

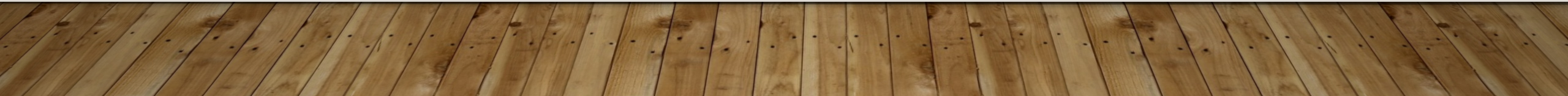
# REV.12–16

# THEOLOGY SURVEY

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VISIONS OF CONFLICT, JUDGMENT, AND WORSHIP

A COMPARATIVE SURVEY OF INTERPRETIVE SCHOOLS

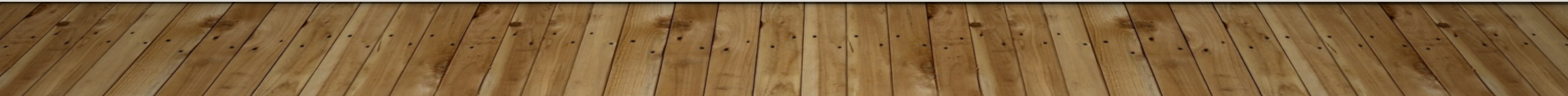


# REVELATION 12

## WOMAN, DRAGON, CHILD, & MICHAEL

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*Interpretations compared*



# REVELATION 12

## WHAT IT TELLS US ABOUT GOD

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### Supernatural Protector!

- Woman is protected in the wilderness (vv6, 14)
- Reminiscent of Ezekiel 16:8-10, Hosea 2
- ***Is your wilderness a bad thing?***

### He has a Powerful Army!

- However you interpret it, God uses archangel Michael to whup Satan
- ***There is no sign in the Bible that God is in danger of losing to your enemy.***



# REVELATION 12 — PRETERIST VIEW

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## Interpretation:

- Woman = faithful Israel (12:1–2)
- Child = Christ, caught up to God (12:5)
- Dragon = Satan acting through Rome (vv3–4)
- War in heaven = Christ's victory at the cross (vv7–9)
- 1,260 days = Jewish persecution during Roman war (v6)

## Sources:

- Mostly **textual**, supported by OT imagery (e.g., Gen 37)
- **Historical speculation** about the 1st-century Roman siege

## Evaluation:

- Text supports Israel imagery and birth/ascension pattern
- The 1,260-day application is **extrinsic and debated**

# REVELATION 12 — HISTORICIST VIEW

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## Interpretation:

- Woman = true Church
- Child = Christ or faithful remnant
- Dragon = pagan Rome
- War in heaven = Christianity overcoming paganism (e.g., Constantine)
- 1,260 days = 1,260 years of papal oppression

## Sources:

- Partially **textual**
- Relies on **day-year principle** from Daniel 7/9

## Evaluation:

- Symbolism of woman and dragon has textual basis
- Day-year method is **not found in Revelation**, and is applied from outside

# REVELATION 12 — FUTURIST VIEW

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## Interpretation:

- Woman = Israel
- Child = Christ
- Dragon = Satan in end times
- War in heaven = future event during Tribulation
- 1,260 days = 3.5 years of Israel's protection

## Sources:

- Mix of **textual details** and **Dispensational framework**
- Timing drawn from **Daniel 9**, not Revelation

## Evaluation:

- Symbols and numbers are mentioned in the text
- Future timing is **inferred**, not directly stated



# REVELATION 12 — IDEALIST VIEW

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## Interpretation:

- Woman = God's people across all time
- Child = Christ or Church's faithful witness
- Dragon = Satan throughout history
- War in heaven = spiritual conflict centered at the cross
- 1,260 days = symbolic of Church persecution

## Sources:

- Primarily **textual**, emphasizing repeated patterns
- **Theological lens** resists fixed chronology

