

### Handout 1: Revelation Introduction Part III

<b>Divisions in Revelation</b> (in the form of a covenant lawsuit)	<b>Matthew's Mini Apocalypse</b> <i>In truth I tell you, it will all recoil on <u>this generation.</u> Mt 23:36</i>
VISION OF THE SON OF MAN Chapter 1: the history of the Covenant	Matthew Chapters 23:33-24:25 Judgment
Four sets of seven judgments in the Book of Revelation	Matthew Chapter 23:33-24:25 ~ Jesus' Prophecy of Judgment against His generation
THE SEVEN LETTERS: Chapters 2-3: Specific stipulations dealing with false prophets, persecution, lawlessness, love grown cold, and the duty of perseverance	24:3-5, 9-13: <i>Tell us when is this going to happen and what sign will be of your coming and of the end of the world? [...] Take care that no one deceives you because many will come using my name ... Then you will be handed over to be tortured and put to death ... and many will fall away ... love in most people will grow cold but anyone who stands firm will be saved!</i>
THE SEVEN SEALS: Chapters 4-7: Concerned with wars, famines, and earthquakes	24:6-8: <i>You will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed, for this is something that must happen, but the end will not be yet for nation will fight against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.</i>
THE SEVEN TRUMPETS: Chapters 8-14: Tells of the Church's witness to the world, her flight into the wilderness, the great tribulation, and the false prophet	24:11-27: <i>Many false prophets will arise ....The good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed to the whole world ... so those in Judea must escape to the mountains ... Alas for those with child, or babies at the breast when those days come!... For then there will be great distress, unparalleled since the world began ... for false christs and false prophets will arise...</i>
THE SEVEN CHALICES: Chapters 15-22: Describes the darkening of the Beast's kingdom, destruction of the Harlot, the gathering of eagles over Jerusalem's corpse, and the gathering of the Church into the kingdom	24:28-31: <i>Wherever the corpse is, that is where the vultures will gather. Immediately after the distress of those days the sun will be darkened ... and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send his angels with a loud trumpet to gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.</i>

#### Standard Covenant Treaty Format in Revelation:

<b>1. Preamble:</b>	Identifying the Lordship of the Great King, stressing his greatness, dominance, and immanence.
<b>2. Historical Prologue:</b>	Recounting the Great King's previous relationship to his vassal (with emphasis on the benefits or blessing of that relationship).
<b>3. Ethical Stipulations:</b>	Enumerating the vassal's obligations to the Great King (his guide to maintaining the relationship).
<b>4. Sanctions:</b>	A list of the blessings for obedience and the curses that will fall on the vassal if he violates provisions of the covenant treaty.
<b>5. Succession Arrangements:</b>	Arrangements and provisions for the continuity of the covenant relationship over future generations.

### **Covenant Treaty Format in Deuteronomy**

1. Preamble	Deuteronomy 1:1-5
2. Historical Prologue	Deuteronomy 1:6-4:49
3. Ethical Stipulations	Deuteronomy 5:1-26:19
4. Sanctions	Deuteronomy 27:1-1 30:20
5. Succession Arrangements	Deuteronomy 31:1-34:12

In every case, Yahweh sent prophets as His emissaries to warn the prophets' generations concerning the coming covenant curse/judgments; some examples in Scripture:

1. Deuteronomy 4:26; 30:19; 32:1
2. Psalms 50:4-7
3. Isaiah 1:2 and 21
4. Hosea 4:1
5. Matthew 23:33-36

### **The Covenant Lawsuit in the Book of Hosea is in the classic covenant treaty format:**

1. Preamble:	Hosea Chapter 1
2. Historical prologue	Hosea Chapters 2-3
3. Ethical Stipulations:	Hosea Chapters 2-7
4. Sanctions:	Hosea Chapters 8-9
5. Succession Arrangements:	Hosea Chapters 10-14

Divine revelation can have both perfect and imperfectly fulfilled prophecy. In Scripture, imperfectly fulfilled prophecy points forward in time to another event of perfect fulfillment. Some examples of Old Testament prophecy perfectly fulfilled:

1. Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19: the prophecy of the Messiah coming as a prophet; the Jewish expectation of a Messiah-Prophet, a second Moses, is based on this verse (see Jn 1:21; Mt 21:11).
2. Isaiah 7:14: the prophecy of the virgin birth of the Messiah (quoted by St. Matthew as having been fulfilled in the birth of Jesus of Nazareth (Mt 1:23)).
3. Isaiah 11:1-4 and Ezekiel 37:25: the prophecy that the Messiah will be a descended of King David.
4. Isaiah 39:5-7; Jeremiah 25:10-13; 37:8-10: Isaiah's and Jeremiah's prophecies of the destruction of Jerusalem, the 70-year exile, and the return. The Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem in 587/6 BC and exiled the people. The Edict of Cyrus allowed their return (2 Chr 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4).
5. Micah 5:1-3/2-4: predicted Messiah would be born in Bethlehem; the Gospel of Matthew quotes the fulfillment of this prophecy (Mt 2:6).

Examples of prophecy imperfectly fulfilled:

1. Genesis 49:8-12 compared to 2 Samuel 7:12-16; 1Kings 1:32-40: imperfectly fulfilled in the Davidic kings but perfectly fulfilled in David's descendant, Jesus of Nazareth (Mt 1:1).
2. The prophecy in Genesis 49:11 compared to Zechariah 9:9 and to Matthew 21:1-9. These were prophecies imperfectly fulfilled by King Solomon on his coronation day when he rode into Jerusalem on a mule. However, it was perfectly fulfilled by Jesus when He rode into Jerusalem on the foal of an ass on Palm Sunday, and the people hailed Him as the Davidic king (Mt 21:9; also see Mk 11:1-11; Lk 19:28-38; Jn 12:12-16).
3. Numbers 24:17: What do you think; is this passage fulfilled in David, or Jesus, or both? The answer is both; it is a double fulfillment.

