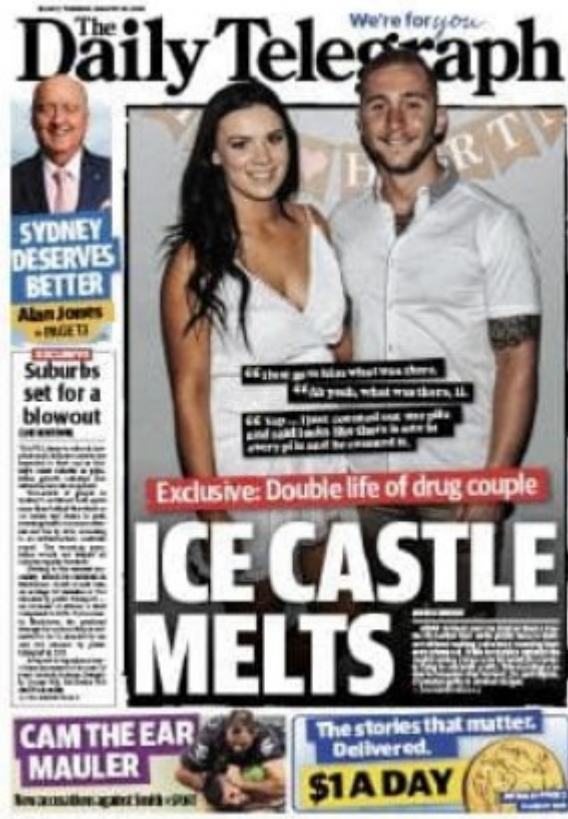


The Book of Revelation: 6-Allusion & Symbolism

Allusion

‘Allusion’: An expression designed to call something to mind without mentioning it explicitly

Here's an example of an allusion →



This newspaper headline is an allusion. It alludes to something other than what it actually says. It's also a metaphor.

Can you decipher it using your 21st century knowledge?

INTERPRETATION: A couple had been discovered running the supply of the drug 'ice'. They are now in police custody and their business has been dissolved.

“The book of Revelation relentlessly alludes to Jewish scripture”

(‘**Allude**’: To bring something to mind from elsewhere)

“The textual evidence from the Judean Desert suggests that multiple textual exemplars of certain books of the Hebrew Bible and its early Greek versions circulated concurrently in Jewish and early Christian communities in the first century CE.”

(**Meaning:** The first believers read and were familiar with many contemporary and ancient ‘books’, including various Greek versions of the OT)

The believers of the 1st century read more than the Greek version of the Hebrew scriptures. They were familiar with the Apocrypha (*Jewish writings between Malachi and Matthew*), the Talmud (*Jewish civil and ceremonial law and legend, comprising the Mishnah and the Gemara, heavily influenced by exile in Babylon*), and many, many more.

The “Dead Sea Scrolls” discovered in the community of the Essenes(?) at Qumran were dated mostly to the first three centuries before the Common Era. These included the following documents: 1 Enoch (containing Book of Watchers, Animal Apocalypse, and the Noahic Appendix); Book of Giants; Jubilees; Damascus Document; Ben Sira; Wisdom of Solomon; 3 Maccabees; →

→ 3 Baruch; Songs of the Sage; Genesis Apocryphon; Ages of Creation; An Exhortation Based on the Flood; Incantation; and Apocryphal Psalms.

The first believers also read John's letter to the churches in Turkey which was distributed around the known world of that time.

We have named this letter 'Revelation', but it was a message written in a scroll for a specific audience of that time.

As they read John's letter as a community, they were able to interpret the vision component of it quite easily. This is because John wrote down what he saw using specific picture language from his time. His early readers had similar worldviews, cosmology and background knowledge from their readings, so they deciphered it for themselves without difficulty.

We can't read all the background books that they read back then – many have been lost to us.

Today we can read the Septuagint, the book of Enoch, the book of Jubilees, etc. However, these are all translated into English which causes them to **lose** their Greek and Hebrew nuances.

Although we can read the OT, we can't connect Revelation with it perfectly.

This because we don't have all the 1st century background knowledge from their culture and the 'books' they read which they used to 'connect the dots'.

Symbols

Watch Brian Simmons, the author and translator of The Passion Translation, talk about some important allusions and symbols in the Bible.

He refers to some in Revelation as well.

