind it as in a theater.



## III. The principle of HISTORICAL interpretation.

"Studying the history of a particular setting in the Bible - a nation, race, country, kingdom, city, etc."

#### Smyrna -

- Had a history of dying as a city but coming back to life.
- Population: 200,000.
- Very wealthy city.
- Emperor worship.
- Loyalty to Rome.
- Large Jewish population.

**Iranaeus** (130-202 AD) who wrote in the second century said that, "John wrote a revelation the 14th year of the Roman Emperor Domitian who ruled from 81 to 96 A.D.,"





## **Paul**

### Acts 20:31

31 "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

#### Aquila & Priscilla

#### Acts 18:18-19

- 18 Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchrea he had his hair cut, for he was keeping a vow.
- 19 They came to Ephesus, and he left them there.

## **Apollos**

#### Acts 18:24,25

- 24 Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures.
- 25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John;

# **Timothy**

#### 1 Tim 1:3

3 As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, **remain on at Ephesus** so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines,

# **Tychicus**

#### Eph 6:21-22

- 21 But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you.
- 22 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.

# <u>John</u>

John wrote his gospel and 1,2,3 John from Ephesus.

# "They repented for awhile but then were lost . . ." - Ignatius

2<sup>nd</sup> century

The light of the church at Ephesus had not just been dimmed, but completely snuffed out.

### Rev 3:14-22

- 14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:
- The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:
- 15 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot.
- 16 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.
- 17 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,
- 18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.
- 19 'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.
- 20 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.
- 21 'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.
- 22 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

# City of Laodicea

- 1. Founded in 261-253 BC by Antiochus II and named after his wife Laodice.
- 2. Laodicea means "people ruling."
- 3. It was the richest city of the 7 cities and maybe in the world at that time.
- 4. It had many buildings including a stadium, baths, temples, a gymnasium, theatres, and Senate House.
- 5. Laodicea became one of the most important and flourishing commercial centers of Asia Minor.

## • Center of Finance

Banking - large money transactions.

#### Center of Garment Manufacturing

Known for black wool – used for garments and carpets. Fashion center.



#### Center of Medicine

Produced an eye salve for those with eye problems.

- 6. The city had become very independent and self-sufficient. When leveled by an earthquake in 60 AD, they refused any help or money from the emperor, Nero, to rebuild. They financed it all themselves.
- 7. The one major draw back of the city was its lack of a fresh water supply. Lycus River was too dirty. Streams too small, filled with impurities, gases and chemicals and many dried up during the winter.
- 8. Water had to be brought in in underground aqueducts from many miles away. The pipes would often become corroded with calcium carbonate. Hieropolis had hot springs where many came for healing, and Colossae had cold refreshing water for drinking. However as the water flowed through the pipes from either direction it became lukewarm and was filled with calcium carbonate and would make the people sick to the point of vomiting.

Aqueduct
The water that was piped to Laodicea was rich with calcium
which over time would cause the pipes to clog. The engineers
designed the aqueduct with vents covered with stones that
could be removed periodically for cleaning.

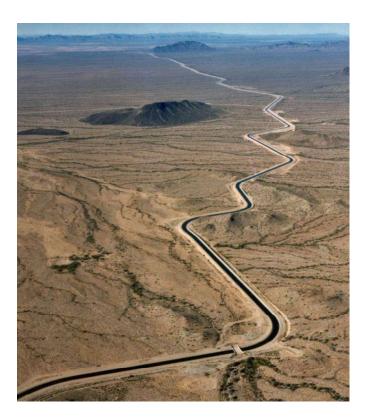






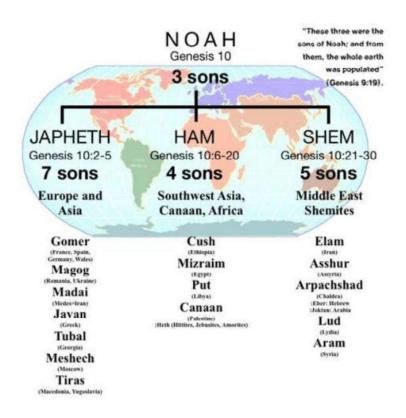
#### Ezek 38:1-23

- 1 And the word of the Lord came to me saying,
- 2 "Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him
- 3 and say, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal.
- 4 "I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them splendidly attired, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them wielding swords;
- 5 Persia, Ethiopia and Put with them, all of them with shield and helmet;
- 6 Gomer with all its troops; Beth-togarmah from the remote parts of the north with all its troops many peoples with you.
- 7 "Be prepared, and prepare yourself, you and all your companies that are assembled about you, and be a guard for them.



