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4

Author:

- 1:1, 1:4, 1:9, 22:8
- “his servant John”
- 9- “your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom...”

5

Author: Which John?

- Jewish
- Strong understanding of Jesus' life and teachings
- Church leader--well known to his recipients
- Deeply religious--convinced that the Christian faith is under attack
- So? We're fairly sure its John the Apostle writing from Greek island of Patmos (v.9) (CCSB 1942)

6

Recipients:

- 1:4
- “To the seven churches in the province of Asia...”
- Asia, meaning modern-day Turkey, not China/Japan

7

Recipients: Seven Churches:

- Ephesus
- Smyrna
- Pergamum
- Thyatira
- Sardis
- Philadelphia
- Laodicea

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Date Written:

- "Revelation was written when Christians were entering a time of persecution." (CCSB 1942)
- Most scholars date the book 95? AD.

11

Purpose:

- Depends on whom you ask.
- Basically, "written to assure the recipients of the ultimate triumph of Christ over all who rise up against Him and His saints." (CBH)

12

Key Verse:

- 22:12
- “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.”ESV

13

Key Chapter (Required Reading):

- 22
- Peace of final victory of Christ
- River of Life
- Jesus is Coming

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Where is LCMS?	Preterist	Historicist	Futurist	Idealist
Post Trib Premillennialist				
Dispensational Premillennialist				
Postmillennialist				
Amillennialist				

15

PRETERISTS:

- Preterists say Revelation was based entirely on the time when it was written--everything (almost) has already happened
- No major churches--some Reformed, some Brethren, some Scottish

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HISTORICISTS:

- Historicists say that it's describing a **long chain of events** from the time it was written to the end of time
- Presbyterian, Catholic

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FUTURISTS:

- Futurists say it's entirely based on the end times--it's all **eschatology**
- Taking a literal view of all descriptions of the end times in the Bible, the premillennial dispensationalist view (espoused by the Left Behind series) reads much of the Book of Revelation as a straight line of chronology (BSC)
- Baptist, Fundamentalist, Pentecostal, some Methodist

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IDEALISTS:

- Idealists say its all **symbolic**; for example, the victory of good over evil
- Anglican, Episcopal

19

WHERE ARE YOU?

- Preterist--all past
- Historicist--past, present, future
- Futurist--all future
- Idealist--not real events at all
- A mix?

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One more complication...
Revelation 20: 2-6:

Christ Reigns for “a thousand years”

- ▶ Post-Trib Premillennialism--bad times, Second Coming, Christ reigns for 1000 years, Final Judgment of Man
- ▶ Dispensational Premillennialism--the rapture, reign of Anti-Christ, second coming, 1000 year reign of Christ, final judgment (3 second comings?)

21

One more complication...
Revelation 20: 2-6:

Christ Reigns for “a thousand years”

- ▶ Postmillennialism--Second coming after a thousand years of Christ's glory
- ▶ Amillennialism--doesn't mean a “thousand” years; it's figurative

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So, where are you?

- ▶ Post-Trib Premillennialism--bad times, Second Coming, Christ reigns for 1000 years, Final Judgment of Man
- ▶ Dispensational Premillennialism--the rapture, reign of Anti-Christ, second coming, 1000 year reign of Christ, final judgment (3 second comings?)
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Post Trib Premillennialist				
Dispensational Premillennialist				
Postmillennialist				
Amillennialist		✓		✓

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LCMS: (1)

25

- “...the fascinating book of Revelation is not meant to be read as a literal account. Instead, it is written in **highly symbolic language** and, through grand visions and pictures, presents important truths about the **power of God and of His Son, Jesus Christ**”. (Barry)

LCMS: (2)

26

- “the Book of Revelation presents a series of visions depicting the same time period from different angles, and each cycle of visions increases in intensity. The six visions of the end times in Revelation are a **highly figurative description of events that will take place between the first and second comings of Christ**.” (BSC)

LCMS: (3)

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- “Amillennialism: The teaching espoused in this document that believes there will be **no (“a”) literal thousand (mille) year visible earthly kingdom of Jesus**. This view is better termed “realized millennialism” because it embraces the idea that Christ is reigning now..”(BSC)

LCMS (4):

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- One of the messages of Revelation is that God's will will be done in spite of all opposition. He is in charge. He reigns. **It is a message of comfort for the one who trusts in Jesus Christ as Savior and King**. (LCMS)