Details on the next slide

The 'brick wall' to Revelation's Symbolism



LINK →

www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRiYvXgmeD4

There's a transcript of "The Unveiling"
video teaching by Brian Simmons'

here



canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Unveiling-Kingdom-Mysteries-transcript

Now watch Brian Simmons being interviewed by Joyce Meyer about what he sees is revealed in Revelation (i.e. the 'revealing of Jesus the King').

He also deciphers some symbols that are in it.

Watch *16:15-27:20* for what's relevant to this session in our investigation.

Details on the next slide



The Book of Revelation Revealed



Watch later



Share

MORE VIDEOS



1:42 / 28:31



YouTube



LINK →

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAr2MEn74QU

[16:15-27:20]

Fire and darkness are characteristics of the presence of God.

We have been taught that only light and the rainbow are his symbols. **Wrong!**

His presence includes all 4 of those symbols.

Check out my teaching article:

“The Fire and Darkness of God”

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/the-fire-and-darkness-of-god.pdf

The meanings of the Revelation's symbols produced in lists by people are not all the same because each person uses their own method of interpretation.

Yes. Their own method.

Therefore, they can't be accurate.

Compare the lists in the following documents for yourself.

Some will be the same because of their theological training and the books they have read.

Compare this list of Revelation symbols & meanings:

- Kevin Connor “Interpreting the Symbols and Types” [e-book]
www.amazon.com.au/Interpreting-Symbols-Types-Kevin-Conner-ebook/dp/B079HVZMCN
- “Symbolism in Revelation” [PDF]
cdn.bakerpublishinggroup.com/processed/esource-assets/files/968/original/hyperlink-29-02.pdf
- “Symbols in the Book of Revelation” [PDF]
www.pathwaystogod.org/sites/default/files/files/SymbolsInTheBookOfRevelation.pdf
- “Decoding Revelation” [PDF]
revelationrevealedtoday.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/DecodingRevelation_Ebook.pdf

Do this checking when you have time

On top of accurately knowing the meaning of every symbol in Revelation, their meaning also has to be adjusted for **textual context**.

i.e. What does this symbol mean in the context of all the sentences around it?

When their both done, the final step (the crucial one) is to adjust the meaning of every symbol for its **cultural context**.

i.e. What did it mean for the 1st century readers?

This is the most difficult one for us.

Deciphering every symbol in Revelation entails answering the following question:

What meaning did 1st century readers attach to this symbol in the context of all the words and sentences around it, according to their culture worldview, Christology, cosmology & theology?

For example:

And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.

Revelation 15:2 (NKJV)

In Kevin Connor's book "Interpreting the Symbols and Types" he interprets this underlined text as meaning 'fiery trials of the Great Tribulation' which he bases on Job 23:10

Here's the link to this reference in Conner's book → [LINK](#)

It appears that he has used the Bible to interpret itself, **but** he has limited it to a scripture that agrees with his Futurist Eschatology.

This is not how it is to be done – that's working backwards to prove a belief.

Remember that Fire is primarily a symbol of the presence of God.

Attributing it to anything else must only be due of its textual context, wherever it happens to be mentioned in the Bible.

We attribute fire to 'hell'
because of Dante's
"Inferno" from the 14th
century.

It became church dogma
from then on.



REMEMBER my article?

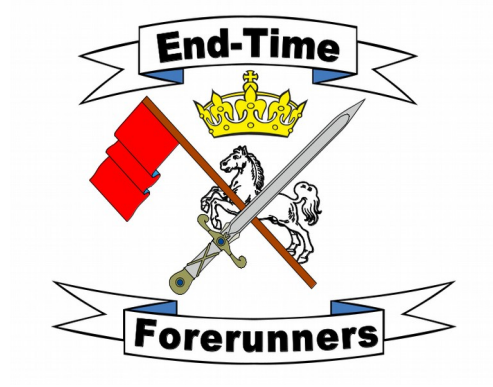
“The Fire and Darkness of God”

HERE: canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/the-fire-and-darkness-of-god.pdf

**Fire represents God's
presence, his refining
activities, and Holy Spirit**

So, The Great Tribulation is a 20th century invention and 'the fires of hell' is a 14th century invention.

Can you see why, in the 21th century, we can't interpret the symbols of Revelation correctly because of our theological conditioning from church teaching?



L.D. Smart

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