

Composite by Donald Beaman with sketch by Leonardo Da Vinci.

From: Donald G. Beaman

Prologue to the edition prepared in the year 2000AD:

My guidance led me to review “Revelations” prior to leading a discussion group from the local church into the dense thicket of Symbolism of the piece.

The encounter convinced me that the manuscript was in a confused jumble, not unlike a dream, but also presented with an emphasis on fear and certainly warnings of judgment so dependent upon sin and condemnation. In a era when all of the ancient animosities seem re-born, if there was a sign of hope for humans in this revelation it was confused by the deluge of monstrous creatures and overtones of vengeance...seemingly indelible in the very “DNA” of genetic transmission...as if the author was recording the last acts of the Hebraic god of wrath, before absorption into the Christian God of salvation relative to sin.

The vision of a return to the “Magna-Mater”; cleansing and conversion from superstition, to creative and cooperative truth, signifies the great change of consciousness anticipated in the return of “the age of Aquarius.”

Indeed, “Harm to no-one!” and “First do no harm!” seem to be the antidote to slogans such as: “An eye for an eye!” and “He hit me first!” or “Mine is bigger than yours” in a culture devoted to winning at any cost.

My process of review seemed to me very like editing the bits and pieces of cinema-frames into a logical and dramatically cogent experience. As I cut and pasted somewhat in a trance, I felt that hope unencumbered by illusions of fear could be distilled from the rather frantic Visions/passing before me...

Who had had the visions?

Who had recorded the experience?

Who had translated, edited...organized the puzzle pieces?

And ...Could I channel the order close to the original, through psychic-union with the various contributors to this thing we know as...”Apocalypse” or “The Revelation...attributed to St. John”..

Is the vision John’s? Or is John in the vision... (of someone)... relaying his vision...?

And – does it really matter-? Fasten your seatbelts...”

Note this study uses the version in “The Jerusalem Bible”...

The numbers of verses and lines are from the traditional edition. The Illustrations derive from the works by Gustave Dore. The order I have collated, follows a “logical” and dramatic structure.

If we needed a dedication I would give thanks to Mick Comstock, the minister and his study group at The Federated Church, Charlemont Massachusetts.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF REVELATION

From: "The Jerusalem Bible" Copyright © 1966,1967, 1968
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A "Revelation" (called *Apocalypse*, from the Greek term) is a distinct literary form: apocalyptic writing was very popular in some Jewish circles at the beginning of the Christian era. The framework of a Revelation is always a vision of hidden supernatural events. The language in which the vision is described is richly symbolic and so allusive that the message can be interpreted in more ways than one.

Thus the Book of Revelation is not to be accepted simply as an allegory, which can be directly translated into other terms. It contains the author's vision of heaven and of the vindication of the Christian martyrs in the world to come, but it must be understood first hand foremost as a tract for the times, written to increase the hope and determination of the Church on earth in a period of disturbance and bitter persecution, and prophesying the certain downfall and destruction of the Roman imperial power.

The imagery, largely drawn from the Old Testament, especially Daniel, allows the author to allude to the enemy, Rome, under the disguise of the old enemy, Babylon; and to present the happenings of his own day, seen by their reflections in the heavens, as recapitulations or fulfillments of the great events of Israel's past. There are passages out of context, One promising hypothesis is that the strictly prophetic part of the book is made up of two different "apocalypses" written at different times and later conflated. The author cannot be identified with the author of the Gospel according to John, but we can say that the book was written inside the evangelist's immediate circle and is pervaded by his doctrine. Its date is generally estimated as A.D.95, but there are some who believe that parts, at least, were composed as early as Nero's time, shortly before A.D. 70.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Prologue

- 1 **1** This is the revelation given by God to Jesus Christ so that he could tell his servants *about the things which are now to take place^{a*} very soon*;
- 2 he sent his angel to make it known to his servant John, 'and John has written down everything he saw and swears it is the word of God guaranteed by Jesus Christ.
- 3 Happy the man who reads this prophecy, and happy those who listen to him, if they treasure all that it says, because the Time is close.

1-1^{a*} Daniel 2:28



from: **The Doré Bible illustrations by Gustave Doré**

Note:

(This is a revelation given to Jesus translated to John by an angel

But...

Is the vision that of Jesus...?

Or of John?

If of Jesus than this is a very rare example of Jesus witnessing.)