## Evaluation:

- Strong symbolic basis in the text
- **Non-linear reading** de-emphasizes the narrative's sequence

# REVELATION 12 – COMPARED

Aspect	Preterist	Historicist	Futurist	Idealist
Woman (12:1–2)	Faithful Israel	The true Church	Israel in the end times	God's people in all ages
Dragon (vv3–4)	Satan through Rome (Herod)	Pagan Rome	Satan via Antichrist	Satan opposing God
Male Child (12:5–6)	Christ	Christ or faithful remnant	Christ or the Church	Christ
Wilderness (v6)	Flight of Jewish Christians (70 AD)	Persecuted Church in history	Protection of Israel in Tribulation	God's protection in trials
War in Heaven (vv7–9)	Spiritual victory of Christ	Victory at resurrection/Church rise	Future Tribulation event	Christ's triumph at the cross
Persecution (vv13–17)	Persecution of early Church	Ongoing Church persecution	Satan attacks Jews/ believers	Spiritual war across ages



# REVELATION 12 – CRITICAL THINKING PROMPTS

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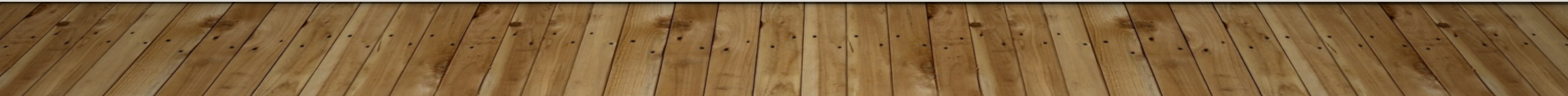
- Does the text ID the woman?
- Does the text tell us whether it's a literal dragon?
- Does the text ID the dragon? (*see* v9; 20:2)
- Does the text ID the child? (*see* 2:27, 19:15; Psalm 2:9)
- Is it bad to say the “1,260 days” (v6) might not be days? (*see* Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6)
- Does the text say **when** the war in heaven is? (vv7–9)
- Who might her offspring represent, per the text? (vv13–17, *especially* v17)

# REVELATION 13

## BEASTS, MARKS, NUMBERS

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*Interpretations compared*



# REVELATION 13

## WHAT IT TELLS US ABOUT GOD

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### God is Fully Authoritative

- He *allows* evil to have some limited power (vv5, 7)
- Reminiscent of Job's story, and Paul in 1 Co. 5:5
- ***Is evil ever out of control?***

### God Calls for Our Endurance and Faith!

- Believers might not be safe from various fates, but will persevere in their faith
- ***Be ambitious: what will God ask you to persevere through in your life?***



## SATAN IS JUST A TOOL FOR YOUR GOOD

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1 Corinthians 5:5

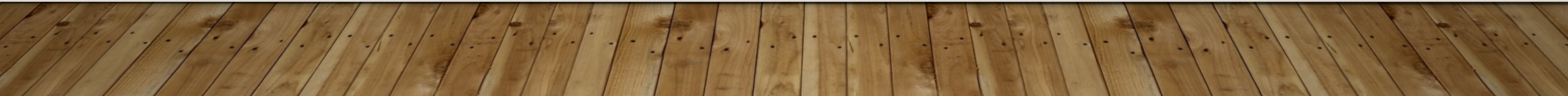
Romans 8:28

**“You are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.”**

— *1 Corinthians 5:5 (ESV)*

**“ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.”**

— *Romans 8:28 (NASB)*



# REVELATION 13 — PRETERIST VIEW

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## **Interpretation:**

- Sea beast = Imperial Rome, esp. Nero (13:1–2)
- Worship = emperor cult (13:3–4)
- Earth beast = enforcers of imperial religion (13:11–14)
- Mark = economic allegiance to empire (13:16–17)
- 666 = Nero Caesar via Hebrew gematria (13:18)

