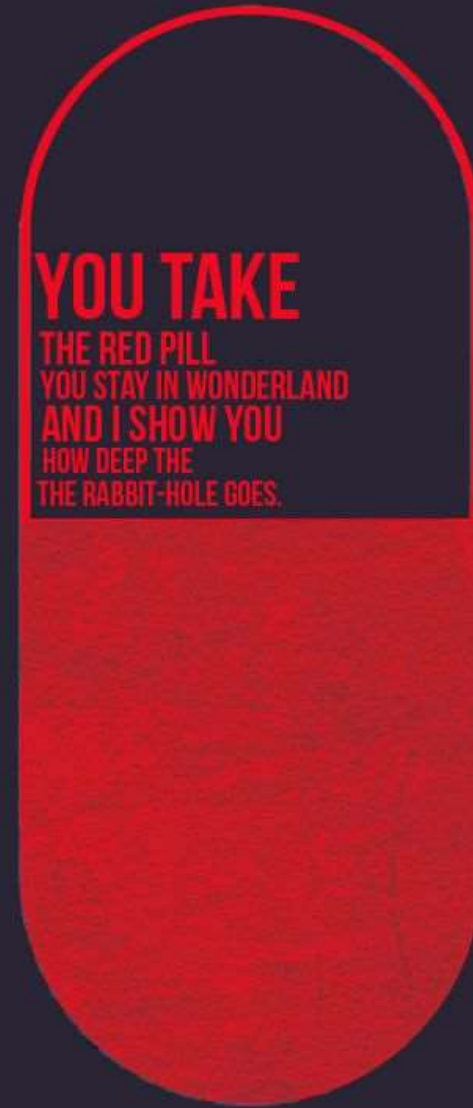




The Book of Revelation

Seeing Truly in Today's World





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Letter

Prophecy

Apocalypse

Seven Churches of Revelation

— Chapters 2-3 —

- ① Ephesus
- ② Smyrna
- ③ Pergamos
- ④ Thyatira
- ⑤ Sardis
- ⑥ Philadelphia
- ⑦ Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision





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‘And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of the first and the last, who was dead and came to life: ‘I know your affliction and your poverty, even though you are rich. I know the slander on the part of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Beware, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison so that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have affliction. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Whoever conquers will not be harmed by the second death.



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What is an Apocalypse?

ἀποκάλυψις

‘To reveal by unveiling’

Examples

Parts of Daniel,

Intertestamental Writings (eg
Enoch)



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After this I looked, and lo, in heaven an open door! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up hither, and I will show you what must take place after this."

Rev 4.1



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What did John 'see'?

