

Interpreting Revelation

Revelation reveals a God who is with His people in the past, in the present and into the future.

“Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7).

“Grace be unto you, and peace, from Him which is, and which was, and which is to come...” (Revelation 1:4).

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty” (Revelation 1:8).

Historicism—Revelation is about history past, present and future.

“Write the things which you have seen, [past] and the things which are [present], and the things which will take place after this [future]” (Revelation 1:19).

Preterism—Prophecy primarily fulfilled in past.

Preterism is a Christian eschatological view that interprets prophecies of the Bible, especially Daniel and Revelation, as events which have already happened in the first century A.D. Preterism was first expounded by the Jesuit **Luis De Alcasar** during the Counter Reformation. The preterist view served to bolster the Catholic Church's position against attacks by Protestants, who identified the Pope with the Anti-Christ.

Futurism—Prophecy primarily fulfilled in future.

Futurism is a Christian eschatological view that interprets the books of Revelation, and Daniel as future events in human history. To counter the Protestant interpretation of historicism, Roman Catholic Jesuit **Francisco Ribera** wrote a 500 page commentary on the Book of Revelation that established the futurist interpretation of Bible prophecy.

Idealism—Prophecy primarily expresses eternal spiritual truths that find expression in history.

Idealism in Christian eschatology is an interpretation of the Book of Revelation that sees all of the imagery of the book as non-literal symbols of spiritual truths/conflicts

Private interpretations—Prophecy primarily expresses what God has shown me in my own personal study regardless of anyone else's views.

THE PROPHETIC CYCLES OF REVELATION

PROLOGUE—REVELATION 1:1-9

APOSTOLIC AGE TO NEW EARTH

7 CHURCHES—REVELATION 1:10-3:22

“TREE OF LIFE...” REV 2:7

7 SEALS—REVELATION 4:1-8:1

“WIPE AWAY EVERY TEARS” REV 7:17

7 TRUMPETS—REVELATION 8:2-11:19

“DESTROY DESTROYERS” REV 11:18

THE WOMAN—REVELATION 12:1-22:7

“A NEW HEAVEN & EARTH” REV 22:1

EPILOGUE—REVELATION 22:8-21

7 Churches	7 Seals	7 Trumpets	The Woman
Incarnation	Crucifixion	Mediation	Birth/Resurrection
Apostolic Age Ephesus	Apostolic Age White Horse	Apostolic Age Fire, Voices,...	Apostolic Age Child Born, caught up
Pagan Rome Smyrna	Pagan Rome Red Horse	Judaism/P-Rome Trumpets 1&2	Judaism/P-Rome Dragon/Child
Pagan/Papal Rome Pergamos	Papal Rome Black Horse	Papal Rome/Islam Trumpets 3-6	Papal Rome 1260/wound/mark
Papal Rome Thyatira/Sardis	Papal Rome/Atheism Pale Horse	Papal Rome/Atheism Revelation 11:3-13	Atheism Revelation 13:3, 10
Advent Movement Philadelphia	Advent Movement Heavenly Signs	Advent/Millerite M. 7 Thunders	Advent Movement 3 angels/Rev. 18
Judgment Hour Laodicean	Judgment 5 th Seal	Judgment Revelation 11:1, 2	Judgment Revelation 14:7
2 nd Coming	2 nd Coming 6 th &* 7 th Seal	2 nd Coming 7 th Trumpet	2 nd Coming Rev 14, 18-21
Rewards New Earth	Great Multitude New Earth	Rewards New Earth	New Heaven/Earth Eden Restored