

# REVELATION

---

A SIX WEEK SEMINAR



# How would you describe your relationship with the book of **Revelation**?

- Not Even Friends
  - Heard others talk about it
  - Casual acquaintance
  - In my friend group
  - We've dated before
  - In a relationship
  - Married
  - Divorced
  - It's complicated
-

Read the Bible **INFORMATIONALLY**.  
The goal is to understand “What the Bible  
**says**”.

Dr. Jonathan Pennington  
“Come and See”

---

Read the Bible **THEOLOGICALLY**.  
The goal is to understand “What the Bible  
**means**”.

Dr. Jonathan Pennington  
“Come and See”

---

Read the Bible **TRANSFORMATIONALLY**.  
The goal is to understand “What the Bible  
**means for me**”.

Dr. Jonathan Pennington  
“Come and See”

---

# LITERATURE and LANGUAGE

What type of literature is revelation and how does this impact our understanding of the language of Revelation?

Epistles, Prophecy, Apocalypse

---

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

Revelation 1:1-4 (ESV)

---

Who bore witness 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 this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear,

Revelation 1:1-4 (ESV)

---



And who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Revelation 1:1-4 (ESV)

---

# STRUCTURE and SEQUENCE

How does the structure of the book shape the message?

Sequential, Consecutively, Repetitive, Recapitulative?

---

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him

Revelation 20:1-3 (ESV)

---

for a thousand years, and he threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

Revelation 20:1-3 (ESV)

---

# TIME and AUDIENCE

What is the relationship of the message to the original audience?

---

Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.

Revelation 1:19 (ESV)

---

# Early Church Fathers

- Irenaeus (2<sup>nd</sup> Century)
  - Justin Martyr (2<sup>nd</sup> Century)
  - Origen (3<sup>rd</sup> Century)
  - Augustine (4<sup>th</sup> Century)
-

# Reformation Leaders

- Martin Luther
  - John Calvin
  - Ulrich Zwingli
  - Anabaptists
-



# Post Reformation Developments

- “covenant theology”
  - Puritan
  - Restoration Movement
  - Premillennial dispensationalism
-

- While the dominant eschatological view of the church has been **amillennialism**, other views have flourished at different times, mainly in reaction to cultural developments.
  - **Eschatology** is **not** a monolithic entity in the church.
-

- Whatever your view might be, you can probably find someone in church history who has the same view.
  - You also have others in our church who have a different view, which should encourage **kindness** and **humility** when talking about all this.
-

# Interpretive Schools Of Revelation

- **Preterist:** 1<sup>st</sup>-century fulfillment with the fall of Jerusalem
  - **Historical:** fulfilled throughout history from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> coming
  - **Futurist:** fulfilled in the future
  - **Idealist:** fulfilled in time from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> coming
-

# MILLENNIAL SCHOOLS

- **Pre-Millennial:** Historical and Dispensational
  - **Post Millennial**
  - **Amillennial**
-

# My Approach

- **Language:** apocalyptic literature primary with symbolic language
  - **Structure:** repeating and recapitulating visions describing the time from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> coming
  - **Time:** metaphors and images relevant to the original 1<sup>st</sup> century audience, but convey relevant truth for all times
-

A letter of prophecy written to the 1<sup>st</sup> century church in apocalyptic images that describes the time from the first to second coming of Jesus in repeating visions

---

# 7 Reasons I take an amillennial view

- Uses Revelation itself as the interpretive key
  - Employs Jesus as the hermeneutic key, not Israel
  - Follows how the NT writers understood the OT
  - Matches the teaching of discipleship and mission of the rest of the NT
-

