BIBLICAL ATLAS AND ARCHEOLOGY

Pre. by Mhr. Kassahun Gebrehiwot

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የዮሐንስ ራእይ

- የዮሐንስ ራዕይ በተለየ ሁኔታ የሐዲስ ኪዳን የትንቢት ክፍል በመባል ይታወቃል።
- የዮሐንስ ራዕይ በግሪክ አፖካሊፕስ ተብሎ ሲጠራ በእኛ ደግሞ አቡቀለምሲስ ተበሎ ይታወቃል።
- የዮሐንስ ራዕይ በፍጥሞ ደሴት በ96 ዓ.ም እንደተፃፈ በሊቃውንት ይነገራል።
- ፍጥሞ በእስያ አጠገብ ከኤፌሶን በስተደቡብ ምዕራብ በኤጂያን ባሕር ውስጥ የምትገኝ ደሴት ናት።
- ከባሕሩ ምዕራባዊ ዳርቻ 55 ኪ.ሜትር ርቃ ትገኛለች።
- ከሳሞን በስተደቡብ ደግሞ 40 ኪ.ሜትር ትርቃለች።
- የደሰቲቱ ርዝመት 12 ኪ.ሜትር ሲሆን ገኗ ደግሞ 7 ኪ.ሜትር ነው።

የዮሐንስ ራእይ

- የፍጥሞ ደሴት በሮም መንግሥት ላይ ያመጹ ሰዎች ሁሉ የሚታሰሩበት በረሃማና ድንጋያማ ምድረ በዳ ሥፈራ ነው።
- ወንጌላዊው ዮሐንስ በድምጥያኖስ (81-96 ዓ.ም) ዘመን ንጉሡ በኤፌሶን ያቆመውን ምሥል በመቃወሙ የተነሳ በዚሁ ደሴት ተግዞ ነበር።
- የዮሐንስ ራዕይ የተጻፈው ለሰባቱ አብያተ ክርስቲያናት ነው።

የዮሐንስ ራእይ

- ሰባቱ አብያተ ክርስቲያናት

1. የኤፌሶን ቤተ ክርስቲያን
2. የሰምርኔስ ቤተ ክርስቲያን
3. የጴርጋሞን ቤተ ክርስቲያን
4. የትያጥሮን ቤተ ክርስቲያን
5. የሰርዴስ ቤተ ክርስቲያን
6. የፊልፍድልፍያ ቤተ ክርስቲያን
7. የሎዶቅያ ቤተ ክርስቲያን

የዮሐንስ ራእይ

- **<u>የኤፌሶን ቤተ ክርስቲያን</u>**፡ የእስያ ዋና ከተማ ነች። በአቂላና ጵርስቅላ ወንጌል የተሰበከ ሲሆን ቅዱስ ጳውሎስም ለሶስት ዓመት በዚህ ተቀምጦ ወንጌል አስምሯል። በእስያ ሰባቱ አብያተ ክርስቲያናትም የተመሰረቱት በዚህ ወቅት እንደሆነ ይነገራል።
- ቅዱስ ጳውሎስ ልጁ ጢሞቴዎስን ለኤፌሶን ቤተ ክርስቲያን ሾሞት የነበረ ሲሆን ዮሐንስ ወንጌላዊም እስከ ዘመኑ ፍፃሜ ወንጌል የሰበከው በዚህ ነው።
- በከተማው ውስጥ 350,000 ሕዝብና የአርጤምስ ቤተ መቅደስ ነበረበት።
- አርጤምስ በግሪክ አጠራር ሲሆን በላቲን ደግሞ ዲያና በመባል ትታወቃለች።
- በቅዱስ ጳውሎስ በጢሞቴዎስና በቅዱስ ዮሐንስ ስብከት በኤፌሶን ቤተ ክርስቲያን ልትመሰረትና ልትጠናከር ችላለች።
- የቀደመ ፍቅራቸውን ስለተዉ ተነቅፈዋል። (ራእ 2፡1-7)

