

I. Approaching Revelation

- A. The Author of Revelation is the Apostle _____.
- B. The number one lie that most people believe about Revelation is that Revelation is too complicated for _____ people to understand. The idea that you must be a scholar or have theological interpretive training to begin to understand the book is from the pit of hell!
- C. In the very first verse of the book we see that the whole thing was given for all the _____ of Jesus. Why would God give something to His servants if they weren't smart enough or educated enough to be able to use it?
- D. The word revelation literally means “_____.”

II. Revelation's Purpose

- A. First and foremost, this book is a revelation of _____ _____. It is an uncovering and a revealing of who Jesus is and what He is like.
- B. As we study Revelation together this will be our chief aim – to know the heart, the motivations, the character, and the nature of Jesus Christ as revealed to us, His servants. Specifically we'll be focusing on how it uniquely gives us what is called the three faces of Jesus – _____, _____, and _____.
- C. The secondary purpose of the book of Revelation is to give guidance and encouragement to those _____ of all ages who experience persecution, disasters, and even martyrdom, starting with the seven churches with whom John was intimately acquainted in the first century and ending with the final generation of this age who will experience the full measure of the events depicted.
- D. The tertiary purpose for the book is to be a prophetic _____ identifying God's end time action plan to bring as many people to righteousness while releasing ultimate judgment upon Satan and his kingdom.
- E. One final purpose of this book is to reveal the activity of the _____ available to the church. Just as the book of Acts describes His acts in the first century church, Revelation gives us clear depictions of the activities of the Holy Spirit through the church during the Great Tribulation. Therefore it is often considered to be the end time book of Acts.

III. Four Major Views – There are many interpretations that have divided the way people understand the book of Revelation. Most of these approaches have fallen into 4 major camps.

- A. The _____ View. View that takes seriously the idea that the events prophesied in Revelation were supposed to occur soon or quickly after they were prophesied. Therefore they strive to show that the entire book has already happened, either entirely in the first century, or in the closely proceeding ones.
- B. The _____ or Progressive view. This view presents Revelation as a progressive unfolding of church history from the book of Acts until the second coming.
- C. The _____ view. This view treats Revelation as purely symbolic of the continuing struggle of good verses evil on the earth. They believe there has never been, and never will be a direct connection of the events prophesied to actual historical or political events of any generation.
- D. The Classic _____ view. The view typified by an unwavering commitment to interpreting everything prophetic in the book as literally occurring exactly as written. Thus they view the fulfillment as still in the future.
- E. For our study, we will be using an approach I'm calling Preator-et-posterno (latin for “past and present”). This is an attempt to draw from all four views, for each of the four main views have a tremendous amount of truth and validity, but they each have significant weaknesses. We will attempt to synthesize them with a concept called “_____ but not _____.” This is the idea

that much of what is prophesied in Revelation has already occurred at some measure, but will ultimately fully be fulfilled in the future.

IV. Four Parts and Five Sections

A. We will divide the book into 4 major parts:

1. Chapter 1 – John’s Calling
2. Chapter 2-3 – The Seven Letters
3. Chapter 4-5 – Jesus Takes the Scroll
4. Chapter 6-22 – Jesus’ Battle Plan

B. This last part is large and is divided into 5 Chronological and 5 Parenthetical sections.

1. Chronological Section 1 – Rev. 6 – The Seal Judgments
2. Parenthetical Section 1 – Rev. 7 – Available divine protection from those judgments and from falling away
3. Chronological Section 2 – Rev. 8-9 – Trumpet Judgments against the Antichrist and his empire
4. Parenthetical Section 2 – Rev. 10-11:14 – Available direction by a great increase of prophetic ministry
5. Chronological Section 3 – Rev. 11:15-19 – The Second Coming procession (7th Trumpet)
6. Parenthetical Section 3 – Rev. 12-14 – The Antichrists violence on the saints and goodness requires all his evil governments to be replaced
7. Chronological Section 4 – Rev. 15-16 – The Bowl Judgments destroy evil infrastructures in society
8. Parenthetical Section 4 – Rev. 17-18 – The seduction of Babylon permeating the structures of society requires their destruction
9. Chronological Section 5 – Rev. 19-20 – Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem
10. Parenthetical Section 5 – Rev. 21-22 – The Restoration of all things

V. Method of Interpretation

A. The best interpreter of the Word of God is the _____ of the God who wrote it.

B. Literal and Figurative Language

1. Literal language is what we call it when the author speaks or writes in a _____ manner. Here the Scripture means exactly what it says.

Some examples of this are:

- a. Rev. 1:9 – “I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.”
- b. Rev. 11:11-12 – “Now after the three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, ‘Come up here.’ And the ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.”
2. Figurative language is what we call it when literal truths are represented in Scripture through the use of _____ of speech. Once the figure of speech is identified and understood the truth becomes clear. Here is a brief overview of the kinds of figures of speech used in Revelation with examples:

- a. _____ – when a word or phrase that ordinarily designates one thing is used to designate another, making a comparison between the two things that are usually unlike.
 - i. Rev. 4:6 “Before the throne there was a sea of glass...”
 - ii. Rev. 19:20 “... these two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.”
- b. _____ – when two different things are spoken of as the same thing by the use of words such as “like” or “as.”
 - i. Rev. 6:12 “I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.”
- c. _____ – when exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect as in “I could sleep for a year” or “This book weighs a ton.”
 - i. Rev. 13:12 “And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast...”
 - ii. Rev. 13:15 “He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.”
- d. _____ / _____ – An allegory is when abstract ideas or principles are represented by characters, figures, or events in a form that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically moral or political. In the same way a symbol is a person, place, thing, or event that has a deeper meaning than may appear at first glance. Examples are a dove symbolizing peace or a skull and crossbones symbolizing poison. *** Special note: ALL BIBLICAL SYMBOLS ARE INTERPRETED BY THE BIBLE ITSELF – NOT BY WHATEVER IT PERSONALLY REPRESENTS TO THE INTERPRETER OR EVEN MODERN CULTURE!!!***
 - i. Rev. 1:20 “The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.”
- e. _____ – A common phrase that means something completely different from what the literal translation may lead you to believe. For example “Kick the bucket” means to die, not literally kick a bucket.
 - i. Rev. 13:14 “And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.”
- f. _____ – when an inanimate object is given human traits and qualities.
 - i. Rev. 9:1 “Then the fifth angel sounded: and I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.”
- g. _____ – when two opposite things are put next to each other in order to heighten the drama of a story.
 - i. The Bride of Christ vs. the Harlot Babylon
 - ii. The Lamb of God vs. the Fiery Red Dragon
 - iii. Christ vs. the Antichrist
 - iv. The New Jerusalem vs. Babylon the Great
 - v. The Beast and False Prophet vs. the Two Witnesses
 - vi. The Seal of God vs. the Mark of the Beast