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Religion Major & Minor

Judaic Studies Minor

REVEAL THE BIBLE

Apocalyptic





"Daniel" by Marc Chagall (1978)

"Apocalyptic" describes

- **Ideas:**
 - Dualistic
 - Pessimistic
 - Eschatological
- **Literature**
 - Revelatory
 - Visions of other worlds/times
 - Narrative framework



Michaelangelo's "Last Judgment"

Eschatology

- Prophets expected God to act *in normal history*
 - E.g. Isaiah
- Apocalypticists expected God to *end history*
 - E.g. Daniel



Roman military parade

History & Apocalyptic

- Disappointments:
 - No independent Judah/Israel
 - Rule & oppression by foreigners
- Prophetic hopes unfulfilled

Prophecies *ex eventu*

- Example: Daniel lived in Babylonian & Persian empires
- Dan 7 depicts 4 empires, increasingly accurate up to early 2nd cent BCE
 - Arrogant "little horn" = Seleucid king Antiochus Epiphanes
- Goal: hope for God's salvation *soon*
 - Specifics inaccurate



Apocalyptic imagery

- From popular & political art
- Satire
- Religious symbols



Apocalyptic beliefs

- Angels & demons
- Heaven & hell
- A future Messiah

The Fate of Apocalyptic

- **Rabbinic Judaism:**
 - Opposed apocalyptic nationalism as dangerous
 - Kept apocalyptic eschatology
- **NT full of apocalyptic ideas**
- **Later Christianity:**
 - Marginalized apocalyptic politics
 - Individualized apocalyptic eschatology


