

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION AND THE END TIMES – WEEK 1

Keys to understanding Eschatology:

1. Humility
2. Context
3. OT Background
4. Greco/Roman Culture

Last Days

- 2 Timothy 2:22-3:9 – “Last Days”
- 2 Peter 2:15-3:9 – “Last Days”
- Jude 17-19 – “Last Times”
- James 5:1-6 – “Last Days”
- Acts 2:14-24 – “Last Days”
- 1 Peter 1:17-21 – “Last Times”
- Hebrews 1:1-3 – “Last Days”

Four Views of Revelation/End Times

1. Postmillennialists
 - Literal 1,000 year spiritual reign – second coming after the millennium
2. Historical Premillennialists
 - Literal 1,000 year earthly reign – second coming before millennium
3. Dispensational Premillennialists
 - Literal 1,000 year earthly reign – rapture before second coming – second coming before the millennium
4. Amillennialists
 - Figurative 1,000 year spiritual reign – second coming after the millennium

What is Revelation?

- Epistle – letter written in a specific time period to a specific person/group
 - Who was it written to?
 - The 7 Churches of Asia Minor
 - What was going on in their context?
 - How would they have understood the letter?
 - What blueprint would they have used to understand the symbols?
 - The Old Testament / 1st Century Background
- Prophecy – prediction v. prescription
 - When the words to prophecy or prophecy is used in scripture, 88% of the time it is prescription and not prediction
 - Prophecy Reveals to us:
 - Who God is
 - What God desires

- What God demands from His people
- Apocalyptic
 - A revelation of transcendent realities often communicated by other-worldly beings with a great amount of symbolic language to comfort or challenge the oppressed people
 - Revealing
 - Symbolic
 - Often speaks from the perspective of the ones being judged
 - Example: Isaiah 13

Structure

- Each major section of Revelation ends with a reference to the throne of God and/or the Second Coming of Jesus (end of the world). It is cyclical in nature. This technique is called **recapitulation**. The reason: He is our focus.
 - (2:1-3:22) 7 Churches – Throne
 - (4:1-5:15) The Throne Described
 - (6:1-8:5) 7 Seals – End of the world/Throne
 - (8:6-11:19) 7 Trumpets – End of the World/Throne
 - (10:4) 7 Thunders – Secret (Not told anything)
 - (12:1-14:20) The Dragon, the Beasts, and the Lamb – End of the World/Throne
 - (16:1-16:21) 7 Bowls – End of the World/Throne
 - (17:1-18:24) Introduction to/Destruction of Babylon
 - (19:11-21) Great Battle – End of the World
 - (20:1-15) Millennium/Final Judgement – End of the World
 - (21-22) New Heaven/Earth