

ESCHATOLOGICAL TIME REV. 1:19; 2 PET. 3:8; Ps. 90:4

Communication is communication and it is always difficult for both sides to give and receive the same information.

Author → text → reader / hearer

The locus of authority: the original intent of the author as found in / expressed by the text!

Examples:

Revelation:

This discussion in **not** primarily / just about numbers...though that is usually included.

This is more about **when** Revelation transpires:

- In the 1st century
- Throughout the centuries
- In the future
- Not directly related to time

<u>Revelation 1:19</u> Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;	<u>Revelation 1:19</u> Γράψον οὖν ἃ εἶδες, καὶ ἃ εἰσιν, καὶ ἃ μέλλει γίνεσθαι μετὰ ταῦτα.
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I. Historicist approach

Revelation surveys all of church history up to the time of the author / preacher or shortly thereafter.

In its pure form this is rarely, if ever, found today.

This was the common view during the Reformation and following.

Many of our heroes of the faith held to this position. This position with just a **smidgen** of added fanaticism &/ the gift of prophecy &/ the Holy Spirit told me...!

- The prophecies are up till my time
- I'm the good guy / we are the chosen ones
- We **must aid** the side of righteousness → militarily
- We will usher in the kingdom
- Antichrist = pope

Ezekiel 4:4 Lie thou also upon thy **left side**, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity. Ezekiel 4:5 For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, **three hundred and ninety days**: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. Ezekiel 4:6 And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy **right side**, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: **I have appointed thee each day for a year.**

2 Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that **one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**

Psalms 90:4 For a thousand years in thy sight are but **as** yesterday when it is past, and **as** a watch in the night.

Problems:

- This view requires symbolic interpretation

- There is no agreement / total disagreement among its advocates.
- This view never mentions the church outside of Europe → as **if** no other Christians exist in the Middle East or Far East or India
- This says nothing to the 7 churches in Asia Minor!

II. Preterist approach

Matthew 24 & Revelation were fulfilled in the past AD 70, at the time of the writing of the book - more or less.

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants **things which must shortly come to pass**; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: **for the time is at hand.**

Revelation 22:6 And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants **the things which must shortly be done.**

Revelation 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. **Revelation 22:10** And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: **for the time is at hand.**

Basic ideas:

- Mt. 24 & Revelation were written before AD 70
- Mt. 24 & Revelation are primarily about the destruction of Jerusalem & the temple in AD 70 by the Romans
- Revelation 13-18 is probably more about the fall of the Roman Empire
- Some believe the final chapters describe the second coming of Christ

Problems:

- **Necessary** symbolic interpretation

- 100% dependent upon Mt. 24 & Revelation having been written before AD 70

A theory built upon one plank

- A **mixed** view of Revelation 19-22

Some: second coming and eternity

Others: symbolic coming of Christ to rule and reign in the church

Never a literal second-coming / millennium / eternity

- **The beast is usually Nero Caesar**

III. Futurist approach

Mt 24 & Revelation takes place &/ awaits fulfillment in the future

- This view uses the outline provided in the book itself!

Revelation 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;	Revelation 1:19 Γράψον οὖν ἃ εἶδες, καὶ ἃ εἰσιν, καὶ ἃ μέλλει γίνεσθαι μετὰ ταῦτα·
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Revelation 4:1 After this (Μετὰ ταῦτα) I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be **hereafter** (μετὰ ταῦτα).

Vision of Christ (1)

Vision of the church / the churches (2-3)

This would be preterism for these 2 chapters – late 1st century and early

Vision of the consummation (4-22) normally understood as chronological

➤ **This is based on literal interpretation that is **also** literate **and** literary!**
Just like we read the rest of Scripture.