

## **Introduction to Revelations Part 2**

### **Read Revelation 1:1-11**

**This is a book that kooks, crooks, creeps & spellbinders have taken advantage ...**

**Example David Koresh Branch Davidians ... called himself “the sinful messiah”**

**Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.**

**Revelation 1:1-3 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: 2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. 3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.**

**Revelation 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which (Greek: about to take place) shall be hereafter;**

**Revelation 22:10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.**

**Revelation 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

**Daniel 12:4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.**

**Daniel 12:9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.**

**I Peter 1:10-12 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: 11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow 12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into**

**Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.**

**Acts 1:9** And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

**Daniel 7:13-14** I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. (First Coming, Christ's Ascension Not End time)

**Isaiah 19:1** The burden of Egypt. Behold, the Lord rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it. (Cloud immergy)

**Matthew 16:28** Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

**Matthew 26:63-64** But Jesus held his peace, And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. 64 Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

**Matthew 24:29-31** Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: 30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth (Land) mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

**Matthew 24:34** Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. (Perfect Generation 40yrs. 30AD = 40yrs = 70AD Destruction)

**Isaiah 13:9-10** Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. 10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

**Zachariah 12:10** And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me

whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. (Spirit poured out Pentecost 30AD, Verse used to prove First coming of Christ by John and Jesus alludes to it in cf:)

**Luke 23:27-28** And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him. **28** But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children.

**John 19:32-37** Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. **33** But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: **34** But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. **35** And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. **36** For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. **37** And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.

**Ezekiel 23:2** Son of man, there were two women, the daughters of one mother:

**Ezekiel 32:7-8** And when I shall put thee out, I will cover the heaven, and make the stars thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light. **8** All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over thee, and set darkness upon thy land, saith the Lord God.

**Revelation 4 Views:**

**Pre-trib, Mid-Trib & Post-Trib = 3 views of one view the Futurist View**

**Pre-Mil, Post-Mil & A Millennium = 3 views of one chapter Revelation 20**

**Date and Authorship both disputed ... this was the last book to be canonized**

**Late Date: Domitian reigned 81-96 AD. Today almost all modern scholars, my friends, mentors, teachers, and my old professor from Bible college all hold to the later date. This has strong evidence from the quality of modern scholarship.**

**There is external evidence that some church fathers thought it was written 95 AD**

**Early Date: Nero reigned 54-68 AD**

**64 AD persecution of Church began with fire of Rome unto the death of Nero 68AD**

**This view that Revelation was written early during Nero was held by almost all scholars through the history of the Church until the modern age began in the**

**1900s. Among the foremost for Nero view were Philip Schaff in his first book of the eight volume set: History of The Christian Church. Plus Schaff was president of the translating committee for the American standard revised version of 1885-1901 composed of 100 of the worlds ripest scholars cited a group of twenty reparable scholars who assigned the date to the early Nero period. Among other scholars: Moses Stuart, Bleak, DeWitte, Charles Wordsworth of Cambridge, Author of Biblical Apocalypics; McDonald of Princeton author of The Life and Writings of John; Lightfoot; A Double Plus add to this list: Westcott and Hort authors of the New Testament Greek text.**

**Schaff in his History of the Christian Church stated “none of the leading Apostles remained to record the horrible massacre and destruction of Jerusalem except John ... Who was himself the victim of this persecution.”**

**There is strong internal evidence in Revelation for the early date we will discuss later.**

**Some Church Fathers thought it was written about 95AD because of one man.**

**Irenaeus 130-200 AD Adversus Haereses First discussed and said: (About the number 666) ... and this number (666) being found in all the most approved and ancient copies (3) [of the Apocalypse], and those men who saw John face to face bearing their testimony [to it]; ...**

**Then Irenaeus then said: “We will not, however, incur the risk of pronouncing positively as to the name of Antichrist; for if it were necessary that his name should be distinctly revealed in this present time, it would have been announced by him who beheld the apocalyptic vision. For [it or he] was seen not very long time since, but almost in our day, towards the end of Domitian’s reign.”**

