

Introduction to Revelation

Today: Introduction to Revelation

- Name
- Written by
- Written to
- Setting
- Possible Dates
- Biblical Background
- Theme
- Three Issues that Make Revelation Difficult: symbolism, structure, and strange words

The Four Schools of Interpretation:

1. Preterist
 - a. Views Revelation as...
 - b. Strengths of Preterism
 - c. Weaknesses of Preterism
 - d. How Old Is Preterism? Luis de Alcazar (1554-1613) or as early as the 4th century
 - e. Preterist Authors: Jay Adams, R.C. Sproul, Douglas Wilson (Partial Preterists)
2. Historicist
 - a. Views Revelation as...
 - b. Strengths of Historicism
 - c. Weaknesses of Historicism
 - d. How Old Is Historicism? Joachim of Fiore (12th century) or as early as the 4th century
 - e. Historicist Authors: Most Reformers and Puritans
3. Idealist
 - a. Views Revelation as...
 - b. Strengths of Idealism
 - c. Weaknesses of Idealism
 - d. How Old Is Idealism? The time of the Renaissance (14th–17th centuries) Earlier?
 - e. Idealist Authors: Karl Barth, Andrew Hoekema, Philip Hughes
4. Futurist
 - a. Views Revelation as...
 - b. Strengths of Futurism
 - c. Weaknesses of Futurism

- d. How Old Is Futurism? Francisco Ribera (1537–1591) or the Church Fathers (2nd century)
- e. Futurist Authors: Alistair Begg, Wayne Grudem, John MacArthur

All Believers Agree on Three Essential Truths of Revelation:

1. The return of Christ as judge and king who will reign forever
2. The resurrection of the dead (to eternal life or eternal condemnation)
3. The restoration of all creation (and the banishment of sin, suffering, death, and Satan)

Three Dangers of Studying Prophecy:

1. Lack of Focus (2 Thess. 3:6)
2. Pride (1 Cor. 13:4)
3. Divisiveness (1 Tim. 1:5)

Six Benefits of Studying Prophecy:

1. Prophecy reconfirms that suffering for Christ is the way of life for a believer.
 - a. Rev. 1:9, “I John, your brother and **partner in the tribulation** ... on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.”
2. Prophecy spurs us on to holiness.
 - a. 1 Jn. 3:2-3, “Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him **purifies himself as he is pure.**”
3. Prophecy gives comfort to Believers because “in the end, we win.”
 - a. 1 Thess. 4:18, “Therefore encourage one another **with these words.**”
4. Prophecy redirects us to the sovereignty of God in history.
 - a. Is. 46:10, “Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and **I will accomplish all my purpose.**’”
5. Prophecy encourages us to focus on the return of Christ and the new creation.
 - a. Col. 3:1, “If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek the things that are above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.”

6. Prophecy helps us to know Jesus Christ better—our King, Shepherd, and Bridegroom.
 - a. Rev. 19:10, “For the testimony of Jesus is **the spirit of Prophecy.**”