Title: The use of Jeremiah in the book of Revelation

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Abstract:

The present study is on the source background of the book of Revelation. It is recognized that a proper understanding of the Old Testament background of Revelation is necessary in order to do justice to the intention of the author. John the Revelator is indebted a lot to the prophetic traditions of the ancient prophets of the Old Testament. Though John does not directly quote the passages of the Old Testament as a whole sentence or with exactly identical wording, so many names, events, themes, and images that allude to the Old Testament are ubiquitous in his book. This study has explored, in particular, the allusions to the Old Testament book of Jeremiah.

The Jeremiah allusions in Revelation include three remarkable thematic patterns discussed in the second chapter of this research: Christological, ecclesiological, and eschatological applications. John finds fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Messianic or divine titles, features, and events are often used to refer to Christ. The author of Revelation draws passages of the Old Testament that deal with racial Israel to designate the church, or “spiritual Israel.” The Old Testament Israel finds its ultimate fulfillment in the Christian church. The Apocalypse is oriented toward the end-time. By borrowing from the Old Testament, the author gives the readers clues to what will take place to the people of God during the days
before parousia of Christ.

Of the forty-seven possible allusions to Jeremiah in Revelation identified in the United Bible Societies’ edition of the *Greek New Testament*, twenty-eight have been found to be especially relevant. The allusions to Jeremiah, as in his general use of the Old Testament, includes the three thematic patterns of Christological, ecclesiological, and eschatological application discussed in the second chapter of this research. The Revelator’s use of Jeremiah is densely placed in Rev 17 and 18, which describe the ultimate destruction of Babylon and the release of God’s people. More parallels between Revelation and Jeremiah are thematic rather than verbal. Some allusions seem just a detail, but they are all accumulated and strengthened by one another to make sure the final fulfillment of the assurance. Thus, John reasserts and assures the readers, by alluding to the book of Jeremiah with a specific intention, that the destruction of the end-time Babylon will be as surely realized as the ultimate fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy.