

Introduction to Revelation

Part 3 (Recap Edition)



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

Overview of Today's Study



RECAP:

☞ Daniel's Visions

☞ Sets foundation for book of Revelation

☞ Revelation Intro Study

☞ From back in Sept '21

RECAP: Daniel's Visions



- ☞ Scope of our mini series was to focus on visions w/end times prophecies
- ☞ We covered:
 - ☞ The Great Statue
 - ☞ The Four Beasts
 - ☞ The Ram and Goat
 - ☞ 70 Weeks Prophecy
 - ☞ NOTE: We did not cover vision in Dan 10-12
 - ☞ Historical (Alexander the Great, etc.) up to the end times

The Great Statue

Represents historical and end times super world powers (kingdoms and kings) who Israel's Messiah will crush and put to an end and set up an everlasting kingdom on earth



The Great Statue

Middle East:

- Afghanistan
- Armenia
- Egypt
- Iran
- Iraq
- Israel
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Pakistan
- Syria
- Turkey

European:

- France
- Great Britain
- Greece
- Italy (Rome)
- Spain

Wild Card:

- India
- Saudi Arabia

The graphic features a large, golden, ancient-style statue of a figure holding a globe, set against a desert landscape. A red rectangular box is drawn over the statue's torso, containing the text 'THE GREAT STATUE' in a stylized font. To the left of the statue are four maps of the Middle East and Europe, each labeled with a historical empire: 'The Babylonian Empire (605-333 BC)', 'The Persian Empire', 'The Greco-Roman Empire', and 'The Roman Empire'. The text 'The Great Statue' is written in large, golden letters at the top of the graphic.

The Four Beasts

Are 4 kings during the end times who will arise from the Great Mediterranean Sea (Mediterranean Nations) and are God's instruments to punish Israel for their sin and rebellion. The 4th King, will be a 4th kingdom with 10 Kings, of which the little horn (Antichrist) will arise from - uprooting the first 3 Kings



The Ram and Goat

Represents historical and end times kingdoms and kings who conquered and will conquer Mediterranean nations and kings (including the people, land, and temple of Israel). The Ram represents ancient Media-Persia. The Goat represents ancient Yavan. The Small Horn (False Prophet) is a descendent of the Goat and will be given authority over the regular sacrifice and Israel's last king in the end times.

The Ram's Identity

20 The ram which you saw with the two horns represents the kings of Media and Persia.

Modern-day countries in play for end times:

- ☞ Iran (most likely)
- ☞ Iraq
- ☞ Afghanistan
- ☞ Pakistan
- ☞ Turkey
- ☞ Syria
- ☞ Jordan
- ☞ Israel
- ☞ India (wild card)



The Goat's Identity

21 The shaggy goat represents the kingdom of Greece [Yavan, land of Japeth], and the large horn that is between his eyes is the first king.

Modern-day countries in play for end times:

- ☞ Turkey (most likely), Japeth also was allotted:
- ☞ Italy (Rome)
- ☞ Greece
- ☞ Syria
- ☞ Bulgaria
- ☞ Georgia
- ☞ Armenia, and others (N, NW, E, NE, of Israel)



WANTED Sketch

Beasts from the Sea



Beasts from the earth



WANTED Sketch



Antichrist
"beast from the Sea"
"the little horn"

