**Revelation: Four Views of Interpretation**

1. Historicist: *Revelation provides a panoramic view of the history of the church from the apostolic era to Christ’s Second Advent and consummation.*
2. Pros
3. Revelation remains relevant
4. Offers a divinely revealed guide to history
5. Cons
6. Original audience only sees everything as “future” history
7. Interpretation remains in a constant state of motion
8. Preterist: *Revelation is the prophecy of imminent history for the original audience describing current events of the first century.*
9. Pros
10. Relevant for the original reader taking the time statements seriously
11. Focus on the redemptive-historical nature of Scripture with destruction of Jerusalem(Rev. 6-11) and the fall of the Roman Empire(Rev. 13-19)
12. Cons
13. First century focus limits usefulness to future generations of the church
14. Applies clearly end-time prophecies to first century events
15. Idealist: *Revelation is symbolic representation of timeless redemptive truths providing an abstract view of reality from heaven’s perspective.*
16. Pros
17. Avoids misguided historical applications and focuses on eternal truths that are meaningful to every generation of Christian
18. Allows Revelation to be a current and relevant practical guide to Christian life
19. Cons
20. Revelation makes clear reference to time and history which is minimized
21. Reduces everything to “symbol”
22. Futurist: *Revelation, after its introduction (Rev. 1-3), is only concerned (Rev. 4:1ff) with the remote future and the final generation of humanity just prior to Christ’s return*
23. Pros
24. A more literalistic approach to the symbols allows a simpler interpretation
25. Acknowledges Revelation as an appropriate “capstone” to biblical revelation
26. Cons
27. Removes all relevance to all generations of current Christian readers except the final generation of humanity
28. Forces current readers to reinterpret symbols to fit modern current events