
**THE APOCALYPSE IN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
INTERPRETATION: THREE EMPHASES**

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Date completed: April 2013

The Topic

The historical development of the Seventh-day Adventist interpretation of the book of Revelation may be divided into three periods: (1) the Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation period (1862-1944); (2) the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary period (1944-1970); and (3) the multiple emphases period (1970-). Each of these periods marks a different emphasis: biblical-historical, biblical-theological, and biblical-exegetical, respectively. In the last period, each emphasis is represented by its major contributor: historical by C. Mervyn Maxwell (1925-1999), theological by Hans K. LaRondelle (1929-2011), and exegetical by Jon K. Paulien (1949-).

The Purpose

The purpose of this research was to describe, analyze, and assess the three different emphases of interpretation of the Apocalypse throughout of the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Sources

This documentary study was based on both the published works and available unpublished documents (correspondence, transcripts of speeches, papers) from each of the three periods, underlining the three emphases: biblical-historical, biblical-theological, and biblical-exegetical, of Seventh-day Adventist contributions on the Apocalypse in recent years.

The assessment was based on comparisons of the principles of interpretation, the historical application of the seven trumpets (as a passage of significant diversity of views), and the central theme of the Apocalypse, Rev 12 (as essential agreement).

Conclusions

Adventist perspectives have developed progressively through emphasis on history, then on theology, and later on exegesis. All these emphases are still alive. Each one of the emphases has contributed to the Adventist understanding of the Apocalypse. The biblical-historical focuses on the historical application of the prophecy; the biblical-theological tends to hold to a Christ-centered way of interpreting the prophecies; and the biblical-exegetical focuses on the original text and audience.