

APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE a revelation of Jesus

• The Greek word for "revelation" in Revelation 1:1 is *apokalypsis*, which means a divine disclosure or revealing of what was, what is and what is to come.

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• This revelation is given to John by Jesus, who says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." (Rev. 1:8)

FIVE INTERPRATIVE APPROACHES Zondervan Academic

- PRETERIST—emphasizes the historical context of Revelation and tries to understand it the way John's audience would have understood it
- HISTORICIST—treats Revelation as a map or outline of what has happened or will happen throughout church history from the first century until the return of Christ
- FUTURIST—considers most of the book related to future events immediately preceding the end of history.
- IDEALIST— doesn't interpret Revelation in terms of any particular reference to time, but rather relates it to the ongoing struggle between good and evil
- ECLECTIC—attempts to combine the strengths of several of the other approaches

THE ECLECTIC APPROACH Zondervan Academic

• Revelation seems to address the firstcentury Christians directly, so we should read Revelation the same way that we read every other book of the Bible—by taking its historical context seriously.

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• Revelation also presents timeless truths for surviving the struggle between good and evil. The visions of Revelation challenge us to forsake our complacency and stay faithful during times of persecution.

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 Revelation also clearly has something to say about events still to come. Some events it describes await future fulfillment (such as the return of Christ, the great white throne judgment, and the arrival of the holy city).



Jesus' Message to the Church in Ephesus in Revelation 2:1-7

- Rev. 1:20, "The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches."
- Seven Stars = the Church's Angel or Messenger
- Seven Golden Lampstands = the Church



Jesus' Message to the Church in Ephesus in Revelation 2:1-7

- Rev. 2:4, "Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first."
- This is a warning against cold-hearted legalism. We need good theology AND affectionate love to act according to God's will.