

## Israel and the Church in Apocalyptic Perspective Election, Covenant, Affliction and Salvation in the Revelation of John

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Funded by the Austrian Research Fund (FWF)  
Project Nr.: P28418-G24  
Funding: € 168,399.00  
Duration: 1 December 2015 – 30 November 2018



The Treves Apocalypse, Codex 31  
Stadtbibliothek Trier

This project examines the apocalyptic perspective on Israel and the Church in the Book of Revelation. It will be shown that the apocalyptic afflictions and the persecution of Jews and Christians by powers inimical to God are situated within Revelation's reference to a final Exodus. Focusing on the topics of election, covenant, affliction and salvation, the project pursues the question: Does Israel continue to be the object of God's saving activity in the Book of Revelation? Understood within its biblical context, the ecclesiology of Revelation will be proven as relevant and helpful for current theology.



The woman clothed with the sun and the dragon who attempts to devour her child, one of the scenes from the Book of Revelation in a fresco of Giotto di Bondone in the apse of the Baptistery of Padua

### Thesis:

The eschatological people of God in the Book of Revelation is in basic continuity with the history of God and Israel. An investigation of Rev 11:19, 12 and 21:3 will show that Israel is a permanent focus of the salvific action of God.

Further, it will be argued that Revelation includes an implicit covenant theology. This will raise the question whether the covenant(s) with Israel remain in force for the author of Revelation.

In relation to Rev 11:19 and 12, the passages of Isa 26:17-18, 19-21; 66:6-9, 16, 22 and Dan 9:27 provide interesting linguistic parallels, common motifs and corresponding action sequences. In the end, the perspective of the Book of Revelation on Israel and the Church is important both for the Church's own identity today and for contemporary Jewish-Christian dialogue.

### Target Outcomes

- ◆ conference (24–26 April 2017) with specialists on the topic
- ◆ publication of a monograph