

1. The “Good News” of God’s reign started in Israel

- The Good News – or Gospel – is that God is reigning as King over all creation.
- The New Testament refers to this reign as the “Kingdom of God.”
- Isa. 52:7 “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring **good news**, who proclaim peace, who bring **good tidings**, who proclaim **salvation**, who say to Zion, “**Your God reigns!**”
Isaiah 52:7
- Mark 1:1 “The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.”
Mark 1:2

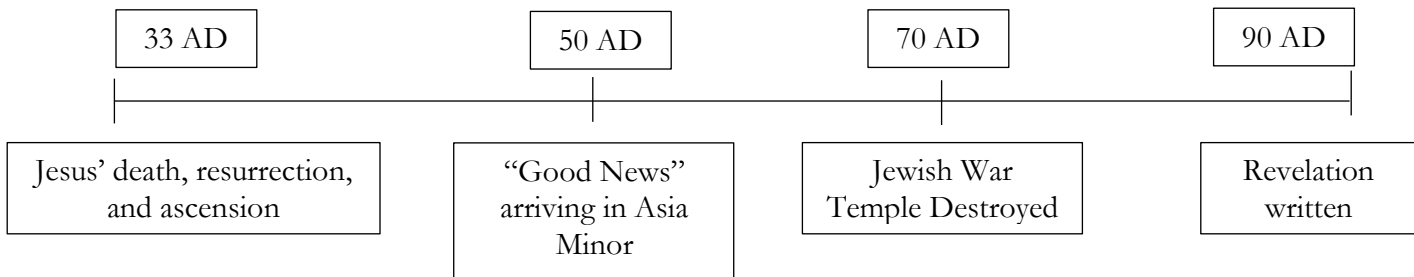
2. When the Good News goes out from Jerusalem, it heads northwest and congregates in Asia Minor.

- A large portion of our New Testament is written in Asia Minor or by people from Asia Minor.
 - Luke / Acts
 - Ephesians
 - John (lived in Ephesus)
 - Galatians
 - Philemon
 - 1, 2, & 3 John
 - Colossians
 - 1 & 2 Timothy
 - Revelation

3. Collision of two kingdoms: the kingdom of God vs. the kingdom of man (Rome/Caesar)

- Both claim “good news” and the power over heaven and earth.
- Who do you trust? Who do you call Lord? You must decide.

4. Timeline:



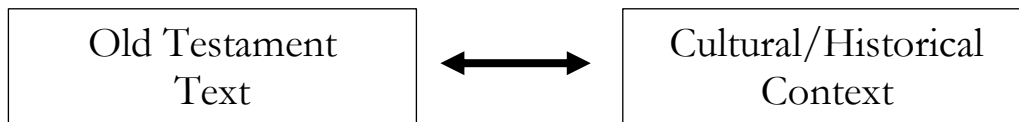
5. How to read Revelation? Four major approaches:

1. *Futurist* – The book of Revelation is an explicit forecast of a future yet to unfold.
2. *Preterist* – The prophecies of Revelation were fulfilled in the first century.
3. *Historical or Presentist* – The prophecies of Revelation are being fulfilled now, during the period between Jesus’ resurrection and his second coming.
4. *Idealist* – The book of Revelation does not refer to history but is a timeless allegory of the conflict between good and evil.
5. Some combination of the above.
6. “Newspaper exegesis” – Arnold Fruchtenbaum

6. What did the first readers understand from the letter?

1. Assume it was understood and taken to heart in the 1st century within Asia Minor or the city to which it was written.
2. Addresses the cultural and historical context that the people would understand.

7. Old Testament text to the context of 1st century Asia under Roman rule:



8. Roman Emperor and the Imperial Cult:

- Domitian (*Titus Flavius Caesar Domitianus Augustus*) – Roman Emperor from 81 – 96 AD.
- “Lord and God”
- Imperial Cult in Ephesus
- “Son of God” as a descendent of Flavians

9. Transcendent message of the book of Revelation:

- No matter how bad it looks in the world – the LORD is on the throne!
- Judgment will be executed. (Rev. 1: 12-17)