

REVELATION: THE REAL DI VINCI CODE
REV 1:1 / MARCH 7, 2018 / WED

I. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL METHODS OF INTERPRETATION.

A. The Preterist Interpretation.

1. The word means “past”, thus this view believes everything in the book has already happened in the first century.
2. This view ignores the Second Coming of Christ found in chapters 20-22.

B. The Idealist Interpretation.

1. This view holds that the book is the story of the struggle between good and evil in every generation.
2. Therefore, this view does not see the events in the book as being actual or real, but myths and fables.

C. The Historicist Interpretation.

- 1 This view sees these events as a depiction of the history of the church from the time of John to the Return of Jesus.
2. Therefore, this view does not see any application of this book to the people living in John’s day (Tim Lahaye and the Left Behind Series).

D. The Futurist Interpretation.

1. This view sees most of these events occurring in the future.
2. This means the book did not say anything to the people of John’s day or necessarily apply to the church since the day of John.

E. The Paradoxical or Modified Interpretation.

1. This view is a combination of the Preterist (past) and Historicist approach.
2. It holds that prophecy has dual meanings, one for the immediate readers and another for future readers. For example....

- a. Hosea 11:1 refers to God’s deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage.
- b. However, it also speaks to the coming Messiah who will deliver us from our sins-Matthew 2:15 (quotes Hosea 11:1).

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF REVELATION

- A. Date: Around A.D. 95, making it the last book of the N.T.
- B. Author: John the Apostle (1:1, 4, 9; 22:8)
 - 1. John was the disciple loved by Jesus-John 21:20, 24.
 - 2. His father was Zebedee.
 - 3. His brother was James.
 - 4. He and his brother were nicknamed “sons of thunder”-Mark 3:17.
 - 5. He wrote the gospel of John and three letters or epistles.
 - 6. He was exiled to the Island of Patmos, a 10 x 6 mile Roman penal colony off the coast of Ephesus.
 - 7. Domitian was the Roman emperor from 81-96 A.D.
- C. Key Verse: 1:19. It is the outline for the entire book.

Rev. 1:19-- “Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.

- 1. Chapter One-“**What you have seen**” (John’s Vision of Christ)
- 2. Chapters Two-Three-“**What is now**” (Messages to the Seven Churches).
- 3. Chapters 4-22-“**What will take place later**”
 - a. The Throne in Heaven-4-5
 - b. The Tribulation on earth-6-19
 - c. The Kingdom of Christ-20
 - d. The New Heaven and Earth-21-22

- D. Revelation is closely tied to the O.T. and its symbols.
1. Of the 404 verses in Revelation, 278 refer to the O.T. in some way.
 2. Nearly 300 direct references to the O.T. are found in the book.
 3. Some symbols are explained in Revelation-1:20; 4:5; 5:8.

Rev.1:20--The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

4. Some symbols are not explained at all-the “**white**” stone in 2:17.

Rev. 2:17--Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

III. REVELATION MAKES USE OF APOCALYPTIC LANGUAGE.

- A. The English translation of the Greek title is “Apocalypse”.
1. The word means “unveiling”, “revealing”, or “disclosing”.
 2. It further means to unveil by means of symbolic language.
- B. This literature form arose during times of political stress, particularly during the Assyrian and Babylonian crises when Israel was held captive.
1. This form makes use of secret or code language.
 2. This code was known to the Hebrews but not to their enemies.
 3. The O.T. books of Ezekiel and Daniel made use of this form.
 4. Jesus used it too-Matt. 24:29-31, Mark 13:24-27, Luke 21:25-28.
 5. Revelation is the ultimate example of this form, though.

- C. Basic assumptions of this form.
1. The Kingship of God.
 2. Conflict between good and evil.
 3. Divine judgment on evil
 4. God works out His purpose through history.
 5. A historical background. In Revelation's case it was Roman domination and persecution.