A study of Revelation

Lesson 2

Styles of Prophetic Literature

Greek
(Left brain)

Hebraic
(Right Brain)

- Logical
- Rational
- Objective
- Direct
- Linear

- Imaginative - story, parable, no real logic
- Irrational – "unstructured"
- Subjective – need to find out; guessing
- Indirect – linked something else, somewhere
- Layering – layers, over one another
- Cyclical – stories/events in cycles
- Symbolic – may and may not be
- Time is literal!

Interpreting Hebraic Prophecy

➤ Revelation is written in the Greek language but the thinking, the way, the perspective is actually from a Hebraic style.

➤ Jesus told stories because spiritual truth is often **caught** rather than taught. You can get into people's hearts and minds through stories.

Book of Revelation

▶ **Prophecy in Revelation**
  ▶ isn't about a series of logical facts
  ▶ It's a huge wonderful deep,
    ▶ many faceted story
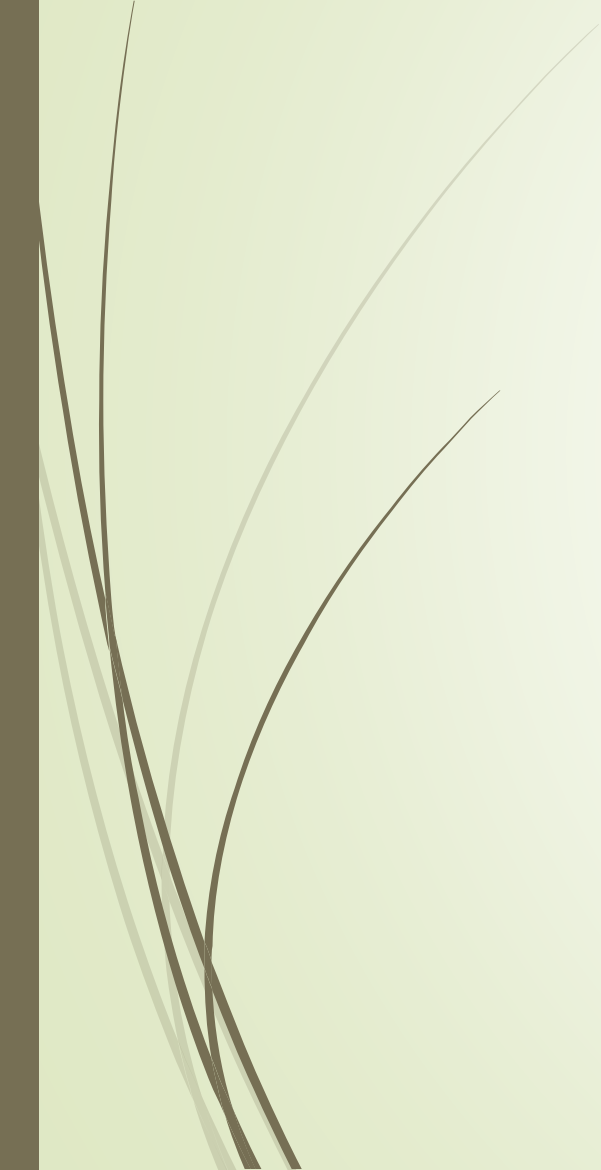   ▶ that has the fingerprints of God all over it,
      ▶ in the multi-layering
      ▶ cyclical
      ▶ indirect
      ▶ subjective way.

Visions in Revelation

- Revelation – written as a series of visions
- Vision has pattern
  - When a vision begins
  - When it ends

- 3 Types of Revelation Visions
  - 1. Event Visions
  - 2. Character / Plot Visions
  - 3. Flashback Visions

1. Event Visions in Revelation

➤ Event = happenings, incidences, episodes

➤ A series of event-visions
  ➤ Each vision is in sequential order
    ➤ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 7

➤ 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, 7 Bowls

2. Character-Plot Visions in Revelation

- Story about a character or plot

- Character examples
  - 144,000 of Israel, the Martyrs, the Two Witnesses
  - The Harlot, the Beast(s), the False Prophet

- Character-Plot visions
  - Include 'day counts' to help us have a proper chronological framework of the book

3. Flashback Visions in Revelation

- Visions that
  - re-tell the story,
    - after the fact

- In Revelation chapters 17-19
  - Flashback visions
    - The Harlot, the scarlet Beast, the fall of Babylon

Beginning – Ending of a Vision

▶ " *1 When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 2 I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.*" (Rev 8:1,2)

▶ Q1: Do the Seals come before the Trumpets?

▶ Q2: Are Seals opened before the Trumpets are blown?

Revelation 8:1

▪ " *1 When he opened the* <u>*seventh seal*</u>, *there was* <u>*silence in heaven*</u> *for about half an hour.*" (Rev 8:1)

▪ Q3: What is the 7th Seal?

▪ Q4: What triggers the silence in heaven?

▪ A: It is a general bible knowledge that **silence** precedes (Bowl) judgement. When Christ opens the final seal, there is a hush in heaven – no angel sings, dead silence, no praise is lifted, the heaven is totally silent for half an hour.

Silence

- **Zechariah 2:13**
  - "Be silent, all flesh, before Yahweh; for he has roused himself from his holy habitation!"

- **Zephaniah 1:7**
  - "Be silent at the presence of the Lord Yahweh, for the day of Yahweh is at hand. For Yahweh has prepared a sacrifice. He has consecrated his guests."

Silence in Heaven

- is in response to God rousing Himself for the Day of the Lord
  - the great and fearsome day of His wrath.

- With the opening of the 7th Seal,
  - the Scroll of judgment is read and the commencement of
    - the full fury of the wrath of God (7 Bowls) by the Lamb
- The 7th Seal is the 'calm before the storm',
  - the reverential hush of creatures in the presence of an angry and just Creator God;
  - Romans 12:19; Rev 19:15

[Beginning] – **Ending of a Vision**

The 7th Seal is the last event of the Seal vision

*This is the **END** of the listings of the Seal vision*

*But **NOT** the completion of Seal vision!*

*We now **know the sequence**,*

*but we still **DON'T know when**

Because the [6th and] 7th will actually be opened sometime later at the end of the seven years.

Beginning – [Ending] of a Vision

- "I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and **seven trumpets** were given to them." (Rev 8:2)

- **Beginning** of a new topic
  - A whole new list: **Series of Trumpet vision**
    - with its own time line

- Therefore, we now know v1 tells us the end of the Seal vision listing

You also, be patient. ESTABLISH YOUR HEARTS, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. JAMES 5:8