**Irenaeus, Adversus Haereses 5, 30, 3 the Greek text preserved by Eusebius and it’s ambiguous. The part about “being seen” could be translated in three ways:**

**Option #1 For it, that is the vision, was seen not very long ago, but almost in our day, towards the end of Domitian’s reign.**

**Option #2 For it, that is the written book, was seen not very long ago, but almost in our day, towards the end of Domitian’s reign.**

**Option #3 For he, that is the Apostle John, was seen no very long ago, but almost in our day, towards the end of Domitian’s reign ... it’s interesting that the classic text for proof that John wrote the Apocalypse around A.D. 95 is more than ambiguous. (Marshall)**

**Especially comparing: “was seen not very long ago, but almost in our day” VS: his statement about "approved and ancient copies" of Revelation (copies X original)**

**Compare: Jerome's *Commentary on Galatians*, 6:10: The blessed John the Evangelist lived in Ephesus until extreme old age. His disciples could barely carry him to Church and he could not muster the voice to speak many words. During individual gatherings he usually said nothing but, "Little children, love one another ..." John sounds like a 95 year old man, not a prisoner on Patmos.**

**Also, some say: Laodicea was wealthy when John wrote his letter and in 60 AD had an earthquake that destroyed their city and they refused Roman Government assistance but rebuilt on their own. Some say the early date would not have given them time to rebuild.**

**Where did John say they had rebuilt? John said:**

**Revelation 3:17 “Because thou sayeth, I am rich, and increase with goods and have need of nothing ...”**

**Isn't that exactly what the Laodiceans said to the Roman Government in 60AD? The argument proves nothing ... ether way ...**

**Some argue the Early Date under Nero would not allow enough time for 2 Churches: Sardis and Laodicea to go bad and 3 more to have things Jesus criticizes and warns them to repent. Just how long exact do you think it takes a Church to go bad?**

**Paul had only been gone from the Galatians for a month or two when he wrote:**

**Galatians 1:6-9 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9. As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.**

**Paul had only been gone from Corinth, maybe 2 years when he wrote I Corinthians**

**How long does it take a Church to go bad? Corinth had gone to the dogs.**

**The Hebrew Christians were going back under the law and sacrificing in the Temple cf: Hebrews 5:13 through 6:1-6 and Hebrews 10:25-39.**

**Author: John the Apostle or liberals suggest Presbyters John from Ephesus**

**Apostle John also wrote the Gospel of John plus: 1, 2 and 3<sup>rd</sup> John**

**Names himself simply as John or “I John” in Revelation 1:1, 4, 9 & 22:8**

**In exile on the island of Patmos for preaching the word.**

**First introductory lesson we thoroughly compared Johannine words found only in John’s other writings and Revelations ... impressive argument for Apostle John**

**“Word (Logos)” John 1:1ff, I John 1:1ff cf: Revelation 19:13**

**“Lamb” John 1:29 & 35 cf: Revelation 5:1ff plus “Lamb” used 27 times in Revelation**

**Go to the first lesson for a complete list of Johannine words found only in Apostle John’s other books and in Revelation.**

