

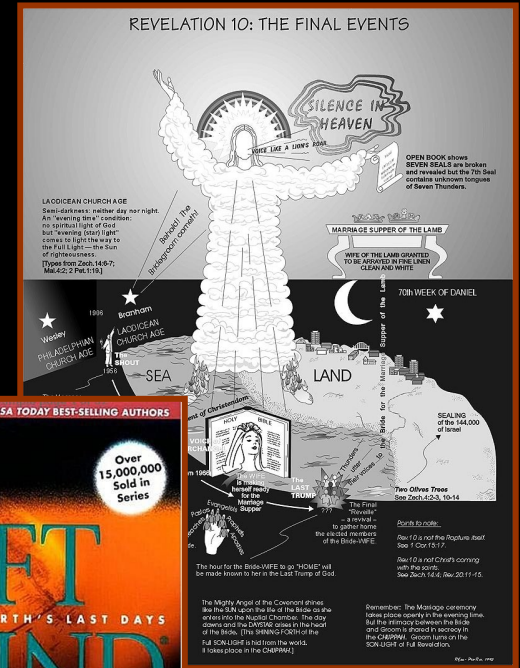
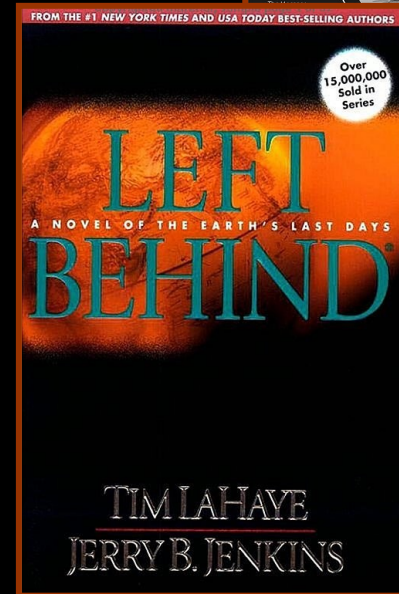
# Is The End Near?



A Fresh Look at Revelation

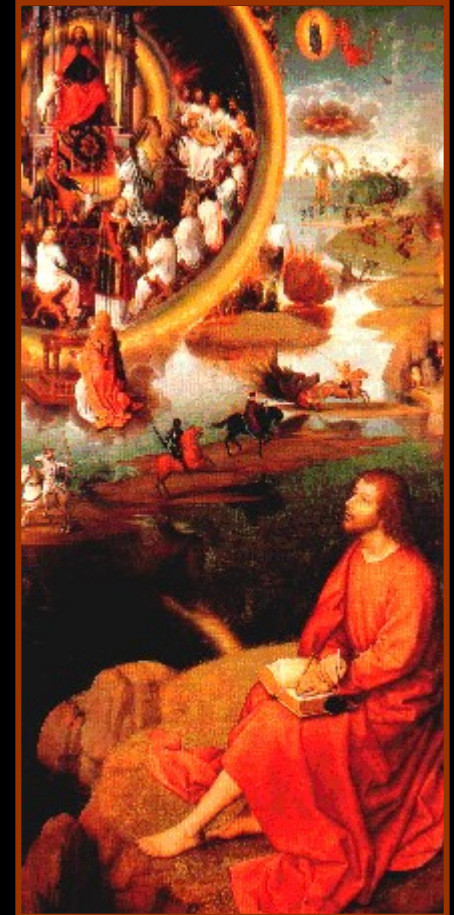
# The Turbulent Life of the Apocalypse

- Map of the 1<sup>st</sup> century?
- Map of the church's history?
- A repeated pattern in history?
- Map of the end times?



# The Book of Revelation as an Apocalypse

- The question of genre
- The genre of Jewish apocalyptic
  - Author takes on false persona
  - Symbolic visions or journeys
  - Angelic guides or interpreters
  - An ordered pattern in history
  - Sharp line between good & evil



# The Book of Revelation as an Apocalypse

- The purpose of an apocalypse





# The Book of Revelation as an Apocalypse

- The purpose of an apocalypse
- The purpose of John's Apocalypse
  - Encourage faithful perseverance
    - The setting: Roman persecution
    - The letters to the 7 churches
    - The heavenly throne-room
    - The final restoration



# The Visions of John's Apocalypse

- The nature of apocalyptic visions
  - Imaginative theology
  - Real experience?



# The Visions of John's Apocalypse

- The nature of apocalyptic visions
  - Imaginative theology
  - Real experience?
- Content of John's visions
  - 3 cycles of destruction
  - Persecution and perseverance
  - The final chapter



# The Message of John's Apocalypse

- The message for John's original audience
- The message for contemporary Christians
  - God is in control
  - The tables will be turned
  - Restoration for the faithful
  - Suffering is part of the Christian life
- Why read John's Apocalypse?
- How do we preach John's Apocalypse?

