

THE REVELATION

LESSON 1: FOUR APPROACHES TO THE REVELATION

Intro:

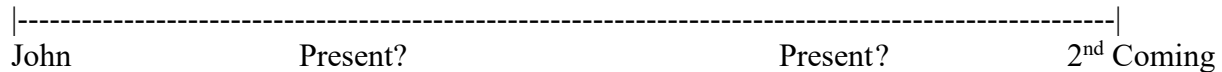
BIG IDEA: The _____ you bring to the text determine how you _____ the text.

We all look at *The Revelation* thru a pair of _____.

¹⁷ The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him.

Proverbs 18

Historicist: views *The Revelation* as “a prewritten record of the course of history from the time of the apostle to the end of time.”¹



12th century: Anselm of Havelberg & Joachim of Floris => The Franciscans => Reformers

Today, 7th Day Adventists

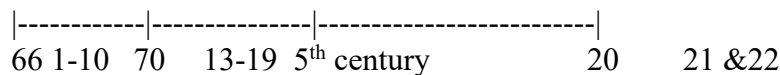
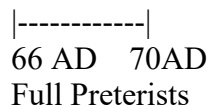
Futurist: “yet to be fulfilled”.



Counter-Reformation => John Nelson Darby

Preterist: mostly fulfilled in 70 AD (and the Fall of Rome). The Revelation predicts the destruction of _____ and judgment upon unbelieving _____.

Degrees of Preterism: R.C. Sproul summarizes *full preterism* as “consistent”, theologically driven and more extreme. He calls *partial preterism* more moderate, exegetically driven and within the bounds of orthodoxy.²



¹ Gregg, Steve. *Revelation: Four Views- A Parallel Commentary*. Nashville, Thomas Nelson Publishing. 1997. pp. 2.

² Sproul, R.C. *The Last Days According to Jesus*. Grand Rapids, Baker Book House. 1998. pp. 155.

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Partial Preterists

Differences Between Preterists³

| | Full Preterists | Full Preterists | Partial Preterists | Partial Preterists |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | 70 AD | End of History | 70 AD | End of History |
| Coming of Christ | | | | |
| Resurrection & Rapture | | | | |
| Day of the Lord | | | | |
| Judgment | | | | |

“The resurrection and judgment at AD 70 were once-for-all events like the Cross and Christ’s resurrection.” **Edward Stevens** (a full preterist)⁴

Jesuits=> John Gill => Conservative Reformed theologians

Idealist: “does not attempt to find individual fulfillments of the visions, but takes *Revelation* to be a great drama depicting transcendent spiritual realities...”⁵

Examples:

| | Historicist | Futurist | Preterist | Idealist |
|---------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| The Beast | Pope/Luther | Antichrist | Roman Emperor | Persecuting state |
| Locust Plague | Islamic invasion of the West | Apache attack helicopters | Moral decay of Rome | Picture of the misery of sin |

TALK ABOUT IT:

Strengths of the Views

Historicist- connects the material with _____ time, if vaguely. Affirms a future & final crisis.

Futurist- points to a future & final crisis.

Preterist- connects the material with the _____ context of the _____ audience.

Idealist- connects the material with the historical context of the original audience, with our present time, and a future & final crisis.

Weaknesses of the Views

Historicist- lots of _____ and _____ where you are on the timetable.

³ Ibid, pp. 157, adapted for use.

⁴ Stevens, Edward. *What Happened in A.D. 70?* Bradford, PA, Kingdom Publications. 1997. pp. 33.

⁵ Gregg. pp. 2-3.

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Futurist- Application to any generation is by _____. Little/no connection to _____ audience.

Preterist- Application to current generation is _____.

Idealist- can make _____ a fulfillment such that _____ is a fulfillment.

APPLICATION: Combining the Insights!

Recall the historical situation of the original audience.

Realize there are similar situations today as patterns repeat.

Recognize the movement of Revelation toward the end.

“The major symbols of Revelation represent a repeated pattern. This pattern has a realization in the first-century situation of the seven churches. It also has an embodiment in the final crisis. And it has an embodiment now. We pay special attention to the embodiment now, because we must apply the lessons of Revelation to where we are.” **Vern Poythress**⁶

⁶ Poythress, Vern. *The Returning King: A Guide to the Book of Revelation*. Philipsburg, P&R Publishing. 2000. pp. 37.