

REVELATION

A large aircraft carrier is shown from a high-angle perspective, sailing on a choppy ocean. The ship's deck is visible, with several aircraft parked on it. The ship's superstructure, including the bridge and various masts, is prominent. The water is dark and turbulent, with white foam from the ship's wake visible in the foreground.

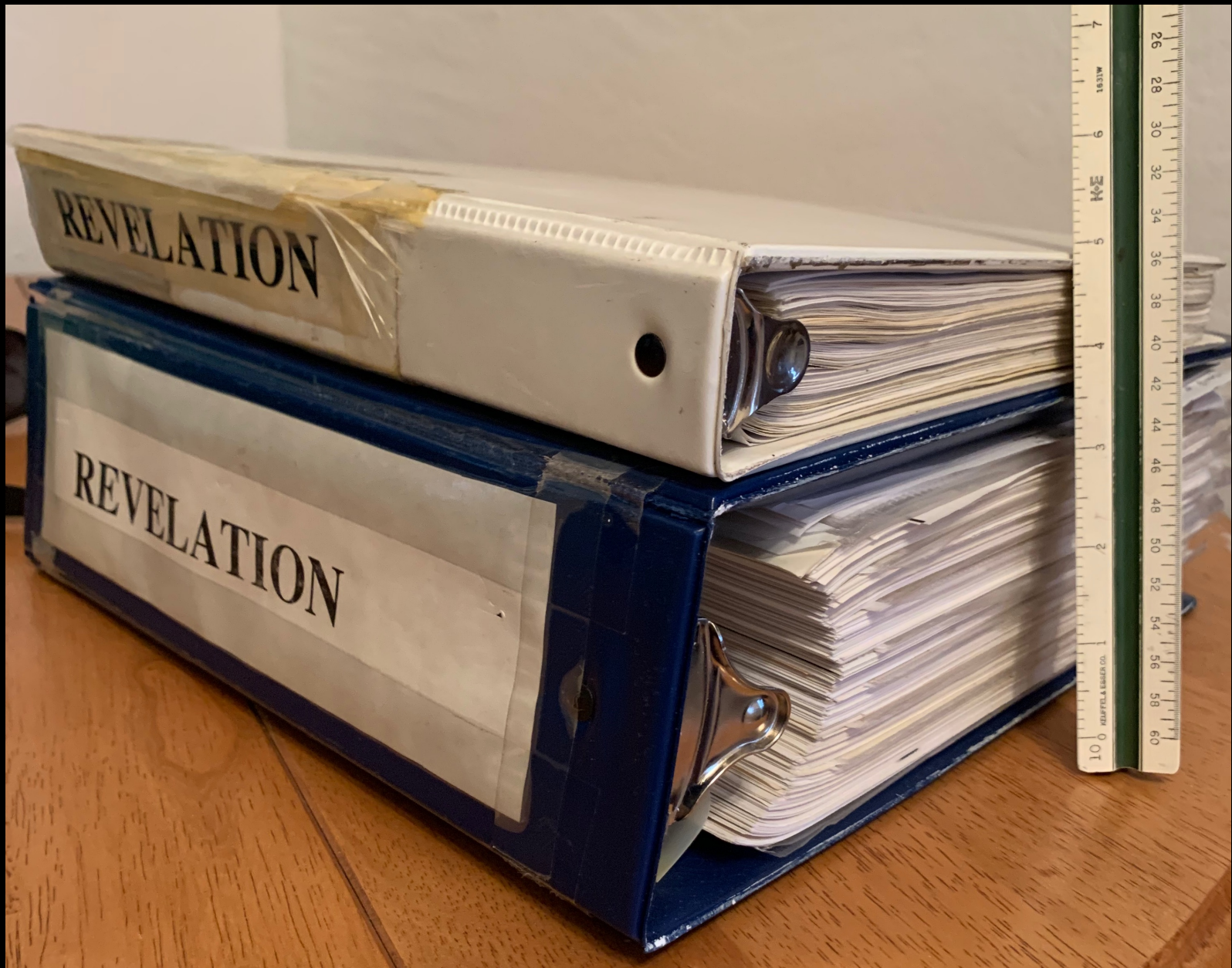
**One of the most important
books of the entire
BIBLE**