Quote from
Martin Luther
(1483-1546) (5):

- Luther, "...we can profit by this book and make good use of it...We can rest assured that neither force nor lies, neither wisdom nor holiness, neither tribulation nor suffering shall suppress Christendom, but it will gain victory and conquer at last (LW 35:409) (CSSB 1942)

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LCMS Left Behind

Jesus comes to earth again for final judgment of man; either the souls of the living are taken to heaven, or all die first; each is judged then sent immediately to heaven or hell

Rapture: All Christians disappear; non-Christians stay on Earth and literally live through the events of Revelation, some become Christians; then Christ comes again and sits on an earthly throne for 1000 years; then the final judgment of man

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Where is LCMS? Summarized:

- 1. Officially, historicism; events are world history, and world future; events are happening around us as Christ reigns and Satan kicks and struggles and bites
- 2. Some idealism mixed in: numbers are symbolic; some events are not meant to be taken literally.
- 3. Amillennialism--Christ is reigning now, "1000" is symbolic
- 4. The main point of Revelation is that this battle will continue throughout our lives, but we know that:
 - A. Christ will win in the end, and
 - B. We will live eternally with Him in heaven.

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Numb3rs:

- Lots of Numbers:
- 3 (God), 3.5 (half of seven),
- 4 (the world),
- 7 (God + the world)(or completeness),
- 10 (completeness),
- 12(the church),
- 666(the beast),
- 144000(12 x 12 x 10 x 10 x 10, the church)

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Cycles, not Chronologies

- Cycles: Seven Seals, Trumpets, Visions, and Bowls. These are views of the same events, not different events. The first seal = the first trumpet = the first vision = the first bowl,
- Second=second=second=second, etc.
- Chapters 6 through 16

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Cycles, not Chronologies

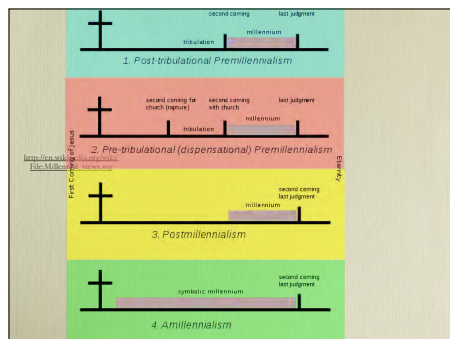
- 6:1 I watched as the Lamb opened the **first of the seven seals**. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!" **I** looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.
- 8:7 **The first angel sounded his trumpet**, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.
- 16:1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth." **The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land**, and ugly and painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image.

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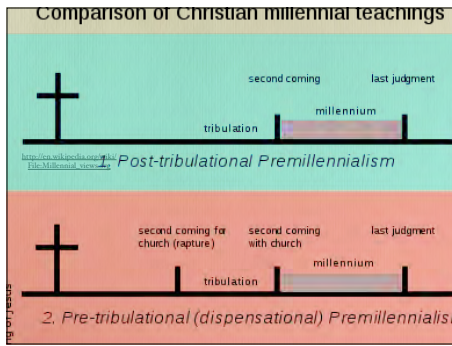
Same event, different description?

- 6:1 I watched as the Lamb opened the **first of the seven seals**.
- 8:7 **The first angel sounded his trumpet**, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the earth.
- 16:2 **The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land** and ugly and painful sores broke out...

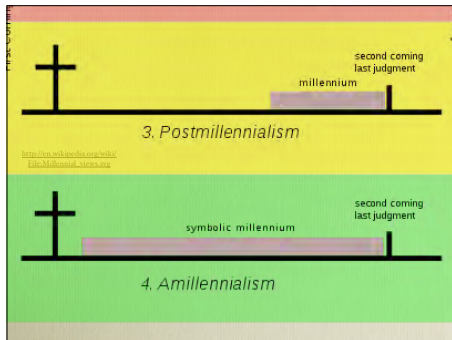
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Activity to Remember

Song Listening; Left Behind Movie

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Life Lesson from Revelation:

- "Revelation is thoroughly Christ-centered. It portrays the Savior as the Lamb slain for the sins of the world and now enthroned in heaven. He is in control of history, which spells woe to the enemies of His church but affords consolation to persecuted Christians"-- ITBOTB
- How does Revelation help you understand God's Plan in your life?

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Required Reading

- Chapter 20: 1-6
- Chapter 22

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