

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Week 8 – Satanic Warfare

October 31, 2017

Welcome to the middle of the Tribulation! (Note your chart in the handout for Week One [bottom of page 8 through page 10] for a bird's eye view of what transpires during the middle of the 7 year Tribulation) We have already entered the last half of the Tribulation in Rev. 8 & 9. We then entered an *intermission* portion of Revelation in Rev. 10 which will continue through Rev. 15. Rev. 12 discusses Lucifer's dastardly rebellion against God (Isa. 14:12-21; Eze. 28:11-15), Satan's attempts to destroy the Messianic line, and Satan's casting out of heaven at the middle of the Tribulation.

REVELATION 12

12 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. ² Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. ³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴ His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. ⁵ She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. ⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. ⁷ And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, 'Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. ¹² Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.' ¹³ Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. ¹⁴ But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. ¹⁵ So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. ¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. ¹⁷ And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The midpoint of the Tribulation marks a major turning point during the 70th week of Daniel, the time of Jacob's trouble which is the Tribulation. In the book of Revelation we read of God's protection of Israel during the first 3.5 years of the Tribulation (based on Dan. 9:27 and the antichrist's counterfeit peace treaty with Israel). Then we read of God's preservation of Israel during the last 3.5 years of the Tribulation. Three significant events occur at this time which pave the way for the final half of the Tribulation:

- Satanic warfare in heaven and on earth (Rev. 12).
- Worship of the antichrist and the creation of an idol of himself (Rev. 13).
- The seeming death and resurrection of the antichrist (Rev. 13).

Satan's strategy is now unmasked as he attempts to eradicate Israel during the second half of the Tribulation. In Rev. 12, we see two great conflicts involving Satan (the dragon) and his demonic forces – one in heaven and the other on earth. Though distinct, these battles are closely related.

We first see a woman who is clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and a crown of twelve stars on top of her head. The woman is pregnant and is about to give birth. She is being pursued by a great red dragon, whose tail has swept a third of the *stars* from heaven and cast them to earth. *Stars* often speak of angels in Scripture (Job 38:7; Rev. 9:1). A third of the angels fell with Lucifer when Lucifer rebelled against God (Isa. 14:12-15; Eze. 28:11-15). These fallen angels are demons.

The dragon is standing by the woman to catch her Child when she gives birth, in order to kill the Child. But when she gives birth, her Child is caught up to heaven to God and His throne and the woman flees to the wilderness and is nourished by God for 1,260 days (Revelation 12:1-6), or "a time, and times, and half a time" which signifies 3 ½ years (Revelation 12:14; Daniel 9:27).

There are three views re: the identity of this woman:

- The Roman Catholic Church believes this woman to be Mary, the mother of Jesus as the woman gives birth to Jesus in this passage. However, we're told that the woman will flee into the wilderness for 1,260 days. That never happened to Mary and it never will happen to her!
- The majority view among Protestants is that the woman represents the Church. The connection is made because in the NT, the Church is noted as the bride of Christ. But, the woman in Rev. 12 cannot be the Church because the woman gives birth to Jesus. Jesus' lineage is from the Jewish line. The Church did not give birth to Jesus. The Church was birthed at Pentecost after the death and resurrection and ascension of Jesus, at the sending of the Holy Spirit.
- The futurist view (the view that understands all that we see happening from Rev. 4 through Rev. 22 as occurring in the future) teaches that the woman in Rev. 12 represents Israel. Support of the woman representing Israel:
 - The woman is clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet and has a crown of twelve stars on her head. And, we see in this chapter that she is with Child.
 - The only other passage in Scripture where we see these symbols clustered together in one place is Gen. 37:9-10. We read of Joseph's dream...of the sun, moon and

eleven stars bowing down to him. When Joseph told Jacob, his father, Jacob's response, "Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you?" The woman in Rev. 12 is Israel. The sons of Jacob were the heads of the tribes of Israel. Isa. 43:1 – we're told that God created Israel through Jacob. Jacob's name was changed to Israel. Jesus came through Jacob's lineage, from the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10).

Rev. 12:3-4 - *And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.* ⁴ *His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.* "...great, fiery red dragon - presents Satan as a cruel monster, a bloody murderer.