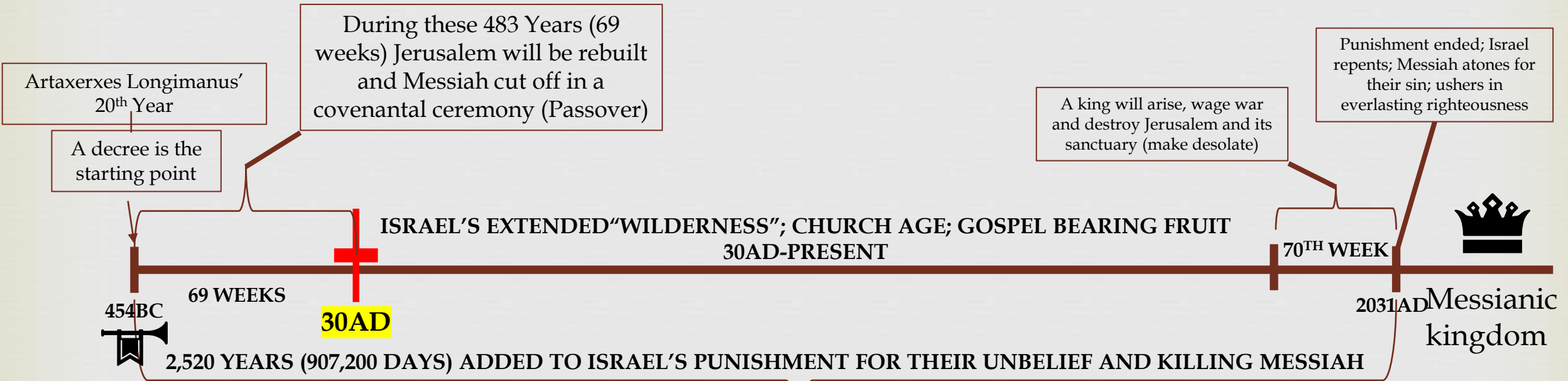


False Prophet
"beast from the Earth"
"the small horn"



70 Weeks Prophecy

Represents 490 years carved out in history as the total length of Israel's punishment for their sin, unfaithfulness, killing their Messiah. Once the 490 years of punishment has been fulfilled at the end times, God will rescue them, make full atonement for their sin, and establish His kingdom on earth



490 years have been carved out to end Israel's sin, make atonement, and bring in everlasting righteousness (Messiah's kingdom)

KEY TAKEAWAYS:



- ❧ End times prophecy is centered around:
 - ❧ The people of Israel
 - ❧ The land of Israel
 - ❧ Primarily between Mediterranean nations
- ❧ What to look for:
 - ❧ A holy covenant between Mediterranean nations
 - ❧ Permission granted to the Jews to re-build 3rd Temple, reinstatement of animal sacrifices
 - ❧ False prophets and messiahs making great claims, performing signs and wonders
 - ❧ Dispute and wars between Mediterranean nations, including over the holy covenant
 - ❧ The giving over of the animal sacrifices and Israel's PM over to another world leader
 - ❧ Destruction of Israel and the erection of the abomination of desolation in the Temple

RECAP: Revelation Intro Study



❧ Rules of Engagement

❧ In our original introductory study we answered the following questions:

❧ Q1: What is the book of Revelation about?


❧ Q2: Who wrote it, when, and to whom was it written to?

❧ Q3: What was its intended purpose?

❧ Q4: How is it to be interpreted?

❧ Q5: What do I need to know to understand it?

Rules of Engagement



Thou shalt interpret Scripture
w/Scripture

Thou shalt not add or take away from
Scripture

Thou shalt not take Scripture out of
context

Thou shalt interpret Scripture w/literal
fulfillment

Thou shalt not impose personal bias

Thou shalt not pass down man's
opinion

Thou shalt not over spiritualize
Scripture

Thou shalt not present speculation as
truth

Thou shalt not resist what the Spirit
says to the churches

Thou shalt not sensationalize Scripture

Q1: What is the book of Revelation about?



- ❧ The title of the book tells us
- ❧ The book is about **the Revelation** of Jesus Christ
- ❧ 'Revelation' is 'apokalupsis' which means to unveil, uncover, reveal
 - ❧ English word apocalypse
- ❧ Thus, Revelation is an end times prophecy describing events leading up to the return of Jesus and the eternal state

Q1: What is the book of Revelation about?



- ✧ Genesis is the book of origins, beginnings
- ✧ Revelation is the book of destiny, completion, conclusion, ending
 - ✧ Centered around the glorious return of Messiah, before/after
 - ✧ Fulfillment of all OT/NT prophecies

Q1: What is the book of Revelation about?



