



The Days of Vengeance: An Exposition of the Book of Revelation

David H. Chilton

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David Chilton has done it. He has written a book on Revelation that is sure to spark an eschatological revolution. Going where no commentary has dared to go before, Chilton's work shuts the mouths of end-times doomsayers with their pessimistic view of the future.

David Chilton's extraordinary verse-by-verse exposition of Revelation is as welcome as a cool drenching rain upon a dry, thirsty ground. From the very beginning, cranks and crackpots have attempted to use Revelation to advocate some new twist on the Chicken Little Doctrine: "The Sky is Falling!" But, as David Chilton shows in this careful, detailed exposition, St. John's Apocalypse teaches instead that Christians will overcome all opposition through the work of Jesus Christ.

A biblical and scholarly exposition of Revelation is laid out for readers to soak up and begin to view the world with renewed hope and optimism. Chilton skillfully shows in detail that Christians will overcome all opposition through the work of Jesus Christ. The book of Revelation is not about the antichrist, the devil, microchips, or bar codes. It is, as the very first verse says, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ."

About the Author: David Chilton was a pastor and author of several books on eschatology, including: Paradise Restored, Days of Vengeance, and The Great Tribulation.
Hardback, 700 pages

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The Days of Vengeance: An Exposition of the Book of Revelation Details

Date : Published January 1st 1987 by Dominion Press

ISBN : 9780930462093

Author : David H. Chilton

Format : Hardcover 754 pages

Genre : Religion, Theology, History, Christian, Christianity, Nonfiction, Reference

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John says

This is the book to read on Revelation. It is rigorously biblical--using Scripture to interpret Scripture. In this case, Chilton relies heavily upon Old Testament prophecy, with many New Testament quotations to show the prophetic significance of Revelation.

The book is preteristic, meaning that Chilton shows that most of Revelation is now history to us today, and occurred in the years leading to AD 70 and the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem. He's not a full preterist, however, so he does believe and argue that the final chapters of Revelation are still in our future--there will be a second coming of Christ.

Chilton's purpose in the book is to show the meaning of Revelation for us today. While he argues that Revelation is mostly history now, it is still relevant for us today, just like the rest of the Bible. God has pruned the vine, so to speak, and has cast of apostate Israel, leaving spiritual Israel--the church, as God's new people and bride.

Israel is Babylon, Satan and Rome the beast, with Nero as the Anti-Christ. They all worked together to destroy the early church and the cry of the martyrs reached to heaven, where God answers them with this prophecy--telling them to wait a while before he brings a great tribulation upon Israel--specifically Jerusalem--which has the blood of the martyrs upon it. God's wrath is expended upon the apostate people in the very same manner prophesied in the Old Testament for apostate Israel.

Great, great work, which I highly recommend. Chilton is a gifted writer, and has a remarkable ability to draw upon biblical sources to show the meaning of a book that seems so impenetrable for our biblically illiterate age.

Michael Jones says

This was early in my journey into the reformed faith, and I was very excited by Chilton's connections even though I may not agree with all of them now.

Many I still do.

This is still a worthy read for anyone who wants to gain more perspective on the book of Revelation. In fact, it's probably the best out there for changing your thinking away from American popular 20th century notions which end up with cobra helicopters other weird ideas.

Eclaghorn says

While I appreciated the exposition of a postmillennial eschatology in the form of the commentary of Revelation, the attacks on other positions and support for peripheral issues made this volume, as impressive as it was, less interesting to read.

Sheryl Tribble says

Didn't buy the astrological mathematical stuff, but everything else I thought he was solid. The book is available free on Gary North's website, as are a couple of other Chiltons. I highly recommend Chilton's stuff; some of the other authors there, not so much.

Clayton Hutchins says

Great. I'm sold. There is some kind of "out there" stuff, but it's really not quite so bad as I had expected. I'd say I agreed with about 4/5 of it. Chilton's overall approach to Revelation is basically right. The bulk of Revelation is primarily concerned with first-century judgment on Israel for rejecting Christ and the church, culminating in the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. Jerusalem, not Rome, is the Babylon of chs. 17–18.

Argin Gerigorian says

Get this book, read it and then read it again!

Once again outside of the interpretive maximalism of D.C the book is quite scholarly.

So far this is the greatest commentary from the partial preteristic perspective.

Jesse Broussard says

Has a few spots where he's really reaching, but, read with a functioning brain, this is one of the most amazing books I've ever encountered. Read it.

Donald Owens II says

The finest treatment of Revelation I've encountered so far. The gushing preface only exaggerates a little; this book should not be ignored, but rather re-read. I can't say I agree with Chilton's every conclusion, but his hermeneutic strikes me as reasonable and consistent (qualities too rare in eschatological studies).

London Tiner says

By far one of the greatest books ever written describing the reformed partial preterist view of the book of revelation.