**Comparison between Gospel of John and Revelation**

**Gospel John is mostly literal language while Revelation is mostly figurative or apocalyptic language.**

**John’s Gospel Jesus struggles against the forces of evil as they seek to destroy Him**

**Instigated by the Jewish leaders**

**It looked like defeat when they killed Jesus but Jesus was victorious thru His Death, B-& R**

**In Revelation the Body of Christ, the Church struggles against the forces of evil as they seek to destroy her.**

**Instigated by the Jews and picked up by the Roman Government after 64 AD**

**The Church also appears defeated but they come out victorious.**

**The verbs are present and past tense showing the victory is already won at the cross**

**Justin Martyr, Iraneaus, Tertullian, Clement, believe John the Apostle was Author**

**Some suggest Greek grammar and style differences means a different writer than the Apostle.**

**John was unschooled “ignorant and uneducated man” Acts 4:13**

**The Gospel of John may have been dictated to an emmanuenzes or a secretary**

**Some thought he was writing in a hurry while watching the visions**

**No other John would have been able to simply call himself by that name other than the Apostle John.**

**A large number of expressions and thoughts similar and unique to Apostle John.**

**Logos, lamb, living waters, overcome, cast out, etc.**

**Readers: Rev. 1:3 anyone who reads + hears Blessed cf: 22:18 in Greek the word "read" is "read out loud"**

**The book has three hats or types of literature:**

**Epistle It opens as an Epistle addressed to seven churches in Asia Chapter 1:11**

**It closes as an Epistle Revelation 22:18-20**

**Only Book that is dictated verbatim by Jesus Christ.**

**Has specific instructions or situation to be addressed by those specific churches named.**

**Has principles that congregations of all ages can apply.**

**Apocalypse: It is an apocalypse which translates to Revelation in English.**

**It means "unveiling, uncover" like pull back the curtain on a stage.**

**This was a genre of literature that was popular in Jewish and Christian writings from 200 B.C. to 200 A.D.**

**Examples of this type of literature are Enoch, Assumption of Moses, Apoc. Of Baruch, Psalm of Solomon, Book of Jubilees, The Testament of the Twelve Patriarchs**

**This style uses vivid images and symbols like dragons, war, tribulation, water, flood, numbers, names, sun light etc. to portray the struggle of good vs. evil**

**Generally, like Daniel an angel directs the author to interpret visions or dreams**

**This style is sometimes found in Canonical O.T. books of Isaiah, Daniel, Zachariah, Joel plus Olivet Address.**

**Some feel this is the same subject matter as Olivet Discourse missing in John only of the Gospels**

**Usually wanted to convey a message in code or conceal it from an enemy**

**Generally written during times of persecution**

**Language is symbolized in order to conceal its meaning to all but to whom it was intended. Christians at the time Revelation was written were undergoing severe**

**persecution from the Jews and Rome. Just about everybody that was not a Christian was their enemy. Their enemies were viciously brutal and their lives hung in the balance on a daily basis. It was a crime against the laws of the government under which they lived to be a Christian and the penalty for transgressing this law was most often death. (Granby Church of Christ website)**

**This type of writing would not be hard to interpret for first century Christians because they were familiar with this kind of literature in the Old Testament and other Jewish writings.**

**The subject matter was better to be put in picture than words to describe spiritual warfare and heaven with its unexplainable beauty.**

**Not like other uninspired noncanonical Apocalyptic Books which tried to imitate the apocalyptic sections found in Old Testament.**

**Revelation is not a retelling of the past by uninspired men but predicting the future. This called pseud-e-pig-ra-pha (L) would take historical events and write as if future. If a man lies about who he is he is disqualified from the Bible.**

**By the Providence of God a perfect example is from the Catholic Bible Apocrypha. Here we have an example of pseudepigrapha Apocalyptic writing and how to understand it .... in this Prologue to Esther we have Beasts, earthquakes, tribulation, cosmic world wars, signs, wonders and river of life stuff .... but then the Epilogue defines the Prologue as plain mundane ordinary stuff ... just the Book of Ester was the meaning of Mordecai"s dream ...**

**Prolog:**

**Dream of Mordecai. In the second year of the reign of Ahasuerus the great, on the first day of Nisan, Mordecai, son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, had a dream.<sup>1 2</sup> He was a Jew residing in the city of Susa, a prominent man who served at the king's court,<sup>3</sup> and one of the captives whom Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had taken from Jerusalem with Jeconiah, king of Judah.**