## **Sources:**

- Mostly textual; beast imagery tied to Daniel 7
- Historical speculation on Nero and Roman cult practices

## **Evaluation:**

- Text supports Rome-based reading and symbolic logic
- 666 as Nero is plausible but relies on external gematria

# REVELATION 13 — HISTORICIST VIEW

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## Interpretation:

- Sea beast = Papal Rome (13:1–2)
- Earth beast = later state-supported religion (13:11–14)
- Mark = enforced conformity (13:16–17)
- 666 = symbolic of papal titles or imperfection (13:18)

## Sources:

- Some textual support (beast = empire)
- Day-year principle and 666 interpretation drawn from tradition

## Evaluation:

- Symbolic interpretation fits historical arc
- Year-day timeline and 666 meaning are extrinsic to Revelation



# REVELATION 13 — FUTURIST VIEW

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## Interpretation:

- Sea beast = future Antichrist leader (13:1–2)
- Earth beast = False Prophet (13:11–14)
- Mark = literal system during Tribulation (13:16–17)
- 666 = identity of future Antichrist (13:18)

## Sources:

- Textual imagery + dispensational framework
- Timing and figures drawn from Daniel 9 and 2 Thess 2

## Evaluation:

- Symbols are named in text; timeline is inferred
- Literal reading depends on external prophetic system

# REVELATION 13 — IDEALIST VIEW

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## **Interpretation:**

- Sea beast = recurring political tyranny (13:1–2)
- Earth beast = deceptive ideology or false religion (13:11–14)
- Mark = allegiance to worldly power (13:16–17)
- 666 = false messiah or ultimate imperfection (13:18)

## **Sources:**

- Highly symbolic reading from within Revelation's patterns
- Rejects fixed chronology; sees repetition across history

## **Evaluation:**

- Fits recurring themes in Revelation
- Nonlinear view resists a single historical application

# REVELATION 13 – COMPARED

Aspect	Preterist	Historicist	Futurist	Idealist
Sea Beast (13:1–2)	Imperial Rome / Nero	Papal Rome / apostate Church	Future Antichrist leader	Tyrannical state powers
Dragon’s Power (13:4)	Satan via Roman Empire	Satan influencing Church	Satan empowers Antichrist	Evil behind all human empire
War on Saints (13:5–8)	Nero's persecution	Centuries of persecution	Tribulation martyrdom	Ongoing attack on believers
Earth Beast (13:11–14)	Local Roman enforcers	Later corrupt Christian powers	False Prophet	False religion in all ages
Image and Mark (13:14–17)	Roman cult and economics	Forced conformity in Church/state	Literal end-times system	Allegiance to worldly powers
Number 666 (13:18)	Nero Caesar (gematria)	Papal or anti-Christian symbol	Future identifier of Antichrist	Ultimate imperfection / false messiah



# REVELATION 13 – THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

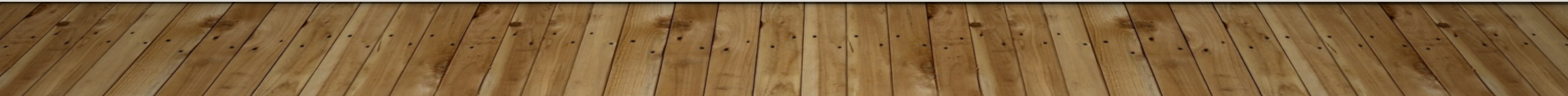
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- Does the text interpret the sea beast? (13:1–2)
- Does the text say why the world worships the beast? (13:3–4)
- Is the earth beast a second person or a symbol? (13:11–14)
- Does the text define the mark or its function? (13:16–17)
- Is the number 666 interpreted within Revelation? (13:18)

# REVELATION 14 144,000, MESSAGES, BABYLON, GRAPES

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*Interpretations compared*



# REVELATION 14

## WHAT IT TELLS US ABOUT GOD

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### **God Sees Your Faithfulness. He's Keeping Track.**