- ☞ Gives us graphic details of what's in store for:
 - ☞ The church in the end times (Christians/Messianic Jews)
 - ☞ The people of Israel (Jews)
 - ☞ The Land of Israel (Promised Land)
 - ☞ The World (Antichrist, false prophet, final world power, non believers)
 - ☞ Wrath Judgments

Q1: What is the book of Revelation about?



☞ Also gives us details concerning:

☞ The apostasy of the church

☞ The Great Tribulation

☞ Resurrections (including our redemption, the Rapture)

☞ Establishment of the millennial kingdom (Davidic kingdom)

☞ Judgments (Millennial (Sheep/Goats), Great White Throne)

☞ Eternal state (uncreation, new heavens new earth, New Jerusalem)

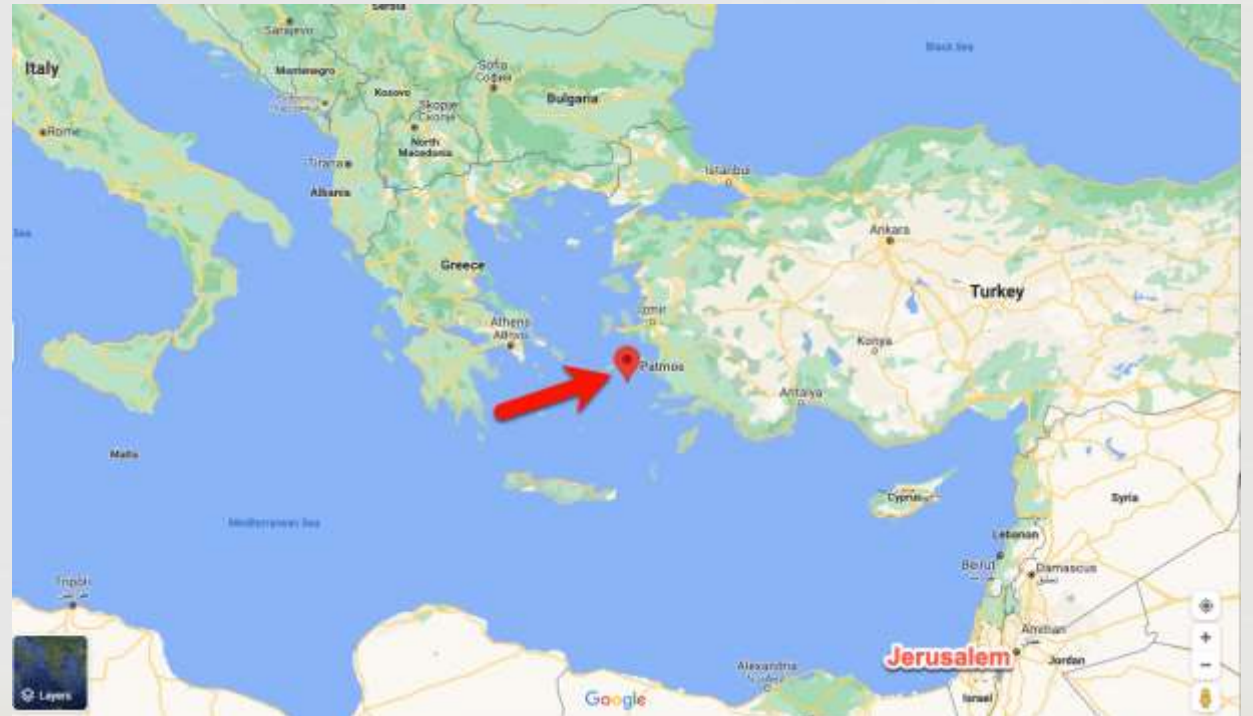
Q2: Who wrote it, when, and to whom was it written to?



- ✧ The apostle John wrote it while exiled on the island of Patmos
- ✧ John was exiled for preaching the gospel, Christianity (Rev 1:9)

Revelation 1:9

I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, **was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.**



Q2: Who wrote it, when, and to whom was it written to?