I. Introduction

A. Opening

Patmos

Life-time of exegetical notes



**“The Hallelujah
Chorus of the
Redeemed”**

SL Johnson

**“The goal and
consummation of all
the Bible”**

WG Scroggie

I. Introduction

A. Opening

B. Importance

Patmos

IMPORTANCE

- 1. Importance of Prophecy**
- 2. Bible & Theology Incomplete**
- 3. Perspective of God on History**
- 4. Ultimate Resolution of Evil**
- 5. Complete Angelology**
- 6. 5th Gospel of Christ**
- 7. Glory of God Emphasized**

I. Introduction

II. Background

Patmos

BACKGROUND

- **Author -** **Apostle John**
- **Historical Background**
- **Occasion -** **95-96**
- **Place of Writing -** **Patmos**
- **Audience -** **Asian Churches**



Pergamum

Thyatira

Manisa

Smyrna

D-550

Izmir

D-300

O-32

O-30

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

D-320

Ephesus

O-31

Aydin



I. Introduction

II. Background

III. Purpose

Patmos

PURPOSE



- To encourage persecuted Christians (1:3, 20:6)
- To complete God's Revelation (22:18-19)



I. Introduction

II. Background

III. Purpose

IV. Approaches

A. Preterist

Patmos

ATTITUDES



❖ **Puzzle**

“A famous book in which St. John the divine concealed all that he knew. The revealing is done by the commentators who know nothing.”

Ambrose Bierce

ATTITUDES



❖ **Puzzle**

❖ **Masterpiece**

HERMENEUTICAL POSITIONS

**“The book of Revelation
isn’t hard to understand**

—

it’s hard to BELIEVE!”

