

Revelation

or
The Apocalypse of John, the
Apostle

Becoming Closer

The Rise of PreMillennialism

- Related to the demise of Historicist approach
- Theologically bound to “new” denominations.
- The appeal of being “in on the secret” - especially in a time when Christians are a minority.

Becoming Closer

Four Main Methods

- Preterist
- Poetic
- Historicist (or PostMillennial)
- Futurist (or PreMillennial)

Becoming Closer

Invective

- “I don’t know any PostMillennialists; I don’t even eat Post Toasties”
- “Any scheme that implies that John is speaking in a kind of code language about events purely contemporary with him ... should not be regarded with the same respect due a believer.”

Becoming Closer

Preterist Viewpoint

- Dates originally from the early church
- Most (or all) of the events are during the Roman Empire
- Popular among liberals and Roman Catholics
- Taken to extremes, it is very poor interpretation.
- Often used to sidestep the existence of prophecy
- Not covered in this class.

Becoming Closer

Poetic Viewpoint

- No correspondence of prophecy with dates and times.
- Draws heavily on the symbolic
- Accepts the “Seven Last Things” - or some of them
- Always correct -- and always wrong (IMO)
- Always a useful interpretation
- Strong point: 2 Corinthians 10:5

Becoming Closer

Historicist (PostMillennial)

- Rise
 - Very strong in the Reformation
 - Anti-Catholic strength
 - Continuation of classic Preterist
 - The power of the history book
- "Demise"
 - Millennial expectation and World War I
 - Media and Message
 - Good writers wanted

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Historicist (Good News & Bad)

- In Favor
 - The most obvious interpretation
 - Most Christians of most times
 - Can produce stunning predictions
 - Scholarly
- Opposed
 - Historicists don't always agree on past dates interpretations
 - Definite anti-Papacy bias
 - Tends to "put off" the coming of Christ
 - Scholarly

Becoming Closer

Futurist (Good News and Bad)

- In Favor
 - Strongly evangelistic in tone.
 - Impossible for a Christian to prove it wrong
 - Eyes on the Second Coming
 - Ecumenical
- Opposed
 - Impossible for a Christian to prove it right.
 - Ignores 1900 years of scholarship.
 - Tendency to be too literal -- and judgmental.

Becoming Closer

Summary

- Preterist -- the liberal view
- Poetic -- always true, always insufficient
- Historicist -- most studied, least popular
- Futurist -- the view of most fundamentalists today.

Becoming Closer

The Seven Last Things

- Resurrection of the Dead
- The Tribulation
- The Second Coming of Christ
- Armageddon
- The Millennium
- The Judgment
- New Heaven and New Earth

Becoming Closer