When was Revelation written?:

- ✧ Irenaeus (Greek Bishop, south of France, born early 2nd century) attributes the date of the writing of Revelation towards the end of reign of Domitian
 - ✧ Domitian's reign AD 81-96
- ✧ Thus, Revelation was written towards the end of the 1st century (95-96 AD)
 - ✧ 25+ years AFTER destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70!
- ✧ And to whom was it written to?

Q2: Who wrote it, when, and to whom was it written to?



☞ It was written to the 7 churches!

Revelation 1:4

4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia [Minor]

☞ It was written to 7 literal churches in John's day:

☞ Ephesus

☞ Smyrna

☞ Pergamum

☞ Thyatira

☞ Sardis

☞ Philadelphia

☞ Laodicea

💡 TIP to help remember order:
"Every **S**mart **P**erson **T**hat **S**ays **P**hillie **L**oves"

☞ Here is a brief map of where the 7 churches are geographically located...

Q2: Who wrote it, when, and to whom was it written to?



Note: Although this letter was written to 7 actual churches in Asia Minor that existed in the first century, we will find it is also prophetic and implicates churches in the end times, at a minimum, in those regions



Q3: What was its intended purpose?



☞ To bless us!

Revelation 1:3

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

☞ To give the church insight into the end times (which is near in a prophetic sense)

Revelation 22:16 (Jesus speaking)

16 “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things **for the churches**. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

Q3: What was its intended purpose?



- ✧ God gave the Jews the OT
- ✧ God gave the Church apostles who wrote the NT
- ✧ Thus, God the church has the entire redemption story!
- ✧ The church has the beginning/middle/end of God's redemptive will and plan concerning His people!
- ✧ Thus, Revelation is the unsealing and continuation of end times prophecy – given to the churches!
 - ✧ Which we covered briefly in our Daniel mini series study

Q4: How is it to be interpreted?



- ❧ There are 4 commonly held schools of thought:
 - ❧ Historicism (Post-millennialism)
 - ❧ No tribulation (tribulation began with 1st century church and continues to the end)
 - ❧ No Rapture
 - ❧ Futurism (Pre-millennialism)
 - ❧ Historical (Post-Trib resurrection)
 - ❧ Dispensational (Pre-trib Rapture)
 - ❧ Preterism (from Latin praeteritum, “the thing that is past”)
 - ❧ Partial
 - ❧ Full
 - ❧ Idealism (Amillennialism)

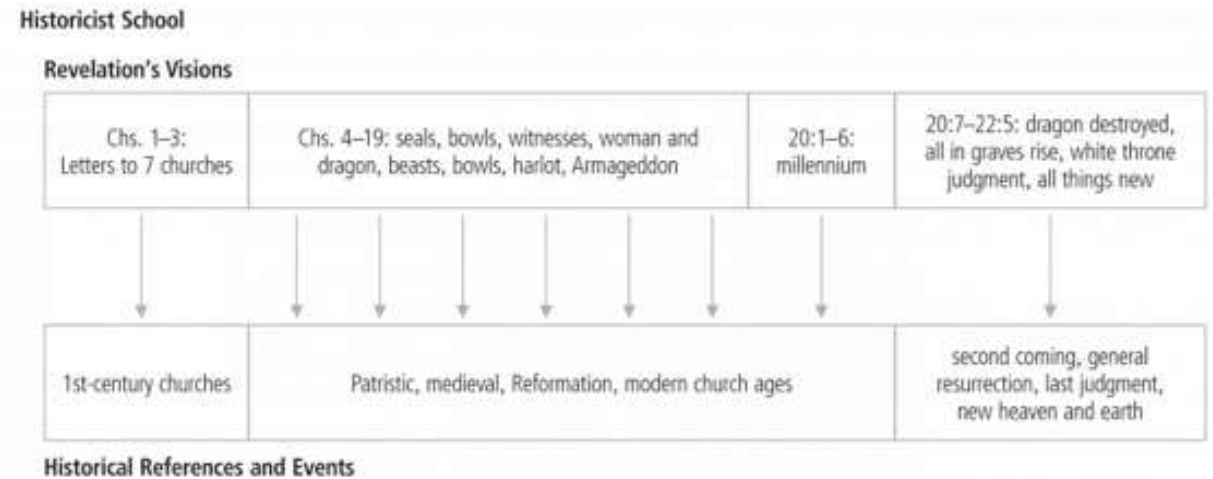
Q4: How is it to be interpreted?



