

# A Study Of The Book Of Revelation

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## Methods of Interpretation

- Futurist Method
- Continuous – Historical Method
- Philosophy of History Method
- Preterist Method
- Historical – Background Method

## Methods of Interpretation

### FUTURIST METHOD – Premillennialism

- Chapters 1-3 Fulfilled already.
- Chapters 4-19 as being future. They will be fulfilled just before the Second Coming of the Christ.
- Chapter 20:1-10 the (millennial reign of Christ on earth) 1000 years and then the loosing of Satan (the millennial ends in failure).
- Chapter 20:11-15 the judgment, then the final state.
- This theory is rejected, for it is contradictory to all of the teachings of the Old Testament prophets concerning Christ's reign as King (cf. Daniel 7:13-14; 1 Corinthians 15:24). Christ is not coming to set up a kingdom, rather to deliver the Kingdom to God.

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**CONTINUOUS-HISTORICAL** – This theory presents the book as a forecast of the body of Christ the "church." (Apostasy) rise of the pope (Catholic church), Islam, reformation, and restoration, etc.

- NOTE: This is not true for if it were true it would have no meaning to the people of the first century who were being persecuted by Rome!
- How would we know in regards to Armageddon which battle in history this would be? This does not fit in harmony with the internal evidence in Revelation at all.

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**PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY** – This view says that there are not actual events in Revelation, but rather symbolic forces of good waging war against the forces of evil. In Revelation the spiritual forces conquer the physical forces.

- The book of Revelation is dealing with a historical situation in which the Christians of John's day were involved. Therefore, we reject this theory of understanding Revelation.

## Methods of Interpretation

**PRETERISTS** – This view says the book was written for the people of John's day, and fulfilled in the events of the first century, and has little or no value to us today.

- This could not be so; else God would not have given it unto us by his providence. It is declared by God that *all scripture inspired of God is profitable for doctrine, etc.* (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- Most of Revelation was fulfilled in John's day, but this book has great meaning to us today, especially if we face the persecutions of Satan again as early Christians did in the first and second centuries.

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**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND** This view is that the book was written to the people of that particular day, and rooted in the history of that time.

- The Roman emperor was persecuting Christians and therefore Jesus caused this book to be written to manifest to Christians that they would be victorious in Christ Jesus, even if they had to perish with the sword.
- In this historical background is seen a message for all time.
- This is, of course, the particular method or theory we will use in our study of Revelation. We do not intend to be dogmatic, but open-minded in our conclusions.

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## The Date – (64-68 or 95-96 AD)

### •One of the most debated points.

- Some think it is in the time of Nero. (64-68 AD Early Date)
- Some think it is in the time of Domitian. (81-96 AD Late Date)

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## The Date – (64-68 AD)

- External evidence:
- Internal evidence:

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## The Date – (95-96 AD)

- Internal evidence that Revelation fits the time of Domitian
- External evidence that Revelation fits the time of Domitian

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