

Revelation 1:1-8 – A Dose of Reality: The Coming King

What do we need to know when you're about to be persecuted?

- That Jesus is Lord – reigning over all
- That Jesus has, is and will come to put his world straight

1st century province of Asia / United Kingdom in 2012

So continue worshiping him come what may

We need to know Jesus' version of events

Can I really understand this book?

Yes you can, Revelation 1:1 - *The revelation of Jesus Christ*, Jesus' disclosure to *ALL* his servants

The message from: God > Jesus > angel > John > church

Content: *what must soon take place* v.1 - Jesus' version of events

Who is in control? Who seems to have the power?

- Nero? Rome? Jews or pagan religions?
- Or the Triune God,
 - the eternal Father
 - the Holy Spirit – who ministers to and for the church
 - the faithful Son, the risen Son, the ruling Son

who *greets* his people with grace and peace
who *blesses* them as they take his word to heart
who is to be worshiped by those he's called to himself in his Son

We need to know how to listen to Jesus

- Why is there so much confusion over Revelation?
- When is Jesus referring to? *What must soon take place* – v. 1, *the time is near*, v.3

How soon is soon? 4 views with the following in common

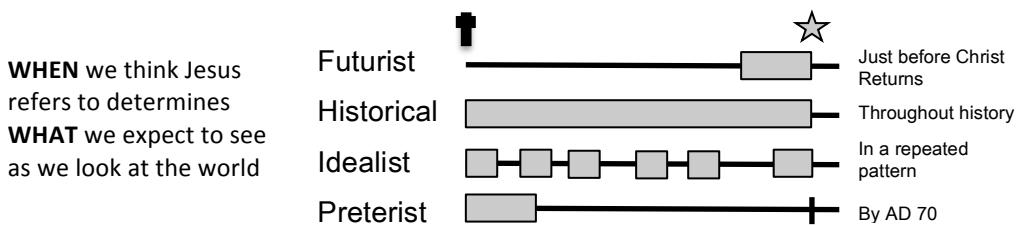
- the letters in Rev. 2-3 *refer* to the situation in 7 churches in Asia- *apply* to us today
- the final chapters, Rev. 21-22 *refer* to the end of history – new heavens and earth
- the bit in between, Rev. 4-20 *refer* to the time before the end of 'a world'

Futurist View: Rev. 4-20 *all* still in the future for us. (near????) So much cataclysmic, end of the world language, must refer to a period of time just before Jesus comes at the end of history.

Historical View: Rev. 4-20 a timeline of history from Jesus' ascension to return. Work out events/figures in Rev. 4-20 and you know how far through history we are. (near – start of)

Idealist View: Rev 4-20 refers to the whole time from Jesus' ascension to return but figures / events don't refer to specific figures/events in history. General description of this period.

Preterist View: Rev. 4-20 refers to time near to when Jesus gives John this revelation. In the near future for John but in the past for us. End of the world language? End of the old world order – AD 70 destruction of Jerusalem.



Nero / Rome / Jerusalem in 1st Century - EU / Communism / R. Catholicism – barcodes / Wal-mart / a global super-state

We need to pray for Christ to come and demonstrate his reign NOW

Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. v.7

When are we to expect to see Jesus 'coming with the clouds?' Past / Present / Future?

Clouds – God coming / present with his people (pillar – Ex. 13:21, Tabernacle - Ex. 40:34, Temple 1 Kings 8:10-11, Transfiguration – Matt 17:5, Ascension – Acts 1:8, Coming in judgement) – Isa. 19:1, Nahum 1:3, Ps. 97:1-3, 104:3-4, 18:10-12)

What evidence is there that God has finished with the old covenant in AD 60?

Ascended Jesus comes in AD 70 to demonstrate to all that old world order/covenant has ended

The cross brings in the New Covenant – AD 70 demonstrates God's judgement on the Old

In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. – Daniel 7:13-14

Jesus receiving all authority and power from his Father as he ascends into heaven

What do we think of Jesus?

- Mourning by those who refuse to bow to King Jesus
- Mourning over their sin in repentance and faith by those who submit to Jesus (Zech. 12:10)

Jesus has **already come** into his glorious reign

Therefore we can pray to Christ for him to **come and act** now for his people.