OH WHAT A DAUNTING TASK IT IS TO READ AND UNDERSTAND THE BOOK OF REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST.

SO MUCH MYSTERY AND SYMBOLOGY. FULL OF DRAMATIC AND FRIGHTENING IMAGERY.

IF SOMEONE READS THE BOOK WITHOUT ANY PREPARATION, IT WILL MOST LIKELY SEEM VERY CONFUSING.

SO, HOW DO WE READ THIS BOOK WITH UNDERSTANDING?

HOW DO WE INTERPRET THIS BOOK WHICH IS THE LAST DIVINE AND HOLY MESSAGE GIVEN TO CHRISTIANS?

AS IT TURNS OUT, THERE ARE MANY WAYS OF INTERPRETING THIS BOOK.

AND SOMETIMES, THERE ARE MORE THAN ONE WAY OF DESCRIBING A PARTICULAR METHOD.

WHICH JUST LEADS TO MORE CONFUSION.

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY METHODS OF INTERPRETATION.

SOME HAVE THE IDEA THAT THE BOOK OF REVELATION REVEALS ALL THE FUTURE HISTORY, BEGINNING FROM THE START OF THE NEW TESTAMENT DISPENSATION.

ITS TO BE USED AS A FORECAST.

THERE ARE THOSE THAT FEEL JUST THE OPPOSITE, THAT EVERYTHING IN REVELATION HAS ALREADY COME TO PASS.

OTHERS FEEL THAT THE BOOK IS DEALING WITH THE END OF TIME.

AND THERE ARE THOSE WHO CONSIDER THE BOOK TO BE NEITHER HISTORICAL NOR A FORECASTER, BUT A COLLECTION GREAT PRINCIPALS.

THIS AFTERNOON, WE ARE GOING TO LOOK AT FOUR METHODS.

**SLIDE 2**

**THE FUTURIST METHOD**

**THE CONTINUOUS-HISTORICAL METHOD**

**THE PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY METHOD**

**THE PRETERIST METHOD**

AND MOST OF THESE HAVE THEIR GOOD POINTS, AND SHORTCOMINGS.

AND I’M JUST GOING TO TELL YOU RIGHT NOW – WE ARE NOT GOING TO USE ANY OF THESE METHODS.

THE METHOD WE ARE GOING TO USE WILL BE DESCRIBED NEXT SUNDAY, LORD WILLING.

SO A LOGICAL QUESTION IS, WHY ARE WE LOOKING AT THESE METHODS OF INTERPRETING REVELATION?

WE ARE LOOKING AT THESE METHODS FOR SEVERAL REASONS.

1. SO WE ARE AWARE OF THESE DIFFERENT METHODS.
2. SO WE UNDERSTAND THE OBJECTIONS AND THE STRONG POINTS OF THESE METHODS.
3. SO WE UNDERSTAND HOW TO IDENTIFY WHEN SOMEONE IS USING ONE OF THESE METHODS, AND HOW TO REFUTE THEM.
	1. FOR EXAMPLE, YOU MIGHT HEAR PEOPLE TALK ABOUT THE RAPTURE, OR THE 1000 YEAR REIGN AND SO ON.
4. SO WE ARE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND, EXPLAIN AND DEFEND THE METHOD WE USE TO INTERPRET THE BOOK OF REVELATION.

MY PRESENTATION THIS EVENING WILL BE HEAVILY BASED UPON A BOOK WRITTEN BY RAY SUMMER ENTITLED “WORTHY IS THE LAMB.”

I THINK IT HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED THAT THIS IS THE BOOK, OR AT LEAST ONE OF THE BOOKS, AND CERTAINLY THE PRIMARY BOOK, THAT WE HAVE BEEN REVIEWING IN PREPARATION FOR THIS STUDY ON THE BOR.

**I THE FUTURIST METHOD.**

**SLIDE 3**

THE FIRST METHOD WE ARE GOING TO LOOK AT IS THE FUTURIST METHOD.

THIS IS A POPULAR METHOD OF INTERPRETING THE BOOK OF REVELATION (BOR)

**SLIDE 4**

THE METHOD DEALS WITH THE END TIMES, AND THE JUDGEMENT AND THE FINAL DESTINY OF MANKIND.

THEY LOOK UPON THE CRYPTIC SYMBOLS FOUND IN THE VERSE OF THE BOR AS AN EXPLANATION OF THE END OF THE AGE, THE COMING OF THE LORD, THE MILLENNIAL REIGN (OR THOUSAND YEAR REIGN) WITH FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS ON EARTH, THE RELEASE OF SATAN, A SECOND RESURRECTION CULMINATED BY THE FINAL JUDGEMENT.

NOW IN ORDER TO DISCUSS THIS VIEW FURTHER, IT IS HELPFUL TO UNDERSTAND A FEW DEFINITIONS.

**MILLENNIALISM:**

**SLIDE 5**

a belief THAT [Golden Age](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Age) or [Paradise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paradise) will occur on [Earth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth) prior to the [final judgment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Last_judgment) and future eternal state of the "[World to Come](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_to_Come)".

