

COMA questions for apocalyptic literature

Context

- Are there any clues about the historical circumstances the literature is addressing?
- Are other bits of the Bible mentioned or hinted at in the passage? What part do these ‘memories’ play in the text?

Observation

- What images are used in the passage? What effect do they have?
- What emotions does the passage arouse (e.g. fear, expectation, awe)?
- How does the passage seek to reveal what God is like? Where in this passage might we find hope for men and women?
- Is there a crisis in the passage? What is the tension/conflict about, and how does it relate to readers?

Meaning

- Are there specific instructions/commands given to the reader? Does this passage mention any consequences for not following God's commands?
- Does the text have a sense of expectation about something happening in the future? What is to be expected and when? How should this motivate action in the present?
- Does the passage point to Jesus? Is the gospel foreshadowed or looked back upon in some way?

Application

- How is your situation similar to or different from those being addressed?
- How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
- How does this passage lead you to trust God and his promises in Jesus?
- How does this passage call on you to change the way you live?

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