

Return to Revelation [with notes from Rev. 1]

2 thousand years of interpretation: The challenge of Apocalyptic.

In spite of N.T. Wright writing about Daniel 7— *‘we should be in no doubt whatever.’* [‘How God became King’ Harper One, 2012. pg. 192] ‘we’ do have doubts. Apocalyptic ‘lit’ is supposed to be a puzzle that only the wise (N.T. Wright) or the ‘saved’ (Tim LaHaye) interpret with confidence. [p.s. I agree that ‘son of man’ in the Gospels goes right back to Daniel, but...]

Dispensationalists! Premillennialists! & QUMRAN! JUBILEES! ENOCH!

Recapitulation—it’s a revelation within Revelation [or is it?] Spiraling like a mega-hit action hero movie! [you go out for popcorn & then] Chapter 12ff-Beast & Lamb! [oh, geez!] 16ff-Harlot & Bride! Finally, the end 19-22 (cue John Williams!).

The Letters! From Whom? [‘John’ of course, but ‘what’ is John?] To Whom? [the 7 churches of course, but ‘what’ are they? See Ignatius] When and why? [Here’s a challenge: Name a candidate for Jezebel! O.K. Try: What’s the ‘synagogue of Satan?’ Well, then, who’s the woman ‘clothed with the sun?’]

Craig Koester vs. Elaine Pagels: Both have a ‘who/whom’ answer. We’ll talk: Who’s standing where? Inside: Paul & Rev agree. Outside: Rev. is sure Paul is (!)

The ‘enemy’ within gets a witness: Ignatius [to the Philadelphians VI pg. 244-5 Loeb]

Revelation: Bringing the City ‘Home’ [‘The Supper of the Lamb’ Robert Farrar Capon] *‘Love is the widest choicest door into the Passion. God saved the world not by sitting up in heaven and issuing antiseptic directives, but by becoming man and vulnerable, in Jesus. He loved it, as a man loves it- out of all proportion and sense. And when he rose again, he stood up like a man indeed, with glorious scars...’* (pg. 190)

[The conversation so far:

Imagery: Best of Rev. from the internet [thanks to John Graber for 7 quotes]. Paul and Ruth Manz ‘E’en so Lord Jesus, Quickly Come’. HYMNS!

Revelation as ‘distraction’ not only from the Good News but from the Christ who is our neighbor. [thanks, Carol] One of you said: “It’s who’s in/who’s out?” [Unlike the Good News, ‘Rev’ keeps us looking inward] [Also: ‘What were those early Christians thinking?’ I Thess. & II Thess.]

Revelation authorship: from John the Evangelist’s sons (grandsons?) –thanks Charlie and James Kallas- to John the Baptist with lots of editing (Anchor Bible vol. 38)! But really....

Weaponizing the message: From the beginning (Jezebel! The Synagogue of Satan) to Athanasius all the way to Tim Le Hay: The heretics (have you read any of LeHey? YIKES!)