

## Feeling “Left Behind”?: Revelation

May 30, 2010

**Summary of Today’s Lesson:** A biblical overview of the key interpretive issues concerning John’s revelation of the return of Jesus Christ.

---

### Four Parameters for Interpreting Revelation

- **Rule #1:** Read Revelation following the same hermeneutical **METHOD** as the rest of the **BIBLE** (i.e. who, why, when).
- **Rule #2:** Read Revelation within the **CONTEXT** of the wider **NEW TESTAMENT** message.

### **Key to Biblical Eschatology: Already-Not Yet axis**

- **Rule #3:** Read Revelation with a deep sense of **HUMILITY** and **REVERENCE** for the mysteries of God.
- **Rule # 4:** Read Revelation with a **SANCTIFIED IMAGINATION**.

### Key to Reading Revelation

Progressive Recapitulation: Repetitive themes of **JUDGEMENT & SALVATION** leading up to the coming of Christ.

### Key to Interpreting the Symbols

In Revelation, John gives us a **SYMBOLIC, BIBLICAL** pattern by which to understand human **HISTORY** and the **FUTURE**.

### Four Views on the Millennial Kingdom

1. Premillennial Dispensational View
2. Classic Premillennialism
3. Amillennial
4. Postmillennial

### What is the relevance of Revelation for Christians today?

- **VICTORY** of Jesus over the **POWERS** of **EVIL**.
- **ASSURANCE** of **SALVATION** for God’s people.
- **STRENGTH** for present **ENDURANCE** by foresight of a **GLORIOUS** future.

## Feeling “Left Behind”?: Revelation

May 30, 2010

**Summary of Today’s Lesson:** A biblical overview of the key interpretive issues concerning John’s revelation of the return of Jesus Christ.

---

### Four Parameters for Interpreting Revelation

- **Rule #1:** Read Revelation following the same hermeneutical **METHOD** as the rest of the **BIBLE** (i.e. who, why, when).
- **Rule #2:** Read Revelation within the **CONTEXT** of the wider **NEW TESTAMENT** message.

### **Key to Biblical Eschatology: Already-Not Yet axis**

- **Rule #3:** Read Revelation with a deep sense of **HUMILITY** and **REVERENCE** for the mysteries of God.
- **Rule # 4:** Read Revelation with a **SANCTIFIED IMAGINATION**.

### Key to Reading Revelation

Progressive Recapitulation: Repetitive themes of **JUDGEMENT & SALVATION** leading up to the coming of Christ.

### Key to Interpreting the Symbols

In Revelation, John gives us a **SYMBOLIC, BIBLICAL** pattern by which to understand human **HISTORY** and the **FUTURE**.

### Four Views on the Millennial Kingdom

1. Premillennial Dispensational View
2. Classic Premillennialism
3. Amillennial
4. Postmillennial

### What is the relevance of Revelation for Christians today?

- **VICTORY** of Jesus over the **POWERS** of **EVIL**.
- **ASSURANCE** of **SALVATION** for God’s people.
- **STRENGTH** for present **ENDURANCE** by foresight of a **GLORIOUS** future.

## THE STRUCTURE AND PLAN OF JOHN'S APOCALYPSE

- A. Prologue: imminence of the faithful witness's coming, with covenant sanctions (1:1-8)
- B. Vision: imperfect church in the world promised salvation for perseverance (1:9-3:21)
- C. Seven Seals: already and not-yet judgments on the world (4:1-8:1)
  - Prelude: the conquering lamb-lion on heaven's throne (4:1-5:14)
  - Vision: opening of the book, judgments initiated by the conquering horsemen and completed directly by God (6:1-17; 8:1)
  - Interlude: saints protected, receiving final salvation from the lamb, and clothed in white (ch. 7)
- D. Seven Trumpets: judgments on the ungodly world and the great city (8:2-11:18)
  - Prelude: heavenly commissioning of seven angels (8:2-6)
  - Vision: sounding of the trumpets of judgment (8:7-9:21; 11:14-18)
  - Interlude: witnessing church versus persecuting world (10:1-11:13)
- E. War of the Ages (11:19-14:20)
  - Prelude: ark of the covenant in heaven (11:19)
  - Vision: dragon and beasts versus the heavenly woman, her child, and the saints (12:1-13:18)
  - Interlude: covenant sanctions involving judgment, though blessing is included (ch. 14)
- D'. Seven Bowls: judgments on the world and the great city (15:1-19:10)
  - Prelude*: heavenly commissioning of seven angels (ch. 15)
  - Vision*: bowls of judgment poured out (ch. 16)
  - Interlude*: the world as an ungodly prostitute versus the church as a faithful bride (17:1-19:10)
- C'. The World's Final Judgment Portrayed from Various Perspectives (19:11-21:8)
  - Prelude*: the conquering Messiah and his army (19:11-16)
  - Vision*: the messianic horseman judges the ungodly horsemen led by the false prophet, the judgment of Satan and his hordes, the opening of books for judgment (19:17- 20:15)
  - Interlude*: the lamb's bride adorned for her divine husband (21:1-8)
- B'. Vision: the perfect church in glory having received the promised salvation (21:9-22:5)
- A'. Epilogue: the imminence of Christ's coming attested by the faithful witness (22:6-21)

## THE STRUCTURE AND PLAN OF JOHN'S APOCALYPSE

- A. Prologue: imminence of the faithful witness's coming, with covenant sanctions (1:1-8)
- B. Vision: imperfect church in the world promised salvation for perseverance (1:9-3:21)
- C. Seven Seals: already and not-yet judgments on the world (4:1-8:1)
  - Prelude: the conquering lamb-lion on heaven's throne (4:1-5:14)
  - Vision: opening of the book, judgments initiated by the conquering horsemen and completed directly by God (6:1-17; 8:1)
  - Interlude: saints protected, receiving final salvation from the lamb, and clothed in white (ch. 7)
- D. Seven Trumpets: judgments on the ungodly world and the great city (8:2-11:18)
  - Prelude: heavenly commissioning of seven angels (8:2-6)
  - Vision: sounding of the trumpets of judgment (8:7-9:21; 11:14-18)
  - Interlude: witnessing church versus persecuting world (10:1-11:13)
- E. War of the Ages (11:19-14:20)
  - Prelude: ark of the covenant in heaven (11:19)
  - Vision: dragon and beasts versus the heavenly woman, her child, and the saints (12:1-13:18)
  - Interlude: covenant sanctions involving judgment, though blessing is included (ch. 14)
- D'. Seven Bowls: judgments on the world and the great city (15:1-19:10)
  - Prelude*: heavenly commissioning of seven angels (ch. 15)
  - Vision*: bowls of judgment poured out (ch. 16)
  - Interlude*: the world as an ungodly prostitute versus the church as a faithful bride (17:1-19:10)
- C'. The World's Final Judgment Portrayed from Various Perspectives (19:11-21:8)
  - Prelude*: the conquering Messiah and his army (19:11-16)
  - Vision*: the messianic horseman judges the ungodly horsemen led by the false prophet, the judgment of Satan and his hordes, the opening of books for judgment (19:17- 20:15)
  - Interlude*: the lamb's bride adorned for her divine husband (21:1-8)
- B'. Vision: the perfect church in glory having received the promised salvation (21:9-22:5)
- A'. Epilogue: the imminence of Christ's coming attested by the faithful witness (22:6-21)