

# REVELATION

*The CHURCH TRIUMPHANT  
Through CHRIST  
(the LAMB of GOD)*

*Based upon Jim McGuigan's work on the book of Revelation*

# REVELATION

*The CHURCH TRIUMPHANT*

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*Lesson Two*

*The Old Testament*

# LESSON PLAN

1. Past, Present, or Future?

2. The Old Testament

**Basic  
Background**

3. Rome and God's People

4. A Woman, A City, and Witnesses

5. The Serpent and The Christ

**Major  
Characters**

6. Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls

7. Armageddon, New Jerusalem

8. Numbers and Their Message

**Major  
Images**

9. Chapters 1-10 (Two Lessons)

10. Chapters 11-22 (Two Lessons)

**Putting it  
Together**

# Lesson 2: What We Will Learn

- **John had several good reasons for using the Old Testament in his Revelation.**
- **There are three types of OT references, only one of which is used in Revelation.**
- **Seven Old Testament books make up a majority of the references used by John.**
- **John also used OT events, characters, and objects to illustrate his visions.**
- **Many of the names for Christ used by John originated in the Old Testament.**

# Why Use the Old Testament?

- **Familiarity**
  - John's background
  - His audience
- **Shared Apocalyptic literary style**
  - Most if not all symbols are not new
- **Similarity**
  - Real events
  - Symbolic meaning

# Types of References

- **By some estimates there are more than 350 or 400 OT references in Revelation**
- **None are citations or quotations**
- **All can be categorized as allusions**
- **Types of OT allusions:**
  - Real and Symbolic

# The Major OT Sources

**A majority of figurative references originate from seven OT books**

**– From the major prophets:**

**Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Isaiah**

**– From the minor prophets: Zechariah**

**– From the Pentateuch: Exodus**

**– From poetry: Psalms**

# The Major OT Sources

## DANIEL

- Almost the entire book is used, some 53 possible references
- Example: 7:13-14 Son of Man in chapter 1

## EZEKIEL

- Written to God's people in exile
- Example: 9:1-7 sealing of God's people in chapter 7, verses 1-4



# The Major OT Sources

## JEREMIAH

- **Prophesied to those left in Jerusalem**
- **Example: 22 refs. dealing with overthrow of Babylon in chapters 16-19**

## ISAIAH

- **Most cited book: some 79 possible refs.**
- **Examples: chapter 6 throne scene in Rev. 4 & 5; chapter 65 new heaven & new earth Rev. 21 & 22**

# The Major OT Sources

## **ZECHARIAH**

- **Deals with return of faithful remnant**
- **Examples: lamp stands, four horsemen**

## **EXODUS**

- **10 plagues provide major inspiration for punishments in seals, bowls, and trumpets**
- **Song of Moses seems to match chapter 15 with Revelation 15**

# The Major OT Sources

## PSALMS

- **Main use is for descriptive or praise words for Christ**
- **119:137 with Rev. 16:7**
- **79:3 with Rev. 16:6**

### Some other OT books used:

- **Genesis, Deuteronomy, II Kings, Joel, Amos**

# Places Referenced in the OT

- **Jerusalem**
  - Referenced specifically or generally 6 times
  - Symbolic of New Jerusalem vs. Babylon (Rome)
- **The River Euphrates**
  - Rome feared Parthian invasion from this region
  - Used as symbol of judgment/punishment
    - Revelation 9 & 16
- **Armageddon**
  - References battlefield of many Israelite conflicts near town of Megiddo

# Objects Referenced in the OT

- **Lamp stand**
  - Only source of light within Holy Place
  - Sees churches as light-bearers
- **The Tabernacle and the Temple**
  - OT dwelling place of God among His people
  - In Revelation, Temple is site of God's decrees
- **Altar**
  - OT place of sacrifice
  - In Revelation, as well, symbol of martyrdom

# Characters Referenced in the OT

- **Balaam**

- Balaam's story of greed/deception in Numbers 22ff.
- A label used to describe individual or church, 2:14

- **Jezebel**

- Brought Baal worship to nation of Israel
- 1/3 of letter to Thyatira involves this false prophetess

# Names for Christ Originating in the OT

- **Chapter one of Revelation is full of dramatic phrases taken from OT to describe character of Christ**
- **Prime example of use of allusion references**

## Examples

- **The faithful witness & the firstborn from the dead**
  - **Psalm 89**
- **Son of Man & Head and hair white like wool**
  - **Daniel 7**

# Lesson 2: What We Learned

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Next Lesson

Major Characters:

Rome and God's People