

## 36 THE BEAST Part 1

**INTRODUCTION:** We have already made the case that the time frame for the events of the book of Revelation was the first century (see discussion #1) and quite possibly confined, primarily, to the frequently mentioned 3 1/2 year national judgment (see discussion #14). This paper presents scriptural evidence that supports the beast was zealot-led Israel. See the correction to our understanding in discussion 28 regarding the beast. We are indebted to the research of Adam Maarschalk for this post.

### 1. JUDGMENT WAS DIRECTED TO THOSE “DWELLING UPON THE EARTH (ge).” FIRST CENTURY ISRAEL WAS THE NATION, “DWELLING UPON THE LAND (ge).”

The Greek word “ge” [Strong’s: #1093] is translated as “earth” at times and “land” at times. But to twenty-first century readers, they do not mean the same thing. Earth is generally conceptualized as “planet earth” and “land” implies a more limited territory. The intent of the word in scripture is limited, as in the land of Egypt, the land of Israel, etc. and has nothing to do with an entire globe earth.

#### A. Old Testament: The “people of the land” were the Jews.

- 1) “...tell the people of the land, thus says the Lord...” Ezek 12:19,
- 2) “...when the people of the land shall come before Yahweh...” Ezek 46:9
- 3) “All the people of the land went to the house of Baal, and broke it down...” 2 Kgs 11:18
- 4) “...sixty men of the people of the land...” 2 Kgs 25:19
- 5) “...he took an officer...who mustered the people of the land...” Jer 52:25

#### B. “Ge” means land. Those “dwelling upon the land” were the Jews.

(We took the liberty to render “ge”, consistently as “land” in these verses.)

- 1) “Hour of the trial that is about to come upon all the world\*, to try those dwelling upon the land.” Rev. 3:10
- 2) “Woe, woe, woe, to those dwelling upon the land.” Rev. 8:13
- 3) “The two prophets did torment those dwelling upon the land.” Rev. 11:10
- 4) “All who dwell on the land will worship him [beast], everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life...” Rev. 13:8
- 5) “He [second beast] exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. He makes the land and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.” Rev. 13:12
- 6) “It [second beast] deceives those living on land with the signs that it is allowed to do on behalf of the first beast, telling them to make an image for the beast...” Rev. 13:14
- 7) Harlot “with whom the kings of the earth committed sexual immorality, and those who dwell in the land were made drunken with the wine of her sexual immorality.” Rev. 17:2
- 8) “The beast that you saw was, and is not; and is about to come up out of the abyss and to go into destruction. Those who dwell on the land and whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel when they see that the beast was, and is not, and shall be present.” Rev. 17:8
- 9) “Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, including those who pierced him. All the tribes of the land will mourn over him.” Rev. 1:7

### 2. “EVERY TRIBE, TONGUE, PEOPLE, NATION” WAS ANOTHER WAY TO REFERENCE THE JEWS.

“There were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews...from every nation under the sky. 6 When this sound was heard, the multitude came together, and were bewildered, because everyone heard them speaking in his own language. 7 They were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Behold, aren’t all these who speak, Galileans? 8 How do we hear, everyone in our own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, 10 Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, the parts of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabians: we hear them speaking in our languages the mighty works of God!” Acts. 2:5-11

A. “They sang a new song, saying, ‘You are worthy to take the book, and to open its seals: for you were killed, and bought us for God with your blood, out of every tribe, language, people, and nation.’” Rev. 5:9

B. “After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no man could number, out of every nation and of all tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.” Rev. 7:9

C. “They told me, ‘You must prophesy again over many peoples, nations, languages, and kings.’” Rev. 10:11

D. “From among the peoples, tribes, languages, and nations people will look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not allow their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb.” Rev. 11:9

E. “Authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation was given to him [the beast]. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written...in the book of life...” Rev. 13:8

F. "I saw an angel flying in mid heaven, having an eternal Good News to proclaim to those who dwell on the earth [ge], and to every nation, tribe, language, and people." Rev. 14:6

G. "He said to me, 'The waters which you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages.'" Rev. 17:15

### 3. ANCIENT ISRAEL WAS WARNED OF A SEVEN-FOLD JUDGMENT. FIRST CENTURY ZEALOT-LED ISRAEL WAS THE RECIPIENT OF THE SEVEN BOWLS OF JUDGMENT.

