

Revelation

Historicist

The 1/3 of mankind represents the eastern portion of the Roman Empire. The invasion was a fierce people who came from the area of the Caspian Sea. They conquered Persia, Syria and converted to Islam. They crossed the Euphrates R. in A.D. 1062 to invade the Christian empire.

The attack was to be for an hour, day, month and year. Using the scriptural year-for-a-day concept, the attack was to be 391/396 yrs. Constantinople fell in 1453, just 391 yrs. After the crossing.

The color of the breastplates, red, blue and yellow are exactly those “for which the Turks have always been remarkable.”

The fire, smoke and brimstone refer to the fact that in the siege of Constantinople gunpowder, rifles and artillery were first used. The smallest cannon of the Turks fired a stone of 200 pounds and the largest could hurl a stone of 1, 200 pounds. Thus was the Roman city destroyed.

9:13 – 19

Preterite

The figurative language refers to the Roman armies. Many of the troops had previously been stationed on the Euphrates.

The invasion was scheduled for a precise time (hour, day, month and year) This emphasizes it was for a predestined event. The destruction of Jerusalem was one of the few

It is not certain whether this army represented allies of Rome That came from the east, or whether it was a general reference to the Roman armies only. The final siege of Jerusalem In A.D. 70 is depicted by the seven bowls later in the book of Revelation.

Four

Futurist

These four are evil angels. The destruction comes from a great army from the Orient, gathered by demonic influences.

The expression hour, day month and year, does not refer to the duration of the carnage, but to the fact that this judgment comes exactly at the time God ordained.

There are two camps with reference to the identity of these bizarre horsemen: (1) that they are demonic spirits, and (2) that they are literal armies – probably from the Orient.

“It seems clear that what John envisions for us is the machinery of modern (or future) military destruction.” Another writer said “All of these things are a part of a thermonuclear war.” This may be the army of the Antichrist and possibly consist of Muslims. **“The vision belongs specifically to the end of time.”**

Views

Spiritual

The Euphrates symbolizes a **“restraint upon the forces of evil.”** These trumpet judgments are to warn rather than destroy.

Some believe that the fifth and sixth trumpets are related in that the former describes the internal corruption of a wicked culture, whereas the latter tells of external forces that bring down a decayed society.

The death-dealing horsemen are not tanks and planes, or not only tanks and planes. They are also cancers and road accidents and malnutrition and terrorist bombs and the peaceful death in nursing homes.