

CHURCH HISTORY IN BIBLE PROPHECY

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Understanding about the book of Revelation is important, as it not only shows the future, but also historical events in Church history.

There is a common teaching that there is not a great amount of Bible prophecy dealing with the Church from the time of Christ's ascension to the time of His return. Particularly, the book of Revelation is said to have a future meaning.

And while Revelation does have a future meaning, as do many other prophecies, there is also a valid interpretation which relates to the Church throughout history. This is something which people have overlooked, or have not heard about.

"THE Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified *it* by his angel unto his servant John" (Revelation 1:1).

Note that the message or revelation that John received, which is recorded in the book of Revelation, was "signified". This means that signs were used. And if signs were used, then all the descriptions in Revelation are symbols showing the truth. For example, a strange beast with multiple heads and horns and so on should be interpreted to represent something else.

Many of the interpretations of the things shown in Revelation describe events which have happened in the history of the Church. These things include, the rise of barbarians, the fall of the Pagan Roman Empire, the coming of the Turks, the manifestation of the pure Word, the start and end of the direct Papal rule, the French Revolution and the preservation of the Remnant of the Church.

"Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *the things* that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure" (Isaiah 46:10).

It is important to see that it is possible to have multiple valid interpretations of certain prophecies. In the book of Revelation, we find that we can see a historical antichrist when interpreting one way, and also a future one when rightly dividing the Scripture another way.

The Bible does show that there is a future seven year tribulation. There are references to the three and a half year periods of this, including the number 1260 days (half of the tribulation). However, the Bible also shows that a day can equal a year, and in the historical way of interpreting the Scripture. It states that a day represents a year: "day for a year" in Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:6. One interesting historical fact is that the Papacy had direct rule within Europe for exactly 1,260 years, from 538 A.D. to 1798. This is no coincidence, as it identifies the historical antichrist lineage, and links them to have some role in the future Antichrist's rule (i.e. the False Prophet).