የዮሐንስ ራእይ

- **<u>የጴርጋሞን ቤተ ክርስቲያን</u>**፡ ጴርጋሞን ማለት ጋብቻ ማለት ሲሆን ከሰምርኔስ 6 ኪ.ሜ ርቃ የምትገኝ በጥንቱ ዘመን በትንሹ እስያ የሚስያ ክፍለ አገር ዋና ከተማ ነበረች፡፡ የነዋሪዎቹ የሃይማኖት ምልክት እባብ ነበር፡፡
- ቅዱስ ጳውሎስ በኤፌሶን በነበረበት ወቅት ቤተ ክርስቲያን በዚህ ሥፍራ እንደተመሰረተች ይገመታል፡፡ በከተማው ወስጥ ከ200 ሺህ በላይ መፃሕፍትን የያዘ ቤተ መጣሕፍት እንደነበረበት ይነገራል፡፡
- የጰርጋሞን ቤተ ክርስቲያን በመከራ ውስጥ በመጽናት የተመሰገነች ብትሆንም የበለዓምን እና የኔቆላውያንን ትምህርት የሚጠባበቁ ሰዎች ስለነበሩባት በነቀፋ መልዕክት ተጽፎላታል፡፡ (ራእ 2፡ 13-16)

የዮሐንስ ራእይ

- **<u>የጴርጋሞን ቤተ ክርስቲያን</u>**፡ በትንሹ እስያ ምዕራብ የነበረች የወደብ ከተማ ነበረች፡፡ ከኤፌሶን 65 ኪ.ሜ ገደማ ርቃ ትገኛለች፡፡ ዛሬ እዝሚር በመባል ትታወቃለች፡፡
- 86 አመት ሙሉ ያገለገለኝን እግዚአብሔርን አልክድም በማለቱ ሰማዕትነት የተቀበለው ቅዱስ ፖሊካርፕ የቤተ ክርስቲያኒቱ አለቃ ነበር፡፡
- ለሰምርኔስ ቤተ ክርስቲያን ቅዱስ ዮሐንስ ምልዕክት የጻፈው ለወቀሳ ሳይሆን ሊቀበሉት ያለውን መከራ ሳይፈሩ እስከ ሞት ድረስ ታማኝ እንዲሆኑ ለማጽናት ነው፡፡ (ራእ 2፡10)

የዮሐንስ ራእይ

- **<u>የትያጥሮን ቤተ ክርስቲያን</u>**፡ እስያ በተባለች በሮም ክፍለአገር የምትገኝ ከተማ ነበረች፡፡ በከተማው ውስጥ ከቀይ ሀር የሚሰራው ቀይ ልብስ ከከተማው አልፎ በሌሎች አገራት ታዋቂ ነበር፡፡
- ቅዱስ ጳውሎስ በኤፌሶን ሳለ ቤተ ክርስቲያን በዚህ ተመስርታለች፡፡ በአሁኑ ጊዜ አኪሳር የሚባል ከተማ በስፍራው ይገኛል፡፡
- በቅዱስ ጳውሎስ አምና ከነቤተሰቧ የተጠመቀች የልድያ መኖሪያ በዚህ ሥፍራ ነበር፡፡
- በሥፍራው ኤልዛቤል የተባለችው ሴት ለጣዖት የተሰዋ እንዲበሉና እንዲሰስኑ ታስተምር ስለነበር የእርሷን ትምህርት ለመግለጽና እርሷንና ትምህርቷን ያልተቀበሉትን ለማመስገን መልዕክቱ ተጽፏል፡፡ (ራእ 2፡19-29)

የዮሐንስ ራእይ

- **<u>የሰርዴስ ቤተ ክርስቲያን</u>**፡ ልድያ በተባለች ክፍለ ሀገር የምትገኝ ዋና ከተማ ነበረች፡፡
- በሥነ ጥበብ የታወቀች ከተማ ስትሆን ቅዱስ ጳውሎስ በኤፌሶን ሳለ ቤተ ክርስቲያን በዚህ ተመስርታለች፡፡
- ከተማዋ ከትያጥሮን 50 ኪ.ሜ በስተደቡብ ርቃ የምትገኝ ሥፍራ ስትሆን የተገነባችው በተራራዎች ላይ በመሆኑ በወስጧ የነበሩ ሰዎች ማንም አይደፍረንም ብለው ያስቡ ነበር፡፡
- በሰርዴስ እውነተኛ ክርስቲያኖች መስለው ውስጣቸው የሞተ ስለነበሩ ስለቀደመ ፍቅራቸው ምስጋና ስለውስጣቸው መሞት ነቀፋ ተጽፎላቸዋል፡፡ (ራእ 3፡1)