Revelation imagery *symbolic*

7 Spirits of God

Lamb standing as if slaughtered

Woman riding a beast

Sword in mouth

1000 years

Old Testament imagery



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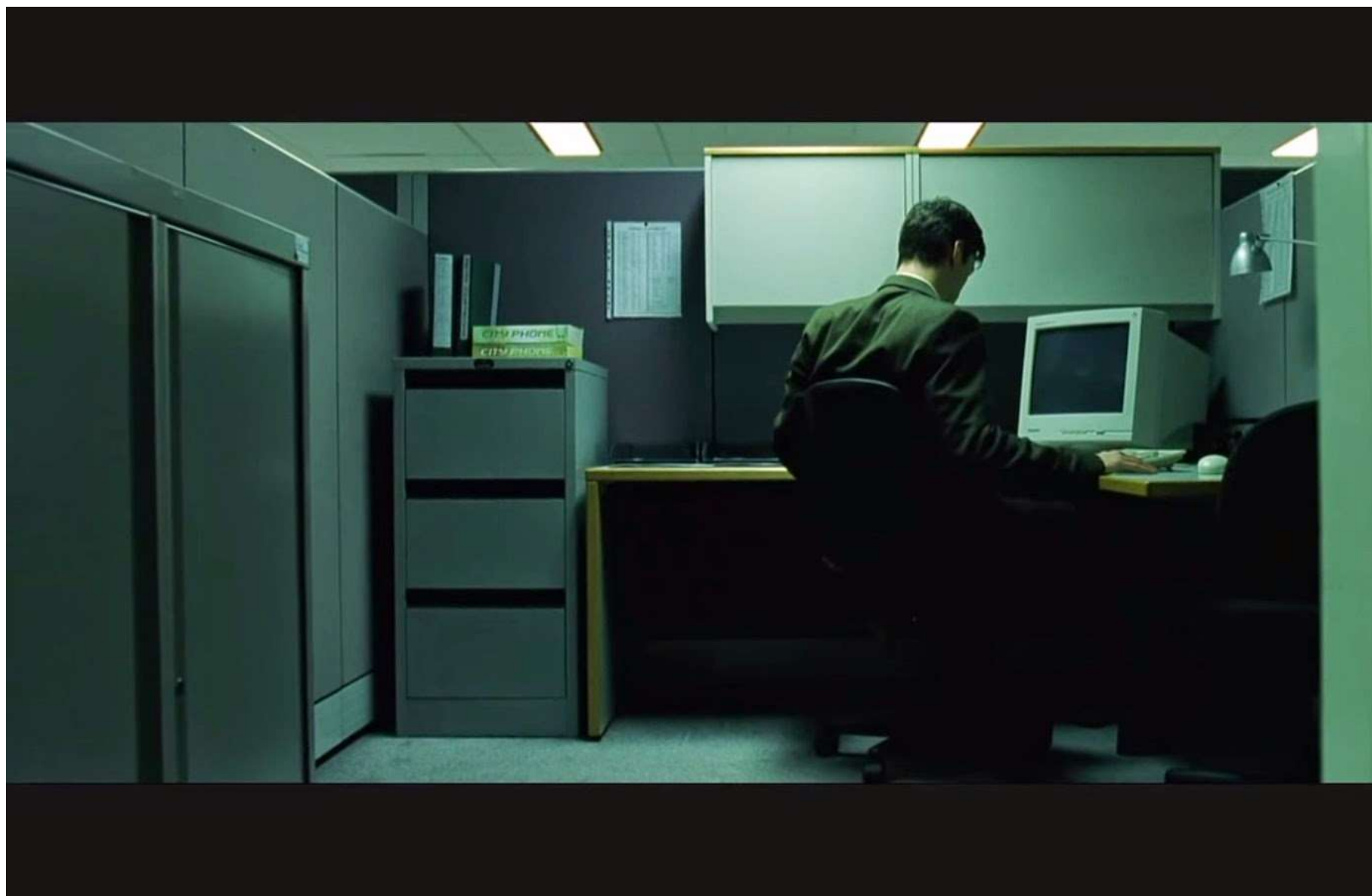
“Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Per’gamum and to Thyati’ra and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to La-odice’a.”

Rev 1:11



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If you want to understand
the point of view of
apocalyptic writing –
watch the Matrix









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But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge." Daniel 12:4

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' (Rev 5:1-2)



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Now write what you have seen,
what is, and what is to be Rev 1:19

Revelation Unveils the truth of our
world and of history

Revelation is human affairs and
history seen from the perspective
of heaven.



