

Exploring the Book of Revelation



Week 2: Theology

Week 2

Theological Questions

- What does Revelation tell us about God? (Theology)
- What does Revelation tell us about Christ? (Christology)
- What does Revelation tell us about the Church? (Ecclesiology)
- What does Revelation tell us about the Future? (Eschatology)

Theology

About God

- Trinitarian—threefold term

Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. (Rev. 1:4–5)

- Alpha and Omega/First and Last/Beginning and End (alone is God/Creator/will bring to completion)
- Is, Was, Is to Come (YHWH coming in salvation and judgment)
- Lord God Almighty (unrivalled power and control over all things)
- One who sits on the Throne (God's sovereignty = John's encouragement)

Theology

About God

- Critique of Roman Power (system of political tyranny supported by violent oppression and economic exploitation; goddess Roma whore of Babylon riding on the beast [military power]); Worship of power
- Power of resistance comes from faith in one true God

Theology

About Christ

God: I am the Alpha and the Omega (1:8)

Christ: I am the first and the last (1:17)

God: I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end (21:6)

Christ: I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and
the end (22:13)

- What God does, Christ does
- Christ's suffering witness and sacrificial death are key events of God's conquest

Theology

About the Church

- We are to conquer as Christ did (7 promises to churches in letter to the one who conquers)
- Martyr = witness (later associated with dying for cause)
- Morally pure—>no lie in their mouth (witnessing to the truth like Christ)
- Final judgment will avenge the martyrs

Theology

About the Future

<p><u>Historicist View</u></p> <p>A prewritten record of history from John's time to the end of the World. Fulfillment is in progress and has been for close to 2000 years.</p>	<p><u>Preterist View</u> (PREH-tuhr-iz'uhm)</p> <p>Prophecies occurred and fulfilled shortly after author's time. From author's POV fulfillment was future, but past from ours. [Some] Believe last chapters look forward to second coming of Christ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fall of Temple, or• Fall of Rome
<p><u>Futurist View</u></p> <p>Most prophecies have not yet been fulfilled and are waiting to be fulfilled. Usually apply everything after chapter 4 to a relatively short time before the return of Christ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dispensationalist (chronological sequence)• Modified	<p><u>Idealist View</u></p> <p>Doesn't try to find individual fulfillment of various visions. Instead, understood as drama showing transcendent spiritual realities: Christ vs Satan, Church vs Empire, etc. Prophecy is applicable in any age.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Look forward to second coming without timeline. (modified)

Theology

About the Future

- The Tribulation and the Rapture
- Posttribulationism
- Pretribulationism
- Midtribulationism
- Partial rapturism

Theology

About the Future

Different Views of the Millennium (1000 Years)



Theology

About Numbers

- Significant numbers=three, four, seven, and twelve and their multiples
- Seven=number of completeness
- Four=completeness of God's creation and purpose of humanity
- Twelve=completeness with unity in diversity
- Ten=completeness
- Four, Seven, and Twelve=God's ordering of world and sovereignty over it