

**PRETERISM**

**GENTRY'S PREUNDERSTANDING:**

Post-millennial Reconstructionism

1. Church will set up kingdom  
 (Church replaces Israel)

*"It is my deep conviction that much of the decline of the influence of orthodox Christianity on our culture today is due to a pervasive pessimistic eschatology."*

Kenneth Gentry, *Beast of Revelation*, p.241

**ASSUMPTIONS of REVELATION 4**

	<u>PRETERIST</u>	<u>FUTURIST</u>
Theme	Jewish war of AD 66-70	Future tribulation
Time Texts	Chronological	Qualitative
Date	Early (AD 65)	Late (AD 81-95)
Genre	Apocalyptic	Prophecy

**THEME: REVELATION 1:7**

	<u>Preterist</u>	<u>Futurist</u>
<i>Clouds</i>	Localized Judgment	Shekinah Glory
<i>They who pierced</i>	1st Century Jews	2 <sup>nd</sup> Coming
<i>Tribes of the earth</i>	Jewish tribes	Universal Nuance e.g. Gen 12:3, 28:14; Ps 72:17; Zech. 14:17
<i>Every eye</i>	Local	Global

*"How consistent are dispensationalists in following the 'literal, plain or normal' hermeneutical model when they deny the 'literal, plain or normal' interpretation of 'near,' 'shortly,' and 'quickly'?"*

Gary DeMar, *Last Days Madness*, p.382

*"If the book [of Revelation] was written after A.D. 70, then its contents manifestly do not refer to events surrounding the fall of Jerusalem - unless the book is a wholesale fraud, having been composed after the predicted events had already occurred."*

R.C. Sproul, *Last Days According to Jesus*, p.140.

**TIME-TEXTS IN REVELATION**

**SHORTLY, QUICKLY "Tacos"**

- 1:1 ... Things which must shortly take place
- 2:16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly.
- 3:11 Behold, I come quickly!
- 22:6 ... Which must shortly take place.
- 22:7 Behold, I come quickly!
- 22:12 Behold, I am coming quickly!
- 22:20 Surely, I am coming quickly!

**NEAR, AT HAND "Eggus"**

- 1:3 The time is near.
- 22:10 The time is at hand.

**ABOUT TO, ON THE POINT OF "Mel / w"**

- 1:19 Write...the things that are about to take place.
- 3:10 ...the hour of trial...is about to come upon the whole world.

R.C. Sproul, *The Last Days According to Jesus*, p.139

**DATE: EXTERNAL EVIDENCE**

<u>Witnesses for Domitianic Date</u>	<u>Witnesses for Neronic Date</u>
Irenaeus (A.D. 180)	
Victorinus (c.300)	
Eusebius (c. 300)	
Jerome (c. 400)	
Sulpicius Severus (c.400)	
The Acts of John (c. 650)	
Primasius (c. 540)	Syriac Version of N.T. (550)
Orosius (c. 600)	
Andreas (c. 600)	
Venerable Bede (A.D. 700)	
	Arethas (c. 900)
	Theophylact (d. 1107)
	Mark Hitchcock, <i>The End Times Controversy</i> , p, 138.

**DATE: INTERNAL EVIDENCE**

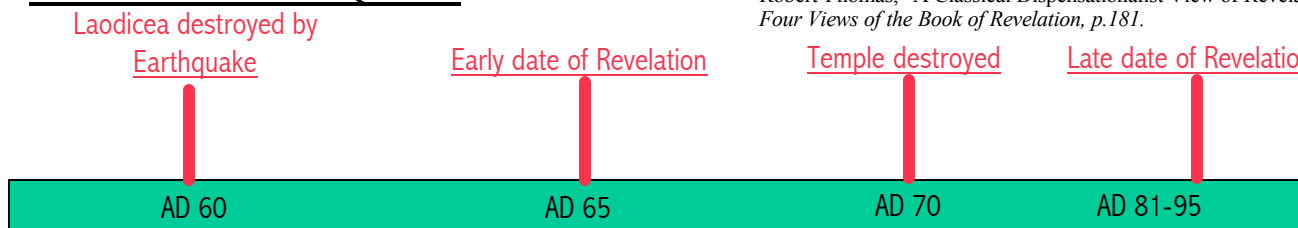
PRETERIST INTERPRETATION OF THE SEVEN KINGS OF REVELATION 17:9-10		
First King	Julius Caesar	40 to 44 B.C.
Second King	Augustus	31 B.C. to Caesar
Third King	Tiberius	A.D. 14 to 37
Fourth King	Caligula	A.D.37 to 41
Fifth King	Claudius	A.D. 41 to 54
Sixth King	Nero	A.D. 54 to 68
Seventh King	Galba	June, A.D. 68 to January 15, 69

- Use of vivid images and symbols
- Struggle between good and evil
- Vision is means of revelation
- Focus upon current age and inauguration of age to come.
- Dualism with God and Satan
- Spiritual Order determines human history
- Pessimistic about man’s ability to change progress of events

*“A Preterist approach must assume an apocalyptic genre in which the language only faintly and indirectly reflects the actual events. This extreme allegorical interpretation allows for finding fulfillments in the first-century Roman Empire prior to the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.”*

Robert Thomas, “A Classical Dispensationalist View of Revelation,” in *Four Views of the Book of Revelation*, p.181.

**TEMPLE DESTRUCTION & LAODICEAN EARTHQUAKE**



**GLOBAL EVENTS YET TO OCCUR**

- World population destroyed (Rev. 6:4,19)
- Sea turns to blood (Rev. 16:3)
- Greatest Earthquake in history (Rev. 16:18)

**APOCALYPTIC BOOKS**

- Enoch
- Apocalypse of Baruch
- Jubilees
- Assumption of Moses
- Psalms of Solomon
- Testament of Twelve Patriarchs
- Sibylline Oracles

**COMMON CLUSTER OF CHARACTERISTICS: REVELATION & APOCALYPTIC BOOKS**

- Written 200 B.C. - A.D. 100
- Angels featured as interpreters & guides
- Written during intense time of persecution

**Genre Override Table**

	APOCALYPTIC GENRE IN REVELATION	PROPHETIC GENRE IN REVELATION
<b>DIFFERENT CHARACTERISTICS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Pseudonymous</li> <li>•No epistolary framework</li> <li>•No admonitions for morality</li> <li>•Pessimistic about present</li> <li>•Messiah’s coming is future</li> <li>•Does not claim to be prophecy</li> <li>•No divine inspiration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Not Pseudonymous</li> <li>•Epistolary framework</li> <li>•Repeated admonitions for morality</li> <li>•Not pessimistic about present</li> <li>•Basis for Messiah’s future coming is past</li> <li>•Calls itself a prophecy</li> <li>•</li> <li>•Divine inspiration</li> </ul>

Robert Thomas, *Evangelical Hermeneutics*, p338.