

Lecture 21 – Introduction to Revelation

Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. Revelation 1:3

Key Terms

COPE: Confess, Orient, Present, Explain; prophecy; pastoral letter; apocalyptic

Lecture Objectives

- Describe and implement the COPE strategy for responsibly reading/studying/teaching Revelation
- Identify and discuss issues surrounding the question of genre
- Describe particular ways that Revelation was intended to encourage believers and ways that it still encourages believers

Preliminary Questions

- Many people are hesitant when it comes to the book of Revelation. Why do you think that is? How might you describe the purpose of Revelation so that you or others might not be intimidated by it?

Introduction to Revelation

I. Introduction

- Goal 1: to make you comfortable with the book of Revelation.
- Goal 2: to share ideas for presenting it to others.
 - A. Four-fold strategy: COPE (I have used with at least some success for "coping" with the challenge of opening the book of Revelation to average Christians.)
 1. Confess:
 2. Orient: (using the 5 W's and How)
 3. Present:
 4. Explain:

II. Who Wrote It and Who Read It?

A. Writer

1. _____
2. _____
3. (Early church testimony to apostolic authorship)

B. Readers

1. _____
2. _____

III. What Is It? (Genre)

A. Prophecy:

1. Time Frames:
2. What it is about:

B. Pastoral letter:

C. Apocalyptic:

IV. When? What are the Time Frames of the Book?

A. When was it written? Probably in reign of ...

1. Domitian one of few emperors who insisted on ...
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

2. Date must be late enough to allow time for the church to have the following problems

- a. Some churches (Ephesus) had become ...
- b. Church at Laodicea had become ...
- c. Most of NT must have been written, because ..
- 3. Revelation alludes to many NT passages
 - a. 1:7 Matt 24:30 Mourning at sight or coming of Christ
 - b. 1:16 Matt 17, Mark 9, Luke 9 Gospel accounts of transfiguration
 - c. 2:10 James 1:12 Those who endure receive the crown of life
 - d. 3:3 Matt 24:42 Coming like a thief in night
 - e. 3:5 Matt 10:32 Jesus will acknowledge the faithful before the father in heaven
- 4. Language of both judgment and of Jesus' sacrifice is taken from NT
 - a. 5:6 John 1:29 Lamb slain
 - b. 5:9 Heb 9:12, 1 Cor 6:20, 1 Pet 1:19 Purchased by blood
 - c. 5:10 1 Pet 2:5,9 Believers are priests, royal priests
 - d. 5:11 Heb 12:22 Thousands and thousands in assembly, attending God
 - e. 5:13 Phil 2:10 Creatures in heaven on earth & under the earth respond to Jesus
 - f. 6:4 Matt 10:34, Luke 12 Taking peace from the earth
 - g. 6:11 Heb 11:40 Number of martyrs
 - h. 6:12-13 Images of judgment taken from Matt 24:29
 - i. 7:14 Heb 9:14, 1 John 1:7 Blood of lamb
 - j. 7:14 Matt 24:21 Affliction and distress
 - k. 12:9,20 Luke 10:18 Satan cast from heaven Luke 8:31 The abyss as the abode of the demonic
 - l. 13:8 1 Peter 1:19-20 Lamb slain from creation
 - m. 19:13 John 1:1 Jesus is the word of God
- 5. Language of judgment and the new heavens and earth is drawn heavily from the NT.
 - a. 20:4 Matt 19:28 Believers as judges, seated on thrones
 - b. 20:12 Matt 16:27, 2 Cor 5:10 Dead judged according to what they had done
 - c. 20:14 1 Cor 15:26 Last enemy destroyed is death
 - d. 21:1 2 Pet 3:13 New Heaven and New Earth
 - e. 21:3 John 1:14 The dwelling or tent of God is with men
 - f. 21:3 2 Cor 6:16 God will be their God
 - g. 21:6 John 4:10, 7:37 He will give the thirsty water to drink from a spring
 - h. 21:8 1 Cor 6:9, Rom 1:29, Eph 5:5 Similar sin lists
 - i. 21:14 Eph 2:20 Apostles as foundation
- 6. Origin of parallels: sayings of Jesus, Corinthians, Ephesians, 1-2 Peter, Heb 9-12