PRETERISM

**Most prophetic events
taking place in 1st Century**

AD 70 = wrath on Israel

PRETERIST

Christ's
Return

TRIBULATION



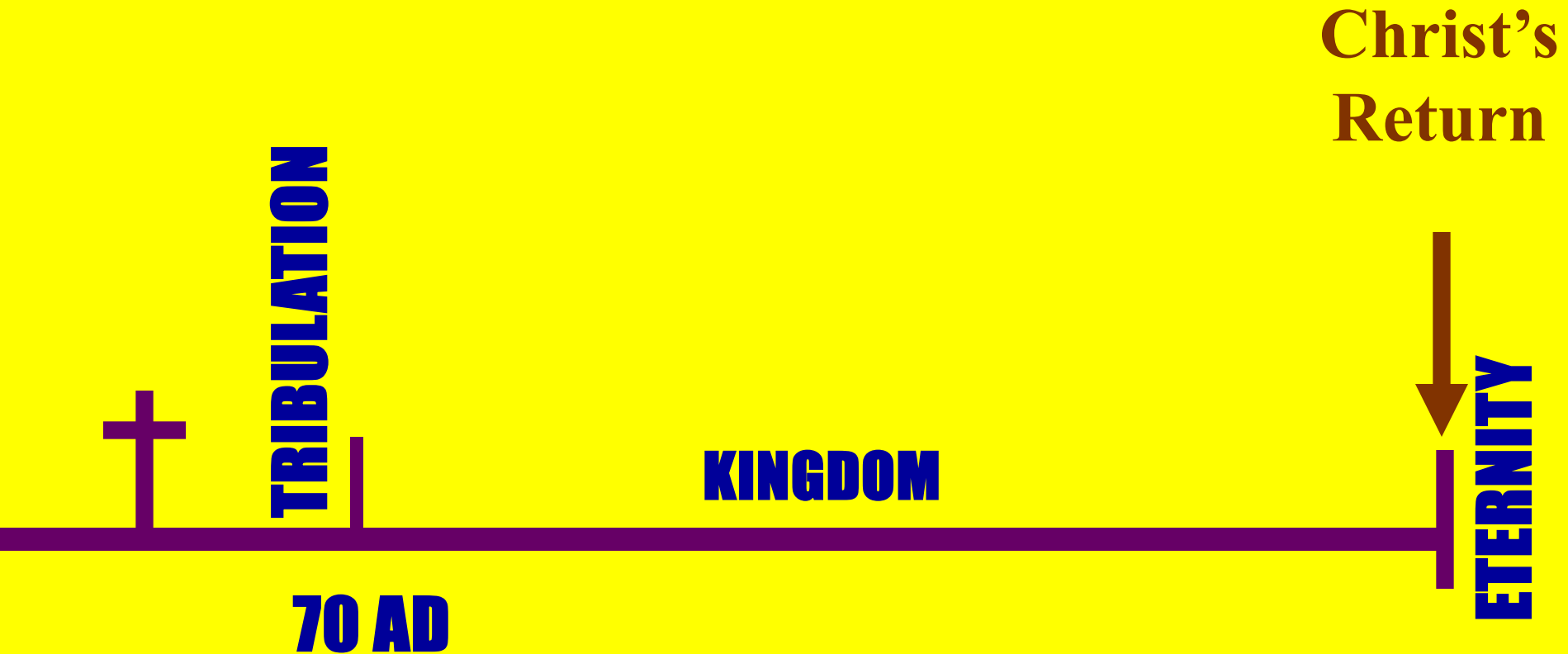
KINGDOM

70 AD

ETERNITY



MOD. PRETERIST



PRETERIST

- **Proponents -** L Alcazar, HB Swete, RH Charles, RC Sproul
- **Strengths -** Historical Background
Original Readers
- **Weaknesses -**



I. Introduction

II. Background

III. Purpose

IV. Approaches

A. Preterist

B. Historicist

Patmos

HISTORICIST

**Prophetic events taking
place in History,
from 1st Century to the End**

EXAMPLES

- ✓ 7 Letters = church history
- ✓ Seals = fall of empire
- ✓ Beasts = papacy
- ✓ Trumpets = 395-1453
- ✓ Bowls = French revolution

HISTORICIST

- **Proponents -** H Alford
Reformers
Postmillennialists
- **Strengths -** makes book
somewhat prophetic



I. Introduction

II. Background

III. Purpose

IV. Approaches

A. Preterist

B. Historicist

C. Idealist

Patmos

IDEALIST

A picture in symbolic form
of **Eternal Principles**

“While the Apocalypse thus embraces the whole period of the Christian dispensation, it sets before us within this period the action of great principles & not special incidents; we are not to look in the Apocalypse for special events, but for an exhibition of the principles which govern the history both of the world & the church.”

W Milligan

IDEALIST

- **Proponents - Wm Hendrickson
RCH Lenski**
- **Strengths - Bible contains
Eternal Principles**



I. Introduction

II. Background

III. Purpose

IV. Approaches

A. Preterist

B. Historicist

C. Idealist

D. Futurist

Patmos

FUTURIST

**Most events taking place in
the Future**

FUTURIST

- **Proponents -** JF Walvoord
JD Pentecost
CL Feinberg
- **Strengths -** Consistent
Hermeneutic

APPROACHES

Idealist



```
graph TD; Idealist --> Historicist; Historicist --> Line; Preterist --> Line; Futurist --> Line; Line --- Cross; Line --- Eternity
```

Preterist

Historicist

Futurist

ETERNITY

ECLECTIC

Combine more
than One View

ECLECTIC

- **Proponents -** L Morris
RH Mounce
GR Osborne
- **Strengths -** Combines best
of Views



I. Introduction

II. Background

III. Purpose

IV. Approaches

V. Characteristics

Patmos

CHARACTERISTICS

1. Genre - mixed

GENRE

- **Epistolary - Introduction & Closing**
- **Prophecy - Prophetic Visions**
- **Apocalyptic - Debated**
 - 1. Title**
 - 2. Visions**
 - 3. Angelic Guide**
 - 4. Exhortations to Endure**
 - 5. Metaphorical Emphasis**

METAPHORICAL

- **Literal unless indicators**
- **Metaphorical Language**
- **Symbols**



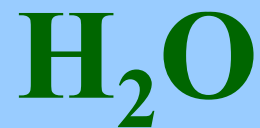
SYMBOLS

$$E = MC^2$$

$$V = d/t$$

$$A = \pi r^2$$

$$A = v/t$$



$$\tan \theta = y/x$$



INTERPRETING

SYMBOLS

- 1. Definite Meaning**
- 2. Bible Interprets**
- 3. Few Un-interpreted**
- 4. Possibility of Multiple Uses**

METAPHORICAL

- **Literal unless indicators**
- **Metaphorical Language**
- **Symbols**
- **Nature**
- **Numbers**



CHARACTERISTICS

- 1. Genre - mixed**
- 2. Christology - 5th Gospel**