**This was his dream: There was noise and tumult, thunder and earthquake—confusion upon the earth.<sup>5</sup> Two great dragons advanced, both poised for combat. They uttered a mighty cry,<sup>6</sup> and at their cry every nation prepared for war, to fight against the nation of the just.<sup>7</sup> It was a dark and gloomy day. Tribulation and distress, evil and great confusion, lay upon the earth.<sup>8</sup> The whole nation of the just was shaken with fear at the evils to come upon them, and they expected to perish.<sup>9</sup> Then they cried out to God, and from their crying there arose, as though from a tiny spring, a mighty river, a flood of water.<sup>10</sup> The light of the sun broke forth; the lowly were exalted and they devoured the boastful.**

**<sup>11</sup> Having seen this dream and what God intended to do, Mordecai awoke. He kept it in mind, and tried in every way, until night, to understand its meaning.**

### **Epilogue:**

**Mordecai's Dream Fulfilled. <sup>1</sup> Then Mordecai said: "This is the work of God. <sup>2</sup> I recall the dream I had about these very things, and not a single detail has been left unfulfilled— <sup>3</sup> the tiny spring that grew into a river, and there was light, and sun, and many waters. The river is Esther, whom the king married and made queen. <sup>4</sup> The two dragons are myself and Haman. <sup>5</sup> The nations are those who assembled to destroy the name of the Jews, <sup>6</sup> but my people is Israel, who cried to God and was saved.**

**"The Lord saved his people and delivered us from all these evils. God worked signs and great wonders, such as have not occurred among the nations. <sup>7</sup> For this purpose he arranged two lots:**

**one for the people of God, the second for all the other nations. <sup>8</sup> These two lots were fulfilled in the hour, the time, and the day of judgment before God and among all the nations. <sup>9</sup> God remembered his people and rendered justice to his inheritance**

**Apocrypha has strong emphasis on moral issues and command for repentance.**

**The prophets in the O.T. use this kind of language to shock the hearers into their senses so they would repent.**

**Those with hard hearts would not get the message but the faithful remanent would repent.**

**100% of apocalyptic writing in O.T. is in the context of announcements of God's judgement on Israel or the Gentile nations.**

**Isaiah 6:9 ff Ears to hear... so then God brings judgement on a majority of hard hearted which triggers repentance in the remanent.**

**Jesus uses this saying in His parable of the sower cf: Matthew 13:10-17**

**Ears to hear cf: Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29 & 3:6, 13, 22**

**Prophecy: It foretells the future and forth-tell God's message to His people like preaching.**

**I Corinthians 14:3 "But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification and exhortation and comfort. (So prophecy is NOT just future telling)**

**Prophetic letter written in symbolic, apocalyptic language form and style**

**Rev. 1:3, 22:7,10 & 18-19 warnings & consolations/judgment and blessings**

**Rev. 1:1-2 & 22:8 signified & saw**

**Revelation 1:1 Greek word “signified” communication made known. Reason we take it signified is because John is taking the language from Daniel 2 with the interpretation of dreams (GK Deals commentary)**

**Nations, people, angels etc. depicted as animals.**

**Revelation has a contrast between to women ... a bride and a harlot**

**Contrast between two cities Babylon and New Jerusalem.**

**Symbolic names are used: Jezebel, Sodom, and Egypt and Babylon**

**Repeated cosmic disruptions, stars falling to earth, sun made black, moon turned to blood, hail stones of a hundred pounds**

**Numbers are used symbolically**

**Book of 7 = completeness or perfection ... used 54 times**

**1/3 represents a significant minority Zechariah 13:8-9**

**12 & 24 represents God’s people, # of Apostles and # Tribes of Israel.**

**144,000, probably symbolic**

**1000 years = long time**

**1000 always used symbolically in the Bible examples are:**

**Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he *is* God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;**

**Psalms 50:10 For every beast of the forest *is* mine, *and* the cattle upon a thousand hills.**

**Psalms 84:10 For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

**Psalms 90:4 For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.**

**II Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the LORD as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day**

