

**Survey of Revelation: Four Parallel Views**

A Paper

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By

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Although I have studied the Book of Revelation on previous occasions I approached this study with an open mind anticipating what new ideas, concepts, and perspectives that would be gleaned by taking part in this in-depth survey. As I stated before in one of my discussion board post it is apparent that John was propelled to write historical information about the church that transcends across centuries to impact the modern-day church and its future events. The Book of Revelation gives in detail the final outcome of Satan for his evil deeds, the future of believers who submit their lives totally to Christ, as well as, those who do not, Christ's second coming, and his triumphant reign in the New Jerusalem.

Several characteristics of the Book of Revelation are intriguing especially the accounts concerning the identity of the woman and the male child found in Revelation 12:13-14, the "Great City of Babylon" that is destined to fall, and the description of the "Marriage Feast of The Lamb". Being reminded that the woman is representative of the church in its full glory being united with Christ forever is very encouraging and motivating to say the least. The depiction of the male child as Jesus Christ brought forth the fulfillment of his authority, dominion, preeminence, and sovereign power and rule over all things. (Colossians 1:15-18)

The ultimate plan God has for the "Great City of Babylon was revealed in strict details leaving no room for speculation or misunderstanding of the reasons for its demise. I was not surprised by the various interpretations of what the Bible is referring to concerning the identity of this city. As I prayerfully read the writings of various biblical scholars I agreed with some that the mention of the "Great City" is not actually a physical city but a man-made religious and political system that under minds the rulership of God. I am more inclined to believe that Revelation 16:19 is referring to the total collapse of the Roman Catholic church due to their exaltation of the Virgin Mary above Jesus Christ and accepting the Pope as the mediator between

God and man. According to Scripture, Jesus Christ is the only one who can function as mediator between God and mankind because of his combined divine and human characteristics. (1 Timothy 2:5-7)

Visualizing the “Marriage Feast of The Lamb” in Revelation chapter nineteen (19) created a revived stirring in me that brought about a heightened expectation of that “Great Day” when the trumpet sounds, and Jesus descends out of heaven to receive his bride fully arrayed in splendor. While writing this Paul’s declaration in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 came to mind, “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord”. What a day that will be when our enemy (Satan) will be utterly destroyed while the Church takes her rightful place united with Jesus Christ forever.

From this study I gained a renewed perspective on what is the most vital aspect of Christianity who Jesus is and what He has done for us, staying true to my beliefs about Christ’s redemptive work, the urgency of sharing the gospel with others, and making sure that I will be at the “Marriage Feast of The Lamb”. Despite the differing perspectives of historicist, preterist, futurist, and spiritual interpretations concerning the Word of God in Revelation I am sure all the debates will no longer have any validity once Christ parts the sky. Steve Gregg’s commentary and Dr. Hardgrove’s writings were somewhat helpful in this study, however, I chose to use additional biblical scholars’ materials that spoke from a different vantage point on the powerful occurrences recorded in the book of Revelation.

In some ways, I agree with some of the tenets of premillennial, amillennial, and postmillennial supporters' standpoints that were conveyed but my main concern is making sure that I and other people names remain in the "Lamb's Book of Life. Time is swiftly coming to an end; therefore, I endeavor to make sure that I am doing all I can by the grace of God to win souls for Christ. As a result, this study has helped in some ways has re-ignited my passion for winning souls for Christ.