የዮሐንስ ራእይ

- **<u>የፊልድልፍያ ቤተ ክርስቲያን</u>**፡ ትርጓሜው የወንድማማች ፍቅር ማለት ነው፡፡ ከተማዋ በታናሽ እስያ ትገኝ የነበረች ሲሆን አንድ ንጉሥ ለወንድሙ ያለውን ታማኝነት ለመግለጽ ፊልድልፍፊፊ በማለት ሰይሟታል፡፡
- ከተማዋ ከሰርዴስ በስተደቡብ ምሥራቅ 40 ኪ.ሜ ርቃ የምትገኝ ሲሆን በ17 ዓ.ም በመሬት መንቀጥቀጥ ፈርሳ በድጋሚ የተቆረቆረች ነች፡፡ በአሁኑ ወቅት አላሳሕር በመባል ትታወቃለች፡፡
- ቅዱስ ጳውሎስ በኤፌሶን ሳለ ቤተ ክርስቲተተን በዚህ ተመስርታለች፡፡
- ወንጌላው ዮሐንስ በዚህ የነበሩ ምዕመናን ቃሉን ጠብቀው ይኖሩ ስለነበር ለቤተ ክርስቲያኑ አለቃ ምስጋናን ጽፎለታል፡፡ (ራእ 3፡7-13)

የዮሐንስ ራእይ

- **<u>የሎዶቅያ ቤተ ክርስቲያን</u>**፡ ትርጓሜው የሰዎች አገዛዝ ማለት ነው፡፡ ሥፍራዋ በእስያ የምትገኝ ብዙ ሃብት ያለባት ሥፍራ ነች፡፡
- በዚህ ከተማ ለልብስ የሚሆን ጥቁር ሱፍ በብዛት ይገኝበታል፡፡ ቦታው በውስጡ በሚዘጋጀው ዝነኛ የዓይን መድኃኒት የታወቀ ነው፡፡ የከተማው ውሃ ራቅ ካለው የጸበል ሥፍራ በድንጋይ ቧምቧ ስለሚመጣ የቅዱስ ዮሐንስ ትምህርትም ይህንን መሰረት ያደረገ ነው፡፡
- ቅዱስ ጳውሎስ በኤፌሶን ሳለ ቤተ ክርስቲያን በዚህ እንደተመሰረተች ይገመታል፡፡
- በተጨማሪ ከተማዋ የፍርግያ ዋና ከተማ ስትሆን ከኤፌሶን በስተ ምስራቅ 60 ኪ.ሜትር ርቃ ትገኛለች፡፡
- ክርስትና ከአለማዊ አስተሳሰብና አኗኗር አደበላለቅቃ ለመሄድ በመሞከሯ ምክንያት ቅዱስ ዮሐንስ የጻፈው መልዕክት ሙሉ ለሙሉ በነቀፋ የተሞላ ነው፡፡ (ራእ 3፡14)

