

Apocalyptic Literature

1. Always possesses some kind of historical significance—it is connected with a historical event.
2. It is usually pseudonymous in nature. The authors usually used other's name to conceal identity.
3. Esoteric in nature. Uses visions as literary vehicle. Visions were means of expressing truth. The problem comes in the interpretation of the visions by later readers.
4. Has a predictive element. The future is predicted as glorious.
5. Uses symbolism.
6. Very pessimistic view of the contemporary condition. Evil is in control of the present situation, but only temporarily.
7. Dualistic view of life; good vs. evil, light vs. dark.
8. History is divided into two ages: the present evil age and the future glorious age of God's reign.
9. God is transcendent, remote, removed, but the prospect of God's entering history is always imminent.
10. View of history is deterministic.
11. Secondary characteristics: Angels and demons from Iranian influence, animal symbolism, numerology.

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