ALLUSIONS, EXEGETICAL METHOD, AND THE INTERPRETATION OF
REVELATION 8:7-12

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This dissertation attempts to overcome some of the major obstacles to
the development of a comprehensive exegetical method that can enable an
interpreter to unlock the meaning of such difficult apocalyptic passages as
Rev 8:7-12.

The first chapter utilizes a survey of previous research to explore four
issues whose resolution is vital to the interpretation of the book of Revela-
tion: (1) the sources of the Apocalypse, (2) how the Revelator used them,
(3) the language and text tradition of the OT that he used, and (4) the
nature and location of his allusions to earlier literature. The literature
survey indicates that the major obstacle to the accurate interpretation of
Revelation is the lack of an objective method for evaluating the allusions
to prior literature that characterize the book.

Chap. 2 opens with a brief outline of a comprehensive exegetical
method for the study of the Apocalypse. The bulk of the chapter focuses on
a proposed method that can enable interpreters to evaluate more objec-
tively the allusions in Revelation. Through a painstaking analysis of the
verbal, thematic, and structural parallels to the OT in Rev 8:7-12, the
process of evaluating proposed allusions to the OT is clearly demonstrated.
The results of that analysis proved to have implications for many of the
issues raised by the literature survey of chap. 1.

Chap. 3 offers an interpretation of Rev 8:7-12 in the light of the
comprehensive method outlined at the beginning of chap. 2. The imagery
of the passage is compared to its context, to the author's sources, and
to the overall structure of the Apocalypse. Relevant insights from the first
two chapters are incorporated. The resulting interpretations illuminate
to an unprecedented degree the basic meaning structures of the first four
trumpets.