

REVELATION 02 - BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES

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Revelation

PROLOGUE – THREE SCHISMS: SIGNIFICANT BACKGROUND THEMES

- God does not work, nor did John write in a religious-political vacuum; dynamic changes were incorporated into people's worldviews, esp. Greco-Romans
 - Modern notion that religious and political and social forces were distinctly separate or compartmentalized from each other would be incoherent to ancient peoples
 - Bible phrase, *fullness of time* emphasizes that God brought **all** human history to this point: Christ to die and have His Gospel spread to all peoples (Ga 4:1-5)
- These three significant schisms form the backdrop to John's writing in addition to the Hebrew Bible {Old Testament} (Re 4-20)
 - John {Christ} wrote so people could understand the imagery and message; it eludes readers who interpret this book divorced from these influences (Hab 2:2-3; 1Pe 1:10-12; 2Pe 3:14-18)

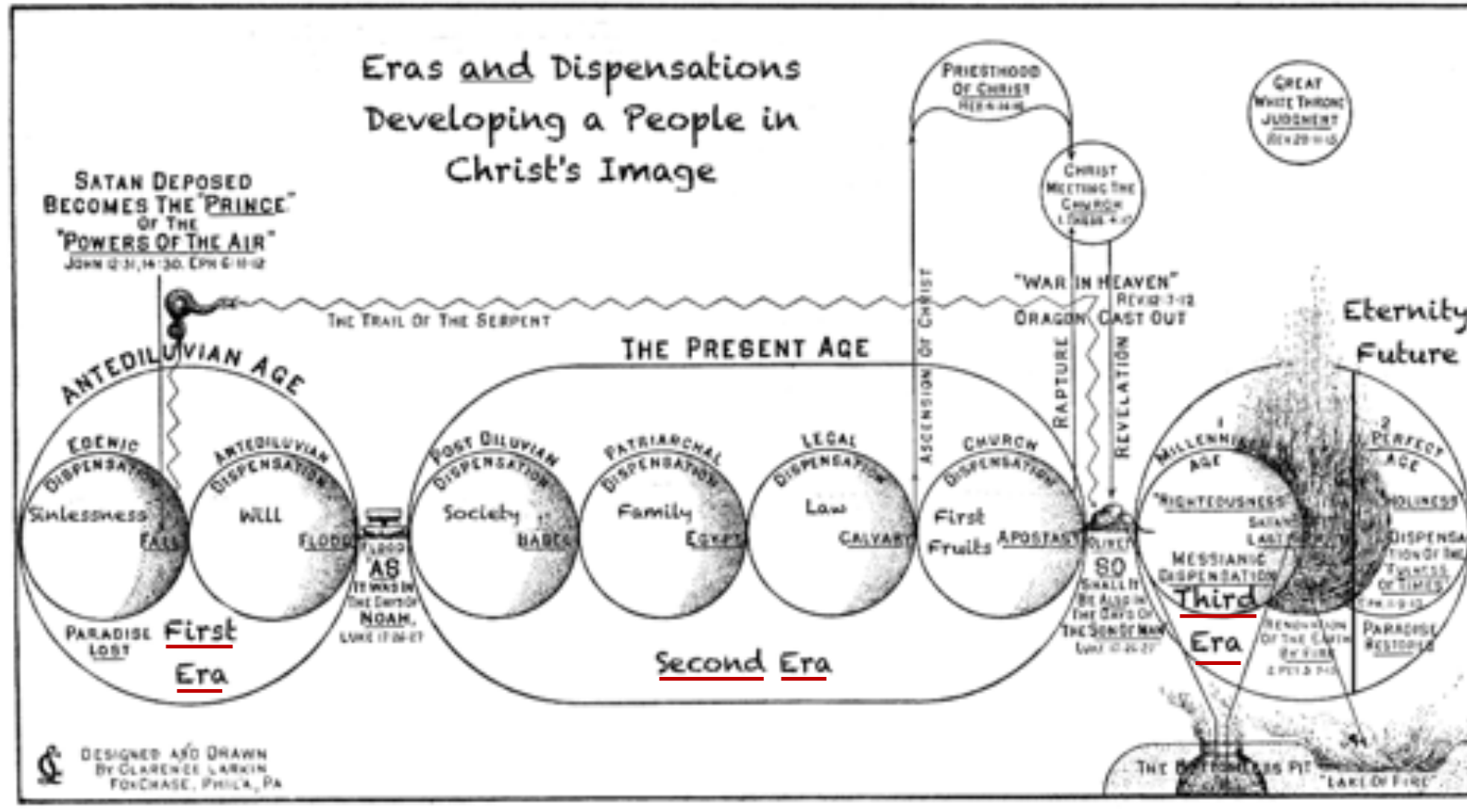
PROLOGUE – ANSWERS THE QUESTION: WILL CHRIST’S RETURN?