Douglas Wilson says

Excellent.

Ryan Watkins says

Days of Vengeance is an incredibly detailed commentary on the book of Revelation. Chilton argues for the partial preterist postmillennial view of eschatology. He states that the book of Revelation was written prior to 70ad and much of the book deals with God's covenant curses being pored out on apostate Israel. He quotes historian Flavius Josephus heavily to show the history surrounding the events written about in the book of Revelation. Chilton shows how the symbols used in Revelation come from the Old Testament and can be explained using scripture.

Despite the books size it is quite readable and the commentary delves into many topics besides just eschatology. I personally found the commentary on Revelation 4 which deals with the importance of corporate worship especially convicting and beneficial.

Chilton's rhetoric towards those with other eschatological views, and those outside of reformed circles, is rather intense. Gary North's introduction and appendix are even more intense and could easily turn off those with differing theological views. Due to this I would not recommend this as a primer on postmillennialism, Greg Bahnsen's Victory in Jesus would be far better suited. Also Chilton's maximalist hermeneutics could easily lead to errors in trying to get more from the text than is actually there. Several of the quotes from James B Jordan seem to fall into this. I struggled to see how Jordan came to his interpretation of several texts.

Overall I found Days of Vengeance incredibly edifying, informative, and would recommend it. It can be found in PDF form for free here <https://www.garynorth.com/freebooks/d...>

Lee Harmon says

For those of you that read my review of Alan Bondar's book (<http://www.dubiousdisciple.com/2011/0...>) and yearned for more, here's a book you absolutely must read. Chilton (1951-1997) is no stranger to preterist scholarship and first-century eschatology. I suspect this book sits on the shelf of every preterist researcher. And it should.

It's not a quick read; over 700 pages. A comprehensive exposition, going verse by verse through Revelation, showing its relevance to first-century happenings. It is Chilton who quipped, "Not once did [John] imply that his book was written with the twentieth century in mind, and that Christians would be wasting their time attempting to decipher it until the Scofield Reference Bible would become a best-selling novel."

Some of the analysis goes a bit deep; one of Chilton's most important contributions is a long, convincing explanation of how rabbinic numerology would have recognized the number 666 already as the mark of both a king and a kingdom in the Dragon's image. They also identified, from Daniel, the Roman Empire as the fourth and final kingdom before the end times. Then, lo and behold, along comes a Roman emperor (Nero Caesar) matching this very number!

Do you really want to understand why first-century Christians were so completely convinced of Christ's impending return? Then this book is a must-read.

David Holford says

This is the best commentary on the Revelation. It cuts through the pre-millennialism, especially that of the popular dispensational variety, like a knife through butter with thorough exegetical brilliance. Through extensive footnoting to a comprehensive bibliography, Chilton demonstrate that his is an exposition of the historic Faith, from the Fathers forward.

With the availability and absolute readability of the volume, it would be difficult to consider anyone a competent teacher or preacher of any part of the Revelation without reference to it.

That being said, the Publisher's Preface is of little value. One does not need to subscribe to Gary North's particular vision of theonomy to subscribe to Chilton's clear exegesis.

Steven Wedgworth says

Yeah yeah, I know what you're going to say-- but whatever man, you should still read this book. It has a ton of interesting stuff in it. In fact, it has a ton of extended block quotes from other sources! This is probably bad form, but you can read a fair amount of Austin Farrer or John Owen in this book, as Chilton cites them extensively. The stuff on numerology is really intriguing as well.

There's a lot of stuff to dislike or simply discard in this book too, and the other reviewers will tell you all about that. I'm just here to say that this book has outlived its predicted shelf-life, as you can entirely separate it from its original Christian Reconstructionist days and still have a unique and imaginative commentary on the Book of Revelation.

David Carraway says

I'm not a Marine, but HOO-RAH! One, because this is no short read. Two, the subject matter is far from what would be considered light reading. Three, the author has written what I consider to be a most excellent expository on the book of Revelation.

The author does a good job of pointing out the different areas where the Covenant Lawsuit (as put forth by Meredith G. Kline and later Ray R. Sutton) are applied throughout Revelation. The author does a wonderful job of showing that Revelation is primarily contemporary to its author, but still applicable in its liturgy and admonishment to the Church to worship God on earth as in heaven. I enjoyed how he is constantly showing the Hebraic mindset of St. John by referencing the First Testament over and over when pointing out where St. John's language in Revelation gets its source. To me this also shows that Jesus and all the New Testament writers shared this same Hebraic mindset in their thoughts and teachings as what they say agrees with what St. John wrote in Revelation.

While I found the information intriguing, I could have done without the in depth mathematical and astrological sections of the book. I did find that I did not agree with every one of the authors conclusions,

some of which seemed to be a stretch, but overall I believe the book was well thought out and researched.

No one should consider themselves settled on matters of eschatology without having read this book!
