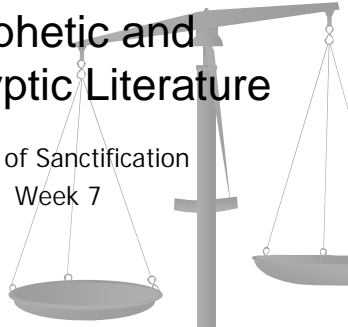


# Prophetic and Apocalyptic Literature

A Skill of Sanctification  
Week 7



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## Distinctions

- Apocalyptic Literature
- Prophetic Literature

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must shortly take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it: for the time is near.

Revelation 1:1-3



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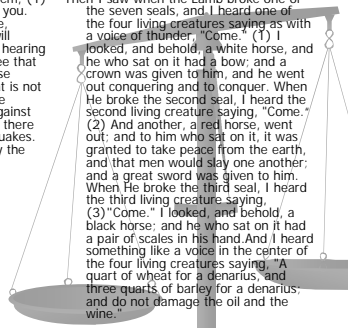
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## A Contrast of Revelation 6/Matthew 24

And Jesus answered and said to them, (1) "See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. (2) "You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be (3) famines and earthquakes. "But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.

Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, "Come." (1) I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come." (2) And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that men would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him. When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, (3) "Come." I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard something like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine."



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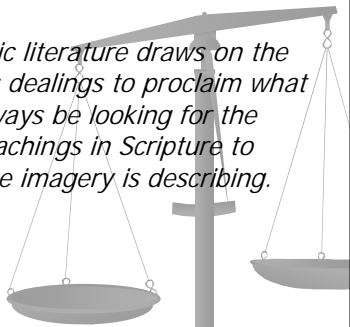
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## The Backdrop of Biblical Apocalyptic Literature

*Biblical apocalyptic literature draws on the history of God's dealings to proclaim what is to come. Always be looking for the foundational teachings in Scripture to discern what the imagery is describing.*



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## The Unique Book of Revelation

- Epistle
- Prophetic
- Apocalyptic
- Narrative



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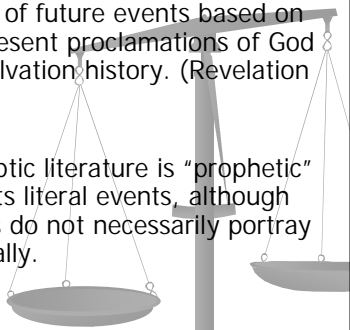
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## The Function of Apocalyptic Literature

- The “revealing” of future events based on the past and present proclamations of God in regards to salvation history. (Revelation 1:19)
- Biblical apocalyptic literature is “prophetic” in that it predicts literal events, although the descriptions do not necessarily portray the events literally.



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## When do we take as “symbolic”? When do we take as “literal”?

### Revelation 12

REV 12:1 A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars;

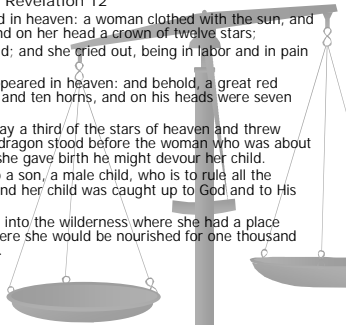
REV 12:2 and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.

REV 12:3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems.

REV 12:4 And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.

REV 12:5 And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

REV 12:6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.



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## The Function of Prophetic Literature

- The “foretelling” and “forthtelling” to a certain people regarding God’s coming actions.



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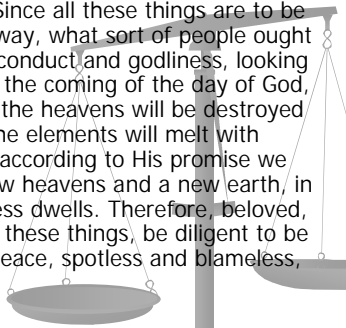
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## A Primary Passage

- 2 Peter 3:11-14 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,



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### “The Big 3” of Apocalyptic Literature

- Daniel
- Ezekiel
- Revelation



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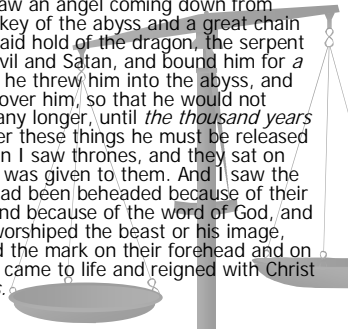
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### A “Watershed” Text

- REV 20:1-4 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for *a thousand years*; and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until *the thousand years were completed*; after these things he must be released for a short time. Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for *a thousand years*.



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### Millennial Views

- Premillennialism
- Amillennialism
- Postmillennialism



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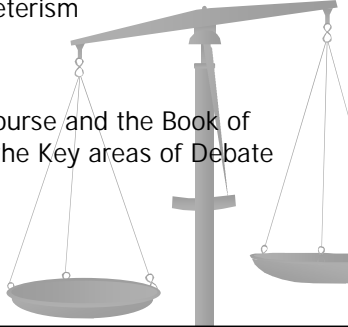
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## The Emerging Debate

- Futurism vs. Preterism
- The Olivet Discourse and the Book of Revelation are the Key areas of Debate



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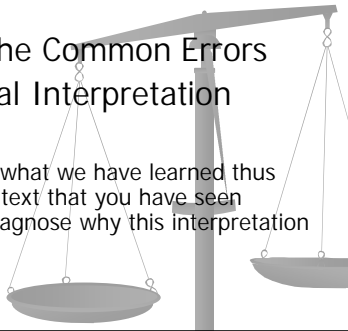
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## Next Week:

### Exposing the Common Errors of Biblical Interpretation

Assignment: Given what we have learned thus far, find a biblical text that you have seen misinterpreted. Diagnose why this interpretation is faulty.



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