

WRESTLING  
WITH  
REVELATION





# IDEALISM









# INTRODUCTION

- Events fulfilled spiritually always
- Not tied to history
- Spiritual meaning
- Apocalypse and symbolism



# EVERYONE DOES IT

- Everyone does this
- “take up your cross” Luke 9:23
- Army in Joel 2
- “Baptism now saves you” 1 Peter 3:21
- When symbolic and when not?



# HISTORICAL TREND

- Began in 3rd century
- Shift toward general spiritual interpretation
- Idealism still held even though hermeneutical scheme changed
- Majority view throughout most of history
- Still popular today





# INTERPRETATIONS

- What Jesus is doing now
- Christians must resist
- anti-christ is a repeated figure
- Satan restrained now
- Judgements happening now spiritually
- Two witnesses are the church





# ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR

- Same application and meaning
- Most historical backing
- Simpler explanation of difficulties
- Good answer for sinful people in millennium



# ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Application and meaning does change
- Spiritual needs to be grounded
- Symbolic but literal future
- Not exclusive interpretation



# REVELATION 20

- 1,000 been symbolic before
- Satan bound at the cross
- Different resurrections
- Resurrected to death
- “the rest of the dead”
- Resurrection in verse 12?





# APPLICATION

- I held to an idealistic interpretation until convinced by Revelation 20.
- I think a spiritual interpretation is needed but it is not exclusive.
- We should learn from the practical application of an idealist view.