- It's like God's people to be visibly identifiable (v1), "blameless" (v5)
- Forehead = public image? 3:12, 7:3, 22:4; priest Aaron (Ex. 28), OT law (Deut. 6)
- ***You can't have both names on you. In Christ, you are claimed by God.***

### **God's Gospel is Justice, not merely Salvation**

- "eternal gospel" (vv 6-7); reminiscent of imprecatory Psalms
- ***"Vengeance belongs to the Lord" is no cop-out. Vindication will come!***



# REVELATION 14 — PRETERIST VIEW

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## **Interpretation:**

- 144,000 = Jewish Christians (14:1–5)
- Angel messages = gospel and judgment before Jerusalem's fall (14:6–11)
- Babylon = Jerusalem or Rome (14:8)
- Harvest/winepress = judgment of Jerusalem (14:14–20)

## **Sources:**

- Some textual grounding, esp. gospel/harvest symbols
- Historical interpretation of 70 AD

## **Evaluation:**

- Interpretation fits first-century context
- Symbolism could extend beyond local events

# REVELATION 14 — HISTORICIST VIEW

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## **Interpretation:**

- 144,000 = faithful throughout church history (14:1–5)
- Angel messages = Reformation and later revivals (14:6–11)
- Babylon = corrupt Church/papacy (14:8)
- Harvest = judgment over centuries (14:14–20)

## **Sources:**

- Mixed textual/symbolic interpretation
- Timeline and papal associations drawn from tradition

## **Evaluation:**

- Consistent with long-view history model
- Babylon = Church reading not textually explicit

# REVELATION 14 — FUTURIST VIEW

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## Interpretation:

- 144,000 = end-time Jewish believers (14:1–5)
- Angel messages = literal proclamations in Tribulation (14:6–11)
- Babylon = future global system (14:8)
- Harvest/winepress = second coming judgment (14:14–20)

## Sources:

- **Dispensational framework** overlaid on text
- Ties to Daniel and end-time prophecy

## Evaluation:

- Literal view fits futurist system
- Timing drawn from outside Revelation



# REVELATION 14 — IDEALIST VIEW

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## Interpretation:

- 144,000 = all faithful believers (14:1–5)
- Angel messages = eternal gospel and warnings across ages (14:6–11)
- Babylon = worldly opposition to God (14:8)
- Harvest = final judgment of good and evil (14:14–20)

## Sources:

- Highly symbolic, within Revelation's narrative style
- Avoids tying to one event

## Evaluation:

- Interprets symbols as timeless patterns
- Sacrifices historical specificity

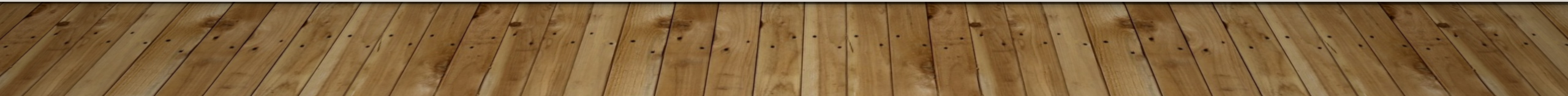
# REVELATION 14 – COMPARED

Aspect	Preterist	Historicist	Futurist	Idealist
144,000 (14:1–5)	Jewish Christians spared from judgment	True believers in all ages	Literal end-time Jewish believers	Symbolic of the faithful
Angel Messages (14:6–11)	Gospel before 70 AD	Reformation-era preaching	End-times warning during Tribulation	Eternal truths proclaimed always
Babylon's Fall (14:8)	Jerusalem or Rome (1st century)	Corrupt Church (Rome)	Future revived city/system	Symbol of human rebellion
Call to Endurance (14:12–13)	Faithfulness under Roman threat	Call to persevere during Church trials	Encouragement to Tribulation saints	Timeless call for Christian perseverance
Harvest & Winepress (14:14–20)	Judgment on Jerusalem	Long judgment on apostasy	Final judgment at second coming	Symbolic of ultimate divine justice

# REVELATION 14 – FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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- Does the text identify who the 144,000 are? (14:1–5)
- Do the angelic proclamations describe events or timeless truths? (14:6–11)
- Is Babylon clearly identified or interpreted in this chapter? (14:8)
- What is the function of the harvest imagery? (14:14–20)
- Do these visions appear sequential or thematic?