Having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems (crowns) on his heads – the seven heads represent seven consecutive evil world empires: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the revived Roman Empire. The first six are historical empires recorded in the Bible (Dan. 2). The revived Roman Empire is future...it's antichrist's kingdom. The ten horns represent a ten-nation confederacy that comes out of the seventh head, the revived Roman Empire, controlled by Satan. The seven crowns upon his heads indicate Satan's authority and his rule over nations which he will give to the beast, the antichrist (Rev. 13:2).

The dragon standing before the woman to kill her Child speaks of Satan's attempts to destroy the Child, Jesus. Satan knew that the Messiah's birth was a threat to his, Satan's, illegal possession and control of the earth (John 12:31; II Cor. 4:4). Before Israel was a nation, it was prophesied that Satan would attempt to annihilate the line of the Messiah. Satan attempted to cut off Jesus' through the death of Abel (Gen. 4); by polluting the godly line of Seth (Gen. 6); through Pharaoh and Abimelech taking Sarah into their "harem" (Gen. 12 & Gen. 20); through Ishmael coming through Egyptian Hagar and Abraham; through attempting to destroy Israel in Egypt (Ex. 1) and in Persia (Esther 3:8-15); attempting to kill Jesus in Bethlehem (Matt. 2:16) and Nazareth (Luke 4:28-29), and at His crucifixion (Matt. 27:33-50). BUT JESUS defeated Satan through His crucifixion (Heb. 2:14). Satan continues to focus on destroying Israel. God has promised the physical Kingdom of God on earth to Israel (the Millennial Kingdom [where Gentile believers will also reside]). The Millennial Kingdom is the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12; Gen. 15; Gen. 17 – which works itself out through the Land Covenant, the Davidic Covenant, and the New Covenant). If Israel is annihilated, what does that make God? A liar, unfaithful! Satan's goal is to thwart God's program!

Rev. 12:5 - *She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.* Clearly, the "male child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron" (v. 5) is Jesus. We read of His ruling the nations in the Millennial Kingdom with a rod of iron in Psa. 2:7.

Rev. 12:6 - *Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.* Israel

flees into the wilderness for 1,260 days – during the last 3.5 years of the Tribulation when the antichrist breaks his agreement of peace with Israel (Dan. 9:26-27).

“Israel” – does this mean that all the Jews will flee into the wilderness or only those who are Jewish believers – “the remnant”?

Micah 2:12-13 - *I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together like sheep of the fold, like a flock in the midst of their pasture; they shall make a loud noise because of so many people.* ¹³ *The one who breaks open will come up before them; they will break out, pass through the gate, and go out by it; their king will pass before them, with the LORD at their head.* Perhaps those fleeing to the wilderness are already believing Jews AND Jews who will come to faith who will be part of “the remnant” as Micah 2:12-13 specifically states that those in the sheepfold (Petra/Bozrah) who will be protected are “the remnant.” Israel will flee into the wilderness where she has a place prepared by God. Many suggest that this place prepared by God is Petra in Jordan. www.jordanjubilee.com How “interesting” that Dan. 11:41 tells us that Edom, Ammon, and Moab (all in Jordan) (Petra is in Jordan) will escape from the antichrist’s hand during the Tribulation!

Why are we thinking that the place of refuge is Petra? Firstly, while the text does not state *Petra*, consider the following: Isa. 34:6 - *For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Edom.* What about “Bozrah” and the great sacrifice and a great slaughter in Edom? Bozrah is near Edom (see map attached); it’s near Petra. What is this sacrifice mentioned in Bozrah? Since the nations coming against Jerusalem during Armageddon had not repented and obeyed God’s way of sacrifice for sin, Jesus (before the Tribulation and during the Tribulation)...and because the wages of sin is death...the nations had to die. This will NOT be a self-atoning scenario! The nations are NOT redeemed by their dying!

AND, Bozrah means sheep pen!

Isa. 63:1-4 - *Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah (the sheep pen); could this be Petra as there is an extremely narrow entrance into Petra which could be protected by THE Shepherd - THE Shepherd Who lays His life down for the sheep [Jn. 10:11, 15b]), this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength? “I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.”* ² *Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?* ³ *“I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples (the nations) no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes.”* ⁴ *For the day of vengeance is in My heart (righteous vengeance motivated by God’s LOVE – coming against wickedness/sin), and the year of My redeemed has come (God’s redemption of Israel [Zech. 12:10ff; Rom. 11:26 – all Israel will be saved])*

In Isaiah 16, God appeals to Moab (in Jordan – near Bozrah) for the protection of “My outcasts” (Israel). The context of this passage is a time of intense persecution and

destruction which is followed by the rule and reign of the Messiah upon the throne of David (the Millennial Kingdom)!

