

Article of the Month – September 2014

Twelve Missionary Themes in Revelation Fulfilled

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All Twelve Themes we identified in Genesis find their climax in Revelation: they have been fully developed and all that needed to be said and done has now been said and done, which reflect John's final words.

The *Missio Dei* (Theme 1) has come to an end. Humanity has been saved and once more the fellowship between God and man has become unhindered. God can again reveal Himself to people, as He did at the time that Adam & Eve walked the Garden of Eden before they fell into sin.¹ Divine and human image, as well as walks and talks have again merged and integrated, taking place at the throne of God, as He originally intended.² Full divine and human partnership has now been realized.³

The Church's work of world missions (Theme 2), the *Missiones Ecclesiae* is also finished. The Church partnered with God in His mission to the world. When God has finished, there is no more work for the Church to do with regard to the salvation of people. The new task of the Church's members will now be to rule with Christ for ever and ever. The Bible remains silent about what that rule will be like, but it can be expected to be exciting beyond fantasy.⁴

Man's sin problem (Theme 3) no longer exists.⁵ The very existence of sin may become a forgotten issue, or at least an issue that will have no more influence on the eternal life believers enjoy. If there still is a memory of sin, it will be one that has no more emotion attached, like guilt or pain. As sin has been defined as 'missing the mark', the 'mark' can now no longer be missed, as all have become like Christ, since His return.⁶

The origin of sin, the devil (Theme 4) has been done away with. After Christ's return, at the beginning of the Millennium of Peace, he was locked up for that period, only to be released for a short time at the end of it. By the time the New Jerusalem descends from heaven, no devil or demon will be found anywhere else but in the lake of fire, never to return.⁷

God's solution for the sin problem (Theme 5) has been made complete. All that wanted to be saved have been saved, by conforming to His solution. God has always offered only one way of salvation and the climax of that one way is found in the blood that Christ shed at Calvary.

¹ Gen. 1 & 2 are mirrored by Rev. 21 & 22: the only 4 'sinless chapters' in the Bible

² Gen. 1:26,28

³ Verses that illustrate Theme 1: Rev. 1:1b; 5:6c; 11:3a & 22:6a,16a

⁴ Verses that illustrate Theme 2: Rev. 1:11,19; 10:8b,9b,11; 11:1b,3b; 22:6b,16b.

⁵ Verses that illustrate Theme 3: Rev. 2:4,5a,9b,20,21b; 3:1c,15a,16a,17; 6:4; 9:20,21; 11:2b;13:3b,4,8a,12b; 14:8b,9,11b; 16:2b,6a,9,11,21b; 17:2,4b-6a,13,14a; 18:3,5,7b,9a,24; 19:2b,19,20b; 20:9a; 21:8a; 22:11a,18a,19a

⁶ 1 John 3:2

⁷ Verses that illustrate Theme 4: Rev. 2:9b,10a,13,24b; 3:9a; 8:11; 9:1b,2a,3-5,7-11,15-19; 11:7b; 12:3,4,7b-9,10b,12b,13,14b-17a; 13:1-3a,4-7,11-17,18b; 16:13,14; 17:3b,7b-14,16; 18:2b; 19:19a,20a; 20:2,3,4c,7,8a,10a. In the book of Revelation Satan is exposed more than ever before

This blood was shed to ‘take away the sins of the world’.⁸ And indeed: no more sin is found anywhere, in all the world.⁹

Man-made solutions for the sin problems (Theme 6) have by now proven not to work and we see almost no verses in Revelation that illustrate this theme.¹⁰

The Son of Promise (Theme 7) has accomplished all the Father promised.¹¹ We don’t have to be surprised that the Christology in Revelation is very strong.¹² See also the table below.¹³

The Person of Jesus Christ	In the Book of Revelation
In His humanity	1:13; 5:5; 22:16
In His Deity	1:8,17; 2:8,18; 3:7,14; 4:8; 11:15; 12:10; 19:11
In His redemptive ministry	1:5; 5
In His resurrection	1:5,18; 2:8
In His return	1:4,7,8; 4:8; 19:6; 22:7,16
In His judgment	1:16,18; 2:18,23; 19:2,12; 20:12; 22:7,12,14
In His relationship to the Church	1:16; 2:1; 3:14; 17:14; 22:16
In His relationship to the world	1:5; 17:14; 19:16
The Person of Jesus Christ in Revelation	

God’s universalistic purpose (Theme 8) has been finalized. The gospel has been made available to all the families of the earth, as God originally promised to Abram.¹⁴ This is not a very dominant theme in the book of Revelation.¹⁵