Citations in the Catechism of the Catholic Church on prophets: CCC #s 64, 218, 436, 497, 702, 712, 719, 436, 497.

# Yahweh's Eight Covenants

*But Yahweh's faithful love for those who fear Him is from eternity and forever; and His saving justice to their children's children; as long as they keep His covenant, and carefully obey his precepts. Psalm 103:17-18*

COVENANT	SIGN	SCRIPTURE
1. Adam -fertility -dominion over the earth	<b>Tree of Life</b>	Genesis 1:28-30; Genesis 2:15-17; Hosea 6:7 can be translated <i>they have broken their covenant like Adam</i>
2. Noah and the earth -The earth will never be destroyed by flood waters again (water will become a sign of salvation)	<b>Rainbow</b>	Genesis 6:18; 9:9-17; Sirach 44:17-18.
3. Abraham = 3-fold, (continues with Isaac, Jacob & descendants) -Land, nation (descendants), and a worldwide blessing	<b>Circumcision on the 8<sup>th</sup> day</b>	Genesis 12:3; 15:1-18; 17: 1-27; 18:18 & 22:13-18; 26:3-5; 28:10-14; Exodus 2:24; Psalm 105:8-11; Sirach 44:19-20
4. Moses & Israel -Sinai Covenant: Law, liturgy, and an ordained priesthood	<b>Tabernacle &amp; Sabbath obligation (sacred time and space)</b>	Exodus 19-24; 31:13, 17; 34:10, 27-28; Deuteronomy 5:2-3; 29:12.
5. Aaron & Sons -the hereditary ministerial priesthood	<b>Salt</b>	Exodus 40:15; Leviticus 2:13; Numbers 18:19; Jeremiah 33:21; Sirach 45:7; Mal 2:4-5.
6. Phinehas -Perpetual priesthood in a covenant of peace (prefigures Christ)	<b>Seamless robe &amp; miter</b>	Numbers 25:11-15; Sirach 45:24.
7. David & descendants -Dynasty and throne forever secure	<b>Throne/ Temple</b>	2 Samuel 7:11-17; 23:5; 2 Chronicles 31:5; Psalms 132:11-12; Sirach 45:25.
8. Jesus ( <i>Yahshua/Yeshua</i> = "Yahweh saves" or "I save"). He fulfills all previous covenants and gives the gifts of the Eucharist, the Sacraments and eternal salvation.	<b>The Cross (the true "Tree of Life") &amp; the Eucharist</b>	Isaiah 55:3; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:25; Hebrews 12:24.
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\* There are more Scripture passages referring to Yahweh's eight Covenants than those listed in the chart. In addition, some covenants have stipulations while others have none. Please visit [www.AgapeBibleStudy.com](http://www.AgapeBibleStudy.com) for additional information and details.

## ISRAEL'S LITURGICAL AND CIVIL CALENDAR YEAR

Month	Liturgical year order	Civil year order	Modern equivalent	Feast days & agricultural season (+ = God ordained feast; * = national feasts)
Aviv/Abib (Nisan)	1	7	March/April	+Passover 14 <sup>th</sup> , +Unleavened Bread 15-21 <sup>st</sup> (sacred assembly on 15 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> ) , +Firstfruits on Sunday of Unleavened Bread holy week= The "Latter rains"& flood season, beginning of barley and flax harvest
Ziv (Iyyar)	2	8	April/May	Dry season, apricots ripen
Sivan	3	9	May/June	+Weeks (Pentecost) 50 days from Firstfruits as ancients counted; wheat harvest, dry winds, early fig harvest, grapes ripen
Tammuz	4	10	June/July	Hot, dry season: grape harvest
Ab	5	11	July/Aug.	Hot, olive harvest
Elul	6	12	Aug./Sept.	Dates and summer figs
Ethanim (Tishri)	7	1	Sept./Oct.	+Trumpets = 1 <sup>st</sup> , +Day of Atonement = 10 <sup>th</sup> +Booths (Tabernacles) = 15-21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> sacred assembly; "Former (early) rains," plowing & seed time
Bul (Heshvan)	8	2	Oct./Nov.	Rains, winger figs, wheat and barley sown
Chislev	9	3	Nov./Dec.	*Hanukkah (feast of dedication); winter begins
Tebeth	10	4	Dec./Jan.	Coldest month, rains and snow in mountains
Sebat	11	5	Jan./Feb.	Growing warmer, almond trees in bloom
Adar	12	6	Feb./March	*Purim; spring: "Latter rains" begin, citrus fruit harvest

Israel observed a lunar calendar for all feast days. + Seven annual feasts are God ordained feasts (Ex 12:1-28; 43-51; 13:1-10; Lev 23:5-44; Num 28:16-39); + indicates an annual Pilgrim feast (Ex 23:14-17; 34:18-23; Dt 16:16; 2 Chr 8:13; \*Hanukkah and Purim are national feasts proclaimed by the people and are not God ordained (1 Mac 4:36-61; 2 Mac 10:1-8; Esther 9:20-32). The Feasts of Unleavened Bread and Tabernacles fell respectively on the spring and fall equinoxes.