

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.

IV. The idealist approach

Revelation has no one single / singular fulfillment – it is about transcendent principles & reoccurring themes.

Thoughts:

- **This view divorces the book from history**
- **This view is non-literal, allegorical &/ symbolical**

Revelation is a series of symbols dealing with the great themes of good vs evil, Christ over Satan, divine sovereignty over human manipulation.

- **Revelation is not related to any single historical referent / event.**
- **Revelation is usually seen as cyclical &/ a series of cycles**

Further thoughts:

- **This view can be helpful for application & implications**
- **Not so good for interpretation**

1 John 2:18 Little children, it is the last time:
and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come,
even now are there many antichrists;
whereby we know that it is the last time.

Revelation 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

Revelation 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

Revelation 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. **These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.**

Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Daniel 11:21 And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

Daniel 11:22 And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflowed from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant. **Daniel 11:23** And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people. **Daniel 11:24** He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches: yea, and he shall forecast his devices against the strong holds, even for a time. **Daniel 11:25** And he shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south with a great army; and the king of the south shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand: for they shall forecast devices against him. **Daniel 11:26** Yea, they that feed of the portion of his meat shall destroy him, and his army shall overflow: and many shall fall down slain. **Daniel 11:27** And both these kings' hearts shall be to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end shall be at the time appointed. **Daniel 11:28** Then shall he return into his land with great riches; and his heart shall be against the holy covenant; and he shall do exploits, and return to his own land. **Daniel 11:29** At the time appointed he shall return, and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter.

Daniel 11:30 For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant. **Daniel 11:31** And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate. **Daniel 11:32** And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: **but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.** **Daniel 11:33** And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days. **Daniel 11:34** Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries.

Daniel 11:35 And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed. **Daniel 11:36** **And the king shall do according to his will;** and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. **Daniel 11:37** Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. **Daniel 11:38** But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. **Daniel 11:39** Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain. **Daniel 11:40** And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. **Daniel 11:41** He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. **Daniel 11:42** He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. **Daniel 11:43** But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps. **Daniel 11:44** But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. **Daniel 11:45** And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.

VIEWPOINTS:		
A-Mil	Pre-Trib	Escapist / Pre-Mil
Antichrists: yes	Antichrists: yes	Antichrists: not significant
The final antichrist: no	The final antichrist: absolutely	The final antichrist: yes
Much tribulation: yes	Much tribulation: yes	Much tribulation: no
The great tribulation: no	The great tribulation: yes	The great tribulation: yes