A PERSON WHO BELIEVES IN THE DOCTRINE OF THE MILLENNIUM ARE REFERRED TO AS millenARIANS.

MILLENARIANS BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE A THOUSAND YEAR REIGN which will end in a cataclysm of [heresy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heresy) and destruction, until the final destruction of [evil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evil) and of the spirit of evil by a triumphant king of peace at the end of the final millennial age.

Christian millenARIANS thinking is primarily based upon the [Book of Revelation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Revelation), specifically 20:1-6, which describes the vision of an angel who descended from heaven with a large chain and a key to a bottomless pit, and captured Satan, imprisoning him for a thousand years:

read REV 20: 1-6

**RAPTURE:**

The Second Coming of Christ will occur in stages.  First, He will remove all Christians from the Earth, to protect them.  This is called "The Rapture."  The term comes from the Latin verb ***raptare***, and the Greek word ***harpizo***, both meaning "to be caught up" or "to be snatched up."  Jesus will "snatch us" out of harm's way.

**1 Thessalonians 4:15-17** [15] ***According to the Lord's own word,*** we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. [16] ***For the Lord himself will come down from heaven,*** with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and ***the dead in Christ will rise first.*** [17] ***After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds*** to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **1 Corinthians 15:51-55** [51] Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—[52] in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. [53] For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. [54] When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." [55] "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"  |

The MILLENARIANS contend that after The Rapture, God will begin executing judgments against unbelievers, during a period called the Tribulation.  At the end of the Tribulation ***all nations*** will attack Israel, and Jesus Christ will physically return, leading the armies of heaven.   At the Battle of Armeggedon they will destroy ***everyone*** who is not a believer. Then Satan will be bound, and Jesus will set up the Millennial Kingdom, headquartered in Jerusalem.

Jesus and the saints will rule over the nations of the Earth for a thousand years.  During this period there ***will*** be people born who are not loyal to Christ.  ***However***, it usually will not be obvious.  Therefore, at the end of the thousand-year period, God will release Satan and let him tempt those who inhabit the Earth.

A large group will take up arms against the Lord and be defeated.  Then, Christ will judge all who have ever lived, giving rewards to some and punishment to others.  Those who were "destroyed" will be cast into the Lake of Fire, i.e., Hell.  After that, God will destroy heaven ***and*** Earth because they have been polluted by sin.  He will create a new heaven and a new Earth, put those who were saved on the new Earth, and rule it forever.

THE FUTURIST METHOD DEALS WITH EVENTS IN THE FUTURE.

SPECIFICALLY, FROM CHAPTER 4 TO THE END OF THE BOR, FUTURIST CONTEND THAT THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO UNFULFILLED PROPHESY.

THE LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES, THOSE ARE IN THE PAST. THESE LETTERS END AT THE END OF CHAPTER THREE.

THIS METHOD OF INTERPRETATION APPEALS TO THOSE WHO DESIRE TO KNOW THE FUTURE, AND WHO ARE FAR MORE INTERESTED IN “THE LAST THINGS” THAN THEY ARE WITH GOD’S PLAN AND PURPOSE FOR CHRISTIANS LIVING TODAY.

THE FUTURISTS CONTEND THAT THE EVENTS FROM CHAPTER 4 TO 19 ARE TO TAKE PLACE WITHIN A SPAN OF ONLY 7 YEARS.

THIS PERIOD OF TRIBULATION IS INTERPRETED TO BE THE SEVENTIETH WEEK MENTION IN THE PROPHECY OF DANIEL 9:24-27. (READ DANIEL 9:24-27)

THEY REGARD THE LAST WEEK OF THESE 70 WEEKS TO BE SEPARATED BY MANY CENTURIES FROM THE OTHER 69 WEEKS.

FUTURIST TEND TO INTERPRET THE BOR LITERALLY.

THEY SEE VERY LITTLE THAT IS SYMBOLICAL IN THE BOOK.

FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE 11TH CHAPTER THE TEMPLE IS MEASURED.

FUTURISTS CONTEND THAT THIS IS THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM AND THAT IT WILL BE REBUILT BEFORE THE END OF TIME.

IN THE SAME CHAPTER WE ARE INTRODUCED TO TWO WITNESSES.

FUTURIST CONTEND THAT THESE ARE TWO GREAT PROPHETS WHO WILL APPEAR NEAR THE END OF TIME.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT DISTINCTION ABOUT FUTURIST, THEY BELIEVE THAT THE NUMBERS IN BOR HAVE TO DO WITH MATHEMATICAL VALUES AND NOT SYMBOLICAL REPRESENTATION.

THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT POINT. AND Its POLAR OPPOSITE FROM WHAT YOU WILL HEAR FROM THIS PULPIT OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS.

I LIKE WHAT RON COURTER SAYS ABOUT NUMBERS IN THE BOR:

“IN THE BOR, NUMBERS COUNT, BUT DON’T COUNT ON THEM.”

