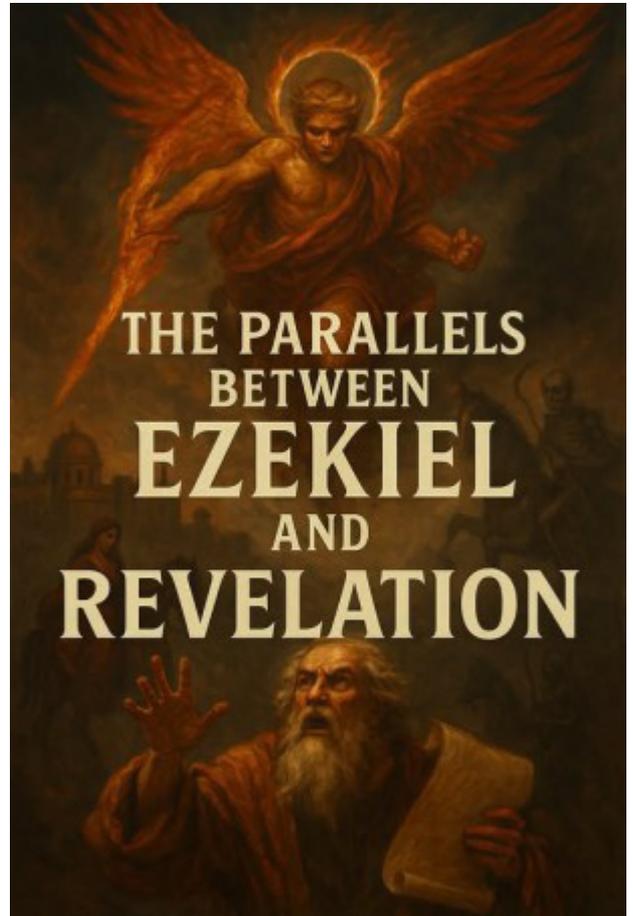


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Parallels - THE PARALLELS BETWEEN EZEKIEL AND REVELATION



By Dan Maines

THE PARALLELS BETWEEN EZEKIEL AND REVELATION

Many people miss the deep connection between Ezekiel and Revelation. But John's vision in Revelation was not original in the sense of being entirely new. It was a continuation of a prophetic pattern that began with Ezekiel, who prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem in 587 B.C. John, writing during the first century, was also warning of the destruction of Jerusalem, this time in 70 A.D. The parallels are too precise to ignore. Here are some clear examples:

THE VISION OF THE THRONE OF GOD • Ezekiel 1:1 - "Now it came about in the thirtieth year, on the fifth day of the fourth month, while I was by the river Chebar among the exiles, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God." • Revelation 4:2 - "Immediately I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and someone was sitting on the throne." Both prophets are taken into a heavenly vision, and both begin by witnessing God's throne - that establishes the authority of the message.

THE SCROLL IS EATEN • Ezekiel 2:9-10, 3:1-3 - Ezekiel is told to eat the scroll that contains lamentation and woe. • Revelation 10:10 - John also eats a scroll, sweet in his mouth, bitter in his stomach. Both scrolls represent judgment coming upon the house of Israel.

THE SCROLL BEING OPEN • Ezekiel 2-3 - The message is delivered once the scroll is opened and consumed. • Revelation 5:2-5 - The scroll is opened only by the Lamb, revealing God's plan for judgment.

THE SIGN OF DOOM TO JERUSALEM • Ezekiel 4 - Ezekiel draws Jerusalem on a brick and lays siege to it symbolically. • Revelation 12 - The dragon and the war in heaven reveal a symbolic conflict that affects Jerusalem directly.

THE FOUR PLAGUES • Ezekiel 5:12-17 - God brings sword, famine, wild beasts, and plague. • Revelation 6:1-8 - The four horsemen unleash the same four judgments.

THE 1/3 DESTRUCTION • Ezekiel 5:1-4, 12 - A third will die by plague, a third by sword, and a third scattered. • Revelation 8:6-12 - A third of the earth, sea, rivers, and heavenly bodies are struck.

THE WRATH OF GOD • Ezekiel 7 - "The day of wrath is near." • Revelation 6:12-17 - The people cry out, "Hide us from the

wrath of the Lamb."

THE LAW OF GOD CHANGED TO WORSHIP THE BEAST •

Ezekiel 8 - Abominations in the temple include idol worship. • Revelation 13 - The beast demands worship, replacing God's law.

THE WORLD IS SEPARATED IN TWO • Ezekiel 9 - Those faithful are marked before judgment begins. • Revelation 13 - Those loyal to the beast are marked, creating two groups.

SEAL ON THE FOREHEADS OF THE FAITHFUL REMNANT •

Ezekiel 9:4 - "Put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations." • Revelation 7:3 - "Do not harm the earth... until we have put a seal on the foreheads of the bond-servants of our God."

THE COALS FROM THE ALTAR • Ezekiel 10:2 - Burning coals are scattered over the city. • Revelation 8:5 - Fire from the altar is thrown to the earth, signaling judgment.

NO MORE DELAY / JUDGMENT DAY • Ezekiel 12:21-28 - "None of My words will be delayed any longer." • Revelation 10:6-7 - "There will no longer be a delay."

THE FINAL WARNING TO THE WORLD • Ezekiel 13-33 - Warning after warning, yet the people refuse to listen. • Revelation 14-15 - Final warnings are issued before the bowls of wrath are poured out.

THE VINE OF THE LAND • Ezekiel 15 - Jerusalem is compared to a useless vine. • Revelation 14:18-20 - The vine of the earth is reaped and thrown into the wine press of God's wrath.

COMPARING JERUSALEM TO SODOM • Ezekiel 16 - Jerusalem's sins are greater than Sodom's. • Revelation 11:8 -

Jerusalem is "mystically called Sodom and Egypt."

THE GREAT HARLOT • Ezekiel 16, 23 - Jerusalem is portrayed as an adulterous woman. • Revelation 17-18 - The great harlot rides the beast and is judged for her immorality.

THE SWORD FLASHES LIKE LIGHTNING • Ezekiel 21:10 - "The sword is sharpened and polished, flashing like lightning." • Revelation 19:15 - "From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations."

THE HARLOT JUDGED BY HER LOVERS • Ezekiel 23 - Her lovers turn against her. • Revelation 17 - The beast and the ten horns hate the harlot and make her desolate.

THE CUP OF WRATH • Ezekiel 23:31-34 - She will drink the cup of horror and desolation. • Revelation 14:10 - The harlot drinks the cup of God's wrath unmixed.

PROPHECY AGAINST THE NATIONS (GENTILES) • Ezekiel 25-32 - Oracles against surrounding nations. • Revelation 10:11 - "You must prophesy again concerning many peoples, nations, languages, and kings."

THE FALL OF BABYLON • Ezekiel 26-27 - The fall of Tyre is depicted like the fall of a great trading city. • Revelation 18 - Babylon falls with the same imagery of mourning merchants and ruined trade.

All these parallels show that Revelation is not about a future apocalypse thousands of years later. It is about the same kind of judgment that Ezekiel warned about, only this time it was coming on the generation that rejected the Messiah. Just like Jerusalem fell in Ezekiel's day, it fell again in John's. God is consistent, and He kept His word.

The same Jesus who promised, "These are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled" (Luke 21:22), also said "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place" (Matthew 24:34).

Revelation is not about our future, it is about their present. And the judgment that fell in 70 A.D. was the final covenantal reckoning on the old system.

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