

REVELATION AT A GLANCE

Key Text: "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this." Revelation 1:19

AUTHOR	DATE
John the Apostle	circa AD 90

KEY CONCEPT

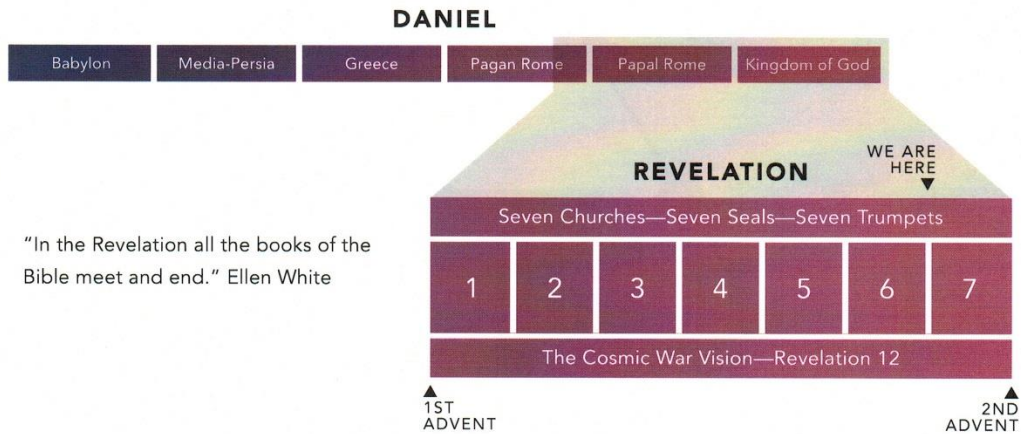
The self-sacrificing love of God manifested in Christ, symbolized by the lamb, will ultimately triumph over all the coercive power structures of the world, symbolized by the dragon.

SCHOOLS OF INTERPRETATION

Preterism: John's prophecies were fulfilled in past history with the Roman Empire.

Futurism: John's prophecies will be fulfilled during a relatively short period of time in the future.

Historicism: John's prophecies unfold from the time of Christ until the end of the world.



LITERARY STRUCTURE

Revelation is a carefully crafted piece of literary art. The whole book is a poem constructed in the form of a chiasm, or in the shape of a mountain, with two ascending sides that mirror one another while pointing to a common focal point at its pinnacle in the center.

This is John's way of telling the reader that the cosmic war vision in chapters 12-15 is the interpretive lens through which the whole book is to be understood. All the evil and suffering in the world is traceable to the war that erupted in heaven among the angels under the leadership of Satan, and Christ is the unarmed warrior who conquers Satan by truth and love.

NARRATIVE LOGIC

Satan, using methods of deception and force—working through political and religious systems—misrepresents the character of God and thus seeks to divert allegiance to himself.

Jesus, using methods of truth and love—working through His church—gives faithful and true witness to God's character and thus overcomes evil with good.

Revelation depicts these two systems, with their opposite principles and methods, running parallel from the first advent of Christ to His second advent and beyond to the final eradication of evil.