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Historicist View

Revelation is chronological

Revelation Predicts major moments in Christian History

Many of those events have been fulfilled in fall of Rome and 20th Century

Christ Coming is Imminent



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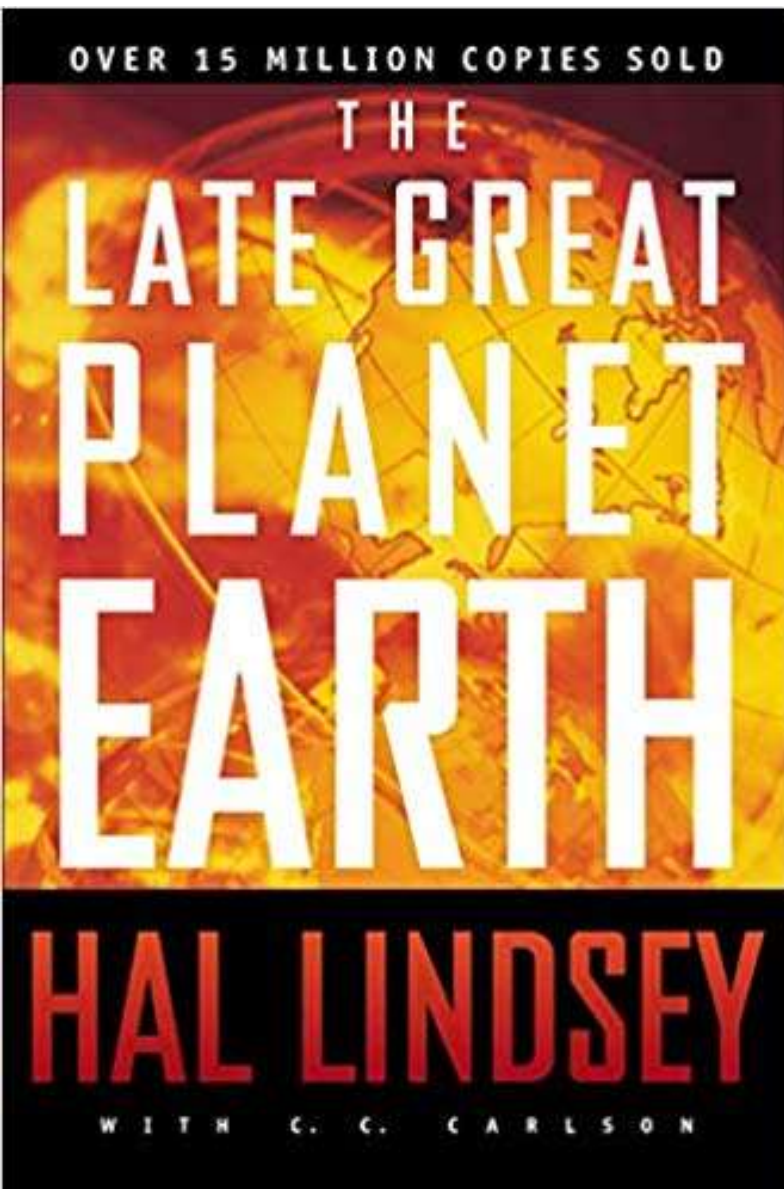
Futurist View (most popular amongst American churches)

Revelation is chronological

All of Rev from Ch 4 - ch 22 is of future time immediately preceding end of history

Darby in 1800s - Rapture and 'Dispensationalism'

Became popular with publication of Scofield Bible in 1909



'A generation in the Bible is something like forty years. If this is a correct deduction, then within forty years or so of 1948, all these things could take place. Many scholars who have studied Bible prophecy all their lives believe that this is so'



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Idealist View

Revelation is Symbolic portrayal
struggle between Good and Evil

No concrete engagement of
History



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Redemptive-Historical

Revelation symbolically portrays events throughout history, which is understood to be under sovereignty of God

God will guide history until Jesus comes again to fulfil and end history

The majority of the visions are 'transtemporal' in that they are applicable to the age of the church ('now')



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Redemptive-Historical Eg

so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. This calls for wisdom: let him who has understanding reckon the number of the beast, for it is a human number, its number is six hundred and sixty-six. (Rev 13:17-18)



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Redemptive-Historical Eg

An Aramaic scroll from Wadi Murabba'at, dated to "the second year of Emperor Nero", refers to him by his name and title. In Hebrew it is Nron Qsr (pronounced "Nerōn Kaisar").

Nron Qsr

The Greek version of the name and title transliterates into Hebrew as נרון קסר, and yields a numerical value of 666,

Resh ((ר	200	Samekh ((ס	60		
Qoph ((ק	100	Nun ((נ	50		
Vav ((ו	6	Resh ((ר	200	Nun ((נ	50
Total		666			



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Redemptive-Historical Eg

And I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints and the blood of the witnesses to Jesus.

When I saw her, I was greatly amazed. But the angel said to me, 'Why are you so amazed? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to ascend from the bottomless pit and go to destruction.



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Redemptive-Historical Eg

And the inhabitants of the earth, whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, *will be amazed when they see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.*

‘This calls for a mind that has wisdom: *the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated*; also, they are seven kings, of whom five have fallen, one is living, and the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain for only a little while. Rev 17:7-10)



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The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place; he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and who keep what is written in it; for the time is near. (Rev 1:1-3)



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*Now write what you have seen,
what is, and what is to be*

Rev 1:19

