



Revelation

or

*The Apocalypse of John, the
Apostle*

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.*

Four Main Methods

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

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.”*

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.*

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*

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*

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*

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.*

Summary

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

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*