

SALVATION IN SYMBOLS & SIGNS

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Corresponds to Program 4

JESUS FIRST STUDY GUIDE

Everyone will be drawn to Jesus when He is lifted up. So, we should take Him at His word. Revelation begins with Jesus. It is the revelation of Jesus Christ. The first vision that John sees is about Jesus.

Revelation 1:10-13 “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.”

Here, John is going into vision the first time, and the Spirit is coming upon him the first time. John has been given this apocalyptic book that is eschatological (prophetic), which is about last day events, and he is going to see things concerning the antichrist, and many other things, Of all of the important things that he is about to see, what is the first thing that God shows him? Jesus. Jesus first.

We will know the counterfeit by understanding the truth. Learn about Jesus Christ and you will be able to identify the antichrist. Keep Jesus before you and you will be safe.

Anywhere with Jesus we can safely go. Follow Him and where He leads and we have nothing to fear.

INTERPRETING REVELATION

There are four major approaches to interpreting Revelation. They are: Futurism, Preterism, Historicism, and Idealism.

Futurism is a Christian eschatological view that interprets the books of Revelation, and Daniel as future events in human history. To counter the Protestant interpretation of historicism, Roman Catholic Jesuit **Francisco Ribera** wrote a 500 page commentary on the book of Revelation that established the futurist interpretation of Bible prophecy.

Preterism is a Christian eschatological view that interprets prophecies of the Bible, especially Daniel and Revelation, as events which have already happened in the first century A.D. Preterism was first expounded by the Jesuit **Luis De Alcasar** during the Counter Reformation. The preterist view served to bolster the Catholic Church’s position against attacks by Protestants, who identified the Pope with the antichrist.

Historicism—Revelation is about history past, present and future. This view is inclusive of Futurism and Preterism and also allows for Idealism while maintaining a historic flow to

Revelation’s prophecies that includes God’s people in every generation.

Idealism in Christian eschatology is an interpretation of the book of Revelation that sees all of the imagery of the book as non-literal symbols of spiritual truths/conflicts.



“And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.”

REVELATION 1:13

KEY SCRIPTURES

Revelation 1:4 JESUS - IS, WAS, IS TO COME

Revelation 1:8 JESUS - ALPHA AND OMEGA, BEGINNING & END

Revelation 1:19 THINGS WHICH ARE AND SHALL BE HEREAFTER

Revelation 1:10 THE LORD’S DAY

There are three key verses in the introduction to Revelation that support the historicist approach to Revelation. These three verses speak in terms of past, present, and future.

“John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from Him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before His throne” **Revelation 1:4**.

“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty” **Revelation 1:8**.

“Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter” **Revelation 1:19**.

These verses describe both God and prophecy in terms of past, present, and future. Therefore they support an historicist approach that views God as One who always has been with His people, is with His people in the present tense and will be with His people in the future. Historicism, then, is a reflection of God’s own character.

Historicism incorporates all 3 of the other methods of prophetic interpretation.

Past history is found in historicism. Some events of prophecy are past, but not all prophetic events are in the past like preterism would teach. Future history is found in historicism. Some historic events are in the future but not all of Revelation is in the future like is futurism would teach. Idealism has a place in historicism. Some of Revelation’s symbols represent spiritual truths and conflicts, like Idealism teaches. Yet unlike Idealism, much of Revelation is unfolding specific historic events past, present and future.

THE LORD’S DAY

In the Bible, we see a reference to the “Lord’s day” in Revelation 1:10: “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.” Then Revelation 14:7 reminds us to worship the Lord God who “made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters”. Revelation makes a direct connection with the creation story, further confirming the “Lord’s day” as the seventh day Sabbath:

“Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made” Genesis 2:1-3, NKJV.

God then reaffirms the Sabbath as the “Lord’s day” established for mankind at creation as an indissoluble part of His law of love.

“But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God... For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and

all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it” Exodus 20:11.

Six modern translations (all post-2000) of the Bible are not based on the Greek. What began with subtle changes and corrections of the Greek is now leading to no less than 6 Bible versions that openly teach that the Lord’s day is Sunday not the Seventh-day Saturday Sabbath as the Bible teaches (Mark 2:27, 28). Compare with Message Bible and several other Bible versions:

Modern Version One

¹⁰ “It was Sunday and I was in the Spirit, praying.” (Message Bible)

Modern Version Two

¹⁰ On the Lord’s day [C probably a reference to the “first day of the week, Sunday, when Christians met for worship] I was in the Spirit...” (Expanded Bible)

Modern Version Three

¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day,[c] and I heard a loud voice behind me like a trumpet.

Footnotes:

c. Revelation 1:10 Sunday”

(Holman Christian Standard Bible, 2004 [interesting history on switch from TR to WH after death of original scholar who did NKJV])

Modern Version Four

¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day (the first day of the week), and I heard a voice behind me. It sounded like the blast of a trumpet. (The Voice, 2011).

Modern Version Five

¹⁰ I was in Spirit in the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, [I was in Spirit in the Sunday, and I heard after me a great voice, as of a trump,] (Wycliffe Bible, 2001 by Terence P. Noble)

Modern Version Six

[Spanish]

Apocalipsis 1:10

¹⁰ Pero un domingo[a] quedé bajo el poder del Espíritu Santo. Entonces escuché detrás de mí una voz muy fuerte, que sonaba como una trompeta.” (Traducción en lenguaje actual (TLA, 2003)

Footnotes:

Apocalipsis 1:10 Domingo: lit. Día del Señor.

When modern Bible versions change the Lord’s day to Sunday, the first day of the week, without any authority but their own, they are attempting a subtle undermining of the day God blessed and set apart for worship and rest in Him from the very foundation of the world. A day that reminds us to rest alone in God’s creative and redemptive power for salvation. ★

Jesus First

Question & Answers

What is the prime focus of the book of Revelation? (check all that apply)

- Natural disasters
- The antichrist
- Strange beasts
- Jesus

What or Who created the heavens and the earth? (check one)

- A black hole in space
- Aliens from space ships
- An explosion of a big star
- The Godhead (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)

Why should we worship Jesus? (check all that apply)

- He is our Creator
- He is our Redeemer
- He first loved us
- He gives us life when we deserve death

Personal Application

The focus of the book of Revelation is Jesus, the Creator and Redeemer of mankind. Do you want to know Him better?