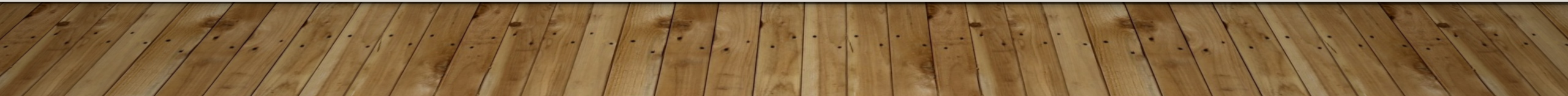


# REVELATION 15-16

## BOWLS, GLASSY SEA, PLAGUES, ETC.

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*Interpretations compared*



# REVELATION 15

## WHAT IT TELLS US ABOUT GOD

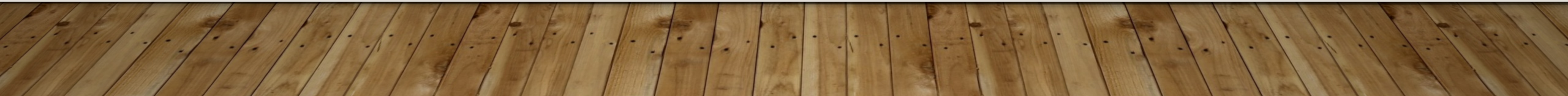
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### God's Wrath Will Inspire Our Praise

- “Just and true are your ways...Who will not fear, O Lord?” (15:3–4).
- God's good is not only in his kindness. (see Lewis, *Problem of Pain*, Ch. 3)
- Think of angry heroes in movies finally putting the bad guy down.
- ***God will inspire us with his angrily doing away with evil.***

### God's Hearing of Intercession Will End

- No one will enter the sanctuary anymore (v8) during His wrath
- ***Is God your High Priest? There will not be any other for anyone then!***



# REVELATION 16

## WHAT IT TELLS US ABOUT GOD

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### God Will Not Let Our Blood Be Spilled Unanswered

- Because of bloodshed against us (6a); God will turn their drinking water (6b)
- Reminiscent of Abel's blood crying out from the ground; Egypt plague
- ***Is the “New Testament God” different from the “Old Testament God”?***

### God Is Orchestrating the Sequence of Events

- e.g. He dries the Euphrates to pave the way for evil armies gathering (12-14)
- Reminiscent of Proverbs — evil setting its own trap
- ***Nobody has any strategic edge on God. His is the best way.***



# REVELATION 15-16 — PRETERIST VIEW

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## Interpretation:

- 7 bowls = judgments on Jeru. (15:1; 16:1–21)
- Sea of glass = martyrs victorious over Roman persecution (15:2–4)
- Plagues = echo Exodus; Jeru. as new Egypt
- Euphrates = Roman border; its drying enables invasion (16:12)
- Armageddon = Roman-Jewish war climax (16:16)
- Babylon = Jerusalem under judgment (16:19)

## Sources:

- Textual-symbolic pattern drawn from Exodus
- Historical grounding in 1st-century war events

## Evaluation:

- OT imagery matches Roman siege setting
- Babylon = Jerusalem reading is plausible but debated

# REVELATION 15-16 — HISTORICIST VIEW

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## Interpretation:

- Seven bowls = stages of divine judgment across Church history (15:1; 16:1–21)
- Sea of glass = faithful through the ages (15:2)
- Plagues = events like French Revolution, Reformation, etc.
- Euphrates = weakening of Ottoman Empire (16:12)
- Armageddon = final world conflict involving apostate powers (16:16)
- Babylon = papal Rome or corrupt world system (16:19)

