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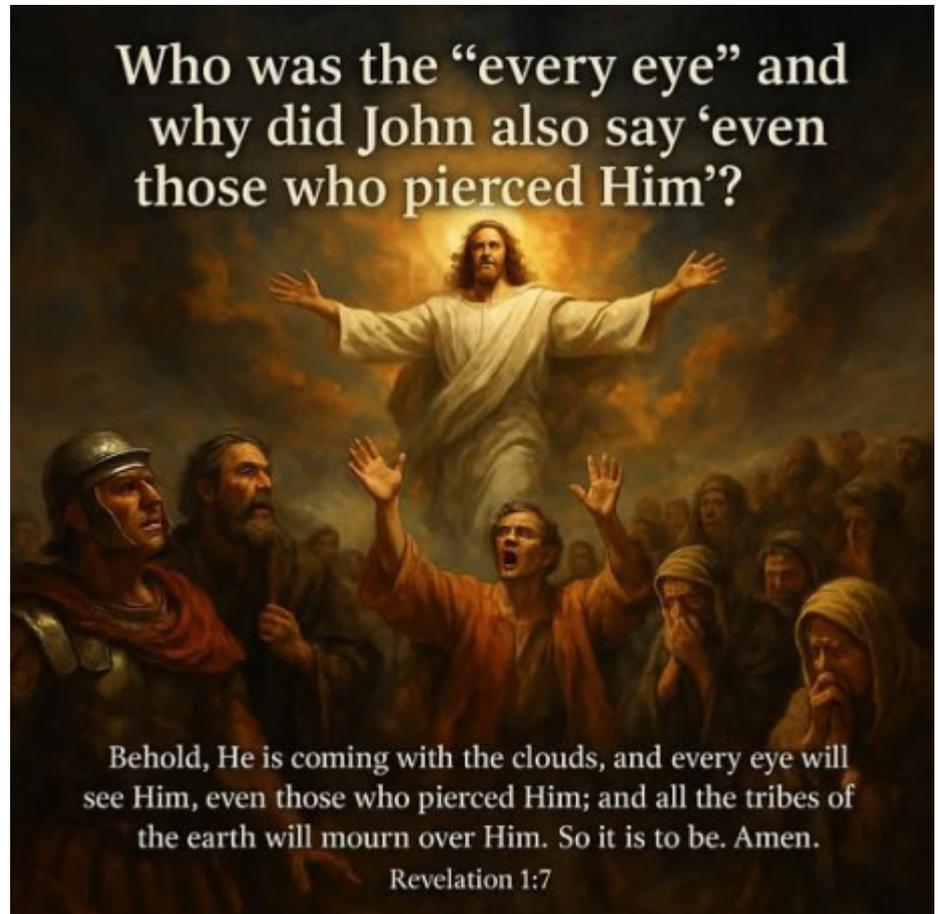
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Every Eye - Who was the "every eye" and why did John also say "even those who pierced Him"?



By Dan Maines

Who was the "every eye" and why did John also say "even those who pierced Him"?

In Revelation 1:7, John writes, "Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him." The phrase "every eye" needs to be understood in the context of the prophecy's audience. This is not a blanket statement about every human being in all of history. It refers to those living in that generation who would witness the events of Christ's coming in judgment. This matches Jesus' own words in

Matthew 24:34, "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place."

When John adds, "even those who pierced Him," he is making the statement even more specific. The ones who pierced Him were the first century Jewish leaders and people who demanded His crucifixion and handed Him over to the Romans (Acts 2:23, 36). This is a direct tie to the prophetic fulfillment of Zechariah 12:10, where God says, "They will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him." That mourning is tied to judgment on Jerusalem, not a far-off end of the physical world.

Jesus personally told the high priest at His trial, "you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven" (Matthew 26:64). This is covenantal language of judgment, taken from Daniel 7:13-14, showing that His "coming" here is not about physically descending from the sky to every person on earth, but about executing judgment against those who rejected Him.

So in Revelation 1:7, "every eye" refers to all within the land who would witness the judgment, especially the covenant people. And "even those who pierced Him" nails the timeframe to the very generation that crucified the Messiah. This was fulfilled in AD 70 when Jerusalem was destroyed, bringing the Old Covenant to a close and vindicating Christ as King.

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