Historicism views:

- ☞ Chs 1-3 (Letter to 7 churches) to 1st century churches
- ☞ Chs 4-19 (7 Seals/7 Trumpets/7 Bowls) as historical from 1st century - end times
- ☞ Ch 20 (Millennium) before 2nd coming
- ☞ Chs 20-22 (Judgments and resurrection) Satan judged; mankind raised and judged

Historicist School



Q4: How is it to be interpreted?



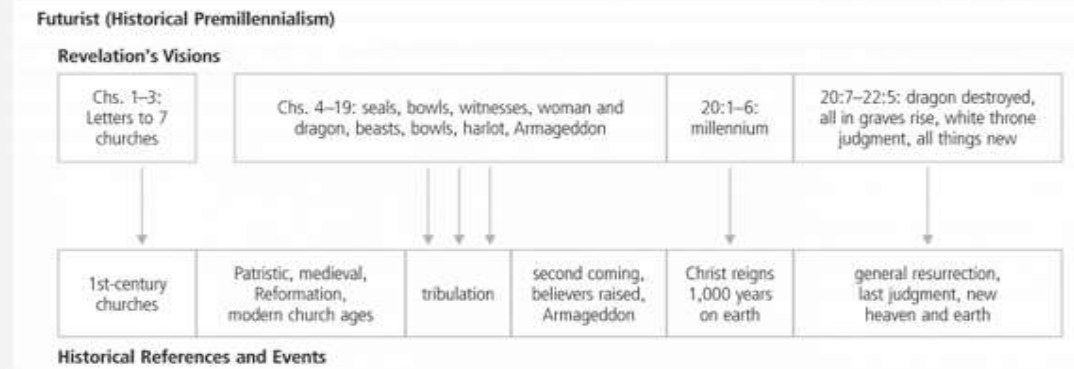
Historical Premil views:

- Chs 1-3 (Letter to 7 churches) to 1st century churches
- Chs 4-19 (7 Seals/7 Trumpets/7 Bowls) GT (last 7 years of history), believers raised after GT
- Ch 20 (Millennium) establishes 1,000 kingdom after 2nd Coming, after GT
- Chs 20-22 (Judgments and resurrection) Satan judged after 1,000 yrs; rest of mankind raised and judged

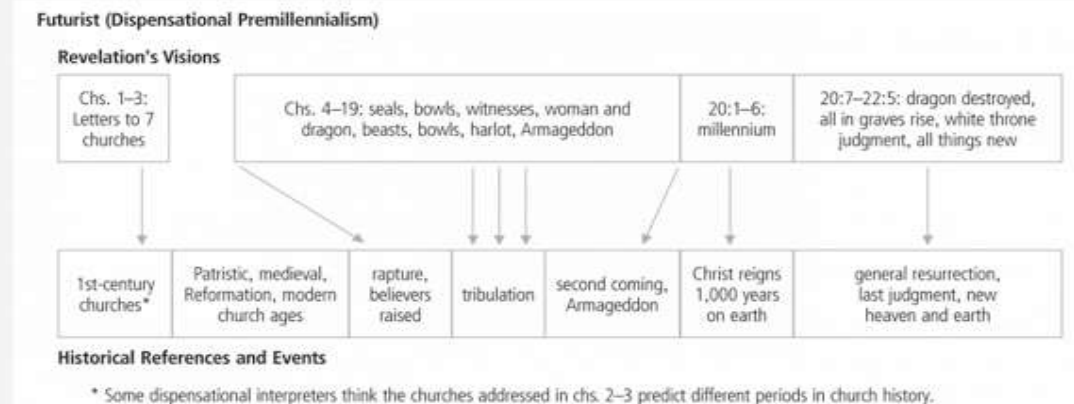
Dispensational Premil views:

- The same as historical, with one key difference
 - Pre-trib (Secret Rapture)

Futurist (Historical Premillennialism)



Futurist (Dispensational Premillennialism)



Q4: How is it to be interpreted?



