

Questions:

1. What are the three distinct literary types in Revelation and what role do they play?
2. What is the 1st task of the exegesis of Revelation?
3. What are the added difficulties at the exegetical level that have to do with imagery?
4. How can someone begin to understand the writings of Revelations?
5. What is one of the most important correlations to understanding the book of Revelations?

Answers:

1. The three literary types are the Apocalypse which is a literary form that does not exist in our day, prophecy and letter. The apocalypse in Revelation, which was one of many, had some similarities to other apocalyptic views of other times. Prophecy from John which was from the new era, he was “in the Spirit” when he was told to write what he saw calls this book, “the Prophecy” was considered the spirit of Prophecy. Lastly, the Epistle, “The Letter” which must be understood in its original context and was spoken in the 1st and 2nd person and was sent to the 7 churches in Asia Minor.
2. The first task of the exegesis of Revelation is to seek the author and meet the Holy Spirit and see the intent of the author. Making sure that you understand what John intended it to mean.
3. Although the images may have come from other sources, when inspired by the Spirit after being broken and transformed becomes blended into this “new prophecy by John, other images which we know to be evident of what they stand on take on a continued, fluid meaning and when the images are spoken of they must serve as a starting point for other images.
4. One good example of understanding the writings of Revelations, first you will read it all the way through and receive it for what is being read. Take some quick notes but make sure that you are taking it in for what you are receiving. The 2nd time reading it make note of every time that states the readers are John’s companions in his suffering. Make note of what is very clear.
5. One of the most important correlations is to be aware of the OT echoes, in addition to understanding that though Revelations may not give a detailed account, God is always in control and that we will be victorious in Christ in the end.

Definitions:

Allegorically – a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one.

Temporal – relating to worldly as opposed to spiritual affairs, secular.

Eschatological – relating to death, judgment, and the final destiny of the soul and of humankind.

Summary:

Revelations is not the easiest book to read, but it is one of the most important books that one will ever have the privilege of reading. When a person can understand the different types of Revelation and understand where John comes from and what point he is trying to make then we will understand the reason why we must understand. It is not just to be able to foretell the future, which is not always the case, but to understand the correlations made between the OT and NT. We must also understand that the historical context that helps in our understanding and will assist us in putting some of the pieces together. The literary context allows us to gain insight to who he may be speaking to, the churches, the people or himself. The literary context means that you can gain a bigger and better understanding of the role that the images play in the context of Revelation. If you don't gain an understanding of the rise and fall of nations, the beasts, the horns, the horses, the stars, lampstands and bowls you will miss the reason why the book was written. It was written to prepare His people and not scare us.