Isa. 16:3-5 - *Hide the outcasts, do not betray him (Israel) who escapes. ⁴ Let My outcasts dwell with you, O Moab; be a shelter to them from the face of the spoiler (the antichrist). For the extortioner is at an end, (Satan is losing!) devastation ceases, the oppressors are consumed out of the land. (Satan will be defeated [Dan. 9:27]). ⁵ In mercy the throne will be established; and One will sit on it in truth, in the tabernacle of David, judging and seeking justice and hastening righteousness.*"

During this time, the remnant will be hidden in their chambers.

Isa. 26:20-21 – *Come, my people (Israel – in the context), enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past. ²¹ For behold, the LORD comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain.* Jesus comes from Bozrah (Isa. 63:1-4) with bloodied garments from fighting “the nations” coming against Israel at Petra/Bozrah.

Rev. 12:6 – Israel flees into the wilderness and “they” shall feed the Jewish people there one thousand two hundred and sixty days – 3.5 years (Rev. 12:6). Who’s the “they” who will be feeding Israel for 1,260 days – 3.5 years? Matt. 25:31-40 - Jesus’ judgment of the Gentile nations occurs after all the nations come against Jerusalem during Armageddon, after Jesus’ Second Coming, and after Jesus fights the enemy. NOTE that the nations being judged are DISTINCT from Jesus’ “brethren” in v. 40. Are the SHEEP those believers who feed Israel during the last half of the Tribulation? Please know that this is NOT teaching works salvation. There’s only one way to be saved throughout the Bible: by grace, through faith, in God’s revealed message. What the sheep did in feeding the Jewish people is evidence of the genuine faith on the part of the sheep.

Petra is located in a basin within Mount Seir (Edom) and is totally surrounded by mountains and cliffs. The only way in and out of the city is through a narrow passageway that extends for about a mile and can only be negotiated by foot or by horseback. (See more information re: Petra at end of handout) Again, the name of *Bozrah* means “sheepfold.” An ancient sheepfold had a narrow entrance so that the shepherd could count his sheep. Once inside the fold, the sheep had more room to move around. Petra is shaped like a giant sheepfold, with its narrow passage opening up to a spacious circle surrounded by cliffs!

In the book of Revelation we are seeing God’s protection of Israel by His sealing of the 144,000...and His preservation of Israel (the remnant-those who are/will be saved) as we see Him guiding them into the wilderness and provided for – for a total of 3.5 years which brings us to the end of the Tribulation.

In Rev. 12 the woman will flee into the wilderness and then we read of the casting out of Satan from heaven to the earth. Hasn’t Satan already been cast out of heaven? In Isa. 14 we read of Satan’s fall from heaven but Satan has had access to God.

- In Job 1, Satan comes before God to report his roaming to and fro on the earth.

- In John 12:31 Jesus said before His crucifixion - *Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.* Cross reference with Heb. 2:14 - *through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,*

Satan is now a defeated enemy! At the cross, Jesus took away Satan's power. We have a progression of Satan being cast out. In Rev. 12 – at the mid point of the Tribulation - Satan no longer has access to God. He can no longer accuse the brethren (Rev. 12:10). Then in Rev. 20 Satan is cast into the lake of fire.

Rev. 12:7-9 - ⁷ *And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,* ⁸ *but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.* ⁹ *So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.* Michael, the archangel (Jude v. 9), whose ministry is to oversee and protect the nation of Israel (Dan. 12:1 - *Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, ...*), ...Michael and his angels will fight against Satan and his demons. Michael will gain the victory over Satan and cast him out of heaven onto the earth. Satan will forever be excluded from access to God (v. 8).

We read of three judgments on Satan in Scripture:

- As already said, Satan will be cast out of heaven, excluded from access to God.
- He will be bound and sealed in the bottomless pit during the Millennial Kingdom (Rev. 20:1-3).
- He will be cast into the lake of fire to be tormented forever (Rev. 20:10)

Rev. 12:10-12 - *Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, 'Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.'* ¹² *Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.* The loud voice, from heaven, most likely in unison, while not identified, most likely coming from the angels, the 24 elders, and the martyred Tribulations saints. We hear praise for the completion of God's redemptive program! But the earth is given a warning..."Woe...." The world has been under the wrath of God but now must face the uncontrollable anger of Satan as he pours out the most vile hatred possible upon humanity...because he knows his time is short.