Partial Preterist views:

- ☞ Chs 1-3 (Letter to 7 churches) to 1st century churches
- ☞ Chs 4-11 (Seals, part trumpets) fulfilled in 70AD
- ☞ Chs 12-19 (rest of trumpets, bowls) Rome's fall
- ☞ Ch 20 (Millennium) no 1,000 year reign, spiritual kingdom (in believer's hearts)
- ☞ Chs 20-22 (Judgments and resurrection) 2nd coming, Satan judged; all mankind raised and judged

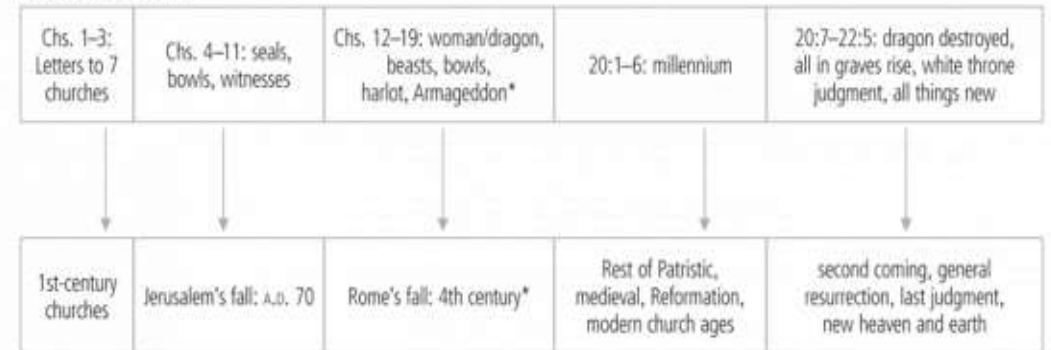
Full Peterist views:

- ☞ Chs 1-22 (entire book of Revelation) as being fulfilled in 70AD (Scriptural suicide)

Partial Preterist School(s)

Partial Preterist School(s)

Revelation's Visions



Historical References and Events

* Partial preterists differ on what would (from the original recipients' viewpoint) precipitate the millennium. This chart represents the view that sees ancient Rome as the church's main enemy. Others would understand Second Temple Judaism as the church's main enemy.

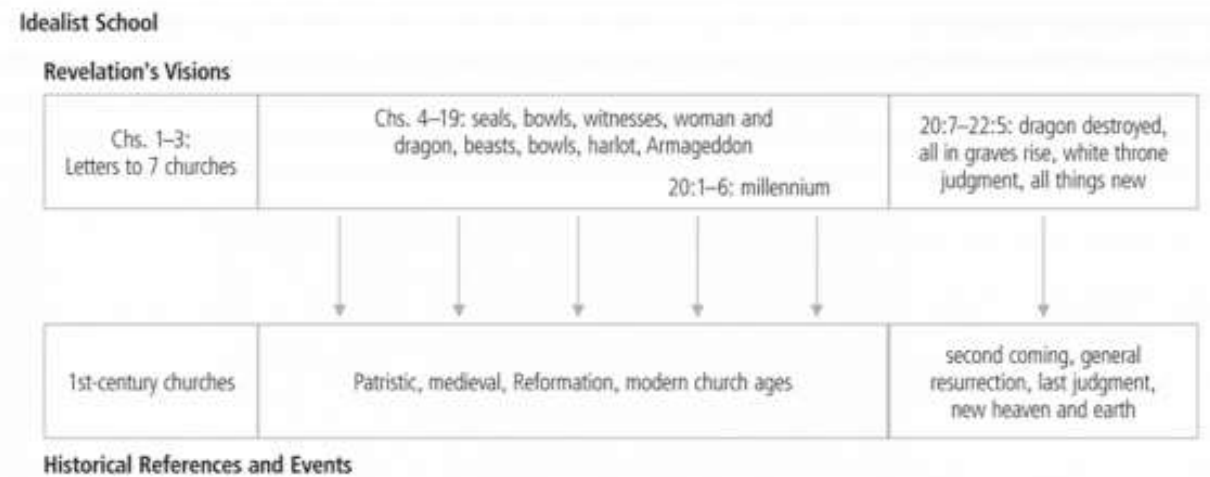
Q4: How is it to be interpreted?