CHURCHES OF THE REVELATION



MILLENNIAL PERSPECTIVE ON REVELATION

POINT OF INTERPRETATION	AMILLENNIAL	HISTORICAL PREMILLENNIAL	DISPENSATIONAL PREMILLENNIAL
Description of View	Viewpoint that the present age of Christ's rule in the church is the millennium; holds to one resurrection and judgment marking the end of history as we know it and the beginning of life eternal	Viewpoint that Christ will reign on earth for a thousand years following His second coming; saints will be resurrected at the beginning of judgment	Viewpoint that after the battle of Armageddon, Christ will rule through the Jews for a literal thousand years accompanied by two resurrections and at least three judgments
Book of Revelation	Current history written in code to confound enemies and encourage Asian Christians; message applies to all Christians	Immediate application to Asian Christians; applies to all Christians throughout the ages, but the visions also apply to a great future event	"Unveiling" of theme of Christ among churches in present dispensation, also as Judge and King in dispensations to come
Seven candlesticks (1:13)	Churches		Churches, plus end-time application
Seven stars (1:16,20)	Pastors	Symbolizes heavenly or supernatural character of the church (some believe refers to pastors)	Pastors or saints
Churches addressed (chaps. 2–3)	Specific historical situations, truths apply to churches throughout the ages; do not represent periods of church history		Specific historical situations and to all churches throughout the ages; shows progress of churches' spiritual state until end of church age
Twenty-four elders (4:4,10; 5:8,14)	Twelve patriarchs and twelve apostles; together symbolize all the redeemed	Company of angels who help execute God's rule (or elders represent twenty-four priestly and Levitical orders)	The rewarded church; also represents twelve patriarchs and twelve apostles
Sealed book (5:1-9)	Scroll of history; shows God carrying out His redemptive purpose in history	Contains prophecy of end events of chapters 7–22	Title deed to the world
144,000 (7:4-8)	Redeemed on earth who will be protected against God's wrath	Church on threshold of great tribulation	Jewish converts of tribulation period who witness to Gentiles (same as 14:1)
Great multitude (7:9-10)	Uncountable multitude in heaven praising God for their salvation	Church, having gone through great tribulation, seen in heaven	Gentiles redeemed during tribulation period through witness of 144,000
Great tribulation (first reference in 7:14)	Persecution faced by Asian Christians of John's time; symbolic of tribulation that occurs throughout history	Period at end time of unexplained trouble, before Christ's return; church will go through it; begins with seventh seal (18:1) which includes trumpets 1–6 (8:2–14:20)	Period at end time of unexplained trouble referred to in 7:14 and described in chapters 11–18; lasts three and a half years, the latter half of seven-year period between rapture and millennium

POINT OF INTERPRETATION	AMILLENNIAL	HISTORICAL PREMILLENNIAL	DISPENSATIONAL PREMILLENNIAL
"Star" (9:4)	Personified evil	Represents an angelic figure divinely commissioned to carry out God's purpose	The leader of apostasy during the great tribulation
Forty-two months (11:2);1,260 days (11:3)	Indefinite duration of pagan desolation	A symbolic number representing period of evil with reference to last days of age	Half of seven-year tribulation period
Two witnesses (11:3-10)	Spread of gospel in first century	Two actual historical persons at end of time who witness to Israel	A witnessing remnant of Jews in Jerusalem testifying to the coming kingdom and calling Israel to repent
Sodom and Egypt (11:8)	Rome as seat of Empire	Earthly Jerusalem	
Woman (12:1-6)	True people of God under Old and New Covenants (true Israel)		Indicates Israel, not church; key is comparison with Gen. 37:9
Great red dragon (12:3)	All views identify as Satan		
Manchild (12:4-5)	Christ at His birth, life events, and crucifixion, whom Satan sought to kill	Christ, whose work Satan seeks to destroy	Christ but also the church (head and body); caught up on throne indicates rapture of church
1,260 days (12:6)	Indefinite time	Symbolic number representing period of evil with special reference to last days of age	First half of great tribulation after church is raptured
Sea beast (13:1)	Emperor Domitian, personification of Roman Empire (same as in chap. 17)	Antichrist, here shown as embodiment of the four beasts in Daniel 7	A new Rome, satanic federation of nations that come out of old Roman Empire
Seven heads (13:1)	Roman emperors	Great power, shows kinship with dragon	Seven stages of Roman Empire; sixth was imperial Rome (John's day); last will be federation of nations
Ten horns (13:1)	Symbolize power	Kings, represent limited crowns (ten) against Christ's many	Ten powers that will combine to make the federation of nations of new Rome
Earth beast (13:11)	*Concilia*, Roman body in cities responsible for emperor worship	Organized religion as servant of first beast during great tribulation period; headed by a false prophet	Antichrist, who will head apostate religion, a Jewish leader described in Daniel 11:36-45 (some identify as assistant to the Antichrist)

Note: Postmillennialism is the viewpoint that Christ's reign on earth is spiritual not physical. Christ returns after the millennium that is established by gospel preaching.

MILLENNIAL PERSPECTIVE ON REVELATION, cont.

