**INTRODUCTION:**

Good afternoon: Given the nature of my paper, I invite you to follow along on your own devices if possible. A brief word of caution: In order to make the text display across platforms, browsers, and most importantly, projectors, I have encoded the text quite small. Please zoom in until both the body text and the license are readable. Thank you.

[*http://tinyurl.com/ApocalypseAndEmpire*](http://tinyurl.com/ApocalypseAndEmpire)

The Book of Revelation, along with its Hebrew and Aramaic counterpart Daniel, has frequently served as the paradigmatic example of apocalyptic literature.[[1]](#footnote-2) John the Seer’s heavenly journey and vision of ciphered beasts and plagues of destruction, thinly veiled invectives against Rome, are standard fare within the genre of Apocalypse. Yet despite the apocalyptic character of John’s narrative, many of the generic features common to other apocalypses are either absent or transformed in Revelation: Revelation is not a sealed book of Pseudepigrapha, and it contains very little “mediation” of apocalyptic visions. Perhaps most strikingly, Revelation alludes to the Jewish Scriptures more than any other apocalypse. Though there is no doubt that Revelation is apocalyptic, we are too often accustomed to treating Revelation as an apocalypse to the exclusion of other considerations of genre.

[Slide: Revelation as Apocalypse and Prophecy] With allusions to Amos and Daniel, John introduces his vision as both apocalypse and prophecy: “An apocalypse of Jesus Christ which God granted to him to show to his servants the things which must soon happen.… Blessed is the one who reads and those who hear the words of prophecy and keep the things which are written in it” (Rev 1:3). Revelation is a prophetic text to be read.

This paper explores reading ancient texts through modern textual techniques: how might digital editions enhance our reading of Revelation? In particular, I am concerned with John’s participation in the tradition of reworking previous prophetic oracles in light of present social and historical circumstances. Using Rev 17-18 and 21-22, I argue that an online edition of Revelation exposes the dynamism and depth of the book’s intertextuality. John’s reapplies prophetic antecedents to demonstrate the validity of his vision of the Empire of Rome and the Empire of God. Freed from the spatial constraints of the fixed physical page, digital editions better represent the expansive and immersive intertextuality of Revelation. John’s book of prophecy is a text digital editions are designed to display.

**Prophetic Literature and Intertextuality:**

[Slide: Prophetic Literature] As a literary corpus, prophetic literature was “intertextual” long before Revelation.[[2]](#footnote-3) Since none of the prophets left behind a handbook explaining how they would make reference to each other, modern scholars have developed heuristic categories for describing prophetic intertextuality.[[3]](#footnote-4) [Slide: Quotation] First, prophets employ verbal quotation using “a pre-existing phrase, sentence, or paragraph which is taken from another source.” Here, Joel 3:16 repeats the same phrase from Amos 1:2: “The Lord roars from Zion.” [Slide: Allusion] Second, they allude to another text or texts, either through extended verbal parallels (as in Jeremiah 29 and Isaiah 65), or through the use of distinctive “catchwords.” Notice here the wordplay invoked in Isaiah 65; English translations do not reflect Isaiah’s change of *haggo****lah*** (the exiles) and *wegiy****lu*** (rejoice), though the secondary interplay of building houses and dwelling in them remains clear in translation. [Slide: Themes] Third, prophets redeploy thematic parallels or motifs as literary devices to evoke other texts, such as the theme of desolated cities being retaken by the wilderness or locusts as foreign invaders.

Much has been made about the criteria for detecting intertextual references:[[4]](#footnote-5) How confident should the modern reader be that an ancient author intended to cue the audience to another text? Length of verbal parallel, precise rendering of the wording, similar themes and motifs all suggest intentionality on the author’s part. Allusions act as a shibboleth to sort the sophisticated reader from the naïve.[[5]](#footnote-6) Readers were expected to recognize, analyze, and assimilate the referred to text in their interpretation of the new work.

