The Unveiling: Revelation

LifeSpring Seminar Series
Matthew-Revelation: Journey Thru the New Testament
Presenter: Israel Steinmetz
Revelation - Critical Issues

- **Genre**
  - Apocalypse (1:1)
  - Prophecy (1:3)
  - Epistle (1:4)

- **Author**
  - Christian named John (Son of Zebedee?)

- **Date**
  - Likely during Domitian’s persecutions (81-96AD)

- **Audience/Purpose**
  - Seven churches in Asia Minor to show what must soon take place and encourage action in response to the message (vs. 1-3).

- **Place of Writing/Provenance**
  - Island of Patmos (1:9). In exile?
Revelation- Content

- Opening Vision
- Individual Messages to Seven Churches
- Message to all seven churches:
- Throne Room Vision
  - Scroll with seven seals
- Opening of the Seals (1-6)
  - Interlude
    - Sealing of 144,000
    - Vision of Multitude
Revelation - Content

- Seventh Seal & Blowing of the Trumpets (1-6)
  - Interlude
    - Mighty angel
    - Two witnesses

- Seventh Trumpet
  - Interlude
    - Woman, Child and Beast
    - Beasts from the Earth and Sea
    - Lamb and the 144,000
    - Announcement and reaping
Return of Christ on white horse
- Defeat of evil/Satan bound
- 1,000 year reign with saints
- Satan released, finally destroyed

Great White Throne Judgment
- Second death
- Lamb’s book of life

New Heavens and New Earth
Revelation- Content

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- New Heavens and New Earth
Revelation- Themes

- Three audience perspectives
  - Assimilation and accommodation (Ephesus, Pergamum, Thyatira)
  - Apathetic and complacent (Sardis, Laodicea)
  - Faithful and suffering (Smyrna, Philadelphia)
- Sovereignty of God/Kingdom
  - Allegiance
  - Witness
  - Worship
  - Judgment
  - Redemption/Re-creation
Postmillennial
- Roughly 150 years old (steady decline in popularity)
- Chapters 1-19 = Events of 2nd century (Preterist)
- Chapter 20 = "Church Age", spiritual millennium
- Chapters 21-22 = Christ’s return, judgment, New Heaven/Earth
Revelation - Interpretive Approaches

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Revelation- Interpretive Approaches

- **Amillennial**
  - One historic view (e.g. Origen, Augustine, Luther, Calvin)
  - No literal millennium
  - Revelation is a description of the historical course of the church, culminating in Christ’s return, judgment, New Heavens/Earth
  - Preterist variation
Historic Premillennial

- Another historic view (e.g. Papias, Irenaeus, Justin Martyr, Hippolytus)
- Persecutions described in Revelation relate to historic events in life of the Church
- Chapter 19 = Christ’s return to deliver from antichrist
- Chapter 20 = Believer’s resurrection, millennial reign
- Chapters 21-22 = Judgment, New Heavens/Earth
12. The Kingdom
The Church of God (Seventh Day) holds to a historic premillennial interpretation of Revelation.

- Chapters 1-3 = letters to churches in Asia Minor
- Chapters 4-19 = depiction of church history
- Chapter 20 = return of Christ, resurrection of believers, 1,000 year reign
- Chapter 21 = Judgment (annihilation)
- Chapter 22 = Re-newed Heavens/Earth