

# Methods Used to Approach Revelation

---

## A. **THE FUTURIST METHOD.**

1. This view is held by the millennial and dispensational groups who consider that it is unfulfilled prophecies about the future history of the world.
2. This method says that revelation 4-19 takes place in the seventieth week of Daniel 9:24-27.
3. This method sees:
  - a. Revelation 4-19 as just before the coming of Christ,
  - b. Then the thousand year reign. Revelation 21:1-10
  - c. Followed by the judgment. Revelation 20:11-15
  - d. Then the final state.

## B. **THE CONTINUOUS HISTORICAL METHOD.**

1. This view presents the book as a forecast in symbols of the history of the church.
2. This system makes the book of prophecy in detail the apostasy of the Roman Catholic Church, then the Reformation.

## C. **THE PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY METHOD.**

1. This interpretation considers the events as not necessarily occurring, but as symbolic of forces at work.
2. This view sees revelation as a book selling forth the principles on the basis of which God deals with men.

## D. **THE PRETERISTS METHOD.**

1. This method is the opposite of the Futurist Method.
2. This method says that the things pictured in Revelation are completed and past.
3. This view maintains that the book was written for the people of John's day, fulfilled then, and now has little or no value for people today.
4. Some preterists apply the visions mainly to the Jewish nation and pagan Rome, with most of them placed before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.
5. Two groups of Preterists:
  - a. "Right wing" group.
    1. Believe the book of Revelation to be inspired.
    2. Most of the book was fulfilled in the time of Domitian.
    3. Final judgment is in the future.
    4. Only of literary interest.

- b. “Left Wing” group.
  - 1. Do not consider Revelation to be inspired.
  - 2. Its only value is literary.