IN OTHER WORDS, THE NUMBERS ARE IMPORTANT FROM A SYMBOLIC PERSPECTIVE – NOT LITERAL.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT DISTINCTION OF FUTURISTS IS THEIR BELIEVE IN THE COMING OF A PERSONAL ANTICHRIST.

THEY INTERPRET THAT THE BEAST OF REVELATION IS A PERSONAL WICKED, SECULAR OR ECCLESIASTICAL RULER WHO WILL BE IN POWER IN THE LAST DAYS.

AS WE SAID MOST FUTURISTS ARE MILLENARIANS.

THEY BELIEVE THAT AFTER THE LORD IS REVEALED FROM HEAVEN AST HIS SECOND COMING, THE GENERAL JUDGEMENT WILL NOT TAKE PLACE AT ONCE.

INSTEAD, THERE WILL BE A RESURRECTION OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND AFTER THAT A REIGN OF CHRIST WITH HIS SAINTS ON EARTH FRO 1000 YRS.

BUT NOT ALL FUTURIST ARE MILLENARIANS.

THERE IS A SECOND GROUP, AND THIS GROUP BELIEVES THAT BABYLON WILL BE REBUILT AND THAT THE PERSONAL ANTICHRIST WILL RULE.

THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ALL THE EVENTS IN THE BOR AFTER CHAPTER 4 TAKE PLACE WITHIN 7 YRS.

LET’S LOOK AT SOME OBJECTIONS THAT CRITICS HAVE TO THIS METHOD, AND THE STRONG POINTS TO THIS METHOD MADE BY FUTURISTS.

**OBJECTIONS:**

**SLIDE 6**

1

IT IS IN CONTRAST TO WHAT JOHN SAID IN REV 1:1 THAT THE EVENTS IN THE BOR “MUST TAKE PLACE SHORTLY”.

NOTE JOHN USES THE PHRASE “MUST”.

THIS IMPLIES A MORAL NECESSITY.

AND HE USES THE WORD SHORTLY.

ACCORDING TO THAYER, IN THIS CONTEXT “SHORTLY” MEANS

“WITH ALL SPEED, VERY QUICKLY, AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.”

SO, RIGHT OF THE BAT, THE FUTURIST IS STRAYING FROM THE MESSAGE OF JOHN.

IT IS NOT REASONABLE TO TAKE THE POSITION THAT NOTHING OF THE BOR HAS YET TO BE FULFILLED.

JOHN CERTAINLY MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THE TIME WAS AT HAND FOR THE FULFILMENT OF THE PROPHECY AS IT WAS GIVEN TO JOHN.

2.

**SLIDE 7**

ONE OF THE STRONGEST OBJECTIONS TO THIS METHOD OF INTERPRETATION IS THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN OF LITTLE TO NO VALUE OF THE CHRISTIANS IN JOHN’S DAY.

ONE BASIC PRINCIPAL OF PROPHESY IS THAT IT TAKES IT START WITH THE GENERATION TO WHOM IT IS ADDRESSED.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE PROPHETS OF THE BABYLONIAN EXILE BEGAN WITH THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE AT THAT TIME.

THE PROPHETS WERE WARNING THE ISRAELITES OF WHAT WOULD COME TO PASS IF THEY DIDN’T REPENT AND TURN AWAY FROM IDOLATRY AND OTHER FALSE RELIGIOUS PRACTICES.

THE FIRST PURPOSE OF A PROPHECY IS TO FULFILL AN IMMEDIATE NEED.

THERE WAS A DRASTIC NEED TO COMFORT, INSTRUCT AND WARN THESE EARLY CHRISTIANS.

THIS WOULD TURN OUT TO BE THE LAST BOOK OF THE NT.

HOW DISHEARTENING WOULD IT HAVE BEEN TO THESE CHRISTIANS IF THIS MESSAGE OF HOPE WAS NOT FOR THEM.

“I KNOW YOU ARE SUFFERING NOW IN SO MANY WAYS. BUT DON’T WORRY, THINGS WILL BE FINE FOR THOSE THAT COME AFTER YOU.”

WHAT WOULD BE THE POINT OF SHARING THE MESSAGE WITH THESE CHRISTIANS. IT WOULD BE BORDERLINE CRUELTY.

3

**SLIDE 8**

MUCH OF THE SYMBOLISM OF THE BOR IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THE FUTURIST METHOD.

FOR EXAMPLE, REV CHAPTER 12 TELLS OF THE WOMAN, THE CHILD AND THE DRAGON.

A CAREFUL STUDY OF THIS PASSAGE WILL REVEAL THAT THIS IS ABOUT THE CHURCH, CHRIST THE SAVIOR AND THE DEVIL.

SO, A FUTURIST MUST EITHER DEVIATE FROM HIS ASSERTION THAT THIS EVENT TAKES PLACE IN THE FUTURE, OR HOLD THAT THE SYMBOLISM POINTS TO SOME FUTURE ACTIVITY.