Even when quoting, prophets rarely “cited” one another explicitly.[[6]](#footnote-7) [Slide: Citation formulae] This complicates the detection of references. Though many of Revelation’s contemporary Jewish and Christian works would cue their audience to a reference, Revelation lacks the citation formulae familiar to us that indicate such reference is taking place; John does not cite Scripture using crisp paradims like Matthew, Paul, or the Dead Sea Covenanters .[[7]](#footnote-8)

[Slide: Greek Text-form] Ambiguity regarding the text-form and language of the Scriptures further complicates the detection of intertextual references within Revelation. Scriptural references resemble both the Septuagint and Masoretic Text.[[8]](#footnote-9) Though John’s Greek has been called “barbaric,” the improper use of case and prepositions may reflect a quotation from a Greek text-form, such as in Revelation 1:4-5. *apo,* of course, takes the genitive, but Revelation uses nominative forms like its source-texts. [Slide: Hebrew Text-from] Elsewhere, Revelation quotes materials found only in the tradition preserved in the Masoretic text, such as the translated quotation of Jeremiah 51:45 in 18:4b. Scholars have attempted to explain these concurrent Greek and Hebrew traditions through numerous hypotheses. If the seer were a Jewish Christian refugee from Palestine, perhaps he freely translated a Hebrew text into Greek. He may have possessed a Greek text no longer extent, or a proto-targum. Or he had both Greek and Hebrew texts in front of him and used whichever suited his needs.

These complexities are exacerbated by the references themselves. [Slide: Density and Brevity] John’s allusions are frequently short, perhaps as few as one or two words, as in 1:1. They are also dense, compacted, and combined phrases culled from multiple sources. The allusions pile up heaps upon heaps, an ever-flowing torrent flooding the reader as high as a horse’s bridle.

[Slide: Moyise data] Revelation alludes to Scripture, especially the prophetic corpus more than other contemporary Christian text. But, given the complications of intentionality, language, brevity, and density, modern commentators and editors of critical editions have detected a wide number of references to Scripture in Revelation.[[9]](#footnote-10) [Slide: Enumerated Allusions] Broadly speaking, the tendency has been to identify increasing numbers of allusions in varying degrees of certainty. [Slide – scanned images side by side] Compare here the marginalia of the Nestle and Nestle-Aland editions from 1927, 1979, and 2012, the most recent adding Second Temple Jewish texts alongside the in*tra*-textual linkages between various sections of Revelation, parallel texts within the New Testament, and references to the Jewish Scriptures.

As a means of collecting intertextual parallels, the codex has served admirably. But the codex is a reference tool. John expected his readers to read and to *hear* the allusions of his prophecy (1:3). If the goal is for the audience to “recognize, analyze, and assimilate” the intertextual reference, better tools are available in the digital age. [Slide: SBLGNT and NA28 Online] In terms of expanding that audience globally, the pdf edition of the SBL Greek New Testament and the eclectic text of the NA28, published on their respective websites, are steps in the right direction.[[10]](#footnote-11) Neither edition, however, leverages the flexibility offered by modern scribal techniques to display ancient scribal practices; they are still static pages with pixels replacing ink. Both are also under copyright protection: the SBL Greek New Testament prohibits diglot translations into English, and the NA28’s license is even more restrictive. [Slide: Merchants of the earth] The merchants of the earth offer numerous packages of proprietary software to aid the scholar, but the pricing scheme for studying the Bible Works in accordance with commercial goals; the price of the a bundled package at conferences, though low, goes up as scholarly modules are added. Such markedly beastly costs create barriers to entrance to the academy. Even then, scholars are constrained by the tools created for us, rather than tools we can create for ourselves. For this study, digital editions can display not just *that* John used Scripture, but they can gesture toward how the author adapted previous materials and how the sophisticated reader might interpret John’s intertextuality.