## Sources:

- Symbolic reading tied to long-range timelines
- Applies day-year principle and historical overlays

## Evaluation:

- Fits historicist structure but overlays non-textual chronology
- Interpretation of events is retrofitted

# REVELATION 15-16 — FUTURIST VIEW

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## Interpretation:

- Seven bowls = literal future plagues in the Great Tribulation (15:1; 16:1–21)
- Sea of glass = martyred believers in heaven (15:2–4)
- Plagues = global, catastrophic judgments
- Euphrates = literal river drying to allow kings of the East (16:12)
- Armageddon = future world war in Israel (16:16)
- Babylon = revived global system or literal city (16:19)

## Sources:

- Draws on Revelation text + Daniel + end-times prophecies
- Structured by dispensational timeline

## Evaluation:

- Literal sequence consistent with system
- Some events symbolic in text but taken literally in view



# REVELATION 15-16 — IDEALIST VIEW

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## Interpretation:

- Seven bowls = recurring divine judgment on evil (15:1; 16:1–21)
- Sea of glass = victory of saints through all ages (15:2–4)
- Plagues = timeless warnings and consequences of rebellion
- Euphrates = symbolic removal of barriers to evil (16:12)
- Armageddon = final spiritual confrontation (16:16)
- Babylon = symbolic of worldly power against God (16:19)

## Sources:

- Highly symbolic approach grounded in Revelation's themes
- No fixed chronology; views cycles instead

## Evaluation:

- Captures theological structure and repetition
- Less specific about historic or future fulfillment

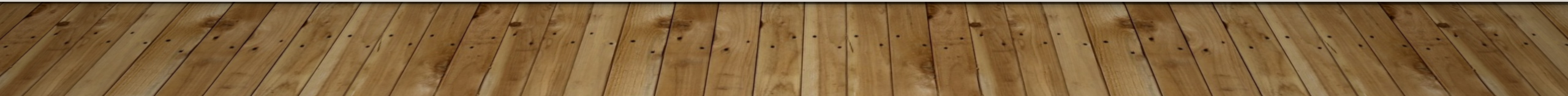
# REVELATION 15–16 – COMPARED

Aspect	Preterist	Historicist	Futurist	Idealist
Seven Bowls (15:1, 16:1–21)	Judgments on Jerusalem (70 AD)	Stages of judgment in history	Future global Tribulation plagues	Recurring divine judgments
Sea of Glass (15:2)	Martyrs from Nero's reign	Saints praising God over centuries	Tribulation martyrs	Symbol of eternal worship
Euphrates Dried (16:12)	Roman shift before Jewish war	Decline of Ottoman Empire	Way for eastern kings in end times	Removal of barriers before final battle
Armageddon (16:16)	Symbolic of Roman conquest	Climax of world's historical conflicts	Literal future war in Middle East	Final cosmic confrontation of good vs evil
Babylon (16:19)	Jerusalem as corrupt city	Papal Rome or worldly system	Revived end-times city/system	Any system opposing God

# REVELATION 15–16 – CRITICAL THINKING PROMPTS

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- Does the text say when these plagues occur or whether they are future? (15:1; 16:1)
- Does the sea of glass scene suggest a specific time or group? (15:2–4)
- Is Armageddon described as a literal place or symbolic moment? (16:16)
- Does the drying of the Euphrates imply military movement or spiritual readiness? (16:12)
- Is Babylon clearly identified in these chapters? (16:19)





# CONCLUSION – INTERPRET WISELY

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- Rich, complex symbols — not explicit interpretation
- No eschatology out there is airtight
- Be slow to dogmatize where the text doesn't
- Focus on clear messages:
  - **God's justice**
  - **Christ's victory**
  - **a call to faithful endurance**
- Remembering it belongs to God, and was given to us,  
**...learn the Revelation.**