



# The Final Word: Reading Revelation

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Revd Dr James Harding

600-800 MISSING IN BIZARRE RITUAL

All Editions

# Rev. Jones, 408 Cultists Dead



Georgetown, Guyana (UPI) — The Rev. Jim Jones, head of the fanatical cult that killed a U.S. congressman and four other people, led family members and hundreds of American disciples to their deaths in a mass suicide-murder ritual, the Guyanese government said Monday.

A statement released by Information Minister Shirley Field-Ratley put the number of Americans found dead at 303, including 142 women, 42 children and 128 men. Later reports from police at the scene put the toll at 409.

Another 600 to 800 members of the cult still were missing after having fled screaming into the jungle surrounding their commune 150 miles west of Georgetown.

NEW DETAILS of the bizarre death ritual came to light when Guyanese authorities allowed a pool reporter to visit the commune Monday night.

Police told the reporter, Charles Krause of the Washington Post, that most of the Rev. Mr. Jones' dead followers either poisoned themselves by drinking a lethal brew of cyanide or by shooting one another.

Most of the bodies — including the Rev. Mr. Jones — were found in a heap around an open altar with couples embracing one another in death, said S.A. Roberts, Guyana's assistant national police commissioner.

Roberts said that the first victims were apparently the children, who had a purple cyanide solution made as a large mixing vat "poured down their throats." Then adults took the lethal poison in small plastic cups, he said.

THE REV. MR. JONES was found lying on his back dressed in a dashiki (African) shirt and black slacks. Roberts said the 46-year-old self-styled "bishop" had been shot in the head, but he did not know whether the Rev. Mr. Jones had

• More photos Page 6A and 42

an estimated \$1 million — half of it in gold and jewelry and half in various currencies — at the commune.

Also found were envelopes full of uncashed U.S. Social Security checks given to the commune by its elder members.

MARK LANE, an American lawyer who acted as counsel for the cult, told newsmen earlier that the poison victims happily drank the lethal brew laced out of a big tub by the commune's doctor and nurse.

Grinning executioners, loyal to "Bishop" Jones until the end, mowed down many of the cultists as they tried to flee screaming into the jungle.

Guyanese troops who took over the camp Monday found just one person alive.

Lane said he counted 83 bursts of semi-automatic weapons fire as the bizarre mass suicide began Saturday night, after the congressman's ambush in Port Kaituma.

MEMBERS OF THE Peoples Temple sect massacred Rep. Leo J. Ryan (D-Calif.) and four other Americans in a jungle ambush Sunday evening as the Americans were heading back to the United States with 66 defectors from the commune at Jonestown, 150 miles west of Georgetown near the Venezuela border. Eight other Americans were wounded

