

Revelation—Apocalypse (unveiling)

Matthew 25:31-46

II Timothy 3:1-5

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

II Thessalonians 1:5-2:12

Introductory Material

Approaches to reading the Book of Revelation

- Idealist approach—teaches that the Revelation does not contain any historical or future meaning in the book.
- Historicist approach—Revelation provides a detailed map of history.
- Preterist approach—to be read in the historical context of the first century
- Futurist approach—events in the text await fulfillment, solely geared toward the future—forgetting generations between John of Patmos and the interpreter.
- Eclectic approach—mix of preterist or historical approach with a future approach.

Prophetic success/ failures—true prophecy v. false prophecy

Symbolism

—numbers (7,12), Lambs, designations of time (e.g. one hour).

Genre

Series of apocalypses that reveal the vision/meaning for the end times

- Comparative to the prophets in the Old Testament –John draws on many Old Testament allusions.

Date

- Late first Century

Message

- God is awesomely majestic, as well as sovereign in our troubles.
- Jesus' sacrifice as the Lamb brings deliverance for believers.
- God is going to judge and avenge his people.
- Sin does not go unpunished
- God can accomplish his purposes through a small remnant. God does not depend on what the world values as power.
- Worship leads us from grief over our sufferings to God's eternal purposes seen from a heavenly perspective.
- Christ is worth dying for
- There is a radical difference between God's kingdom (exemplified in the New Jerusalem) and the world's values.