THE PROBLEM IS, THIS PASSAGE QUITE CLEARLY IS DESCRIBING THE BIRTH OF CHRIST AND OF THE DEVILS ATTEMPT TO DESTROY HIM.

**STRONG POINTS CLAIMED BY FUTURISTS:**

1

**SLIDE 9**

THEY CLAIM THAT THE FUTURIST METHOD IS JUST TAKING THE BIBLE AT IT’S WORD, WITHOUT ADDING OR SUBTRACTING FROM IT.

HOWEVER, THEY FAIL TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE BIBLE IS WRITTEN IN DIFFERENT STYLES.

THE SCRIPTURES MUST BE INTERPRETED IN A WAY CONSISTENT WITH THE METHOD OF PRESENTATION.

THERE ARE BOOKS IN THE BIBLE THAT ARE HISTORICAL, INSTRUCTIONAL, POETRY, PARABLES, LETTERS, PROPHESY AND APOCALYPTIC.

WE INTERPRET ALL THESE PASSAGES WITH AN UNDERSTAND OF THE STYLE OF LITERATURE IN WHICH IT WAS WRITTEN.

JOHN USES THREE GENRES IN WRITING THE BOR. AT LEAST THREE.

IT IS A LETTER,

IT IS A PROPHECY

AND IT IS APOCALYPTIC.

REV CHAPTERS 1-3 AND THE CONCLUSION IN REV 22:6-21 ARE WRITTEN AS A LETTER.

SOME PASSAGES OF THE BOR FALL UNDER THE GENRE OF PROPHECY, EVEN RE-TELLING THE PROPHECIES FOUND IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL.

AND SOME PASSAGES ARE APOCALYPTIC.

THIS INVOLVES PRESENTING A VISION THRU DIVINE INSPIRATION, MAKES HEAVY USE OF FIGURATIVE IMAGERY AND FOCUSES ON THE END OF HISTORY.

THE FUTURIST LOOSE SIGHT OF THIS IN THEIR APPROACH TO INTERPRETING THE BOR AS THEY FAIL TO RECOGNIZE PASSAGES THAT PERTAIN TO EVENTS THAT HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE.

2

**SLIDE 10**

THE FUTURIST MAKE OTHER CLAIMS THAT ARE SUBJECTIVE IN NATURE AND EASILY REFUTED.

SOME FUTURIST SAY THAT THEIR METHOD IS THE ONLY METHOD WHICH KEEP ALIVE AN ACTIVE HOPE IN THE RETURN OF THE LORD.

THIS HOWEVER IS NOT TRUE

YOU WILL SEE THAT THE METHOD THAT WE WILL USE MOST CERTAINLY DOES KEEP ALIVE AN ACTIVE HOPE IN THE RETURN OF THE LORD.

**SLIDE 11**

**II THE CONTINUOUS-HISTORICAL METHOD.**

THE SECOND METHOD OF INTERPRETING THE BOR THAT WE ARE GOING TO LOOK AT IS THE CONTINUOUS HISTORICAL METHOD.

ALSO KNOW AS THE CONTINUOUS METHOD

ALSO KNOWN AS THE HISTORICAL METHOD.

**SLIDE 12**

IN THIS METHOD, THE BOR IS USED AS A FORECAST OF THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH, THROUGH THE USE OF SYMBOLS.

USERS OF THIS METHOD CONTEND THAT THE PROPHESIES IN THE BOR ARE A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE APOSTASY OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

THE METHOD BASICALLY TAKES DIFFERENT EVENTS IN THE BOR AND LINES THEM UP WITH MAJOR EVENTS IN HISTORY.

ALBERT BARNES SUBSCRIBES TO THIS METHOD.

AND IN HIS COMMENTARY, HE GIVES AN OVERVIEW SUMMARY OF THIS APPROACH AS A PRELUDE TO HIS VERSE BY VERSE COMMENTARY.

ABOVE HIS SUMMARY HE WRITES:

“THE EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF THE CHURCH – THE RELATION TO SECULAR AFFAIRS- POLITICAL, CHANGES AND REVOLUTIONS, AS BEARING ON THE CHURCH.”

LET ME GIVE A FEW EXAMPLES:

**SLIDE 13**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| OPENING OF A SEAL | HISTORICAL EVENT |
| OPENING OF THE FIRST SEAL |  THE DEATH OF ROMAN EMPIRE DOMITIAN IN AD 96 |
| OPENING OF THE SECOND SEAL | THE DEATH OF COMMODUS |
| OPENING OF THE THIRD SEAL | DURING THE TIME OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE AROUND AD 211 |
| OPENING OF THE FOURTH SEAL | DURING A TIME OF BLOODSHED, FAMINE AND PESTILENCE IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE DURING THE TIME OF DECIUS, GALLUS AND OTHERS AD 243-268 |
| OPENING OF THE FIFTH SEAL | THE MARTYRS. FULFILLED IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE IN THE PERSECUTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE TIME OF DIOCLETIAN AD 284-304 |

AFTER THE OPENING OF THE SEALS, WE HAVE THE SOUNDING OF THE TRUMPETS.