**10 days probably a short time**

**Inner plays with the rest of the scripture, never quotes a complete verse but has hundreds of allusions**

**Isaiah 79, Daniel 53, Ezekiel 48, Psalms 43, Exodus 27, Jeramiah 22, Zachariah 15, (2 witnesses-2 olive trees Zachariah 4) Amos 9, Joel 8**

**Beasts imagery is from Daniel. Most O.T. symbols not talking about same event but used to depict similar spiritual truths or events.**

**Exodus dragon refers to Egypt, Psalm 74:13 and plagues are repletion of Exodus plagues**

**Song of Moses and the Lamb ... a woman escapes into the wilderness and is nourished (42 months) as Israel escapes from Egypt to wilderness and is nourished by God with mana for 40 years.**

**We see spiritual representations of the Furniture of the Tabernacle**

**Babylonian exile, Euphrates River dried up as Med-Persians conquer Babylon**

**There are 4 named interpretive approaches**

**Historicist prewritten view: Those who hold this view believe ethe prophesy foretell actual events in history. People, wars and events are specifically foretold. Prophecy cannot be understood until fulfilled (Faull)**

**I Peter 1:10-12 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace *that would come* to you, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.**

**The problem is there is very little conformity among those who hold this view on what the symbols mean in history. They believe Revelation is a running account of Church History. This view was greatly affected by the Reformation. See Albert Barnes on Revelation or B. W. Johnson on Vision of the Ages, Alexander Campbell, George Faull, A B Simpson, includes all of the Reformation leaders Luther, Calvin, Westley. It has an advantage by the scholarly company it keeps.**

**Preterist Is opposite of Futurism. 2 major views, the book is all about the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. Book is about both the fall of Jerusalem and the fall of Rome.**

**Advantage is it makes sense of imminent time references. It has impressive parallels with Olivet discourse. It has impressive parallels with Josephus description of 70 A.D. fall of Jerusalem.**

**Revelation 13:8 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number *is* Six hundred threescore *and* six. (666)**

**The number of the beast 666 comes out to be NERON CAESAR in Hebrew: N-50; R-200; O-6; N-50; K-100; S-60; R-200; the sum total is 666. His coins bear this inscription. (Some Latin copyist dropped the last N making the sum 616 found in a few manuscripts.)**

**Revelation 17:10 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, *and* the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.**

**7 Kings if they are emperors then:**

**1st emperor was Julius Cesar 44BC; 2<sup>nd</sup> Augustus 31BC-14AD; 3<sup>rd</sup> Tiberius 14-37AD; 4<sup>th</sup> Caligula 37-41AD; Claudius; (5 fallen) Nero is the 6<sup>th</sup> (one is) Then 3yr emperor; Galba 68-April69; Otho Jan.-April 69AD; Vitellus April-December 69AD; Vespasian 69-79AD; Titus 79-81AD; Domitian 81-96AD also a great persecutor. Called himself "holy lord god"**

**The disadvantages are requires a date writing prior to 70 A.D. and its origin is questionable by some**

**Said by some started by Jesuit, Louis De Alczar popularized it in the 16<sup>th</sup> century to defend he Pope against the Historicist reformers**

**But Arethus wrote about this view in the 6<sup>th</sup> century, pure Preterist believe 2<sup>nd</sup> coming usually refers to Jesus coming in judgement against Jerusalem not his coming in power and glory.**

### **Futurist**

**Mostly dispensationalist who believe roughly the following**

**Innocence – Adam prior to the Fall.**

**Conscience – From the Fall to the Great Flood.**

**Human Government – Great Flood, to the Tower of Babel. (Some: Noahide law)**

**Promise – From Abraham to Moses.**

**Law – From Moses to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ..**

**Grace – From the cross to the rapture of the church. The rapture is followed by the Great Tribulation. (Some use the term Age of Grace or the Church Age)**

