

## Summary of Revelation Chapters 17-19 <sup>1</sup>

### The End Times

In my last post, we explored **Revelation 19:11-21 ~ The Rider on the White Horse ~ Part 3**. In this post, we continue our practice of summarizing the **Four Views** from the previous segment in our exploration of the **Revelation of Yeshua** to **Yochanan** and an introduction to the **Millennial Rule of Yeshua**.

### Summary of Revelation Chapters 17-19

These chapters describe the conclusion of the careers of **Yeshua's** earthly enemies, the **Anti-Messiah** and the **False Prophet**.

#### Historicist Approach:

**Historicists** see this segment as a protracted celebration of the future downfall of papal Rome. **Yeshua** is seen riding forth in victory, making further conquests through **His Word** throughout the world.

#### Preterist Approach:

On **Preterist** suppositions, **Bavel** maybe **Rome**, the imperial city, which was to be sacked and destroyed by its subject nations. Otherwise, **Bavel** represents apostate **Jerusalem**, sacked and burned by the Romans. The choice between these options rests upon the decision whether the second half of Revelation has turned attention from the fall of **Jerusalem** to the fall of **Rome**. There is no consensus on this point.

#### Futurist Approach:

**Futurists** differ as to the identity of **Bavel**. It may be the ancient **Bavel** in Iraq, or ancient **Rome** revived in the last days. It may represent the Roman Catholic Church or some world council of churches that have defected from **Yeshua** and persecuted **His** followers. Regardless of the exact identification, these chapters exult in the corrupt system's demise and foresee the victorious return of **Yeshua** from heaven in Chapter 19.

#### Idealist Approach:

The **Idealist** interpretation sees **Bavel** as the seductive world system, described in terms reminiscent of **Rome**, its chief expression of **Yochanan's** day. This system seeks both to seduce and to persecute the **Kehilah** but will succumb to the power of **Yeshua** either at **His Second Coming** or gradually through the progress of the **Besorah**.

## Summary of Revelation Chapters 20 ~ The Millennium<sup>2</sup>

### What is the meaning of the "1,000 Years"? When do these events occur?

Our study of **Revelation** to this point has taken the form of comparison of the **Four Views** in interpreting the events prophesied in Chapters 4 through 19. Those views were based on entirely different assumptions as to the time frame, geographical extent, and the duration of the judgments depicted as **seals, trumpets, and bowls of wrath**.

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<sup>1</sup> Material in this post is taken from "*Revelation: Four Views, Revised & Updated*" by Steve Gregg. Notations in brackets, if any, are my comments.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

For many readers, however, the most interesting question to be resolved in the book of **Revelation** concerns the meaning of the final chapters, and particularly chapter 20. Unfortunately, the **Four Views** cannot be applied to these final chapters. The interpretation of these final chapters comprises what is arguably the chief controversy in eschatological studies, if not in all evangelical theology. Consequently, we will switch gears and examine **Three Views: Premillennial, Amillennial and Postmillennial Approach**. A summary of those views is:

### **Premillennial Approach:**

- The binding of **HaSatan** is yet future. It will take place when **Yeshua** returns.
- The 1,000 years are a literal period during which **Yeshua** will reign on earth from **Jerusalem**, with **His** people.
- The loosing of **HaSatan** will bring the **Millennium** to its climax, followed by the resurrection and judgment of the wicked at the **Great White Throne**.
- The new heavens and new earth will be created after the **Millennium**, i.e., 1,000 years after **Yeshua's Second Coming**.

### **Amillennial Approach:**

- The binding of **HaSatan** represents the victory of **Yeshua** over the powers of darkness accomplished on the **execution stake**.
- The 1,000 years is symbolic of an extended, indeterminate period, corresponding to the age of the **Kehillah** (now).
- **HaSatan** will be loosed briefly to wreak havoc and to persecute the **Kehillah** at the end of the present age.
- The fire coming from heaven and consuming the wicked is symbolic of **Yeshua's Second Coming**.
- The general resurrection and judgment of the evil and the good will occur at **Yeshua's Coming**, followed by the creation of new heavens and a new earth.

### **Postmillennial Approach:**

- Some interpret the chapter essentially as do the **Amillennialists**, but with an added note of optimism about the success of the **Besorah** in the present age.
- Others see the binding of **HaSatan** to represent a future point in time when the successful preaching of the **Besorah** will efficiently have reduced **HaSatan's** influence to nothing.

In my next post, we'll dig a little deeper into the **Premillennial, Amillennial and Postmillennial Approach** before actually delving into the content of Chapter 20.