



Revelation: Four Views: A Parallel Commentary

Steve Gregg (Editor)

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How can we understand the book of Revelation and its many interpretations? *Four Views of Revelation: A Parallel Commentary* covers the traditional views in an even-handed fashion. Four parallel columns present the information you need on these key views, and inform you about outstanding commentators on the book of Revelation. No other book gives such extensive coverage of how the church has understood Revelation over the centuries. The four-column format makes this an easy read for lay people, pastors, and scholars alike. This is a wonderful addition to any Bible study resource library.

Features include:

Convenient, one-volume format

Four parallel columns for easy comparison

Complete coverage of the major interpretations of Revelation

Extensive coverage of the place of Revelation in church history

Revelation: Four Views: A Parallel Commentary Details

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Randy says

A helpful way to work through the book. My biggest surprise was how often the futurist interpreters interpret the text figuratively. Both the historicist and idealist interpreters could offer a variety of meanings for the text and I didn't think they usually gave exegetical reasons for their conclusions. I do think that Beals does a better job of this in his commentary.

I think the strengths of the preterist view can be seen here. Working with the specifications of the text this view is prevented from wandering far and wide for meanings and fulfillments. The question of whether the second half of the book deals with Jerusalem or Rome was brought out well here. I'm looking forward to Kenneth Gentry's commentary and hope Keith Mathison will do one as well.

Andre says

The best and most even-handed commentary on the book of Revelation that I have read. Interpretations are situated parallel columns with the text from Revelation provided above the columns. The four views examined are: historicist, preterist, dispensational/futurist, and spiritual/idealistic. This book shows the strong points of each view at the appropriate places. Great resource and I highly advise serious students of Revelation to purchase a copy of it.

Roger Miller says

Outstanding overview of the four different views of interpretation for the book of Revelation. Because it's more of an overview, the only negative is it never went in depth on exegetical matters. Great for any believer who wishes to deepen their understanding of the book of Revelation, this is a great read. By, looking at all four reviews I found myself challenged and affirming those I differ with as brothers and sisters.

Michael says

Really good for looking into the separate views of an understanding of the Revelation. I recommend everybody have it. My reason for the low rating is that it has the weakness of missing a prime idea that the Revelation of Jesus reveals the eternal heavens and the eternal God in prophetic form in the context of the times it was written. I know this is difficult to put in the four categories. It seems to need another category to me. One that embraces the creation's eternal God has come down in all times as He did then. He has bridged the veil between time/matter and eternity/spirit. Jesus still is "walking among his candle sticks." And He is still the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" and "stands as though slain" and as believers we can have communion with the God of the universe, come in the flesh, through the sacraments of the Church, the mystical body.

"The Lamb slain before the foundations of the world." - Rev 13

"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those called to the supper of the

Gail Welborn says

As the Middle East prepares for war is it time to refresh what you know about Bible prophecy?

Steve Gregg compares “four traditional views” of the Rapture using a verse-by-verse, parallel format in Revelation: Four Views that is sure to become a useful tool for students of prophecy.

The easy-to-use format is especially useful for those without a background in Revelation’s prophecies.

Gregg said he didn’t expect to write such a commentary until he couldn’t find one that compared different perspectives from the Book of Revelation for class use. Inspired, he then wrote this easy-to-understand commentary for students at Youth with a Mission, Oregon’s Good News Underground and Great Commission School.

If you’re inclined to skip the “Foreword” and “Introduction” like I sometimes do, reconsider for this commentary. One reviewer wrote: “The Introduction alone in Gregg’s book is definitely worth the price of the book.” And the foreword is the same.

In the Foreword, Gregg defines and explores the differences between three traditional Millennium views of the rapture, “premillennial, amillennial and postmillennial.” He uses Revelation, chapter twenty as the foundation chapter to describe these views also known as pre-tribulation, mid-tribulation and post-tribulation...Full Review: <http://tinyurl.com/c2nmw4e>

Skylar Burris says

This is a good way to look at four of the primary interpretations of Revelation side-by-side with the text that is being interpreted—a good education for someone wishing to understand the difference between all of this millinealst, amillinealst, post-rapture, pre-rapture, preterist, etc. gobbledegook. Reading it is informative, but it can make one's head ache as well.

Wendi says

This is a very thorough investigation of the book of Revelation. I chose this book for my Women's Small Group and can tell you that we greatly enjoyed learning about the different view points that leading theologians have on the meaning, symbolism and timing of this final book of the bible.

