

Tom Wright:

Apocalyptic: a language game of metaphors. (eg the world had not yet collapsed but they wished to speak of it so used Babylon etc. let the reader understand)

None of us take all NT as metaphor nor all NT as historic fact. A mixture of literal and metaphoric muddle So a hermeneutic of trans-cultural metaphors required.

Apocalypticism: treating metaphor as literal image to own group - Essenes holiness groups.

Do not separate prophecy and apocalyptic so negatively. And who is to say that our context is a safer glass through which to judge the meanings since they wrote with a different readership understanding in mind. (eg we are not under 1st century pressure)

The poor and marginalised are in a better hermeneutic place to interpret, but why do wealthy USA churches interpret literally from Apocalyptic??

Heaven and Earth dichotomy:

Apocalyptic exploits Apol language duality in order to show meaning of earthly events.

Apocalypticism exploits language to show heaven is good, earth is bad.

The Millennium:

Dionysius Exiguus (?) in fifth century (his name means “the insignificant”) proposed dating from annunciation of Xt. in March. They had no concept of zero in those times so they began with one. The date was changed by Gregory to 1st January to coincide with Roman festival. Dionysius had used annunciation not death of Christ because Diocletian in claiming divinity ad begun new calendar from his own birth and this was a way of stressing the superiority of Christ. (Jesus is Lord)

Millennarianism

Puritan ‘post-millennarianism’ assumed 1000 years and then Christ would reign.

19th Cent gloom assumed a ‘pre-millennarianism’ that only 1000 splendid years would come after the reign of Christ.

Plus points:

1. Jesus is Lord!

2. Kingdom of God to come on earth, not up in the air (as Paul)

Jesus’ use of Apocalyptic

Jesus saw his death through lens of apocalyptic as in this way.

“Son of Man on the clouds.” Not a spiritualisation but coded talk, revolutionary talk of vindication by God of his programme vs. Rome.

So likewise, Romans 8, uses Exodus liberation language about whole creation freed from decay.

3. Death and resurrection

These were the main apocalyptic event. The inauguration of Kingdom in Israeli messiah language. So the point of the Resurrection is not for the future (that will happen anyway) but all that is now done will be built into God’s design.

The theory of being a Roman Citizen was that you did not go to Rome but stayed in the place or Province where you were and Rome came with you to that place since you were a citizen.

The Second Coming is not NT where the talk is of Parousia presence. Which could equally mean us coming into Christ's presence, as we enter into Shalom of God.

A putting together of that which is fractured.

Jesus comes to earth so that we do not escape from it. Jesus weeps over Jerusalem because this earthly Jerusalem does matter to him.