

# LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> 2017 — Part 15

## “The Consummation of All Things”



### The Protoevangelium (*The First Gospel*)

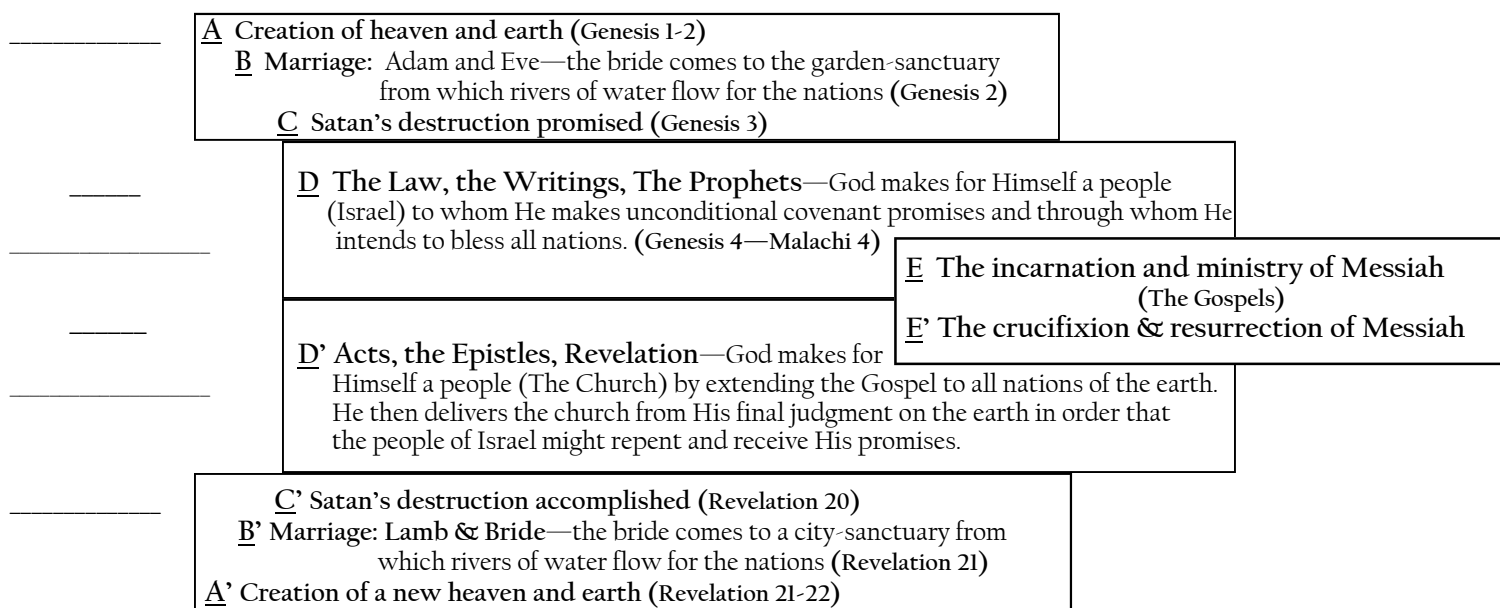
Gen. 3:15—*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*”

“seed”— *zera* (Hebrew), *sperma* (Greek). These terms can be translated a “seed” or “offspring.” As in English, the term in both Hebrew and Greek carries a numerical ambiguity (it can be either singular or plural).

Observations: (1) In the singular sense, this promise anticipates the coming of an individual, born of the woman, who will decisively defeat Satan, the enemy of mankind.

(2) In the plural sense, it anticipates that there will be “offspring” of Satan (those who remain in allegiance to him in rebellion against God) as well as “offspring” of the woman (those, who like Adam and Eve, will have their sins covered by God [Gen. 3:20] and who will be His people).

### The Chiastic Structure<sup>1</sup> of Scripture:



### Genesis 3:15 & Revelation 12:1-6

This passage in Revelation takes the promise of Genesis 3:15 and uses it to describe the entire history of the Old Testament.

The Woman: \_\_\_\_\_ Isa. 66:7-11; Mal. 4:10

The Male Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Ps. 2:8-9—<sup>8</sup> Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. <sup>9</sup> You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

The Dragon: \_\_\_\_\_ Rev. 12:9a—And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world

\_\_\_\_\_ Isa. 27:1

\_\_\_\_\_ Ezek. 32:2a—“Son of man, raise a lamentation over Pharaoh king of Egypt and say to him: “You consider yourself a lion of the nations, but you are like a dragon in the seas;

<sup>1</sup> The epilogue/prologue structure and text taken from *A Biblical and Theological Introduction to the Old Testament* by Miles V. Van Pelt

## The Great Prostitute & the Bride

Just as Israel is portrayed as a woman, so are the world system and the church.

### **The World System**

Rev. 17:1-6—<sup>1</sup> Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters,<sup>2</sup> with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk.”<sup>3</sup> And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.<sup>4</sup> The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality.<sup>5</sup> And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth’s abominations.”<sup>6</sup> And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.

### **Babylon the Great:**

- ⇒ The world system and the “earth dwellers” who worship it are associated with the rebellion against God at Babel (Gen. 11). These people are to be identified as the “offspring” of the serpent (Gen. 3:15) because they worship the beast and its image (Rev. 13:8) in accordance with the world system.

### **The Bride**

Rev. 19:6-9—<sup>6</sup> Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.”<sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;<sup>8</sup> it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.<sup>9</sup> And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

## The Kingdom Established Physically—Rev. 20:1-6

The return of Jesus to rule and reign on earth will bring about the physical fulfillment of the great covenant promises of the OT. The people of Israel will be established in their land (Abrahamic and Land Covenants), under the rule of their King (Davidic Covenant), experiencing the blessings of righteousness and forgiveness of sin (The New Covenant).

### **The Church in the Kingdom:**

Rev. 2:26-27—<sup>26</sup> The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations,<sup>27</sup> and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father.

- ⇒ In our resurrected bodies, we will no longer sin and are therefore perfect for administering and governing.
- ⇒ We will stand as a testimony of God’s grace and mercy, both in terms of what He has done in the past and what He will accomplish in the future New Heavens and New Earth (Eph. 2:7).

## The Final Rebellion and Judgment—Rev. 21:7-15

Satan and those who have been identified with him as his offspring through their rebellion against God will be consummately judged and punished with eternal separation from God’s presence in the Lake of Fire. This is the ultimate fulfillment of Gen. 3:15!

## The Kingdom Established Consummately—Rev. 21-22

1. God will \_\_\_\_\_ with mankind who will all exist forever in glorified bodies fit for the New Creation. (21:1-8)
2. All of God’s \_\_\_\_\_ will be together with Him and will have access to His presence in the Holy City, the New Jerusalem. (Rev. 21:9-27).
3. In the New Creation we will be able to carry out the original commission of God given to mankind in Gen. 1:28 because we will consummately know Him and be guarded from \_\_\_\_\_ forever. (22:1-5)