
REVELATION
IT'S BETTER THAN YOU THINK!
FALL SERIES

Exegesis – "there and then"
Should come first

Hermeneutics - "here and now"
Should come second!

Examples from this week…

“And interpretation is warned against by God himself in his word. All Scriptures cited by … are repeated, not interpreted.”

“As a nation we have been taught that a man should have one wife only. This is unbiblical”
If he marries another woman, he must not deprive the first one of her food, clothing and marital rights. Exodus 21:10


REVELATION
PART 3 - WHEN FAITH PUTS YOU IN DANGER

What was life like for the recipients of the message of Revelation?

REVELATION: ROME & THE SEVEN CHURCHES

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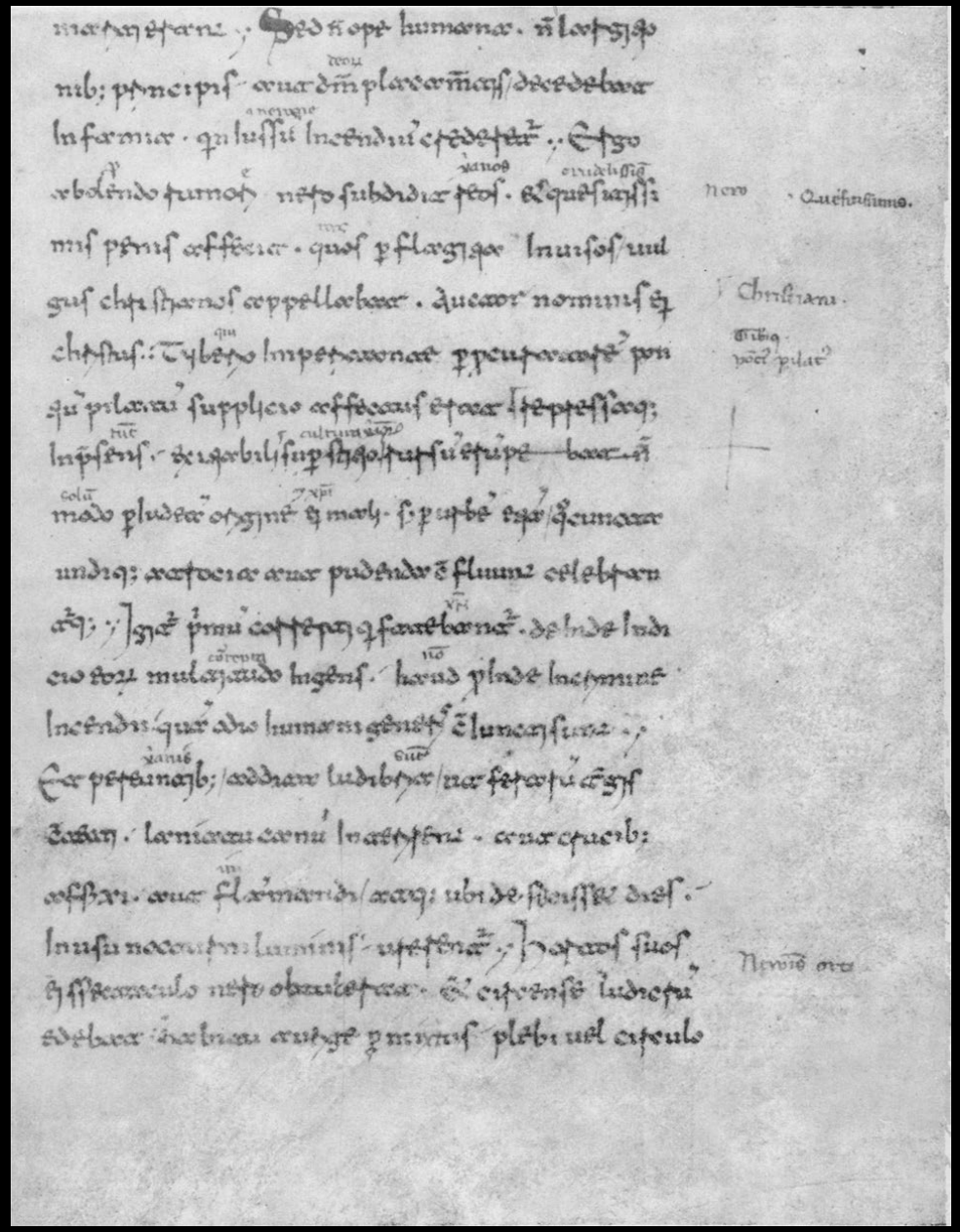

NOW WESTERN TURKEY
BITHYNIA
GALATIA
Troas
Assos
AEGEAN SEA
Pergamum (2:12-17)
Thyatira (2:18-29)
Sardis (3:1-6)
Philadelphia (3:7-13)
Laodicea (3:14-22)
Mitylene
ASIA
Smyrna (2:8-11)
Ephesus (2:1-7)
Miletus
Colossae
Samos
Patmos (1:9)
Attalia
Perga
LYCIA
CILICIA
Cos
Cnidus