- Christ promised to return but did not give a time (Mt 24:36-39)
 - When Christ ascended, two angels told Apostles He would return as He left (Ac 1:9-11)
- However, by mid first-century people **doubted** He would return; if He lied on **any** point, He was not a prophet; i.e., not Messiah (De 13:1-5; 18:20-22)
 - Jude addressed the acceptance of False Teachers who sow disbelief among *weak* believers that Christ had not, would not, returned {Amillennialism} (2Pe 3:3-13; Jude)
- Revelation addresses this concern showing Christ will return as He said (Re 19)
 - How can one know Revelation is true? It’s spiritual and future; untestable by Science

PROLOGUE – VALIDATION: VERIFIABLE VALIDATES SPIRITUAL

- Bible shows its veracity in the spiritual by empirical-historical revealed Truth (Jn 14:8-11)
 - Revelation opens revealing Christ as High Priest of all Believers (He 5:5-10; Re 1)
 - Letters to the Seven Churches verify Truth of John's vision: Church history has shown these revelations to be true (Re 2-3)
 - Revelation concludes the Old Testament; esp. building on Daniel's visions (Da 2; 7; Re 4-19)
 - Revelation concludes this Creation in victory which is never in doubt (Re 20)
 - Finally, Revelation glimpses the final Creation for both Saved and Lost (Re 21-22)
- Revelation is God's *merciful* warning to the Lost to be saved while encouraging Saved to grow in maturity: Both will be held accountable based on the Bible (Lk 16:22-31; 2Co 5:10)

MY VIEW OF DISPENSATIONS: NAMES REFINED



ERAS OR AGES: SIMILARITIES – DIFFERENCES

- Each Era {Age} has distinct similarities and differences clearly defined in Bible
- Similarities:
 - Clear beginning with a dramatic cataclysmic ending
 - Clearly defined purpose according to God's Redemptive Plan
- Differences:
 - Purpose of each Era differs in denoting Man's Failure and God's Mercy
- Dispensational View more highly refined understanding linked to Covenants given by Christ: Abrahamic Covenant foundational to subsequent covenants: (Mosaic); Land; Davidic; and New Covenant {Melchizedek Priesthood}

Adamic and Noahic Covenants given before Abrahamic; linked to the First Era

FIRST ERA: MAN'S MASTERY OF SIN

- Creation as Prologue to: First Era; First Dispensation; Bible
 - Sin enters Man through Satan and the Flesh (Ge 2:7, 15-17, 21-23; 3:1-13; Col 3:5; 1Ti 2:14; 1Jo 2:15-17)
 - God gives Promise of Redeemer coming from Man; Eve raises Cain thusly (Ge 3:14-20; 4:1)
 - God *passover* prideful Cain for humble Abel; God confronts Cain giving him the mandate for this Era: Sin Controls You; You Must Control Sin (Ge 4:6-7)
 - Cain failed by murdering Abel; Man failed by embracing violence and Control over Truth nearly eradicating any hope of Salvation (Ge 4:8, 16-24; 6:1-8)
 - Noah's Cataclysm transitions First to Second Era: Man failed to Control Sin proving unworthy to satisfy God's holiness {Sinlessness} – Ascending Sacrifice {Christ} given (Ge 6:11-13; 7:11-16; 8:20-9:7)