What these families of the earth consist of, we see in the concept of the nations (Theme 9) very clearly. Not one lacks representatives before the throne of the Lamb. All 16,700 people groups, according to the calculation of the Joshua Project, are there. The concept of ‘unreached- or least-reached people groups’ exists no more. Even the remotest among them have been reached, eventually.¹⁶

The city of Babylon, as well as the worldwide religious and political super-structure into which it gradually developed (Theme 10) has been utterly destroyed. No more persecution, oppression, fornication, occultism, greed or cursing, ever.¹⁷

⁸ John 1:29

⁹ Verses that illustrate Theme 5: Rev. 1:2,3,5,6; 2:5b,7,10b,11,16a,17,21a,22b,25,26a,29; 3:2,3a,4-6,10-13,18-22; 5:9b; 7:10,14b; 12:10a,11; 13:8b,9,10b; 14:1b,3b-7,12,13; 15:2b; 18:4; 19:1b; 20:4d,6; 22:11b,14,17b

¹⁰ There are only a few for Theme 6: namely 2:6,15

¹¹ As early as Gen. 3:15 and hundreds of times ever since

¹² Verses that illustrate Theme 7: Rev. 1:1,2,5-7,9,13-18; 2:1b,8b,12b,18b; 3:1b,7b,14b; 5:5-7,9,12,13; 6:1-3a,5a,7a,9a; 7:9b,10,17a; 11:15; 13:8b; 14:1,4,13a,14; 15:3a; 17:14; 19:11-16,19b; 20:4b; 21:14b,22b,23b,27b; 22:3b,7,12,13,16,20,21

¹³ Aebi, 1978:198,199, shortened version, not necessarily reflecting the views of this author

¹⁴ Gen. 12:3

¹⁵ There are only a few for Theme 8: namely 4:11; 5:9b-14; 7:12,17

¹⁶ Verses that illustrate Theme 9: Rev. 1:7b; 2:26b,27; 5:9b,10; 7:4-10; 10:11; 11:2b,9,10a; 11:18a; 12:5a; 13:7b; 14:1-5,6b,8,15b,16,18b; 15:4b; 16:14b,16,19a; 17:2,12,15-17,18b; 18:3,9a,10a,11a,14a,15a,17b,23b; 19:15,18,19a; 20:3b,8b; 21:24,26; 22:2b

¹⁷ Verses that illustrate Theme 10: 2:6,14,15,20; 9:20b,21; 13:13-17; 14:8; 16:19b; 17:1b-7,16,18a; 18:2-24

All people have been judged according to their works and the choice of those who rejected salvation has ultimately been honored (Theme 11). It could be no other way: as man was created a free moral agent with freedom of choice, God chose to honor the consequences of man's choices, even if that meant that he turned against God. For the last time, the book of Revelation strongly emphasizes this principle, that forfeited salvation means judgment.¹⁸

The last Theme (12), starting as simple pairs of physical brothers in Genesis, has ultimately developed into a glorified, all-encompassing Body of Christ who are believing, eternally living people, having come out of all nations, tribes, peoples and languages, who will be God's co-rulers for ever and ever.¹⁹ Whoever takes time to study the reference texts below will notice that some verses and themes converge.²⁰ Just one example: in 14:1,4 Themes 5, 6, 9 and 12 are found simultaneously.

With this we have come to the end of our exploration of twelve missionary themes, of which we already saw the origin in the book of Genesis.

It is possible to obtain all references to the other occurrences of these twelve themes in the remaining Bible books. If you so desire, contact me at recruiting4missions@gmail.com

¹⁸ Verses that illustrate Theme 11: Rev. 2:5c,16b,22a,23a; 3:3b,16b; 6:5b,6b,8,10b,12-14,16b,17; 8:5-9:19; 11:5,6,10b,13,14,18a,c,19b; 14:8,10,11a,18-20; 15:1,2a,6a,7-17:1,16b; 18:6-10,14-17a,18,19,20b-24; 19:2a,3b,15,17-21; 20:2-4a,9c,10,15; 21:8b; 22:18b,19b

¹⁹ 22:5b

²⁰ Verses that illustrate Theme 12: Rev. 1:4,9a,11,20; 2:1-3:21; 5:9b; 6:11b; 7:4-10,14-17; 11:3-7a,8-12,18b; 12:5,10b,11,17b; 13:10a; 14:1,3-5; 19:1a,3a,6-9,10b; 20:9b; 21:9b,10b-27; 22:9,15,17a,21