

PREPARING TO LEARN REVELATION

Introduction

There are four basic methods that are used to interpret Revelation. Only one can be the correct method. There are nine principles for interpreting prophecy. Using them in the study of Revelation will keep us from making serious mistakes in interpreting Revelation. The divine outline for Revelation is found in 1:19. It is divided into three parts: past (Rev 1), present (Rev 2-3) and future (Rev 4-22).

Aim of the Lesson

Use the right method to interpret Revelation and use the right principles to know the truth in Revelation.

Study (be diligent) to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Tim 2:15).

Outline of the Lesson and Questions to Answer

I. Methods for Interpreting Revelation (good and bad ones).

Matching: Draw a line from each method of interpretation to the correct definition.

Preterist	Revelation is a story about the war between God and Satan.
Future	Revelation is a symbolic representation of the entire Church age from the time of John's writing to the Second Coming of Christ.
Allegory	Revelation is largely a prophetic book referring to the Tribulation, Millennial Kingdom and Eternal Kingdom.
Historical	Revelation as a symbolic history of the persecution that the early Church.

II. Principles for Interpreting Revelation (all good ones).

Fill in the blank with the correct word(s)

- A. Give Words Their _____ Meanings.
- B. Find the Meaning of a Figure of Speech in _____.
- C. Consider the _____ Setting in a Prophecy.
- D. Keep in Mind the Immediate _____ of a Prophecy.
- E. Make _____ the Center of a Prophecy.
- F. Recognize Progress and _____ in Prophecy.
- G. Let Other _____ Help Interpret a Prophecy.
- H. Allow Only One _____ for a Prophecy.
- I. Keep the Interpretation Sound in _____.

III. Biblical Outline for Revelation (found in 1:19).

1. What did John see in Revelation 1?
2. What things were in existence when John received this revelation in chapters 2-3?
3. What things were going to happen in the future in Revelation 4-22?

TIME LINE FOR THE EVENTS IN REVELATION

Revelation begins with the triune God in eternity past and proceeds to His Kingdom in eternity future. Even though Revelation does not deal with the ages of the Old Testament, it is filled with hundreds of references to the Old Testament. Revelation reveals many things about Jesus Christ in the first chapter. Seven churches in Asia are examined by Christ in chapters 2 and 3. Heaven is the focus of chapters 4 and 5, where God rules Heaven and earth. He gives His Son a scroll which authorizes Him to remove Satan and his followers from the earth, so He can claim His inheritance and rule the nations of earth. The main subject of Revelation is in chapters 6-19 describing the seven-year period of time known as the Tribulation. The 1000-year reign of Christ on the earth and His white throne judgment of unbelievers is found in chapter 20. The last two chapters reveal the state of affairs in the Eternal Kingdom. The circled numbers in the diagram below refer to the chapters in Revelation where these events are found.