Amillennialism views:

- ☞ Chs 1-3 (Letter to 7 churches) to 1st century churches
- ☞ Chs 4-19 (7 Seals/7 Trumpets/7 Bowls) as historical from 1st century - end times
- ☞ Ch 20-22 (Judgments and resurrection) no 1,000 year reign, spiritual reign and kingdom from 1st century church to the end, Satan judged; mankind raised and judged

Idealist School



Q4: How is it to be interpreted?



So which view is correct?

Q4: How is it to be interpreted?



- ❧ So which view is correct?
- ❧ Trick question!

Q4: How is it to be interpreted?



☞ Remember we're going to abide by ROE

☞ So we're going with:

☞ *Scripturism*

☞ Wherever the Scripture takes us!

Q4: How is it to be interpreted?



How does **John** tell us to interpret it?

☞ John called this letter “the prophecy” at beginning of this letter:

Revelation 1:3

3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of **the prophecy**, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Q4: How is it to be interpreted?



How does **Jesus** tell us how to interpret it?

✧ Jesus too called this letter “the prophecy” at end of this letter:

Revelation 22:7 (Jesus speaking)

7 “And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of **the prophecy** of this book.”

✧ **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Jesus’s bodily return is connected with the prophecy of this book

Q4: How is it to be interpreted?



How does **Daniel** tell us how to interpret it?

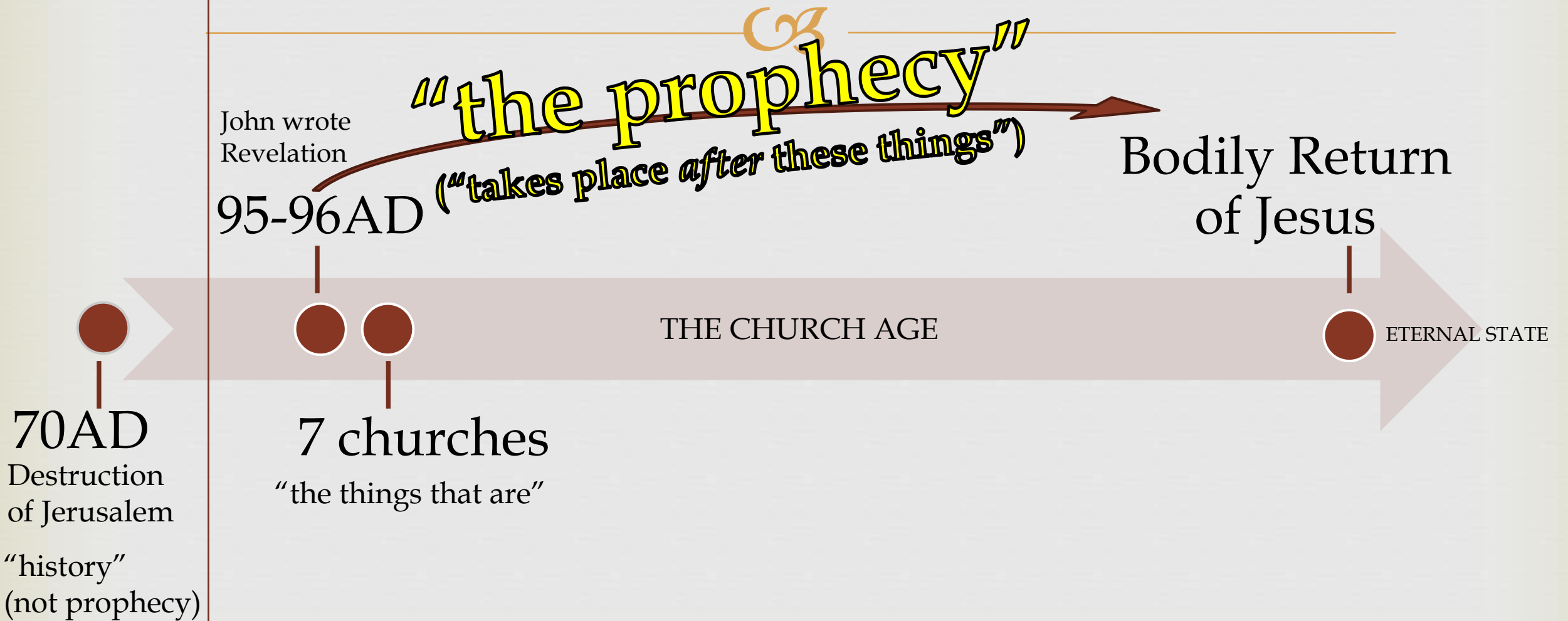
❧ From the standpoint of Israel's judgment

