

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Handout 9-G

# Apocalyptic Literature

Characteristics	Function
1. Heavy use of symbolism and images	Veils the meaning. Lack of specificity adds sense of mystery. Allows long-term interpretation.
2. Angels and demons	Angels and demons emphasize the supernatural, add to the sense of mystery, and dramatize divine control.
3. Pseudonymity	Antiquity adds to prestige of writings. Allows accurate “predictions,” which foster hope and inspire right conduct.
4. Determinism	Divine control. Course of history is set with the fate of the righteous and wicked. Human decisions are not predetermined.
5. Predictions of the end	During persecution, it is easier to keep going if the specific day of relief is known.