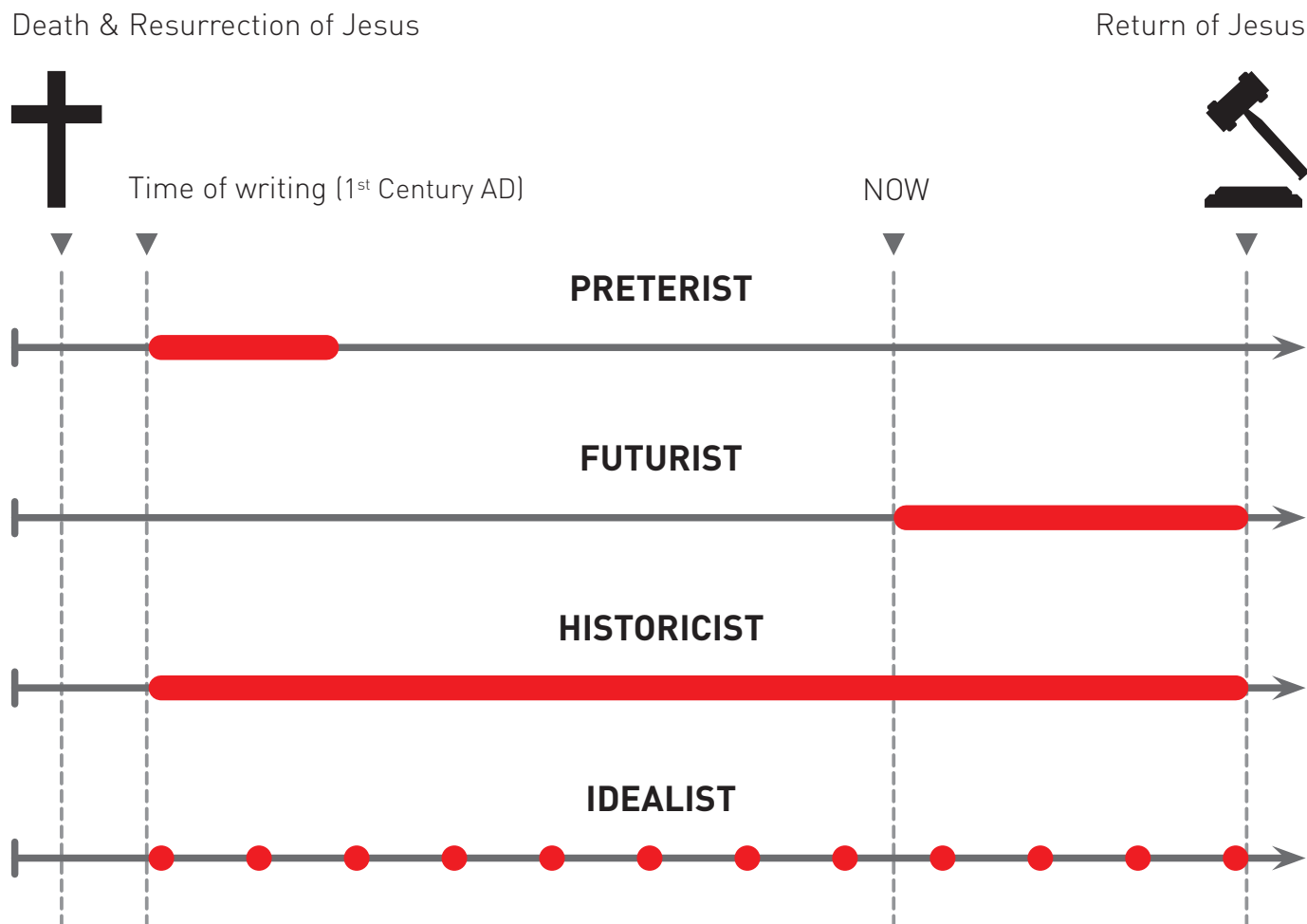


FOUR WAYS TO READ REVELATION

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1. PRETERIST: Revelation is about events in the past

The events described in Revelation all took place around the time of the letter's writing and should be read with that historical context in mind. In other words, the letter was written first and foremost to Christians in the first century, under Roman rule and persecution. As such, we need to understand how they would have originally read it, before applying it to ourselves.

2. FUTURIST: Revelation is about events in the future

The events described in Revelation were predicted to take place in the far distant future, at least from the point of view of the original readers. So, the focus is on events that are still to come, including times like "the tribulation" and "the millennium."

3. HISTORICIST: Revelation is about all of history

Revelation describes the key events of history stretching from the death and resurrection of Jesus to his return as judge. It can be seen as a *timetable*, by which we can interpret "the signs of the times." In other words, world events *today* are described in Revelation.

4. IDEALIST: Revelation is about timeless principles

Revelation isn't talking about a specific time. It is talking about a pattern of events or trends that will be repeated throughout history, as an encouragement to God's people of all times who face persecution. In that sense, it is a "timeless" message.