Nero 54 - 68



Domitian 81 - 96

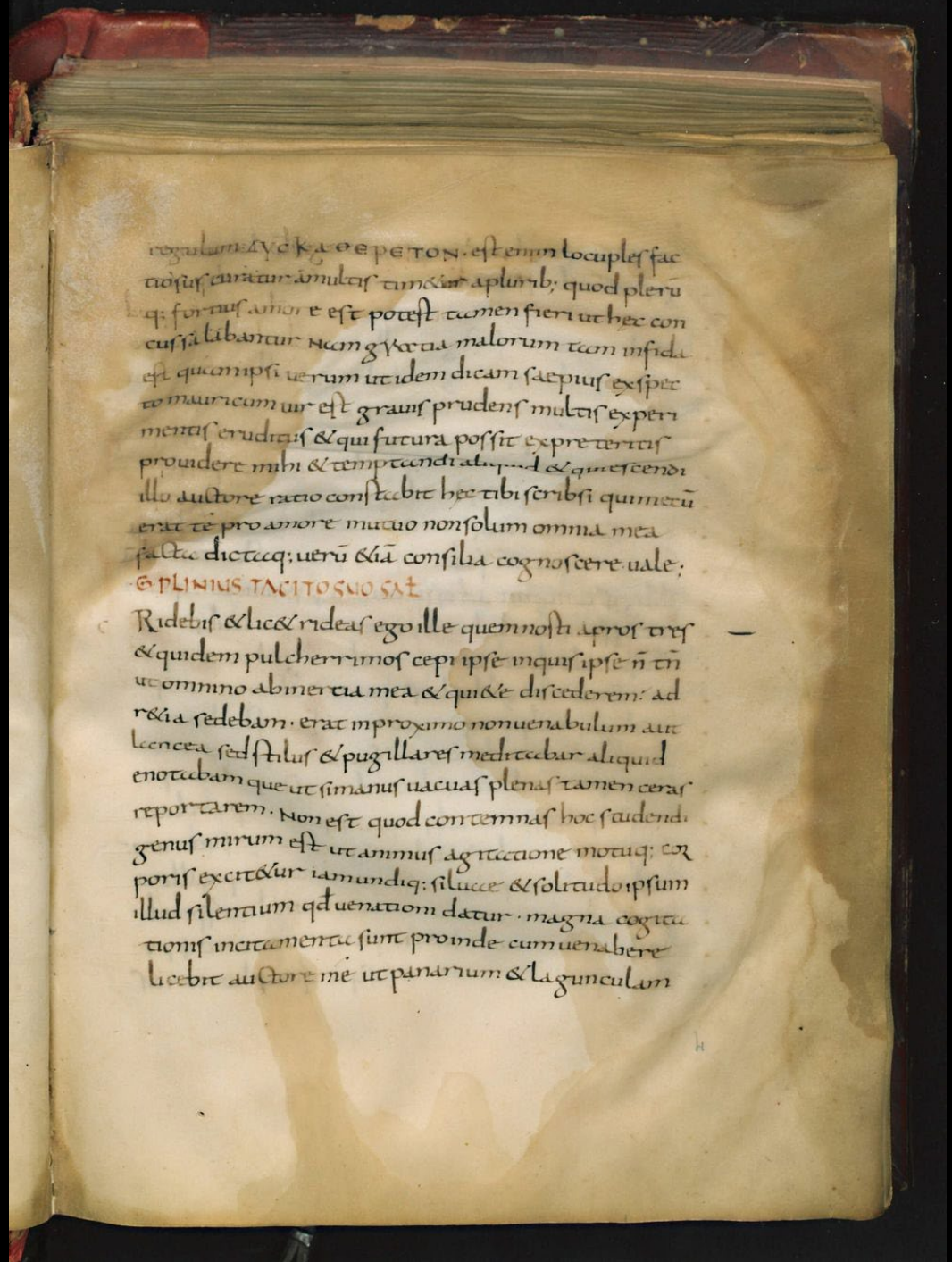


Tacitus "Annals of Imperial Rome" 120 AD

But all human efforts, all the lavish gifts of the emperor, and the propitiations of the gods, did not banish the sinister belief that the conflagration was the result of an order. Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus,

and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judæa, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular. Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind.

Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired. Nero offered his gardens for the spectacle, and was exhibiting a show in the circus, while he mingled with the people in the dress of a charioteer or stood aloft on a car. Hence, even for criminals who deserved extreme and exemplary punishment, there arose a feeling of compassion; for it was not, as it seemed, for the public good, but to glut one man's cruelty, that they were being destroyed.



Letters from Pliny to Trajan from Bithynia 112 AD

...they were accustomed to meet on a fixed day before dawn and sing responsively a hymn to Christ as to a god, and to bind themselves by oath, not to some crime, but not to commit fraud, theft, or adulteery, not falsify their trust, nor to refuse to return a trust when called upon to do so. When this was over, it was their custom to depart and to assemble again to partake of food--but ordinary and innocent food. Even this, they affirmed, they had ceased to do after my edict by which, in accordance with your instructions, I had forbidden political associations. Accordingly, I judged it all the more necessary to find out what the truth was by torturing two female slaves who were called deaconesses. But I discovered nothing else but depraved, excessive superstition....

SMYRNA

10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.
11 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

PHILADELPHIA

8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

2 TIMOTHY 3:10-12

10 You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, 11 persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. 12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,