

TEXT - Revelation 6

REVIEW

Summary or Theme or Main Idea

Corrupt religion allies itself with corrupt government, and persecutes the saints
Jesus Christ judges and destroys the corrupt religion and government, and preserves the saints

Corrupt religion allied with corrupt government will be centered in Rome
Rome will be symbolized, and called Babylon

Rome, Perverse and Powerful, Persecutes the Saints
Christ, Pure and Prevailing, Protects the Saints

Connection with Our 1689 Confession

1689.26.3 cites

-Revelation 18:2, about Babylon, as an example of churches so degenerated so as not to be of Christ, but of Satan

-Revelation 12:17, about the dragon making war with the woman's seed, as being the devil making war with the faithful saints who believe in Christ

1689.26.4 quotes antichrist from 1 John and the man of sin or man of perdition from 2 Thessalonians with the Pope of Rome.

Four schools of thought - When will these things happen?

Partial Preterist

Futurist

Idealist

Historicist

None of these four theories should be lampooned or dismissed out of hand.
When I hear or read some teacher making light of some of these theories...

LESSON

I am studying and teaching mostly according to the Historicist theory, primarily because it is the theory held and taught by most of the old pastor-scholars whom I read all the time, and whose scholarship I respect the most.

Three main parts of this middle section of Revelation

Chapter 6 - seven seals

Chapters 8-9 - seven trumpets

Chapter 16 - seven vials or bowls

These things communicate to us how Rome will oppose the churches, and how our Lord Jesus Christ will protect the churches, and bring judgment on Rome during three periods of time.

Chapter 6 - seven seals - Rome non-Christian pagan

Chapters 8-9 - seven trumpets - Rome Christian or Arian

Chapter 16 - seven vials or bowls - Rome Antichristian or Papal

John Cotton (1585-1652) - 4th Vial p. 2

-long-time pastor in England until he had to flee persecution to America 1633

-pastor in Boston 1633- his death 1652

-the opening of the seals...did open the wrath of God, and his judgements against the Roman-Pagan Empire

-the seven Trumpets did sound out the wrath of God against the Roman-Christian Empire and Church

-the seven Vials...pour it all out upon the Antichristian Roman state

Hanserd Knollys (1599-1691) Epistle to the Reader

-first pastor in Dover, New Hampshire 1638 until he returned to England 1641

-long-time Baptist pastor in London

-signed both 1st and 2nd London Confessions

-the Seven Seals...contain the judgments of God, that he executed upon the Heathen Pagan Idolaters, Rev. 6:4-17,

-the Seven Trumpets...contain the Woes God executed upon the Arian Apostate Persecutors, Rev. 8:7-13, and 9:1-21, and

-the Seven Vials [contain] ...the last Plaues of God Almighty, which he will cause his Angels to pour out upon the Roman Antichristian Papal Beast, Whore, and flase Prophet...Rev. 16th Chapter

APPLICATION

Do not be alarmed by corrupt religious and governmental authorities combining to defy God's word and persecute us. That is a major part of God's plan.

Do not be afraid of powerful men in this world; do not be anxious because of them.

Do not put your hope in religious people in government.

Let your cry be always to the Lord

Ascribe to Him those attributes we know are His (v. 10 "holy and true")

Do not seek revenge yourself, but cry to the Lord for it.

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ while you still can, that you not be among those upon whom the wrath of God comes (v. 16)

Rome Pagan, Rome Papal; or
Rome Pagan, Rome Christian, Rome Antichristian

Knollys (Epistle to the Reader):

The Historical matter of this Book concerns the state of the Church of God, from the days of the Apostle John in the Isle of Patmos (about the year 96) in the Reign of Domitian the Emperor unto the end of this World. And therefore, I would advise the Reader diligently to observe what is already past and fulfilled, what is now fulfilling in our days, and what is hereafter to be fulfilled. And to that end search the Scriptures, read Ecclesiastical Histories, and other Expositions of this Book together with this Exposition.

That thereby, when you read the Book of the Revelation you may understand the Mysteries, the Prophecies, and the Visions therein contained, especially the Vision of the Seven Seals, which contain the judgments of God, that he executed upon the Heathen Pagan Idolaters, Rev. 6:4-17, and of the Seven Trumpets, which contain the Woes God executed upon the Arian Apostate Persecutors, Rev. 8:7-13, and 9:1-21, and of the Seven Vials of the last Plauges of God Almighty, which he will cause his Angels to pour out upon the Roman Antichristian Papal Beast, Whore, and false Prophet, to their utter destruction, Rev. 16th Chapter, and 18:8-10, 19-21, and 19:19.

Lastly, Consider the glorious appearance of our blessed LORD Jesus Christ as his Second coming, Rev. 20, 21, 22.

Gill (on Revelation 16:1

as the trumpets were so many gradual steps to the ruin of the Roman empire, eastern and western, when become Christian, so these vials are so many gradual steps to, and which issue in the ruin of, both the eastern and western antichrist; though they do not respect the same things, nor the same times: the trumpets respect the Roman empire as Christian, under the government of emperors, after the downfall of Paganism in it; and the vials respect the antichristian powers in their several branches, under the pope and Turk. Antichrist did not appear until the fifth trumpet sounded, whereas the first vial is poured out upon his followers and worshippers, Rev_16:2 from whence it is a clear point, that the first trumpet and the first vial cannot be contemporary; and the same judgment may be made of the rest: and it may be further observed, that these vials are only poured out on the enemies of God and of Christ, and of his church and people; for no wrath can be poured out upon the saints, not the least drop of it can fall upon them; this would not be consistent with God's everlasting love to them, with the satisfaction of Christ made for them, nor

with the blessings of justification, pardon, adoption, &c. bestowed on them; not but that they may meet with trouble in the of these vials, through the wars that will be in the world, and through the struggles of the beast of Rome, especially its last, which will be the hour of temptation, and that time of trouble than which never was the like; yet all will work for, and issue in their good, and they will rejoice in God's righteous judgments; the blow will be upon antichrist, the vengeance of God will fall upon those that have the mark of the beast, and the worshippers of his image, upon the seat of the beast, even upon Babylon, and the whole Romish jurisdiction, as appears from Rev_16:2 and also upon the Turkish empire, and all the nations engaged in the interest of both pope and Turk, Rev_16:12