

“The Churches of Revelations”

Revelations Chapters 2 and 3 and beyond.

This is by no means an exhaustive study... Just a few things to think about before we dive into the seven churches and do a more in-depth study of the book.

- Four basic views of the seven churches and the book of revelations, and there may be more and probably are.
1. Historicist: ***It's a prophecy about church history from the time of John to the end of the world. (ie: the seven churches reflect the churches condition through out the dispensations of history until today)***
 - a. The prophecy begins with the seven actual churches in John's day... and proceeds through history from there.
 - b. Historicism is a method of interpretation in Christian eschatology which associates biblical prophecies with actual historical events and identifies symbolic beings with historical persons or societies.
 2. Preterist: ***It's a prophecy that was fulfilled primarily in the first century AD.***
 - a. The prophecy begins with the seven actual churches of Asia Minor. It then focuses on the land of Israel before 70AD.
 - b. Preterism holds that the contents of the book of revelations is a prophecy of events that were fulfilled in the first century and that the book of revelations was written before 70AD and the destruction of Jerusalem. (Temple)
 - c. They believe most of the prophecies in the book of revelations were fulfilled shortly after John wrote them.
 3. Futurist: ***Revelation is a prophecy primarily about the future end of the world.***
 - a. The prophecy begins with the seven churches, which were actual churches in John's day and may also symbolize the types of churches present in the last days.

- b. Then from revelations Chapter 4 forward, are prophecies of things that are to happen in the future, just before the second coming of Christ. All the events of revelations are still in the future.
- c. It's this belief or understanding that predicts the resurrection of the dead, rapture, millennialism etc. based on other scriptures that are interpreted in conjunction with revelations... (ie: Daniel, Isaiah 2:11 – 22, 1st Thessalonians 4:15 – 5:11)
- d. This view is the most widely held and taught today... (last 50+ years) spawning countless books and movies??

4. Idealist: *It's a non-historical and non-prophetic drama about spiritual realities.*

- a. The book begins with the seven churches, which symbolize tendencies in the church that can occur in every age.
- b. Revelations is allegorical and a nonliteral approach.
- c. It's an interpretation of the book of revelations that sees all or most of the imagery of the book as symbolic.
- d. Allegorical approach was introduced by Origen AD 185-254 and made prominent by Augustine AD 354-420

NOW THAT WE ARE THOROUGHLY CONFUSED WE WILL DIVE IN AND SEE WHAT GODS WORD SAYS.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE VIEWS, JUST REMEMBER REVELATIONS IS AN UNVAILING OF JESUS CHRIST. AND WE WILL DISCOVER SOME COMMON TRUTHS WE CAN ALL AGREE ON. (Many people have a combination of views or a mixture of views)

I WILL BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS ALL VIEWS.

GOD BLESS

MANNY