[Slide: Four case studies] As case studies for digital editions, let us examine four passages from Revelation. [<http://encodingrevelation.github.io/revelation/apocalypseandempire.html>]. The eclectic body text is taken from Eberhard Nestle’s 1904 edition of the New Testament, the closest text to the Nestle-Aland 28 that is free from copyright protection. Where bracketed, the text has been modified to reflect the NA28. The left-most column contains internal linkages within Revelation. The right-most column contains intertextual parallels between Revelation and the Jewish Scriptures. Both columns are eclectic, compiled from references in the NA28 and scholarly commentaries.[[11]](#footnote-12) Each reference was tagged with metadata in accordance my research questions, though theoretically any sort of data could be collated.

Within the eclectic body text, each reference is color-coded and linked to a source text [Select *kings have fornicated*]. Similarly, the marginal references display the corresponding text when clicked [Select Jr 25:15]. These source texts are also linked to their respective Septuagint and Masoretic texts. Internal links to Revelation can be loaded by clicking on their respective references [Select 18:3,9]. By color-coding the text, Revelation’s hyper-saturation with intertextual references is immediately visible. There is some confirmation bias here, given the selective nature of case studies. Nevertheless, it is instructive to visually see how thoroughly John saturated his vision of the judgment of the Rome and the establishment of the New Jerusalem as an imperial city with prophetic imagery. Even if you don’t *hear* the allusion, marking of the words lets the reader *see* the allusive language.

**Revelation 17:1-6:** <http://encodingrevelation.github.io/revelation/revelation/chapter/ap17.html>

John’s description of Babylon’s judgment combines together imagery taken across Scripture for the enemies of God. In 17:1, an angel bearing a bowl of plagues invites the seer to gaze upon the Great Whore of Babylon[ Click 15:1, 6-7] . The bowl of plagues recalls the exodus narrative and the conquest of Egypt, recounted both in the Psalms and in Exodus 7-12.[[12]](#footnote-13) The use of Babylon as the ciphered name for Rome has long been understood as a means of connecting the Flavians’ destruction of the Second Temple with Nebuchadnezzar’s destruction of the First. [Click: mighty waters] The whore dwells by mighty waters, a quotation from Jeremiah 51:13 where Babylon resides on “mighty waters.” In 17:2 [Click nations have fornicated], all the kings of the earth are said to have fornicated with the whore, an allusion to Isaiah’s polemic against Tyre in 23:17. The nations drinking from the whore’s wine alludes to Jeremiah’s prophecy against Babylon in 25 and 51, expanded again in verse 4 [click: the nations have drunk]. The enticing of the nations by lustful passion repeats Nahum’s charge against Nineveh as a city of whoredom. The depiction of the whore riding the crimson beast [click: beast] recalls the two beasts of Revelation 13 and of Antiochus Epiphanes in Daniel 7. In verse six we find a drinking allusion again. The metaphor of being “drunk on blood” would seem to be an allusion to the Yahweh’s sword being drunk with the blood of his enemies; [Click 2Rg 9:7] Babylon is drunk on the blood of God’s saints and martyrs, an allusion to Jezebel which harkens back to John’s assimilating rival in he denounces in chapter 2 [Click: 2:20]. By combining these allusions together, Egypt, Babylon, Tyre, Ninevah, the Seleucids, and Jezebel, Revelation depicts Rome as the final enemy who is the summation of all the enemies of God and his people.

Digital editions permit greater flexibility for research. Because the references have been tagged by reference type, the reader can isolate the quotations, allusions, and thematic parallels as desired. Toggling the dropdown menu in the right-most column activates only the links of the desired classification. While we can see that Revelation references Scripture using each of the three typologies discussed above, John has a preference for allusion compared to either quotation or thematic parallels. [URL: Toggle reference dropdown] this may reflect a middle ground between the more rigid quotations and less concrete thematic parallels. Allusions have a plasticity to them that increases with density without becoming narratively overbearing.

