

## Who's Who and What's What in Revelation and Things Related

**144,000:** This is the great multitude of believers referenced later in the same chapter (chapter 7). The 144,000 is from an earthly perspective, the great multitude from a heavenly. The true church of Jesus Christ.

**Babylon:** The Roman Empire.

**Beast (out of the sea):** Revelation 13:1. The beast is the Roman empire (from across the Mediterranean) and the heads are the rulers. The current ruling head/beast is likely Nero.

**Beast (out of the earth):** Revelation 13:11. The Emperor Cult centered in Asia Minor. The mark of the beast required to operate in culture. He arises as a false prophet (Revelation 16:13). He makes people worship the emperor (13:12-17). This is Emperor worship.

**Clouds:** Indicate judgment. This can be the final judgment or judgments throughout history.

**Coming(s) of Christ:** This can be the Second Coming (Acts 1:11) or coming by His Spirit (John 14:18) or coming in historical judgments (Isaiah 19:1) or coming to fellowship (Revelation 3:20) or coming to remove a lampstand (Revelation 2:5).

**Dragon:** is Satan

**Eschatology:** The study of last things. Specifically, death, judgment and the destiny of the soul and history.

**Harlot:** Babylon/Rome. 7 heads on seven mountains (Revelation 17:9).

**Little Book:** a second prophecy of what will happen to Rome.

**Mark of the Beast:** A commitment in conviction (forehead) and behavior (hand) to the beast.

## **Millennials Views of the Revelation**

**Millennium:** The period between the first and second advents of Christ. Is equated with the reign of Christ or the establishment and growth of Christ's kingdom. It literally means a thousand years, but the number, one thousand, is seldom a literal thousand when used in Scripture.

**Amillennialism:** Those who believe the Second Coming happens after the millennium, with an emphasis on the spiritual reign of Christ. Good will increase as will evil. The kingdom (millennial reign of Christ) will have a negligible effect upon that which is visible.

**Historic Premillennialism:** Those who believe the Second Coming happens before the millennium. The great promise of a redeemed world happens after the Second Coming. Until then, the world will be in moral, spiritual decline. Historic Premillennialism does not see modern day Israel as a distinct, separate covenant people group as does dispensational Premillennialism.

**Dispensational Premillennialism:** Those who believe the Second Coming happens before the millennium. The great promise of a redeemed world happens after the Second Coming. Until then, the world will be in moral, spiritual decline. Historic Premillennialism modern day Israel as a distinct, separate covenant people group. The Old Testament promises to Israel will literally be fulfilled to ethnic Israel.

**Postmillennial:** Those who believe the Second Coming happens after the millennium, with an emphasis on the spiritual reign and gradual visible, observable fruit associated with that spiritual reign and the fulfillment of the Great Commission. The promises associated with the Messiah will be fulfilled through evangelism and a converted world. This does not mean every single person, but a vast majority. It may be easiest to understand Postmillennial (versus Amillennial) as a trajectory. In the same way an individual Christian, who has been regenerated by the Holy Spirit, will (with ups and downs) become more sanctified in every aspect of his/her life, the world (with ups and downs) will be more conformed to the will of God. This is how we pray in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

## **Prophetic Approaches to the Revelation**

**Futurist:** Those holding that Revelation is addressing the distant future with reference to John and the seven churches. The events of vast majority of Revelation transpire at the end of history, just prior to the millennium. Futurists are generally premillennial.

**Historicist:** Those holding that Revelation records the events of history from John's day until the end of history. Specific events in Revelation are fulfilled in the Dark Ages, the Reformation, Etc.

**Idealist:** Those holding that Revelation is not so concerned with historical occasions, but with principles or axioms. The focus is on the spiritual victory of Christ over evil. Timeframes are of little importance, according to this view.

**Preterist:** Those holding that Revelation primarily (but not entirely) pertains to the events of John's day and the seven churches to whom it was written. The events, from chapter four on, are future to John but past to us (excepting chapters 19-22).

**Seven Bowls:** A series of judgments on Rome, the city on seven mountains (Revelation 17:9).

**Seven Candlesticks:** These are the seven churches.

**Seven Sealed Scroll:** The opening of each seal gives a preview of what will happen when all the seals are finally open.

**Seven Spirits:** The Holy Spirit.

**Seven Stars or Angels:** The pastors of the seven churches.

**Seven Trumpets:** war horns. Used in Joshua 6 in the fall of Jericho. Seven priests given seven trumpets march around the city with the Ark of the Covenant. It may be that we think of Jerusalem similar to Jericho. They herald God's judgment. Zeph 1:14-16.

**Ten Kings:** (17:12, 16). Ten kings will hate the harlot/Babylon/Rome. Secular history tells us that Rome was sacked by those who once depended upon her. Provincial kings that turn on the Roman Empire and burned it to the ground.

**Tribulation:** This can describe the general challenges all Christians may expect through history. With the definite article “the” (sometimes accompanied by “great”) it points to a period of great affliction. The term is used to describe a time of severe affliction at the end of the Old Covenant leading up to and including the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. This is primarily taught in chapters 8-10.

**Two Witnesses:** a historic, prophetic witness against the Jews. The law of Moses required two witnesses.