

Revelation

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ”

Written by John on the island of
Patmos around A.D. 96.

Revelation deals partly with the
past, partly with the present and
partly with the future.

Preterist – holds that the symbolism of Revelation relates only to events of the day in which it was written.

All the imagery of the seals, trumpets and vials has no bearing on the future.

Idealist – often closely aligned with the Preterist, considers Revelation to be only a symbolic picture of the enduring struggle between good and evil, and between Christianity and paganism. It holds that its symbols cannot be identified as historic events either in the past or in the future; they are simply trends or ideals.

Historicist – holds that Revelation outlines in symbolic form the entire course of history of the church from Pentecost to the advent (second coming) of Christ. The symbols portray in sequence the great events that have taken place – that is, the seals are the breakup of the Roman empire, the eruption of locusts from the bottomless pit is a picture of the Mohammedan invasions, etc.

Futurist – hold that the first three chapters of Revelation apply either to the day in which the book was written, or else that the seven churches of Asia represent seven eras of church history, bridging the gap from the apostolic age to the return of Christ. To this extent the Futurists are Historicists. Beginning with the phrase in 4:1, “the things which must come to pass hereafter,” they contend that the remainder of the book deals with events that will take place in a period called the “Great Tribulation,” just preceding the return of Christ.

Central theme is the person of Jesus Christ as He reveals the future.

Several series of sevens appear throughout the book. There are seven churches (2:1,8,12,18; 3:1,7,14), seven spirits of God (4:5), seven seals (6:1,3,5,7,9,12; 8:1), seven trumpets (8:6,7,8,10,12; 9:1,13,11:15), seven thunders (10:3), seven bowls (16:1,2,4,8,10,12,17), seven major personages (12:1,3,5,7; 13:1,11; 14:1), and seven beatitudes (1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7,14).

Rapture of the Church

1 Cor. 15:51-58; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:9;
2 Thess. 2:1-8.

**3 Pictures of Jesus Christ from
Revelation**

Jesus as the triumphant Savior and
Redeemer – the Lamb of God.
Revelation 5

Jesus as the King of Kings and Lord of
Lords, triumphant over evil.
Revelation 19:11-21; 20:1-3

Triumphant Lord Jesus as the
consummation of all things.

Revelation 21:1-8

“Behold, I make all things new.”

Revelation 22:20

New King James Version (NKJV)

He who testifies to these things
says, “Surely I am coming quickly.”
Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

It’s the end of the world as we know
it, now what?

Love – Matt. 24:12-14; Prov. 4:23

The Word – 2 Tim. 3:1-17; 4:1-5

No fear – Rom. 8:31-39