**SLIDE 14**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET | HISTORICAL EVENT |
| THE FIRST TRUMPET SOUNDED | THE INVASION OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE BY ALARIC, KING OF THE GOTHS, AD 395-410 |
| THE SECOND TRUMPET SOUNDED | THE INVASION OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE BY GENSERIC, KING OF THE VANDALS AD 428-468 |
| THE THIRD TRUMPET SOUNDED | THE INVASION OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE BY ATTILA THE HUN AD 433-453 |
| THE SIXTH TRUMPET SOUNDED | THE TURKS COMING TO POWER |
| THE SEVENTH TRUMPET SOUNDED | BETWEEN THE TIME OF THE CONQUEST OF CONSTANTINOPLE AND BEFORE THE RESTORATION. |

OTHER KEY INTERPRETATIONS:

THE FIRST BEAST: THE PAPAL ECCLESIASTICAL POWER THE SUSTAINED THE PAPACY

THE SEVEN VIALS: SEVEN BLOWS AT THE POWER OF THE PAPACY, SUCH AS THE FRENCH REVOLUTION, SEIZURE OF ROME BY THE FRENCH, ETC.

THE GREAT HARLOT; THE PAPACY.

THE DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON: THE FALL OF THE PAPACY.

THIS GIVES US A GENERAL IDEA OF WHAT THIS METHOD IS ABOUT.

THIS METHOD COMPARES THE SYMBOLS OF REVELATION WITH THE COURSE OF HISTORY IN GREAT DETAIL.

AT FIRST GLANCE, IT APPEARS THAT METHOD DOES A GOOD JOB OF CORRELATING EVENTS IN HISTORY TO THE BOR.

BUT ONE HAS TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT FORCING A FIT WHERE NONE EXISTS.

THERE ARE SOME STRONG OBJECTIONS TO THIS METHOD.

**OBJECTION RAISED TO THE CONTINUOUS-HISTORICAL METHOD**

**1**

**SLIDE 15**

SIMILAR TO THE OBJECTIONS RAISED BY THE FUTURIST METHOD.

THIS METHOD OFFERS LITTLE VALUE TO THOSE TO WHOM IT WAS FIRST REVEALED TO.

CAN AN INTERPRETATION BE CORRECT IF IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MEANINGLESS TO THOSE WHO FIRST RECEIVED THE BOOK?

WHAT VALUE WOULD IT HAVE SERVED THE EARLY CHRISTIANS TO READ OF A CHURCH SYSTEM THAT WAS HUNDRED OF YEARS INTO THE FUTURE?

WHAT COMFORT WOULD IT HAVE BROUGHT TO THESE CHRISTIANS?

2.

**SLIDE 16**

ANOTHER OBJECTION RAISED IS THAT THIS METHOD ATTACHES AN UNDUE IMPORTANCE TO THE APOSTASY OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

THE POPE IS NOT THE ONLY ENEMY OF THE CHURCH.

THIS METHOD IGNORES OTHER ANTICHRISTS, FALSE PROPHETS, AND EVIL MEN IN AUTHORITY.

3

**SLIDE 17**

THIS METHOD IS LIMITED TO A SMALL GEOGRAPHICAL AREA.

THIS METHOD FOCUSES ON PEOPLE AND EVENTS WHERE ROMAN CATHOLICISM HAD BEEN PREDOMINANT.

THERE IS NO UNIVERSAL MESSAGE TO ALL OF MANKIND.

4.

**SLIDE 18**

ANOTHER OBJECTION TO THIS METHOD IS THAT IT USES MATH THAT DOESN’T ADD UP.

THESE CALCULATIONS ARE MADE ON THE “YEAR-DAY” THEORY THAT A DAY IN PROPHECY ALWAYS MEANS ONE YEAR.

THIS, THE BEAST WHICH IS TO HAVE POWER FOR FORT-TWO MONTHS IS REALLY TO HAVE POWER FOR

1,260 YEARS.

AFTER THAT TIME, ITS POWER WILL CEASE.

BUT THE ROMAN PAPACY HAS LASTED MUCH LONGER THAN THAT.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE CONTINUOUS-HISTORICAL METHOD:

THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES ARE USUALLY USED IN SUPPORT OF THIS METHOD

NUMBERS 14:34:

RECORDS THAT THE ISRAELITES HAD TO SPEND A YEAR IN THE DESERT FOR EVERY DAY IN THE 40-DAY JOURNEY OF SPIES

EZEKIEL 4:4-6

THE PROPHET IS TOLD TO LIE ON HIS SIDE FOR A CERTAIN NUMBER OF DAYS AND IS TOLD THAT THE DAYS CORRESPOND TO YEARS

“LIE ALSO ON YOUR LEFT SIDE AND LAY THE INIQUITY OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL UPON IT. ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF THE DAYS THAT YOU LIE ON IT, YOU SHALL BEAR THEIR INIQUITY. FOR I HAVE LAID ON YOU THE YEARS OF THE INIQUITY, ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF THE DAYS, THREE HUNDRED AND NINETY DAYS SO YOU SHALL BEAR THE INIQUITY OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL.

