

Questions:

1. Which are those three literacy types in Revelation?
2. What are the characteristics of the apocalypse in Revelation?
3. What is one difference of Revelation that is so important compared to the characteristics of the apocalypse?
4. How to do exegesis on Revelation?
5. What do we do with the phenomenon that the pictures of “temporal” judgment are interlaced with words or ideas that also imply the final end as a part of the picture?

Answers:

1. They are apocalypse, prophecy, and letter.
2. 1) The taproot of apocalyptic is the Old Testament prophetic literature, especially as it is found in Ezekiel, Daniel, Zechariah, and parts of Isaiah. 2) Unlike most Prophetic Books, the apocalypse is literary work from the beginning. 3) Most frequently the “stuff” of the apocalyptic is presented in the form of visions and dreams, and its language is cryptic and symbolic. 4) The images of apocalyptic are often forms of fantasy rather than reality. 5) Because they were literary, most of the apocalypses were very formally stylized.
3. Revelation is not pseudonymous.
4. 1) The first task of the exegesis of Revelation is to seek the author’s, and there with the Holy Spirit’s, original intent. 2) One must be especially careful of overusing the concept of the “analogy of Scripture” in the exegesis of Revelation. 3) Because of the apocalyptic/prophetic nature of the book, there are some added difficulties at the exegetical level, especially having to do with the imagery. 4) John expects his readers to hear his echoes of the Old Testament as the continuation--- and consummation--- of that story. 5) Apocalypses in general, and Revelation in particular, seldom intend to give a detailed chronological account of the future.
5. 1) We need to learn that pictures of the future are just that---pictures. 2) Some of the pictures that were intended primarily to express the certainty of God’s judgment must not also be interpreted to mean “soon-ness”, at least “soon-ness” from our limited perspective. 3) The pictures where the “temporal” is closely tied to the “eschatological” should not be viewed as simultaneous---even though the original readers themselves have understood them in this way. 4) Although there are probably many instances where there is a second, yet-to-be-fulfilled dimension to the pictures, we have been given no keys as to how we are to pin these down. 5) The pictures that were intended to be totally eschatological are still to be taken so.

Terms:

1. Cryptic: having hidden meanings.
2. Analogy of Scripture: Scripture is to be interpreted in the light of other scriptures.
3. Pseudonymity: is one literary device that the literacies were given the appearance of having been written by ancient worthies (Enoch, Baruch, et al.), who were told to “seal it

up” for a later day, the “later day” of course being the age in which the book was now written,

Summary:

Revelation is always a book with difficult to understand because it's rooted in the Old Testament, and has many visions, images, pictures, or prophecies which are hard to read. It's our job to try to have the right exegesis on it and teach others about the wonderful book, especially under the current circumstances, our church and God's people need to have a total understanding of God's plan.