POINT OF INTERPRETATION	AMILLENNIAL	HISTORICAL PREMILLENNIAL	DISPENSATIONAL PREMILLENNIAL
666 (13:18)	Imperfection, evil; personified as Domitian	Symbolic of evil, short of 777; if a personage meant, he is unknown but will be known at the proper time	Not known but will be known when time comes
144,00 on Mount Zion (14:1)	Total body of redeemed in heaven		Redeemed Jews gathered in earthly Jerusalem during millennial kingdom
River of blood (14:20)	Symbol of infinite punishment for the wicked	Means God's radical judgment crushes evil thoroughly	Scene of wrath and carnage that will occur in Palestine
Babylon (woman—17:5)	Historical Rome	Capital city of future Antichrist	Apostate church of the future
Beast	Domitian	Antichrist	Head of satanic federation of nations of revived Roman Empire; linked with apostate church (seventh head)
Seven mountains (17:9)	Pagan Rome, which was built on seven hills	Indicate power, so here means a succession of empires, last of which is end-time Babylon	Rome, revived at end time
Seven heads (17:7) and seven kings (17:10)	Roman emperors from Augustus to Titus, excluding three brief rules	Five past godless kingdoms; sixth was Rome; seventh would arise in end time	Five distinct forms of Roman government prior to John; sixth was imperial Rome; seventh will be revived Roman Empire
Ten horns (17:7) and ten kings (17:12)	Vassal kings who ruled with Rome's permission	Symbolic of earthly powers that will be subservient to Antichrist	Ten kingdoms arising in future out of revived Roman Empire
Waters (17:15)	People ruled by Roman Empire	Indicates complex civilization	People dominated by apostate church
Bride, wife (19:7)	Total of all the redeemed		The church; does not include Old Testament saints or tribulation saints
Marriage supper (19:9)	Climax of the age; symbolizes complete union of Christ with His people	Union of Christ with His people at His coming	Union of Christ with His church accompanied by Old Testament saints and tribulation saints
One on white horse (19:11-16)	Vision of Christ's victory over pagan Rome; return of Christ occurs in connection with events of 20:7-10	Second coming of Christ	

POINT OF INTERPRETATION	AMILLENNIAL	HISTORICAL PREMILLENNIAL	DISPENSATIONAL PREMILLENNIAL
Battle of Armageddon (19:19-21; see 16:16)	Not literally at end of time but symbolizes power of God's Word overcoming evil; principle applies to all ages	Literal event of some kind at end time but not literal battle with military weapons; occurs at Christ's return at beginning of millennium	Literal bloody battle at Armageddon (valley of Megiddo) at end of great tribulation between kings of the East and federation of nations of new Rome; they are all defeated by blast from Christ's mouth and then millennium begins
Great supper (19:17)	Stands in contrast to marriage supper		Concludes series of judgments and opens way for kingdom to be established
Binding of Satan (20:2)	Symbolic of Christ's resurrection victory over Satan	Curbing of Satan's power during the millennium	
Millennium (20:2-6)	Symbolic reference to period from Christ's first coming to His second	A historical event, though length of one thousand years may be symbolic, after Armageddon during which Christ rules with His people	A literal thousand-year period after the church age during which Christ rules with His people but especially through the Jews
Those on thrones (20:4)	Martyrs in heaven; their presence with God is a judgment on those who killed them	Saints and martyrs who rule with Christ in the the millennium	The redeemed ruling with Christ, appearing and disappearing on earth at will to oversee life on earth
First resurrection (20:5-6)	The spiritual presence with Christ of the redeemed that occurs after physical death	Resurrection of saints at beginning of millennium when Christ returns	Includes three groups: (1) those raptured with church (4:1); (2) Jewish tribulation saints during tribulation (11:11); (3) other Jewish believers at beginning of millennium (20:5-6)
Second death (20:6)	Spiritual death, eternal separation from God		
Second resurrection (implied)	All persons, lost and redeemed, rise when Christ returns in only resurrection that takes place	Nonbelievers, resurrected at end of millennium	
New heavens and earth (21:1)	A new order; redeemed earth		
New Jerusalem (21:2-5)	God dwelling with His saints in the new age after all other end-time events		
New Jerusalem (21:10– 22:5)	Same as 21:2-5		Millennial Jerusalem from which the world will be ruled; the bride as well as