AND WHEN YOU HAVE COMPLETED THEM, LIE AGAIN ON YOUR RIGHT SIDE,

THEN YOU SHALL BEAR THE INIQUITY OF THE HOUSE OF JUDAH FORTY DAYS. I HAVE LAID ON YOU A DAY FOR EACH YEAR.

DANIEL 9:25

WHICH PROPHESIES THE SEVENTY WEEKS. PRACTICALLY ALL EXPOSITORS AGREE THAT THIS DEALS WITH A PERIOD OF 490 YEARS. IF THE WEEKS ARE TAKEN AS PERIODS OF SEVEN DAYS EACH, THEN WE DO HAVE A PROPHECY IN WHICH A DAY STAND FOR A YEAR.

BUT THERE ARE EXAMPLES IN THE SCRIPTURES THAT DOES NOT FOLLOW THIS RULE

ISAIAH 7:8: PROPHESIED THAT EPHRAIM SHOULD BE BROKEN IN 65 YEARS – HE DID NOT MEAN DAYS.

MATTHEW 20:19

JESUS PROPHESIED THAT HE WOULD BE CRUCIFIED AND BURIED AND WOULD RISE ON THE THIRD DAY. HE DID NOT MEAN 3 YEARS.

SOME HAVE USED THIS DAY-YEAR THEORY TO PREDICT THE END OF TIMES.

OF COURSE, THEY FAILED MISERABLY.

**STRONG POINT**

**SLIDE 19**

THIS METHOD DOES AVOID A LITERAL INTERPRETATION OF THE BOR AND FORESEES THE COMPLETE OVERTHROW OF EVIL.

HOWEVER, IT’S INSISTENCE OF LINING UP EVERY EVENT, EVERY SYMBOL IN THE BOR IN ORDER AS A CHRONOLOGICAL FORECASTER OF HISTORY REQUIRES A LOT OF “FORCE FITS”.

AND THERE IS A LOT OF SUBJECTIVITY TO THESE FORCED FITS AS WELL.

**III THE PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY METHOD “IDEALIST”**

**Slide 20**

THIS METHOD OF INTERPRETATION TAKES A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT APPROACH THAN THE FIRST TWO METHODS WE LOOKED AT.

IT TAKES A PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACH WHEN EXAMINING THE PASSAGES.

**SLIDE 21**

IT LOOKS UPON THE BOOK AS CONTAINING A DISCUSSION OF THE FORCES WHICH UNDERLIE EVENTS BUT NOT A DISCUSSION OF THE EVENTS THEMSELVES.

THE BOR IS VIEWED AS AN EXPRESSION OF THOSE GREAT PRINCIPLES OF GOD’S GOVERNMENT WHOSE OPERATION MAY BE OBSERVED IN EVERY AGE.

SYMBOLS ARE UNDERSTOOD TO REFER TO FORCES OR TENDENCIES AND MAY THUS BE FULFILLED OVER AND OVER AS THESE FORCES OR TENDENCIES ARE REPEATED IN HISTORY.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE WILD BEAST ARISING OUT OF THE SEA IN REV 13 IN INTERPRETED AS THE SECULAR POWERS ANTAGONISTIC TO THE TRUE CHURCH WHENEVER AND WHEREVER THAT POWER ARISES.

LIKEWISE, THE SECOND BEAST WITH HORNS LIKE A LAMB BUT A VOICE LIKE A DRAGON REPRESENTS CORRUPT RELIGIOUS POWER IN LEAGUE WITH CORRUPT SECULAR POWER TO BRING INJURY TO GOD’S PEOPLE.

TO A LIMITED EXTENT, WE MIGHT TAKE THE SAME APPROACH IN SOME INSTANCES.

FOR EXAMPLE, “THE ANTICHRIST” IS IN REFERENCE TO ANYONE THAT OPPOSES THE TEACHINGS OF THE GOSPEL.

ACCORDING TO THE ADVOCATES OF THIS METHOD, THERE IS NO CONTINUITY IN REVELATION.

THE SEALS ARE NOT EXPECTED TO BE FULFILLED AND THEN THE TRUMPETS.

THE SEALS REPRESENT THE ENTIRE COURSE OF HISTORY, AND THE TRUMPETS COVER THE SAME TERRITORY, ONLY FROM A DIFFERENT ASPECT.

THEY ARE SHOWING SEVEN IMAGES OF THE SAME THING FROM DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS.

NOW YOU ARE GOING TO FIND WE HAVE A SIMILAR VIEW – OF SORTS.

THIS PARTICULAR APPROACH IS KNOWN AS PARALLELISM OR RE-CAPITULATION.