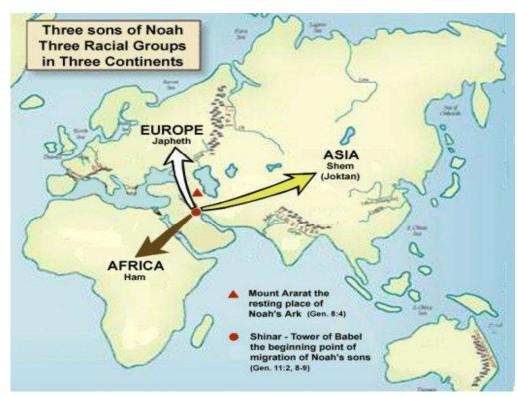
#### Gen 10:1-5

- 1 Now these are the records of the generations of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah; and sons were born to them after the flood.
- 2 The sons of Japheth were Gomer and Magog and Madai and Javan and Tubal and Meshech and Tiras.
- 3 The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz and Riphath and Togarmah.
- 4 The sons of Javan were Elishah and Tarshish, Kittim and Dodanim.
- 5 From these the coastlands of the nations were separated into their lands, every one according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.



#### **Definitions:**

- 1. Gog a person who is a prince, a ruler of a region.
- 2. Magog the area that Gog rules over.
- 3. Rosh Russia
- 4. Meshech Russia
- 5. Tubal Russia
- 6. Persia Iran
- 7. Cush Ethiopia, Sudan
- 8. Lud Libya, Algeria
- 9. Gomer Turkey
- 10. Togarmah Turkey





#### History of ancient Babylon.

- **Β**αβυλον Babylon is the Greek word.
- בבל Bab-el is the Hebrew word.
- Founded by Nimrod (2,300 B.C.) "to rebel".
- Babel represented rebellion against God.
- All idols of the world originate from Babylon.
- All false religious systems originate from Babylon.
- Nebuchadnezzar built the city for his glory (600 B.C.) -

#### Dan 4:30

- 30 "The king reflected and said, 'Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?'
- Like "Hollywood" the name represents the world system as well as being the name of a particular city.

#### 1 Peter 5:12-13

- 12 Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard him), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!
- 13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark.
- Babylon is the fountainhead for all idolatry and pagan religious systems.

**10 Horns** – 10 future nations that will form the Roman Confederacy controlled by the Antichrist.

**7 Heads** – 7 nations. 6 are in the past. 1 is yet future.

\*So the harlot Babylon has not only lined herself up with the kings of the earth and those who dwell on the earth, but also has an alliance with the Antichrist himself.

- On Independence Day 2017 Israel's population stood at 8,680,000. This is a 10-fold increase compared to when Israel was founded in 1948.

   The Jewish population makes up 6,484,000 (74.7%); 1,808,000 (20.8%) are Arabs; and, those identified as "others" (non-Arab Christians, Baha'i, etc.) make up 4.5%
  - 1,808,000 (20.8%) are Arabs; and, those identified as "others" (non-Arab Christians, Baha'i, etc) make up 4.5% of the population (388,000 people). When the state was established, there were only 806,000 residents and the total population reached its first and second millions in 1949 and 1958 respectively. Judging by current population trend data, experts predict that the population of Israel will reach 10 million by 2025 or sooner.
  - Out of the 14.3 million Jewish people in the world, 43% reside in Israel.
  - Of Israeli Jews, 44% self-identify as Secular, 11% simply as religious, and 9% as Ultra-Orthodox, 36% as other.



- 7. Israel's position in the world today:
- They are still partially and temporarily set aside.
- Many have returned back to the land of Israel.
- They are returning in unbelief.
- Israel, as a nation, in the Church age will remain in their current position until the 144,000 complete their evangelism campaign.
- Jews can be reconciled to God through their Messiah, Jesus Christ and be joined to the Church, the body of Christ. There is no dual-covenant.
- 2/3 of Israel will be wiped out by God in the Tribulation. (Zech 13:8,9)
- The next great event for spiritual Israel is the saving & sealing of the 144,000 which will lead to the salvation of the whole nation that are left at the end of the Tribulation.
- \*Pharaoh tried to drown the children of Israel and they would not drown. Nebuchadnezzar tried to burn them and they would not burn. Haman tried to hang them and they would not hang. Israel is here to stay!