SECOND ERA: CHRIST THE ANSWER FOR SIN

- Second Era reinforced Man's failure to Control Sin, justifying Noah's Cataclysm, by congregating under sin's rule: Christ enforced separation at Babel (Ge 11:1-9)
 - God chose Abraham to show how He would bring forth His Son as sacrifice for Man's sin {Abrahamic Covenant}; Isaac's miraculous birth (Ge 15:1-6; 17:15-16; 21:1-7; Lk 1:26-38; 2:1-38)
 - Man **cannot** atone for Sin due to inherent sin {Uncleanness}; God must provide Himself as sacrifice for sin (Ge 22:7-8; Ps 51:5; He 2:14-18)
 - Christ offered Himself as The Sacrifice; New Covenant begins (Ep 5:1-2; He 10:11-18)
 - Man, Controlled by Satan-Sin, rejects Christ striving to rebuild one government
 - Revelation details Cataclysm ending Second Era while preparing for Third Era

THIRD ERA: SINNERS REJECT HUMILITY {CHRIST}

- Third Era, Millennial Kingdom, depicts failure of Man to embrace visible Christ
 - Guiding Scripture for this Era highlights need for Man to humble himself, repent, to Christ the author of salvation (Is 66:1-2; He 12:1-8)
 - God returns Earth to Antediluvian conditions: One Continent; Long life; Abundance; Subdued Nature – Utopian conditions: Satan-Demons bound (Is 11; Amos 9:13-15)
 - All Jews will be *priests*, leading Gentiles to Christ, High Priest-King-Prophet in annual celebration: Festival of Tabernacles (Ex 19:5; Is 61:6; Ze 8:20-23; 14:16-21; He 5:5-10)
 - Man, under Satan, will rebel {again} proving worthy of God's eternal judgment; this Creation dissolved, sinners cast into fiery Judgment and Eternity Future created with New Jerusalem providing Light to Saved who visit it monthly (He 1:6-12; 2Pe 3:10-13; Re 20; 21:1-4)

WHY DOES ERA TWO HAVE MORE DETAIL?

- Eras One and Three have paucity of information while majority of Scripture pertains to Era Two. Why?
 - Era One and Three pertain primarily to Man rebelling against God
 - God's action specific to His Gospel is minimal during these two eras; however, this is the purpose of the Second Era: preparing for the coming Messiah, sacrifice for sin
 - New Covenant results from Christ's work with the *First Fruits*, Gentiles or Church, as examples to: 1) show how Adam, Cain and others could have asked Christ for mercy and 2) inspire the Jews who not only failed to acknowledge their sin but murdered Messiah; i.e., became the agents of their destruction and eternal salvation
 - Revelation is Christ sharing with His people intimate knowledge of why and what He will be doing; precedent set with Abraham concerning Sodom (Ge 18:17-21)

HISTORICAL AND BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES DEFINE THE REVELATION

- Understanding Christ's Revelation to John (and us) requires the *New Covenant* Believer to view this Scripture through these these various perspectives
 - Father has spent the time since Christ's Ascension determining when Man deserves judgment which culminates in Revelation's Cataclysm while preparing for Third Era
 - Christ challenging Man (Satan) as gods like His Challenges to Pharaoh as god-king and the people as his followers {Three sets of Three}
 - Christ said these challenges would come upon those who disbelieved; Jews who felt and saw these *afflictions*, they would repent: Comes on Gentiles also (De 29:10-30:8; Ze 12:10)
 - Revelation prologue establishes Christ as High Priest and the churches as His current people being judged as He judged the Jews; then begins His work judging Sinners while preparing for Third Era through Egyptian-Daniel's, Historical-Biblical motifs (Ro 11:11-36)