I’LL LET OTHERS THAT COME AFTER ME EXPAND ON THAT THOUGHT.

**OBJECTIONS RAISED CONCERNING THE PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY METHOD**:

**SLIDE 22**

LET’S LOOK AT SOME OBJECTIONS RAISED OF THIS METHOD.

1

CRITICS CONTEND THAT THIS METHOD OF INTERPRETATION IS TOO FAR REMOVED FROM THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE WHO FIRST RECEIVED IT.

IT’S MESSAGE OF HOPE AND COMFORT TO THE EARLY CHRISTIANS MAY SEEM TO BE WATERED DOWN.

**SLIDE 23**

2.

CRITICS CONTEND THAT THIS METHOD CONFINES THE BOOK TO TOO NARROW A CHANNEL, AND THAT THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC PROPHECIES OF SPECIFIC EVENTS.

**STRONG POINTS CLAIMED BY THOSE THAT ADVOCATE THE PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY METHOD**

**SLIDE 24**

1. THIS METHOD DOES PROVIDE SOME MEANING TO THOSE THAT FIRST RECEIVED IT.

AS WE SAID, THE MESSAGE IS WATERED DOWN TO SOME DEGREE.

1. THE METHOD DOES ACKNOWLEDGE THE HAND OF GOD IN THE COURSE OF HISTORY.

HE HAS NOT LEFT THE WORLD TO ITS OWN DEVICES BUT DEALS WITH MANKIND AS HE DEEMS APPROPRIATE.

1. THIS METHOD RECOGNIZES THAT GOD WILL PREVAIL, THAT THE KING OF KINGS WILL BE VICTORIOUS.

**IV THE PRETERIST METHOD**

 **SLIDE 25**

THE PRETERIST CONTEND THAT EVERYTHING IN THE BOR WAS FULFILLED DURING THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

THIS METHOD IS THE POLAR OPPOSITE OF THE FUTURIST METHOD.

WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD “PRETERIST” THINK OF THE WORD “PAST”.

THAT’S BECAUSE THE WORD “PRETERIST” COMES FROM THE LATIN WORD PRAETER MEANING PAST OR BEYOND.

SO, A PRETERIST CONTENDS THAT THE EVENTS OF THE BOR HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE.

RAY SUMMERS IN HIS BOOK “WORTHY IS THE LAMB” CONTENDS THAT THERE ARE TWO DIVISIONS AMONGST THIS GROUP.

HE REFERS TO THESE AS THE RIGHT-WING GROUP AND THE LEFT-WING GROUP.

THE RIGHT-WING GROUP CONSIDERS THE BOR TO BE OF DIVINE ORIGIN – THAT IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD.

THEY CONTEND THAT MOST OF IT WAS FULFILLED IN THE DAYS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE UNDER DOMITIAN – EVERYTHING HAS BEEN FULFILLED EXCEPT THE FINAL JUDGEMENT.

NOW DOMITIAN WAS A CRUEL AND EVIL MAN.

NO DOUBT, HE CAUSED MUCH PERSECUTION AMONGST THE CHURCH.

THEY CONSIDER THE BOR TO HAVE BEEN PRIMARILY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE SAINTS WHO WERE PERSECUTED DURING THAT TIME.

THE LEFT-WING GROUP AMONGST THE PRETERIST HAVE AN EVEN MORE RADICAL VIEW.

THEY DO NOT FEEL THAT REVELATION IS INSPIRED SCRIPTURE.

Its ONLY VALUE IS AS A PIECE OF LITERATURE.

THEY CLAIM THAT JOHN KNEW NOTHING OF THE FUTURE BY INSPIRATION.

THIS IS RATHER SAD. AS A RESULT, THEY SEE NO FULFILMENT OF THE VINDICATION OF THE CHURCH, THE VICTORY OF GOOD OVER EVIL, AND SO FORTH.

**OBJECTIONS TO THE RIGHT-WING GROUP: SLIDE 26**

THEIR INTERPRETATION IS A MESSAGE THAT ONLY APPLIES TO PEOPLE OF JOHN’S DAY.

IT HAS LITTLE VALUE TO US TODAY, EXCEPT AS A PIECE OF LITERATURE.

THEY DO NOT SEE ANY APPLICATION TO THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH OR TO THE STRUGGLES OF OUR DAY, OR TO CHRISTIANS THROUGHOUT HISTORY.

**OBJECTIONS TO THE LEFT-WING GROUP: SLIDE 27**

OBVIOUSLY, THERE ARE MANY THAT OBJECT TO THE NOTION THAT THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS NOT CANON.

IF SOMEONE CONTENDS THAT THE BOR IS NOT THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD THEN THERE’S REALLY NOT FURTHER DISCUSSION TO BE HAD.

**STRONG POINTS:**

**SLIDE 28**

**1**

IT IS TRUE TO THE CONTEXT IN WHICH IT WAS WRITTEN.

IT IS CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE KNOW FROM SECULAR HISTORY.

