

A SHORT REVIEW OF METHOD

FOR THE

STUDY OF REVELATION

I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

A. God Meets People Where They Are

- Four Gospels
 - No inspired writer has it all
 - EGW vs. Scripture
 - Jesus is bigger than any of us can grasp
 - (John portrays choleric Jesus)
 - Inclusive approach to ideas
- Dan 2 and 7
 - Nations = idols
 - Nations = vicious beasts
 - Dan 7:2-3,13-14
 - Daniel as Second Adam
- Messianic Prophecies
 - Deut 18:15,18
 - Prophet like Moses
 - Jer 23:5-6
 - King like David
 - King like Zedekiah
- Ellen White
 - No computers, space travel, nuclear war

B. Bible Writers Speak from Their Time and Place

- 1) We lose a lot when we ignore this
 - Hollywood Gospel
 - Dan 7
 - Revelation
 - Thousands of Interpretations
 - Date Setting
 - Bizarre Theories
- 2) We need to let Rev speak for Itself
 - Broad reading (JWs)
 - Clear texts (Judas - 7Ts)
 - Variety of translations
 - Criticism of peers
 - Holy Spirit and self-distrust
 - For SDAs ---> Sound use of EGW

C. A Broad Reading Perspective on Revelation

- Bizarre symbolism = typical apocalyptic
 - Requires humility
- Whole book = message to seven churches

Rev 1:10-11; 22:16

- OT language (detail later, just mention here)
 - Citations
 - Quotations
 - Allusions
 - Echoes
- Deeply Structured (detail later)
 - Four 7s
 - Sanctuary Introductions
 - Chiasm
- Gospel and Christ-centered

II. BASIC EXEGESIS

"Exegesis" =

"Reading Out," letting text speak, not imposing our own agenda on the text, leaving open the possibility that we might learn something.

1) Read passage lightly a couple of times

- Get sense of the whole
- Raise some initial questions

2) Read Intensively

- Identify key words, symbols that are crucial to understanding
- Discover meaning of those words, symbols
 - Lexicons (Greek)
 - Bible Dictionaries
 - Concordances
- Example: "revelation"
 - "cover"
 - "from"
 - Revelation "uncovers" the cosmic Jesus

3) Observe Word Relationships (syntax)

- "Revelation of Jesus"
- "Faith of Jesus"
- "Hear with understanding"
 - Greek commentaries and grammars

4) Observe Sentence Structures (grammar)

"Being justified" (Rom 3:23-24)

5) Observe relationship of sentences within paragraph structures

Don't be limited by the paragraph breaks in your translation
(original MSS were run-on text)

III. THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK

A. Basic Keys

- The Structure of Revelation is not linear
 - The key to one section may lie at the other end of the

book

Need to have a sense of the whole to interpret the parts

- Boundaries are often "soft"
 - No detail should be overlooked in developing a structure
 - All "structures" are probably partly right
- Incredible interweaving of material

B. Major Structural Observations

- 1) Many Parallel Structures
 - Trumpets and Bowls
 - 4-5 with 19:1-10
 - Two Witnesses and Land Beast
 - Babylon and New Jerusalem
- 2) Most parallels are part of a giant chiasm (A-B-A)

The Dragon's War-- Rev 12-14	
The Trumpets	The Bowls
The Seals	The Millennium
The Churches	The New Jerusalem
Prologue	Epilogue

- Cross-explanatory
- Historical/Eschatological
- Focus on Center (Rev 13-14)

- 3) Duodirectionality
 - Author's Strategy
 - Summary in Advance
 - Rev 3:21
 - Rev 6:9-10
 - Rev 11:18
- 4) Sanctuary Patterns
 - The Introductions (Heaven/Earth)
 - History of the Heavenly Sanctuary
 - Daily/Yearly
 - Annual Feasts

IV. THE OLD TESTAMENT BACKGROUND

A. The Importance of the OT in Rev

- 404 Verses
- 600-2000 Allusions
- Mosaic (Kraft)

B. Four Types of Quotation

- 1) Citation
 - Like a footnote
 - Matt 2 has many
- 2) Quotation
 - Sufficient words in order for certainty

- 3) Allusion (word, phrase, hint)
 - Author's Intention
 - Reader Uncertainty
 - Purpose:
 - Import original context
- 4) Echo (Apocalyptic Dictionary)
 - No Authorial Intention
 - "In the Air"
 - Word has understood meanings in the author's context
 - No sense of reference to original
 - Our task:
 - Examine previous usage to gain understanding of the basic meaning of the term
 - Do not import context

C. How to Detect Allusions

- 1) Verbal Parallels
 - Two or more main words
 - Example: Gen 19:28 and Rev 9:2
- 2) Thematic Parallels
 - One word or less
 - Common Ideas
 - Example: Ezek 9:4 and Rev 9:4
- 3) Structural Parallels
 - Many words and themes in common over a large section
 - Example: Joel 2:1-11 and Rev 9:1-11

D. Assessment of Probability

Likely Factors:

- Many words in parallel
- Structural parallels
- Few occurrences in Rev
- Few occurrences in OT

Assessment:

- Certain Take context into account
- Probable -----
- Possible Consider as evidence
-
- Unlikely
- Nonallusion

V. THE NEW TESTAMENT BACKGROUND

A. The Book of Revelation is Clearly a NT Book

- The Revelation of Jesus Christ
- The Triple Trinity of 1:4-6
- Christ is everywhere present
 - Explicit: 11:15; 12:10,17, etc.
 - Symbol: Son of Man, Lamb, Seed of the Woman
- The Cross is a Central Theme
 - Rev 1:18; 5:6,9,12; 11:8; 12:11

B. Key Principles

- 1) The OT is not in control of Revelation, John uses the OT as a witness to Christ!
- 2) In the NT Christ is seen as the One who fulfilled the whole experience of God's OT people
He is the New Adam, Moses, David, etc.
Hos 11:1