Rev. 12:13-14 - ¹³ *Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is*

nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. Satan's intense hatred of Israel will reach its climax.

God's end time program revolves around Israel. Satan is bent on destroying God's credibility. God has promised the Kingdom of God to Israel. BUT GOD provides a way for the woman to escape. Some have speculated that the two wings of a great eagle refer to the United States Air Force as the eagle is a symbol for the United States. They speculate that this is speaking of an airlift of the fleeing Jewish people during the Tribulation.

Let's interpret Scripture with Scripture. From Rev. 12:14 we might remember...

- Ex. 19:4 - *You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.*
- Deut. 32:11 - *As an eagle stirs up its nest, hovers over its young, spreading out its wings, taking them up, carrying them on its wings....*

From these OT verses, it appears that the "two wings of the great eagle" refers to God's future miraculous help and protection of Israel that will secure her deliverance.

Rev. 12:15-17 - ¹⁵ *So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.* ¹⁷ *And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.* Satan, in one last effort to exterminate Israel, will send "water like a flood after the woman" (v. 15) to destroy her. Israel will be spared from Satan's tactic when God sends an earthquake to swallow up the flood (v. 16). The text indicates that the water is *like* a flood. Some teach that the flood comprises overwhelming military tactics. The flood originates from Satan – from his mouth – from the mouth of the dragon. Supernatural? Why not?

Being unable to destroy Israel will intensify Satan's anger and cause him to make war with the rest of the woman's offspring.

Views:

- Gentile believers – we've already seen the souls in the 5th seal who were martyred because of their faith. And, also, the countless number of Tribulation saints from all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues.
- Physical descendants of Israel who are Jewish but not Jewish believers. These may be Jews who are keeping the Mosaic Law.

Satan fights a battle he can never win, for God has sworn that Israel will continue before Him (Jer. 31:35-37). Her continued existence is also required in order to fulfill aspects of the Abrahamic, Land, Davidic, and New Covenants which have yet to be fulfilled and will be in the Millennial Kingdom. By the end of Jacob's time of trouble, the only Israel will be a believing Israel!

Jer. 31:34 - *No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to*

the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

QUESTIONS:

Why does this matter to God? What have you learned from this chapter that brings glory and honor to God?

How, through you, will this chapter impact others?

How does this chapter impact you?

What are your thoughts about the woman clothed with the sun and the moon and with the garland of stars?

Did you view the sign of the woman differently prior to this lesson?

How do you now understand this great sign?

What are your thoughts regarding the Satanic warfare in this chapter?

How does this speak to you personally?

What is your main take-away from Revelation 12?

STRONGLY SUGGESTED HOMEWORK:

Reread the handout.

Should you disagree with any of the views, note your observations and list your questions.

Begin to answer your questions from Scripture.

Read the lesson for week 9 when it arrives.

Share what you are learning with one or two people.

PETRA

Petra is located about 50miles/80km south of the "Dead Sea".

Security: Petra it was once a fortress, carved out of rocks in an area, which was virtually inaccessible, and the "Nabataean" inhabitants held off outside conquests for hundreds of years, until Roman legions of the Emperor Trajan finally overcame both geological and social military barriers to occupy the city in 106 A.D. The main entrance to the city of Petra is the "Siq", a winding, 0.63mile/1km long fissure between overhanging cliffs that rise up to more than 300ft/90meters overhead. In times of war the city was easy to defend against invaders, as just a few people were needed to hold off the intruders that were coming through the narrow opening of the "Siq". The pathway through the "Siq", originally paved, is now largely covered with soft sand, even though the remains of the Nabataean construction can still be seen in some places. The "Siq" was formed at some time in the geological past by the same earthquake activity that has tortured the area ever since.

Water Provision and Flood-Prevention:

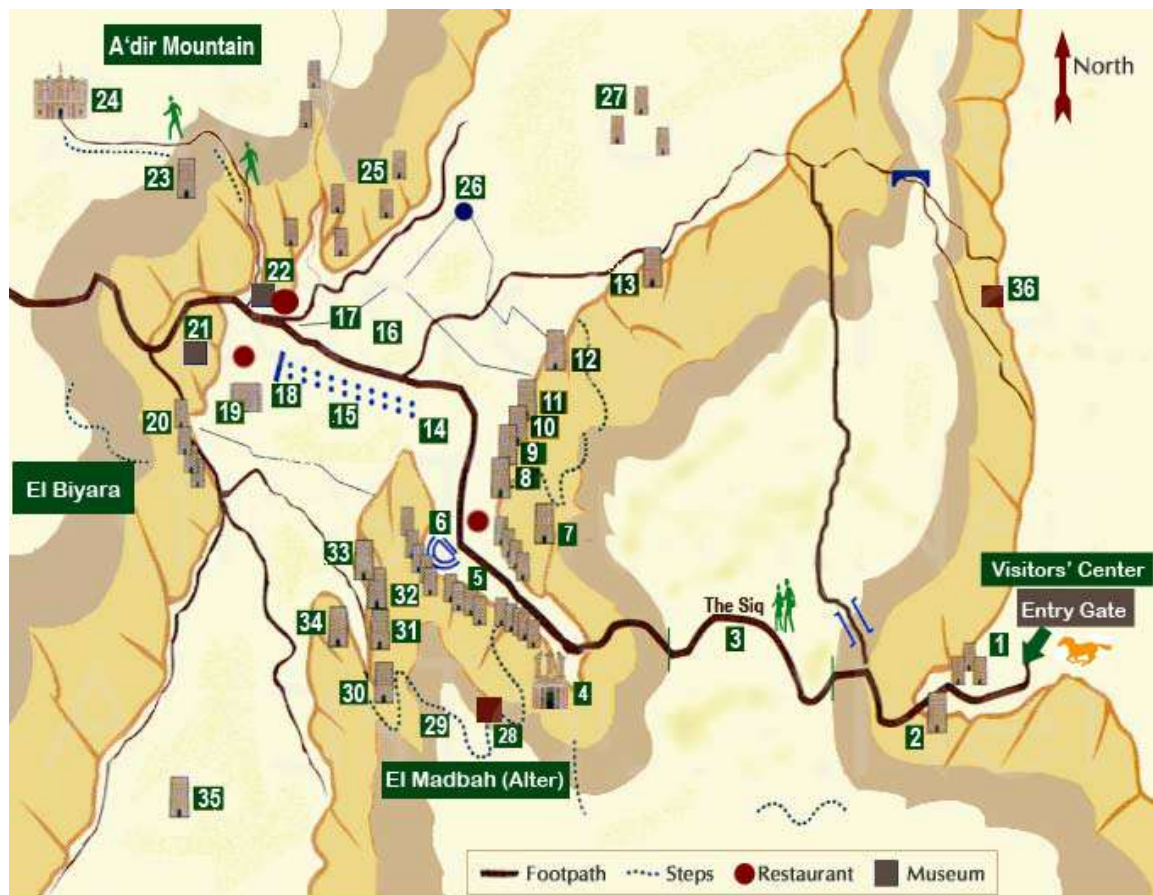
The Nabataeans were expert hydraulic engineers. The walls of the "Siq" are lined with channels (originally fitted with chamfered clay pipes of efficient design) to carry drinking water to the city, while a dam to the right of the entrance diverted an adjoining stream through a tunnel to prevent it flooding the "Siq". The Nabataeans saved every last drop of

water. They had basins to catch water runoff, underground channels and cisterns to house water all over the site.

City Of The Dead:

There are reportedly between 500 and 3000 tombs from different time periods in and around Petra; archeologists do call some of them temples because of their monumental magnificence.





Petra Map Legend

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|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Djin Blocks | 10 Corinthian Tomb | 19 Qasr Al-Bint | 28 High Palace of Sacrifice |
| 2 Obelisk Tomb | 11 Palace Tomb | 20 Unfinished Tomb | 29 Lion Monument |
| 3 Al-Siq | 12 Florentinus Tomb | 21 Al-Habees Museum | 30 Garden Temple |
| 4 The Treasury | 13 House of Dorotheos | 22 Archeological Museum | 31 Triclinium |
| 5 Street of Facades | 14 The Nymphaeum | 23 Lion Triclinium | 32 Renaissance Tomb |
| 6 The Theater | 15 Colonnaded Street | 24 A'Deir | 33 Broken Pediment Tomb |
| 7 Aneisho Tomb | 16 Byzantine Church | 25 Turkmanian Tomb | 34 Roman Soldier Tomb |
| 8 Um Tomb | 17 Winged Lion Temple | 26 Conway Tower | 35 Snake Monument |
| 9 Silk Tomb | 18 The Arched Gate | 27 Moghar Annassara | 36 Crusader Fort |