**Millennial Kingdom – A 1000 year reign of Christ on earth centered in Jerusalem, ending with God's judgment on the final rebellion.**

**They believe the Church is destined to be a failure**

**Revelation 4:1 They believe is the rapture of the Church**

**Revelation 4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door *was* opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard *was* as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.**

**Then they believe everything after 4:1 is the “great tribulation” until chapter 20 begins the millennial Kingdom**

**Advantages this approach:**

**Luxury of taking “literal” approach ... since it sees everything after 4 as future**

**After all if literal never has been 1/3 of sea turned to blood, Star fall wormwood**

**This is the most widely held and taught view today.**

**Appeals to Westerners tendency to read everything in a literally way**

**Can harmonize with current events ... Israel, Arabs, Russia & China 200 million**

**Some Radio & TV preachers have based their entire ministry on this view:**

**Disadvantages:**

**If you base your entire ministry on a view of Revelation and you are wrong your ministry is “kaput”**

**Majority is seldom right.**

**Matthew 7:13-15 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. 15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves**

**The book was not intended to be taken literally, full of symbolism**

**Historically, comparing prophecy with current events has been disastrous ...**

**The Great Disappointment 1844 ... etc.**

**If their view is true the book is 90% irrelevant to the Church throughout history.**

**Fails to recognize or appreciate significance of apocalyptic writing and symbolism**

**Struggles to explain imminent time references ... shortly, coming soon or about to take place**

**Seemingly end of world Chapter 6 & 11**

**Beast coming up out of the sea 13:1 after Beast is already seen in 11:7**

**Babylon is fallen 14:8 and is seen again in Chapter 18**

**The Origin of futurism is questionable**

**Originated in 1585 by Spanish Jesuit Priest, Francisco Rebera. Done to counteract reformers claim that Pope or Papacy was the Beast or Antichrist. No Protestant touch theory until John Nelson Darby and the Plymouth Brethren on 1830's ... which ended with the Great Disappointment of 1844 when Jesus did not return.**

**Idealist, Spiritualist or Symbolic views: Prophecies are spiritual symbols that merely demonstrate that no matter what evil comes against the church in any age the church will conquer and win in the end. See Hindrickson More Than Conquerors. Believe material is depicting universal timeless Christian principles, the sovereignty of God, vindication of Martyrs, spiritual warfare,**

**Advantages avoids having to relate specific events in prophecy to actual events**

**Disadvantages Book itself claims to be a prophesy about specific events**

**Progressive Parallelism William Henberickson commentary. See: More than Conquerors**

**7 parallel segments, each segment represents church age from 1<sup>st</sup> coming to 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.**

**Chapter 1-3, 4-7,8-11, 12-14, 15-16, 17-19, 20-22**

**Advantages resembles how Daniel is written in parallel retellings.**

**Repeated events in each of the segments, repeated battles, repeated judgements, reference to 2<sup>nd</sup> coming in each segment.**

**Disadvantages The reference to 2<sup>nd</sup> coming are probably not really reference to 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. Material that seems to be parallel is only so in style and not in events.**

## **How Not to read and interpret Revelation:**

**The seven churches, represents seven periods in church history. Herbert Armstrong**

**And that we are in the last days because Laodicea is being fulfilled now.**

**We have already been through 5 or 6 church periods.**

**Example Smyrna “10 days” was fulfilled in the 10 years of suffering under Diocletian just before Constantine**

**Example Philadelphia “Opened door” was fulfilled in the 1930’s when Armstrong started preaching on the radio.**

**Example Laodicea riches in America has many made many lukewarm churches therefore the end is near.**

**The problem is there is zero indication by John that we are to read Revelation 2 & 3 this way.**

**Problem: Revelation was not written to America, written to the churches of Asia.**

**There are many different countries in the world that are experiencing persecution. Most are poverty stricken, not rich.**