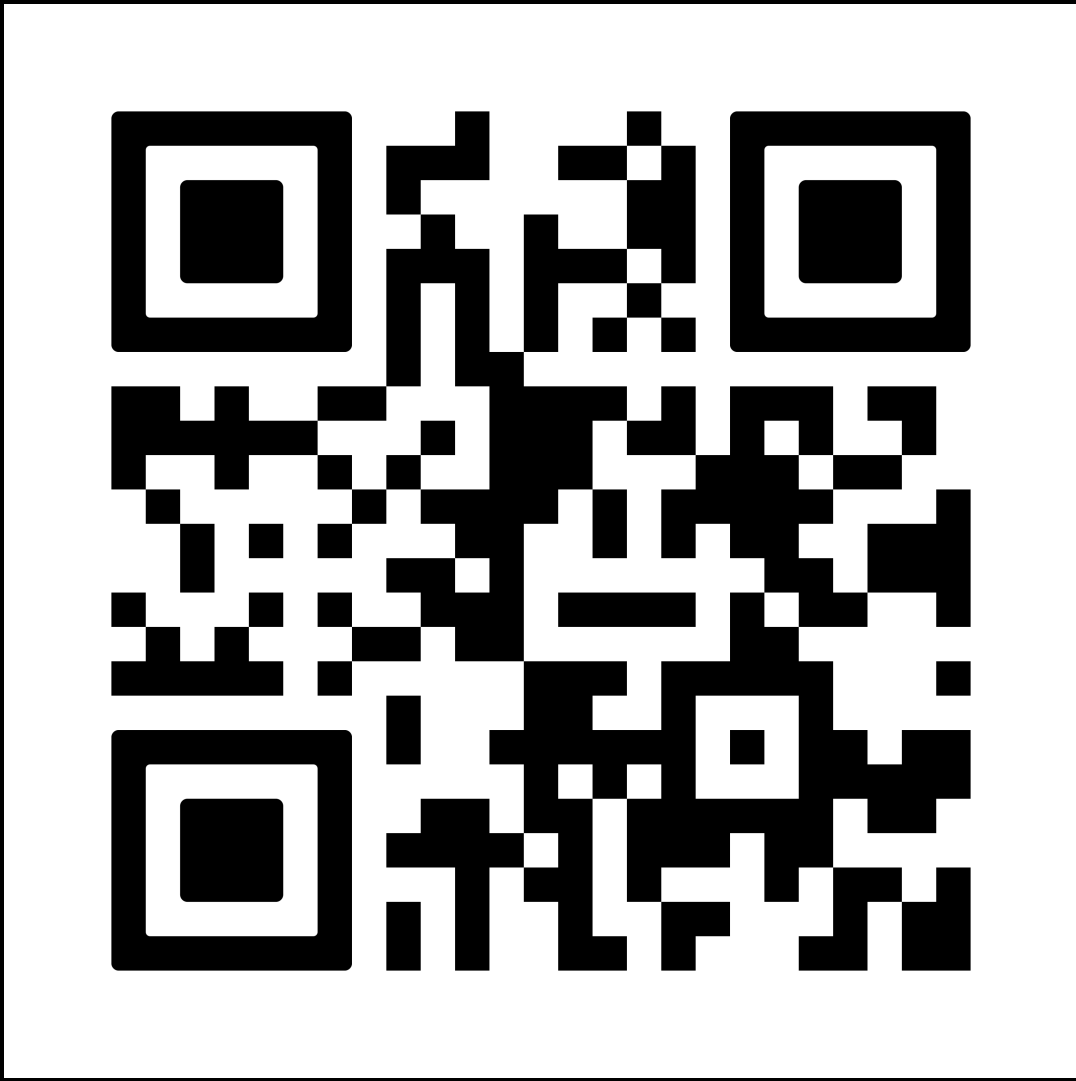


# 7 Reasons I take an amillennial view

- Keeps the work of Christ and the importance of the church preeminent
  - Does not tie Revelation to speculation for fulfillment
  - Matches the teaching of the second coming of Christ found in the NT
-

- **Week 1:** Setting the Stage
  - **Week 2:** Reading Revelation Informationally Ch 1-7
  - **Week 3:** Reading Revelation Informationally Ch 8-14
  - **Week 4:** Reading Revelation Informationally Ch 15-22
  - **Week 5:** Reading Revelation Theologically
  - **Week 6:** Reading Revelation Transformationally
-

- **Reversed Thunder** by Eugene Peterson
  - **Revelation for the Rest of Us** by Scot McKnight
  - **Four Views on the Book of Revelation** by C. Marvin Tate
  - **A Case for Amillennialism** by Kim Riddlebarger
  - **Revelation's Rhapsody** by Robert A. Lowery
-



**Got questions?**