**Revelation 18:1-8** <http://encodingrevelation.github.io/revelation/revelation/chapter/ap18.html>

Turning to Revelation 18:1-8, we find two distinctive features of Revelation’s intertextuality. The first concerns the text form used by John in the quotation of 18:2 [Click 18:2]– *epesen, epesen Babulōn*. The double proclamation of Babylon’s downfall reflects a translation of the Masoretic Text of Isaiah 21:9 - *naflah, naflah bavel*, rather than the LXX of either Isaiah or Jeremiah, *peptōken* *Babulōn* and *epesen Babulōn*, respectively*.* If one posits that John used a Greek translation, whichever translation he had reflected the Masoretic text of Isaiah 21:9 but used the aorist like Jeremiah, rather than the perfect of Isaiah. Alternatively, John might have used a Hebrew text and he translated Isaiah accordingly.[[13]](#footnote-14)

The second intertextual feature is the so-called “double utilization” of a single Scriptural image for two purposes. The cup of wine, again a reference to Jeremiah, served as the cup of the Great Whore’s lustful iniquity in 17:2 [Click 17:2]. In 18:3, however, the wine of the wrath returns again, though as God’s cup of wrath which causes the nations to fall. These double utilizations play upon the malleability of metaphor and prophecy. From a semiotic perspective, the wine can signify both the crime (fornication) and the justice (God’s wrath). The two are collapsed into one image.

The flexibility of digital editions allows a text to be encoded to address the research questions of the researcher (or potential researchers). One prominent strand of intertextual scholarship on Revelation has examined the use of a particular prophet: the use of Daniel, the use of Ezekiel, etc… [Toggle to Jeremiah] If properly coded, the text can be manipulated to display only those references to the particular work. Here, for example, we see the heavy dependency on Jeremiah, particularly chapters 50-51, for describing the judgment of Babylon.[[14]](#footnote-15) In addition to the proclamations discussed above, we see the imperative to “come out” of Babylon in 18:4. The justness of God’s judgment and the punishment meted out is anchored in references to the Jeremiah 50: God will do to Rome that which Rome has done to God’s people. Similarly, Rome’s destruction by fire promised in verse 8 echoes Jeremiah’s prophecy that Babylon would be destroyed by fire. [Toggle to Isaiah] Revelation yokes Jeremiah’s conviction with Deutero-Isaiah’s oracles against Babylon. [Click: Isa 47:7-8] Like Isaiah’s luxurious city, Rome sits in royal majesty dismissing the might of the Lord. Rome is so vain she cannot image this dirge is about her. Revelation’s proclamation of Rome’s judgment thus combines Jeremiah’s oracles of Babylon’s destruction and Isaiah’s oracles of its humiliation, each already a historical fact for Revelation’s audience. Like God conquered them, he will conquer Rome as well.

[Click: Reset] Chapter 18 also allows us to address text-critical questions. By and large, the text of the Nestle 1904 matches the NA28. Since the focus here is on intertexuality, this edition was designed to address this issue. One could, however, encode the text to display variations between manuscript traditions or individual manuscripts. The daggers here display synoptically the major variants and their textual support in the side window. Questions of intertextuality extend beyond the eclectic body text and into the textual variants.

[Click 18:3] The variation in 18:3 presents another case of intertextuality and textual variants regarding the verb associated with *ta ethne*. The Nestle 1904 has *pepokan*, to fall, while the NA28 has *peptokan*, to drink. *Pepokan* makes logical sense, following the *epesen* of 18:2—like Babylon, the nations have fallen. *Peptokan* would match the sense of drinking implied in the metaphor of the wine. This reading is supported by allusion to Jeremiah 51:7, translating the hiphil of *shakar* with a perfect active indicative of the verb *pino*, since the Septuagint has a form of *methusko* (as in 17:2). Moreover, the manuscripts which use verbs of falling lack the “wine” from the beginning of the verse, perhaps suggesting that 18:3 was harmonized with 14:8 and 17:2. Thus Alexandrinus and Ephraemi Rescriptus preserve “the nations have fallen because of the lust of the Whore.” For the publically available manuscripts, links can be embedded as well, as done here with Sinaiticus and Alexandrinus. By presenting the individual variants synoptically, digital editions better preserve the meaningful textual variants in their literary, narrative, and in our case, intertextual context.