In Washington, a Pentagon spokesman

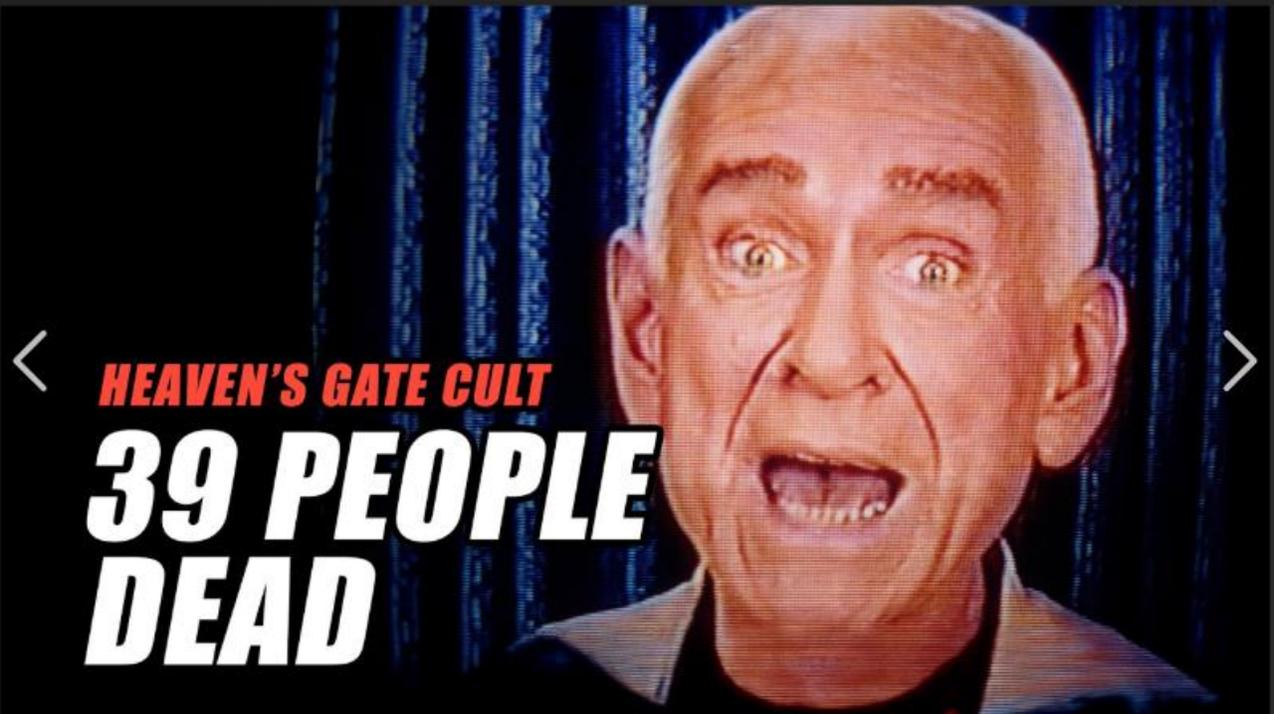


Bodies lie on an airstrip at Jonestown, Guyana, beside the plane which was to take them to Georgetown for return to the United States. They are four of the five Americans slain in an ambush by members of the Peoples Temple cult. Among the five is Rep. Leo J. Ryan (D-Calif.)

who had led a group investigating charges by his constituents that their relatives were being held in Guyana against their will and subjected to sexual and mental abuses. (UPI)

## Kidnap Victims Believed

### Slain By Members of Cult



HEAVEN'S GATE CULT  
39 PEOPLE  
DEAD

THE DRAGON AND THE  
WOMAN (REVELATION 12)



