

THE WINEPRESS OF GOD'S WRATH by Steve A. Hamilton

In December of 2021, I received an email from Mr. Hamilton, whom I have never met, offering a complimentary copy of his new book on Revelation. All he asked was that, when finished, I would leave a review on Amazon. Steve says he is Minister for the Battle Creek church of Christ in Rapid City, SD. Their website says they are a non-institutional, non-denominational congregation. Maybe some of you know Steve.

Of the book, the website makes this claim: "Hard to believe that the Book of Revelation has not been properly explained until now." I have learned to be wary of such claims. Equally astonishing is the claim that after 1900 years the church finally has a reliable commentary of the book. This may all be to generate interest and certainly does not mean that the commentary is wrong or not valuable.

I took him up on his offer, and he sent me the copy. His emphasis seems to be on historic information that may bear on the book. In fact, his approach is to take the historic information as to the beginning date and ending time of the book and to use that information to set parameters for what the book must mean. He cites Pliny and Ignatius and plainly states the date of writing must be 97AD. Immediately, he assumes that Babylon is Rome; and therefore, concludes that the end must be the end of the Roman empire.

Though I am nobody when it comes to this, my approach was to study the book itself to see what it told us. Can we arrive at a meaning in the book which then dictates the timing? I think so. I believe that his pre-determined framework pushes him to certain conclusions. He believes the earth beast is Constantine. I have never heard anyone say this, but it seems to color how he interprets everything in the book. The harlot, therefore, could be Rome but also the Vatican. I do believe that the book does mention the destruction of Rome and, so, embraces that time period; however, I am not convinced yet that the main characters of the book include Constantine.

Regarding Revelation 13:14 he says, "Constantine made an image (i.e. a church) of the Roman Empire that reflected himself." It is hard for me to make a connection between an image and a church. He says that "the name that identifies the beast [of Revelation 13:18] is Lateinos, the Latin-speaking man.

Many of you have probably heard such thoughts on the book of Revelation. There are just so many ideas and interpretations in this book that are strange to me that it may take several readings to decipher it. For me, I am not sure it is worth it. For those of you who love such a challenge, I would recommend the book.

I still have not written the review because I don't feel adequate to do so. I do need to correct that.