

**problem:****John Blake, CNN****(CNN)** - The anti-Christ. The Battle of Armageddon. The dreaded Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

You don't have to be a student of religion to recognize references from the Book of Revelation. The last book in the Bible has fascinated readers for centuries. People who don't even follow religion are nonetheless familiar with figures and images from Revelation.

And why not? No other New Testament book reads like Revelation. The book virtually drips with blood and reeks of sulfur. At the center of this final battle between good and evil is an action-hero-like Jesus, who is in no mood to turn the other cheek.

but what does it mean? 4 main views

preterist - not predictive prophecy - special genre called apocalyptic said to convey hidden meaning of past events -specifically the events of AD70

historicist - not predictive prophecy - convey hidden meaning of church history past - not specific to ad 70 - no consensus

spiritual - not predictive prophecy - no events in particular described but the never ending battle between good and evil endured by the church in every generation.

4 views which one is which

Revelation 1:19 settles it - it is the only book in the bible with a divinely expressed outline - this outline makes it apparent...

**main idea**

Revelation is about a literal Christ

it is written to literal churches

about a literal future

that hasn't happened yet

**implication:**

that hasn't happened yet

acts 3:17-20 - His first coming was a literal not a typological or symbolic fulfillment of prophecy

acts 3:21 - His second will be the same -> dan 9:24

**application:**

warn the lost -a literal wrath is coming - Rev 9:15;

and take heart -a literal kingdom is coming 21:1-6; 22:1-6

**Text:****Revelation is about a literal Christ**

Rev. 1:19 Write therefore the things that you have seen,

*write - Rev 1:11*

*the things seen - Rev 1:12-18 (12, 17)*

*a literal Christ - preterism Rev 1:7 sees 1:7 represented as Roman armies attacking Israel ad 70*

*contrast - Zech 12:1-9 God is for Israel*

**It is written to literal churches**

Rev. 1:19b those that are

*those that are - Rev 2-3*

*literal churches - historicists see Rev 2-3 representing ages of history in church*

*contrast - Rev 1:4; 20 literal seven churches in Asia*

**about a literal future**

Rev. 1:19c and those that are to take place after this.

*after this - Rev 4:1*

*literal future idealists - spiritualized battle between good and evil - no specific events in view*

*contrast - Dan 9:24-27*

*week = 7 years (like dozen) Gen 29:26-30*

*69 weeks = 483 years*

*began - Nehemiah 2:1-8 - first of Nisan or March 14 of 445 BC*

*483 from that date to the day - Jesus Lk 19:28-44*

*gap between 69-70th year - ex Ikk 4:16-21; Isaiah 61:1-2*

*mystery - Eph 3:1-9 (church not Israel)*

*rapture - 1 Thess 4:13-5:11*

*restrainer - 2 Thess 2:1-6; Rev 1:12-13, 20*

*God's not done with Israel - Rom 11:25-27; Jer 31:31-37*

*last seven years yet to come for Israel Dan 12:6; Rev 11:2; 12:13-14; 13:5*

**that hasn't happened yet (implication)**

*Acts 3:17-20 - His first coming was a literal not a typological or symbolic fulfillment of prophecy*

*Acts 3:21 - His second will be the same -> Dan 9:24*

**articles for further study:**

<http://www.biblebb.com/files/rapture.htm>

<https://bible.org/article/interpretive-models-book-revelation-whole>