REVELATION 17



DAN



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THE BEAST (G...  
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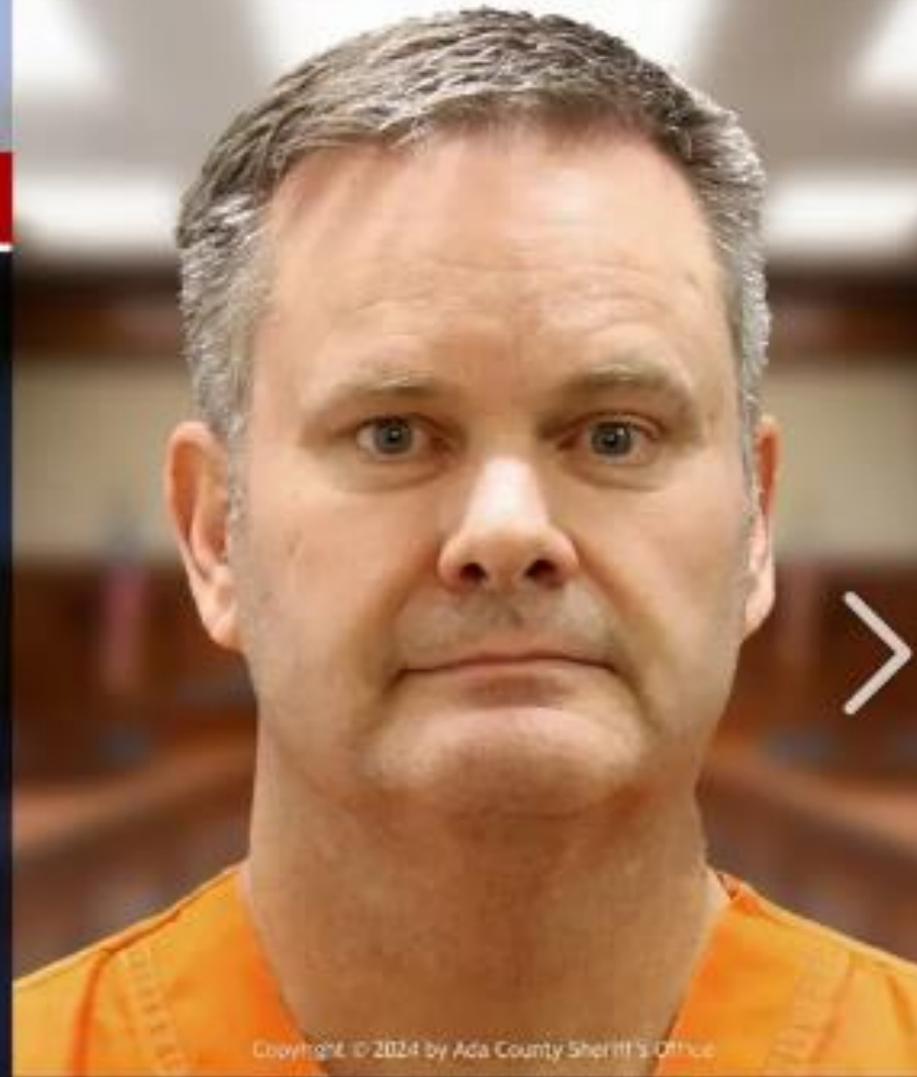
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# CHAD DAYBELL

## MURDER TRIAL VERDICT

- CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT 1ST DEGREE MURDER AND GRAND THEFT BY DECEPTION (TYLEE RYAN)
- 1ST DEGREE MURDER (TYLEE RYAN)
- CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT 1ST DEGREE MURDER AND GRAND THEFT BY DECEPTION (JJ VALLOW)
- 1ST DEGREE MURDER (JJ VALLOW)
- CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT 1ST DEGREE MURDER (TAMMY DAYBELL)
- 1ST DEGREE MURDER (TAMMY DAYBELL)
- INSURANCE FRAUD (TAMMY DAYBELL)

**GUILTY**



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**ALL CHARGES**

# Discussion Time

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How do you feel about reading the book of Revelation?

Do you ignore it... or are you obsessed by it?

Is it a dangerous book?

Is your response Fight... or Flight?

# Six clues for reading

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<sup>1</sup>The <sup>1</sup>revelation <sup>(of)</sup> Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place; <sup>2</sup>he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, <sup>2</sup> who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

<sup>3</sup> Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of the <sup>(prophecy)</sup>, and <sup>3</sup>blessed are those who hear and who <sup>4</sup>keep what is written in it; for the time is near.

# Six hermeneutical clues

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<sup>1</sup>revelation = apokalupsis = *revelatio*

= remove a veil

= to unveil

= to reveal

= no longer hidden

# Six hermeneutical clues

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<sup>2</sup>he made it known = **esēmanen**

= signify with symbols and signs

= metaphors and pictures

= “like”

# Discussion Time

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# Six hermeneutical clues

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<sup>3</sup>blessed = makarios