❧ The church was a mystery and an extension of Israel's punishment for killing their Messiah!

❧ So we are to interpret Revelation with the people and land of Israel in focus!

❧ We are to view Revelation with the OT prophecies as our foundation!

Q4: How is it to be interpreted?



Q4: How is it to be interpreted?



- Revelation is to be interpreted sequentially
 - Just as we don't jumble the 6 day creation account
 - We're not going to jumble the seals/trumpets/bowls
 - 7 seals in sequence, when the 7th seal is open
 - 7 trumpets in sequence, when the 7th trumpet is blown
 - 7 bowls in sequence

Q4: How is it to be interpreted?



☞ Revelation is to be interpreted chronologically

☞ Revelation 1-22 covers 95-96AD to the return of Jesus, in the order it was given (chapter 2 does not come before chapter 1, chapter 3 does not happen until chapter 2 concludes, etc.)

☞ This removes subjectivity and keeps us from adding/removing from the prophecy!

☞ Note: we will see that much of the events described in John's vision are towards the end of human history!

Q5: What do I need to know to understand?



- Some familiarity of OT prophecies and promises, such as:
- The two distinct “seed” in Genesis 3:15
- The Abrahamic Covenant
 - God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham and his descendants
 - The Holy Land was given to Abraham’s descendants
 - The people of Israel

Q5: What do I need to know to understand?



☞ The Mosaic Covenant:

☞ God made a blood covenant with the people of Israel

☞ Israel is God's blood covenant people (God does not break covenant!)

☞ The people of Israel may have broken covenant with their God, but God has not broken covenant with them!

☞ If they are unfaithful, God has disciplined them and will continue to do so until they repent

☞ The Davidic Kingdom:

☞ There are several places in the OT concerning the Davidic kingdom and Messiah's reign

☞ Rev 20 (1,000 year millennial reign) is a fulfillment of God's promise to David

Q5: What do I need to know to understand?



Additional considerations:

- ✧ There are several mentions in the OT of God [Messiah] rescuing His people Israel to make good on the Abrahamic and Mosaic covenant
 - ✧ Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Zephaniah, Zechariah, just to name a few
- ✧ The people of Israel will always be God's chosen people:
 - ✧ As such, God will fulfill every promise made to them in the OT (including making an end of their sin, bring in everlasting righteousness, and a kingdom)

Q5: What do I need to know to understand?



- ❧ Familiarity of Biblical feasts, which are markers on when prophecy will be fulfilled
- ❧ The Bible is a Middle East centric book centered around the people of Israel and the Land of Israel
- ❧ John's vision into the heavenlies (unseen) manifests itself in the physical
- ❧ Last but not least, familiarity of Daniel's 70 week (490 years) prophecy
 - ❧ In short 69 weeks have been fulfilled (rebuilding Jerusalem, Messiah's arrival, Messiah cut off)
 - ❧ The 70th week (7 year period, atonement for Israel's sin, establishment of Messiah's kingdom) has been pushed back towards the end times