Van Ryan says

I used this book to preach through the entire book of Revelation and to represent each of the four views considered the predominant views when interpreting Revelation. Better used as a commentary (as it was meant to be) rather than reading all of the way through like you would a good fiction.

Lee Harmon says

If you begin with the premise that Revelation is inspired scripture, and wish to understand or choose from the four primary interpretations, then you won't find a better book out there than this one. This was definitely a favorite during my research. Dare I say so myself: if you couple my book, which takes a historical look at Revelation and does not presume it's inspired, with this book, which details the various ways believers read Revelation, you'll get a well-rounded picture.

Gregg goes verse-by-verse through Revelation and, with four columns side-by-side, describes how proponents of the four interpretive methods read the scripture. These four types are as follows:

The Historicist approach sees Revelation as surveying the entire church history, from Christ through today and beyond. Events described in Revelation reach fulfillment gradually, through the centuries.

The Preterist approach assumes fulfillment in the first century, and usually assumes an early writing of Revelation (before the war of 70 AD.) Revelation prophesies this "war to end of wars" in which Jerusalem is overrun and the Temple destroyed. This is closest to my own treatment, though a better label for my perspective would be contemporary-historical.

The Futurist approach awaits fulfillment in the future. This needs no further introduction; among today's Christians, this is by far the most popular interpretation, though it wasn't necessarily so throughout Christian history.

The Spiritual approach is Gregg's label for those who do not look for a literal interpretation, but rather see spiritual lessons and principles in the symbolism that runs rampant through this mysterious scripture.

All four interpretations are illuminating, and many readers, upon completion of this study, conclude that Revelation must be a complex combination of the above. Certainly, Revelation is revealed to be a book of deep meaning, seldom contemplated in its entirety by most Christians.

Rachel Grepke says

The book of Revelation, as well as many parts of the Bible, is beyond our comprehension. Literal, symbolic and just plain crazy interpretations have come out of studying this eschatological book. This book does well to provide multiple viewpoints as well as arguments for those views. It is well written and well organized. While I don't expect to have the answers until the other side of heaven, this book gave me great good for thought. So, all in all, good stuff!

Ethan says

A work that well succeeds in its purpose. The author does not intend to advance a particular position, but sets forth the main positions on Revelation through references and descriptions of the main proponents of each: a unified commentary for Revelation 1:1-3:21; a fourfold commentary of historicist, preterist (both full and partial), futurist, and spiritual for Revelation 4:1-19:21; a threefold commentary of amillennial, premillennial, and postmillennial for Revelation 20:1-15; a unified commentary for the rest of Revelation, Revelation 21:1-22:22.

A very fair and balanced presentation except for the foreword, which is extremely biased toward the futurist position (and written by another).

Overall, a fantastic reference to grasp the different schools of thought on Revelation.

John Biglin says

Just got it but like what I'm reading. His lectures are awesome too!!!!

Ray says

This is a tremendously helpful tool. It gives balanced commentary in parallel columns from four viewpoints. Most '4 views' books on the book of Revelation compare and contrast dispensational premil., histoirc premil, amil and postmil views. Gregg sees these 4 categories as a helpful 'x-axis' on eschatology. But the 'y-axis' is formed by 4 other categories. If predeictive prophecy is seen as a hourglass from the vantage point of the early 21st century: there is 1. preterist (hourglass full on bottom, empty on top), 2. futurist (full on top, empty on bottom); 3. historicist (half on top, half bottom), and 4. spiritual (full on top and bottom!).

SOme combinations are impossible (dispensational premil is always futurist; postmil is never futurist). SO there are 12 boxes possible. For example, the Reformers were historicist and amil. Augustine: spiritual and amil. Kuyper: futurist and amil. 7th Day Adventists: historicist and historic premil. Tim LaHaye: futurist and dispensational premil. etc. etc.

The book looks at that less commonly understood 'y-axis' at least for the bulk of Revelation: chapters 3-19.

Beefy, well-packaged and balanced (i never determined the author's personal view!).

slaveofone says

As far as Eschatalogical books go, this outshines most. Steve Gregg (an amazing Bible teacher) has placed the commentary and arguments of the four interpretive schemas of Revelation (Futurism, Preterism, Historicism, and Symbolism) side by side in columns beneath individual verses throughout the Apocalypse.

A very intuitively designed, thought-provoking, irenic commentary for the man who wants to hear the various arguments laid out as objectively as possible.

Jared says

An excellent, thorough, and seemingly objective introduction to the most popular four interpretive views, the three millennial views, as well as the literal, symbolic, and spiritual debate within Revelation