**Revelation 21:22-27** <http://encodingrevelation.github.io/revelation/revelation/chapter/ap21.html>

[Switch to Ap 21 (bottom)] Revelation proclaims Babylon’s demise through a recollection of the Yahweh’s judgment against the great empires. In Rome’s place, John envisions a new heavenly empire. Like with the desolation of Rome, Revelation’s vision of restoration, culminating in holy city in Revelation 21-22, recalls Scriptural antecedents. The imagery for the renewal of creation (the New Heaven and the New Earth)[[15]](#footnote-16) and the heavenly city are largely drawn from Ezekiel 40-48 and Trito-Isaiah. The bejeweled and richly-adorned Jerusalem reverses the decadence of the Whorish Babylon and ascribes the glory and majesty due to God that Rome had usurped. The precious stones of 21:19-20 combine together the description from Exodus of the High Priest’s Breastplate, the walls of a restored Jerusalem in Isaiah 54, and the Edenic luxury of Tyre in Ezekiel 28. Against an interpretation of Revelation as an anti-imperial text, the physical materials of the heavenly city connote riches and majesty.

Jerusalem’s power is demonstrated not only in these images of wealth, but in the reapplication of imperial imagery found in Isaiah 60.[[16]](#footnote-17) In the 5th century, Trito-Isaiah envisioned a restored Jerusalem. The image of tributary peoples streaming to the metropolis connotes Neo-Babylonian imperial propaganda, but by naming Jerusalem, rather than Babylon, the epicenter of tributary gifts, Zion becomes the Lord’s metropole.[[17]](#footnote-18)

Revelation 21:22-27 appeals to Isaiah’s prophecy by repeating and combining images for an idealized terrestrial Jerusalem and relocating it in the heavens. The nations will walk about the city in the light of the Lamb and the kings of the earth will give glory to God. The culminating vision of the New Jerusalem thus fulfills the proclamations of glory, laud, and honor owed to God and the Lamb, hymnic praises repeated throughout the book by the eternal chorus of heavenly worshipers. As Handel famously paraphrased in *The Messiah*, “The kingdom of this world (that is the Roman Empire) is now the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ (that is the heavenly empire). And he shall reign forever and ever.”

Amid the red sea of references to Isaiah, the negative space at the end of verse 23 encourages us to pause. Like the notes not played in a Jazz riff, the distinctly Christological characteristic of the restoration of Jerusalem is highlighted. The Lamb, Christ, is the light of the city of God.[[18]](#footnote-19) Though John proclaims the restoration of Jerusalem like Isaiah and Ezekiel before him, God’s victory over Rome ultimately comes through the Lamb Who Stands As Slaughtered. Though John’s intertexuality led him to draw upon the prophets who proceeded him, he is a Christian prophet proclaiming the imminence of God’s dominion through the death on the Cross.

**Revelation 22:6-7** <http://encodingrevelation.github.io/revelation/revelation/chapter/ap22.html>

As a conclusion, let us consider Rev 22:6-7. John’s account of his vision closes by reasserting the validity and truth of his prophetic book: “These words are faithful and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets sent his angel to show to his servants the things which are necessary to happen.” [Click: 1:1] The quotation from Daniel, “the things which are necessary to happen,” frames John’s revelation and promises both the imminence and the certainty of the vision. John expected those who read his book to understand the prophetic underpinnings of his vision. By tying the judgment of Rome to the prophets through quotations, allusions, and thematic parallels, Revelation proclaims that like empires of Babylon, Egypt, Tyre, and Nineveh, Rome’s Empire will fall as well. The Empire of God has replaced it, and the kings and nations which Rome once ruled over will soon stream to the Lord’s new imperial city.