The dragon delegates his power to the beast

18 **12** I was standing on the seashore. **13** Then I saw *a beast emerge from the sea*^{a*}
1 it had seven heads and ten horns, with a coronet on each of its ten horns, and its
2 heads were marked with blasphemous titles^{b*} I saw that the beast *was like*
a leopard, with paws like *a bear* and a mouth like *a lion*^{c*}; the dragon had handed
3 over to it his own power and his throne and his world-wide authority. I saw that
one of its heads seemed to have had a fatal wound but that this deadly injury had
healed and, after that, the whole world had marveled and followed the beast.
4 They prostrated themselves in front of the dragon because he had given the beast
his authority; and they prostrated themselves in front of the beast, saying, "Who
5 can compare with the beast?^{d*} How could anybody defeat him?" For forty-two
months the beast was allowed *to mouth its boasts*^{e*} and blasphemies and to do
6 whatever it wanted; and it mouthed its blasphemies against God, against his
7 name, his heavenly Tent and all those who are sheltered there. It was allowed
to make war against the saints and conquer them, and given power over every race,
8 *people, language and nation: and all people of the world will worship it, that*
is, everybody whose name has not been written down since the foundation of
9 *the world in the book of life of the sacrificial Lamb. If anyone has ears to hear,*
10 *let him listen: 'Captivity for those who are destined for captivity; the sword for*
those who are to die by the sword.'^{f*} This is why the saints must have constancy
and faith.

18-13^{a*} Daniel 7:3

13- 2^{b*} Seven heads represent a succession of seven Roman emperors: Ten crowned horns are ten subject kings.

13- 2^{c*} Daniel 7:4-6

13-5^{d*} A parody of the name Michael, "who-can-compare-with-God?"

13- 5^{e*} Daniel 7:8,11

13-10^{f*} Jeremiah 15:2



Collage from Don Beaman and other artists

The false prophet as the slave of the beast

11 **13** Then I saw a second beast^{a*}; it emerged from the ground; it had two horns
12 like a lamb, but made a noise like a dragon. This second beast was servant to
13 the first beast, and extended its authority everywhere, making the world and
14 all its people worship the first beast, which had had the fatal wound and had
15 been healed. And it worked great miracles, even to calling down fire from
16 heaven on to the earth while people watched. Through the miracles which it
17 was allowed to do on behalf of the first beast, it was able to win over the people
18 of the world and persuade them to put up a statue in honor of the beast that
19 had been wounded by the sword and still lived. It was allowed to breathe
20 life into this statue, so that the statue of the beast was able to speak, and to have
21 *anyone who refused to worship the statue of the beast^{b*}* put to death. He compelled
22 everyone—small and great, rich and poor, slave and citizen—to be branded on
23 the right hand or on the forehead, -and made it illegal for anyone to buy or sell
24 anything unless he had been branded with the name of the beast or with the
25 number of its name.
26 There is need for shrewdness here: if anyone is clever enough he may interpret
27 the number of the beast: it is the number of a man, the number 666.^{c*}

13-11^{a*} Also called “the false prophet,” Jeremiah 16:13; 19:20: 10:10

13-16^{b*} Daniel 3:8,11

13-18^{c*} Codes and riddles were made in both Greek and Hebrew by using numbers for letters, according to their order in the Alphabet. Commentators have claimed that 666 is the total of the number values of “Nero Caesar”.



from The Doré Bible illustrations by Gustave Doré

THE CROWNED VIRGIN: A VISION OF JOHN

**And there appeared a great wonder in heaven;
a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet,
and upon her head a crown of twelve stars...**

(Revelation 12:1)

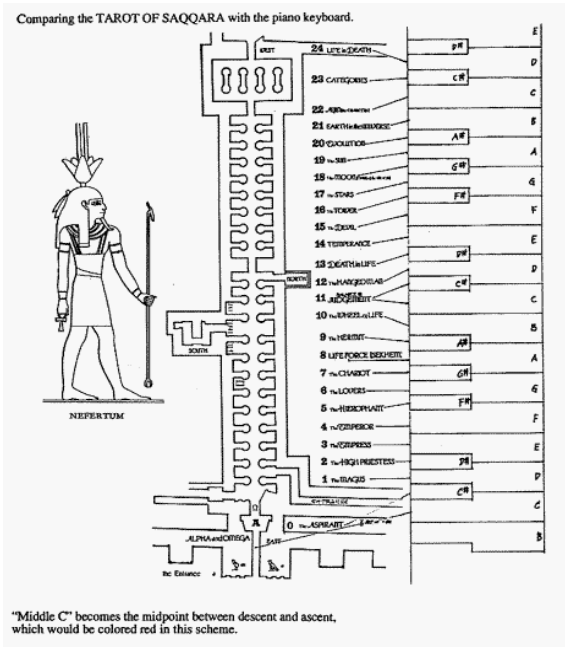
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Tarot of Saqqara

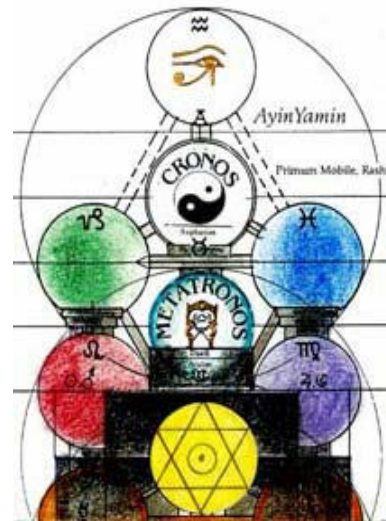
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