= happy

= not worried

= defined in the Beatitudes *cf.* Mt 5

# Six hermeneutical clues

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<sup>4</sup>keep = tērēo

= obey the commandments

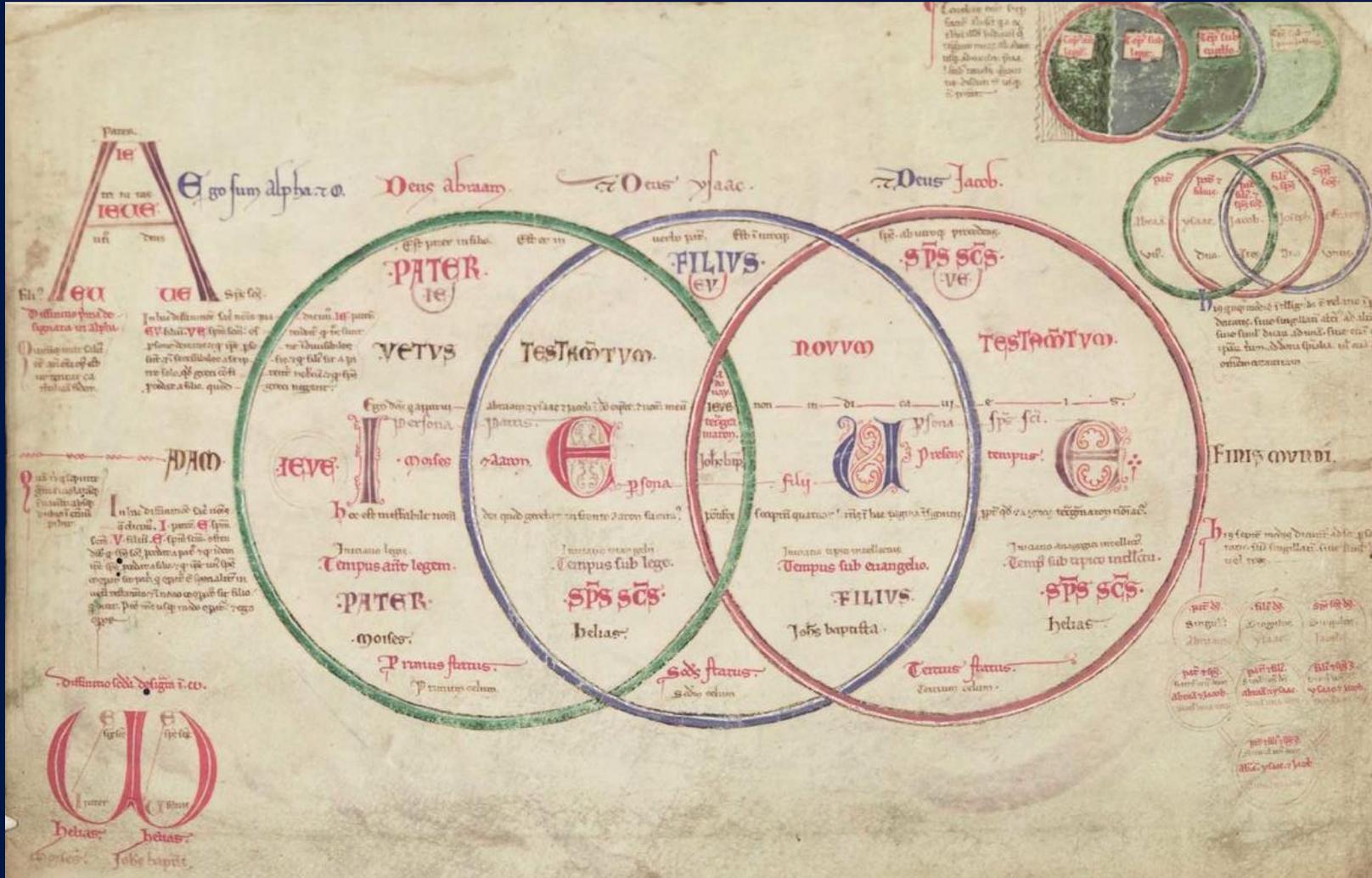
prophecy

= instructive NOT predictive

# Discussion Time

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# Recapitulation



Joachim of Fiore, *Liber Figurarum* c. 1199

# Six hermeneutical clues

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Prophecy = Three Cycles:

- Historical *cf.* Dt 13:1-5
- Christocentric *cf.* Mt 22:40; Lk 24:44
- Eschatological *cf.* Acts 2:14

# Six hermeneutical clues

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OF Jesus Christ =

Rev. 1:8; 1:11 “the Alpha and the Omega ... beginning and end... who is and who was and who is to come”

Rev. 1:17 “the first and the last”

# Discussion Time

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