IF WE UNDERSTAND THE SECULAR HISTORY AT THAT TIME, WE KNOW THAT THERE WAS A VERY CRUEL EMPEROR.

AND KNOWING THAT HELPS US TO INTERPRET AND UNDERSTAND THE BOR.

THE PRETERIST DO ACCOMPLISH THAT – THEIR INTERPRETATION IS IN CONCERT WITH SECULAR HISTORY.

2

**SLIDE 29**

THE RIGHT WING PRETERIST METHOD MAKES THE BOOK MEANINGFUL TO THE EARLY CHRISTIANS.

IF ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF THE BOR IS TO SHARE WITH THESE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS THE FINAL VICTORY THAT AWAITS THE CHURCH AND THE SAINTS, THEN THE VIEW OF THE PRETERIST ACCOMPLISHES THIS.

3

**SLIDE 30**

THE RIGHT WING PRETERIST METHOD MAKES THE BOOK MEANINGFUL TO CHRISTIANS TODAY, AND THROUGHOUT HISTORY.

CONCLUDES OUR THOUGHTS

THERE ARE INDEED MANY WAYS OF INTERPRETING THE BOR.

WHEN WE START EXAMINING THE PASSAGES, WE MIGHT NOT ALL AGREE ON THE MEANING OF EACH SYMBOL, OF EVERY MINOR DETAIL.

AND TO SOME EXTENT, THAT’S OK.

AS LONG AS WE DON’T LOSE SIGHT OF THE OVERALL MESSAGE. – THAT GOD AND JESUS AND HIS CHURCH WILL PREVAIL.

BUT HOPEFULLY WE WILL BE ON THE SAME PAGE AS TO HOW WE SHOULD ABOUT EXAMINING THESE SCRIPTURES.

I CONTEND THAT WHAT METHOD YOU USE DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF THE BOR.

IF A PERSON WANTS TO SEE PAST HISTORICAL EVENTS PROPHESIED IN THE BOOK, THEN THAT PERSON IS GOING TO SEE IT. THEY’LL FIND A WAY TO MAKE IT FIT. THAT PERSON IS GOING TO CONVINCED TO USE THE CONTINUOUS HISTORICAL METHOD

IF SOMEONE HAS A STRONG EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT TO THE IDEA OF THE RAPTURE AND THE 1000 YR REIGN, THEN THEY WILL BE A FUTURIST. THEY WILL IGNORE OR EXPLAIN AWAY SCRIPTURES THAT RUN COUNTER TO THAT METHOD.

BUT IF A PERSON WANTS TO BE A SINCERE STUDENT OF THE WORD OF GOD, THEN THAT PERSON WILL

**SLIDE 31**

* EXAMINE EACH METHOD ON IT’S OWN MERIT,
* COMPARE TO SCRIPTURES FOUND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE BIBLE
* MEDITATE ON WHAT IS THE PURPOSE AND NEED OF THIS BOOK,
* COME TO SOUND AND REASONABLE CONCLUSION

**INVITATION:**

**HEAR:**

**ROMANS 10:17**

***SO THEN FAITH COMES BY HEARING, AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD.***

**BELIEVE**

**ROMANS 10:9&10**

***IF YOU CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH THE LORD JESUS AND BELIEVE IN YOU HEART THAT GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU WILL BE SAVED. FOR WITH THE HEART ONE BELIEVES UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND WITH THE MOUTH CONFESSION IS MADE UNTO SALVATION.”***

**REPENT**

**LUKE 13:3**

***I TELL YOU NO; BUT UNLESS YOU REPENT YOU WILL ALL LIKEWISE PERISH.***

**AND**

**ACTS 17:30**

***“TRULY, THESE TIMES OF IGNORANCE GOD OVERLOOKED, BUT NOW COMMANDS ALL ME EVERYWHERE TO REPENT.”***

**CONFESS**

**ROMANS 10: 9&10**

**AND**

**LUKE 12:8 (JESUS IS SPEAKING HERE)**

***“ALSO I SAY TO YOU, WHOEVER CONFESSES ME BEFORE MEN, HIM THE SON OF MAN ALSO WILL CONFESS BEFORE THE ANGELS OF GOD. BUT HE WHO DENIES ME BEFORE MEN WILL BE DENIED BEFORE THE ANGELS OF GOD”.***

**BAPTIZE**

**1 PETER 3:21:**

***THERE IS ALSO AN ANTITYPE WHICH NOW SAVES US-BAPTISM (NOT THE REMOVAL OF FILTH OF THE FLESH, BUT THE ANSWER OF A GOOD CONSCIENCE TOWARD GOD), THROUGH THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST.***

**ACTS 2:38**

***“REPENT, AND LET EVERY ONE OF YOU BE BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS.”***

**BE FAITHFUL UNTIL DEATH**

**REVELATIONS 2:10**

**“BE FAITHFUL UNTIL DEATH AND I WILL GIVE YOU THE CROWN OF LIFE.**