**Most scripture is to be interpreted literally unless there is a reason to interpret it figuratively. cf: Ephesians 6:10**

**Apocalyptic literature is opposite. It is to be interpreted figuratively unless there is a reason to interpret it literally.**

**Revelation is written is written in word picture.**

**Revelation needs to be interpreted with Rev. 2-3 in mind, many treat 2-3 as a separate document unrelated to 4-22. Although 2 of the churches are commended, 5 of the 7 churches are called to repent or else.**

**Once we get the message to the seven churches, we can better understand the rest of the book.**

**Related themes that show the connection between chapters 2-3 & 4-22.**

**Over come Chapter 2:7, 11, 17 & 3:9, 21 cf: Chapter 12:11, 17:14, 21:7**

**Tribulation 2-2, 2 Chapter 7:14 cf: Matthew 24:29 ff**

**Sin of idolatry 2:14, 20 cf: 2:9, Chapter 9:20, Chapter 13:4, 12-15**

**Imagery of Jesus executing judgement with the sword of His mouth Chapter 1:16  
Chapter 2:16 cf: 19:15**

**Tree of Life 2:7 cf: Chapter 22:2, 14, 19**

**Book of Life Chapter 3:5 cf: Chapter 13:8, Chapter 17:8, 20:12, 15, & 21:27**

**New Jerusalem 3:12 cf: 12:1-2, 10 cf: Hebrews 12:22-23**

**Share in Christ's kingly power 1:6, 2:26 ff, 3:21 cf: 22:5**

**Second death 2:11 cf: 20:14, & 21:8**

**Antithetical (an-tuh-theh-kl) parallels which are directly opposite showing same meaning from a different perspectives. Between Revelation 2-3 and 4-22.**

**False prophets False Prophets 2:2 VS true prophets 21:14.**

**False Jews 2:9, 3:9 VS: true Israel 7:3 ff & 21:12**

**Church dwells where Satan's throne is 2:13 VS: Christians dwell where God's throne is 21:1 ff 22:1**

**The church is filled with impurities and liars etc. 2:14-15, 20, 3:9 Verses new creation will only be pure 21:8, 27**

**Churches are persecuted hoping in God's promises 2:7-10, 13 VS: Churches inherit promise 21:1 ff & 22:2-4**

**Read Revelation through the lens of Sovereign God being victorious and in control as he sits on the throne with the Lamb.**

**Even though it looked like Satan won at the cross, he lost and was cast out while Jesus was victorious**

**Even though it looks like evil is defeating faithful Christians they are victorious and reign with Christ**

**As in John's gospel in Revelation the death and defeat of Jesus are in-reality His victory over Satan. The Lamb's followers are to recapitulate the model of His ironic victory in their own lives by enduring tribulation. They reign in the invisible Kingdom of the Messiah. They exercise kingship in the midst of their suffering ... just as Christ did from the cross... When the churches opponents persecute Christians, they spiritually defeat themselves in the same manner that Satan was defeated at the cross, though it appeared he had won a physical victory over Christ... The major theme of the book is the glory do to God because he has accomplished full salvation and final judgement. (Beale)**

**Revelation 4:5** And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

**Overshadows all the visions in 6 to 22**

**Read the hymns, poems, prose, and heaven speaks in Revelation 4:19**

**Revelation 4:8-11; 5:8-14; 6:9-11; 7-10-17; 10:5-9; 11:15-18; 12:10-12; 14:6-13; 13:14-15; 15:3-4; 17:1-2, 15-18; 18:1-3, 20,21-24; 19:1-10, 17-18; 21:3-9; 22 :6 & 7, 16**

**The word throne is used 40 times in Revelation.**

**Sources: Mike Meyerhoffer's notes, George Faull, Gene West, Foy Wallace, Burton Coffman, B. W. Johnson Adam Clark, the Narrow Path Commentaries, KJV Bible, Wikipedia, theWord.com**