Two thousand years have removed the modern reader from the ancient audience’s context. But the visual presentation afforded by digital editions allows us to see how the author intended us to hear. John asks us to read, recognizing, analyzing, and assimilating Revelation’s intertextuality. By color-coding intertextual references, we can recognize what John has borrowed and what how he has expanded his source texts. By creating flexible and filterable references through metadata, it is easier for us to analyze Revelation’s layering of oracles of destruction and visions of restoration. By presenting intertextual documents synoptically, digital editions make assimilating the manifold quotations, allusions, and thematic parallels immeasurably easier for the reader. And while this HTML edition was created with Revelation in mind, the html is publically available at github applied to any text through a creative commons license. That this digital edition is available freely to those who read is yet one final blessing. Thank you.

1. See, among others, John J. Collins, “Towards the Morphology of a Genre: Introduction,” *Semeia* 14 (1979): 1–20; Adela Yarbro Collins, “Introduction: Early Christian Apocalypticism,” *Semeia* 36 (1986): 1–11; David E. Aune, “The Apocalypse of John and the Problem of Genre,” *Semeia* 36 (1986): 65–96; David Hellholm, “The Problem of Apocalyptic Genre and the Apocalypse of John,” *Semeia* 36 (1986): 13–64. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Michael A. Fishbane, *Biblical Interpretation in Ancient Israel* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1985); James Nogalski, “Intertextuality and the Twelve,” in *Forming Prophetic Literature* (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1996), 102–24; Patricia Tull Willey, *Remember the Former Things: The Recollection of Previous Texts in Second Isaiah* (Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1997); Benjamin D. Sommer, *A Prophet Reads Scripture: Allusion in Isaiah 40-66* (Palo Alto, Calif: Stanford, 1998); Richard L. Schultz, *The Search for Quotation: Verbal Parallels in the Prophets* (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Pr, 1999); Marvin A. Sweeney, *Form and Intertextuality in Prophetic and Apocalyptic Literature* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2005). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. My categories here are derived from Nogalski, “Intertextuality and the Twelve.” Insufficient attention has been paid by scholars focused on intertextuality and Revelation to prophetic intertextuality, though note Bauckham’s critique of those (esp. Elizabeth Schussler Fiorenza) who would divorce Revelation’s allusions from their original contexts Richard Bauckham, *The Climax of Prophecy: Studies on the Book of Revelation* (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1993), 296–307. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Strictly speaking, “intertextuality” does not imply intent or direction, but rather the “linkages” between two or more texts. The point here is one of intention, rather than coincidence. Benjamin D. Sommer, “Exegesis, Allusion and Intertextuality in the Hebrew Bible: A Response to Lyle Eslinger,” *VT* 46 (1996): 486. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. After Kendra’s and Jeff’s seminar contributions, I’m increasingly interested in pursuing this element of the argument paper I would like to expand for both publication and dissertation. John expects his readers to understand, or want to understand, his allusions. Apocalypses also play on what Aune calls a “reveal/conceal dialectic” -- that which is revealed to the wise is necessarily concealed from the masses. (Aune, “The Apocalypse of John and the Problem of Genre,” 86–88.) Extended comments along this front are most welcome. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. The most notable exceptions being Daniel’s appeal to Jeremiah in Daniel 9 (though cf. Jer 26:18-19). John J. Collins, “Prophecy and Fulfillment in the Qumran Scrolls,” *JETS* 30 (1987): 270–72. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Beale has suggested that the solecisms of Revelation may “mark” allusions, as John will often keep the case of his source text even if this leads to a grammatical error in his own text. Perhaps, but this would account for a relatively limited number of instances, maybe twenty. Gregory K. Beale, “Solecisms in the Apocalypse as Signals for the Presence of Old Testament Allusions: A Selective Analysis of Revelation 1-22,” in *Early Christian Interpretation of the Scriptures of Israel* (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997), 421–46. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Steve Moyise, “The Language of the Old Testament in the Apocalypse,” *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 76 (1999): 97–113. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. At least one scholar has taken a “weighted average” approach from previous commentators to adduce a scale of “certain,” “probable,” and “possible.” This “wisdom of the crowds” approach has benefits, as it curtails the confirmation bias of scholars hunting for allusions. But it also limits readers’ ability to decipher John’s allusions for themselves. It is a scientific way of sampling allusions, but it multiplies scholarly “group think.” Since the commentators are not operating in isolation, the data is polluted. Jon Paulien, “Criteria and Assesment of Allusions to the Old Testament in the Book of Revelation,” in *Studies in the book of Revelation* (ed by. Steve Moyise; Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 2001), 113–30. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. <http://sblgnt.com/download/> and <http://www.nestle-aland.com/en/read-na28-online/text/bibeltext/lesen/stelle/76/> respectively. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. Henry B. Swete, *The Apocalypse of St. John* (3rd ed.; London ; New York: Macmillan, 1909); R. H Charles, *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Revelation of St. John* (2 vols.; ICC 44; Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1920); David E. Aune, *Revelation* (3 vols.; WBC 52A-C; Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997); Gregory K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text* (NIGTC; Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1999); Craig R. Koester, *Revelation: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014). [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. There may also be an allusion to Lev 26:21 here, though an appeal to the Exodus narrative and Yahweh’s triumph over Pharaoh makes more thematic sense. The seven plagues of Revelation would also mirror the seven plagues of Ps 105 (LXX 104), though Revelation’s plagues do not align perfectly with the Psalmist’s. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. There could also be source-critical data which muddle the question, a hypothetical prophetic proclamation that is neither Isaiah nor Jeremiah but is otherwise unknown. For reasons of parsimony, I am hesitant to multiply hypothetical texts unnecessarily. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. NB: This will be clearer when all of 18 is encoded. Given my focus, I focused on 18:1-8 for the coding efforts and will continue with the rest of the chapters in the next two weeks. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. Rev 21:1 may reflect (or even quote) 1 En 91:16 (NA28 incorrectly gives 1Hen 92:16), given the language of the first things “passing away.” This phrase is absent in Isaiah, though present in the Aramaic fragments at Qumran (יעברון). See J. T. Milik, ed., *Books of Enoch: Aramaic Fragments of Qumran Cave 4* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1976), 199, 269; George W. E. Nickelsburg, *1 Enoch: Chapters 1-36, 81-108* (Fortress, 2001), 450. [CTF: At one point, this section on 21:22-27 was going to address 21:1-4 and parallel pseudepigraphic texts; the reference to 1 Enoch 91:16 is of particular interest here; the ability to see parallel passage synoptically is one advantage of digital editions I have not yet inserted into the paper; I excised this section as I was trying to focus more clearly on allusions and empire – I could put a speculative parallel to the desolating sacrilege in 17:4, though that isn’t a very strong parallel] [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. Bauckham argues that Isaiah 2:2-5 lies behind John’s interpretation of Isaiah 60. περιπατήσουσιν… διὰ τοῦ φωτὸς αὐτῆς makes more sense as a translation of באור יהוה (Isa 2:5) than of לאורך והלכו (Isa 60:3). If Bauckham is correct, then John recalls the liturgical procession and the propagation of the Lord’s instruction (2:3) in addition to the subjugation of the nations by conquest. Perhaps, though Revelation 19 and 20 certainly imply the violence of God’s dominion. A sword proceeds from Christ’s mouth, not a plowshare (cf 1:16). Bauckham, *The Climax of Prophecy*, 306–17. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. See David Vanderhooft, *The Neo-Babylonian Empire and Babylon in the Latter Prophets* (HSM 59; Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1999), 46n164. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
18. 4 Ezra 7:42 may be parallel here, though I am disinclined to cite it as a parallel, as it seems like weaker evidence than the Apocalypse of Weeks parallel above, which has affinities to 2 Baruch and 4 Ezra as well.

    [CTF: A redactional argument has been made that John has added “the Lamb” (or “his messiah”) to pre-existing Jewish acclamations of praise to God (7:10; 11:15, 12:10; 15:3; 21:22, 23; 22:1, 3). [↑](#footnote-ref-19)