**A. Leviticus 26 prophesied the seven-fold punishment that would fall on Israel if they persisted in sin. Only repentance could restore them.**

- "If you... will not listen to me, then I will chastise you seven times more for your sins." Lev. 26:18
- "If you...won't listen to me... I will bring seven times more plagues on you according to your sins." Lev. 26:21
- "If...you...walk contrary to me... I will strike you... seven times for your sins." Lev 26:23-24
- "If you...walk contrary to me... I will chastise you seven times for your sins." Lev. 26:27-28

**B. The seven bowls of God's wrath were poured on "the earth" or "the land" (Greek: ge).**

- "And I heard a great voice out of the sanctuary saying to the seven messengers, 'Go away, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God to the earth.'" Rev.16:1-2
- The greek word "ge" means "land" or "earth". Taken in its first century context, it refers to a limited territory. For example: land (ge) of Egypt, land (ge) of Sodom and Gomorrah, land (ge) of Israel. (It was not a "global" term.)

**C. The third bowl judgment was poured out on the people who shed the blood of the prophets. Only Israel shed the blood of the prophets.**

"The third poured out his bowl into the rivers and springs of water...for they poured out the blood of the saints and the prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. They deserve it." Rev. 16:6

- Jesus declared, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets, and stones those who are sent to her!" Mt. 23:37
- Stephen addressed the Jews: "Which of the prophets didn't your fathers persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, of whom you have now become betrayers and murderers." Acts 7:52

**D. The fifth bowl judgment was aimed at the "seat of the beast" and describes first century Israel (not Rome).** "And the fifth messenger did pour out his vial upon the throne of the beast, and his kingdom did become darkened, and they were gnawing their tongues from the pain, and they did speak evil of the God of the heaven, from their pains, and from their sores, and they did not reform from their works." Rev. 16:10

- **Kingdom of the Beast in pain:** "...the hunger was so intolerable, that it obliged them to chew everything, while they gathered such things as the most sordid animals would not touch and endured to eat them; nor did they... abstain from girdles and shoes and the very leather which belonged to their shields they pulled off and gnawed..." Wars 6.3.3
- **Zealots mocked God:** "These men [zealots], therefore, trampled upon all the laws of man, and laughed at the laws of God; and for the oracle of the prophets, they ridiculed them as the tricks of jugglers." Wars. 4.6.3
- **Syllogism:** The seven-fold judgments were directed at Israel. The fifth of the seven-fold judgments was directed at the Beast. Therefore, first century Israel was the Beast.

### 4. THE BEAST WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE. JERUSALEM AND ITS PEOPLE WERE DESTROYED BY FIRE.

"The beast is slain, and his body has been destroyed, and given to the burning fire." Dan. 7:11

"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet who did the signs before him... the two were cast living into the lake of the fire that is burning with brimstone." Rev. 19:20

**A. Killing and Fire:** While the holy house was on fire, every thing was plundered that came to hand, and ten thousand of those that were caught were slain; nor was there a commiseration of any age, or any reverence of gravity, but children, and old men, and profane persons, and priests were all slain in the same manner; so that this war went round all sorts of men, and brought them to destruction, and as well those that made supplication for their lives, as those that defended themselves by fighting. The flame was also carried a long way, and made an echo, together with the groans of those that were slain..." Wars 6.5.1

**B. Desolation and Fire:** [Zealots] set on fire those houses that were full of corn, and of all other provisions. The same thing was done by Simon when, upon the other's retreat, he attacked the city also; as if they had on purpose, done it to serve the Romans, by destroying what the city had laid up against the siege, and by thus cutting off the nerves of their own power. Accordingly, it so came to pass, that all the places that were about the temple were burnt down, and were become an intermediate desert space..." Wars 5.1.4

**C. Purged by Fire:** "...it was because God had doomed this city to destruction, as a polluted city, and was resolved to purge his sanctuary by fire..." Wars 4.5.2