Seals & Trumpets: Tribulations & Triumph

Thomas Robinson, Apocalypse Today 5, July 1, 2018

The Power of Visions – Sevens and Cycles

- John is given visions to recount. We hear and see through his words. His visions stress Sevens: churches, seals, trumpets, visions of conflict, bowls. Are the 7s a sequence predictions—our past or our future? Deciphering a code. Neither would mean much in Ephesus, even today. Revelation isn't a divination book to foretell events. It is vision to see again things we know.
- The Seals & Trumpets suggest that the 7-visions are different ways of looking at the same great story. The Gospel is already there in the Throne vision in the Lion-hero who is a slain Lamb. The Seals & Trumpets build expectations, but the interludes redirect our understanding.
- One power of extended visions is to look at the drama of God's story from different points of view and to play out differing possibilities. The visions challenge what John's readers want and expect including us. They push us to see the Gospel's distinct truth amidst conflict.

Seven Seals: Four Horsemen – Who do you believe?

- The Lamb begins to open the seals. Four horses & riders are called into view: Conquest, War, Impoverishment & famine, Violence-death-hopeless Hades. Then persecution, injustice. The victim souls cry out: "How long" before they are avenged? We watch the whole world convulsed (verbal special effects). What is happening. The power structure of conquest see it as "the wrath of the Lamb." Unfair battle, they can't get away. Is it vengeance? No angelic voice says this is God's wrath. Rather the whole creation reacts to human evil.
- The seals pause. Step back. Sun shines. John <u>hears</u> that a perfect number of Israel as servants of God must be sealed. He <u>looks</u>: The precise number is now an innumerable multitude of people. Their verdict is different: Salvation not destruction belongs to God and Lamb. They've learned this truth by going through suffering, washing robes in the Lamb's blood.
- John describes them in words he'll repeat at the end of the book. Water of life. Every tear. We've seen the whole story from one point of view: Who do you believe?

Seventh seal: silence. Incense, prayers of the saints. How long till you avenge us? Fierce !?

Seven Trumpets: Avenging the Victims and God's New Kingdom

- Visions let us see what avenging would be like. What if God directly avenged the injustice done to suffering Christians or all injustice. First 4 Trumpets: Destruction from above. A third of Earth, Sea, Fresh water, Heavenly bodies. With angelic power destruction is easy.
- "Woe!" (5) Destruction from below: The abyss. It's angel points to "the Beast." He releases demonic locusts: Amazing word picture. People harassed/tormented. Death escapes. Then (6) Destruction from earth: Demonic cavalry: the horses destroy with fire.
- What results from avenging? People die, but there is no repentance, no change of heart. Nothing for which the Lamb was slain. John is about to write the final thunders but he is stopped. Step back. He's given a little scroll. He must prophesy something different.
- John is to measure God's true temple and people. He sees two witnesses outside in the trouble. Combines powers from many prophets. The witnesses are persecuted, killed, as Jesus was crucified. But they are called in resurrection. No revenge, triumph over death.
- (7) Then all of heaven cries out: this is God's true rule, the Messiah's kingdom. God's power and the only true reward. The martyrs' cry to be avenged is only in the conquest of death. With the message of Resurrection Life, God destroys the destroyers of the earth.

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Revelation 6-11

6:1 – 8:5 The Seven Seals: Human Evil & Persecution; Salvation

Showing the forces that plague the earth and all God's people on earth.

6:1-2 1. First Horseman (white): seeing empire and conquest

6:¹ Now I watched when the Lamb opened <u>one of the seven seals</u>, and I heard one of the four <u>living creatures</u> say with a voice like thunder, "<u>Come forth</u>!"

² And I looked, and behold, a <u>white horse</u>! (Zech. 1:8; 6:2ff) And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out <u>conquering</u>, and to <u>conquer</u>.

6:3-4 2. Second Horseman (red): seeing war and slaughter, no peace

³ When he opened the <u>second seal</u>, I heard the second living creature say, "<u>Come forth</u>!"

⁴ And out came another horse, <u>bright red</u>. Its rider was permitted to take <u>peace from the</u> <u>earth</u>, so that people should <u>slay</u> one another, and he was given a <u>great sword</u>.

6:5-6 3. Third Horseman (black): seeing famine, economic injustice and poverty

⁵ When he opened the <u>third seal</u>, I heard the third living creature say, "<u>Come forth</u>!"

And I looked, and behold, a <u>black horse</u>! And its rider had a <u>balance scale</u> in his hand. ⁶ And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius (day's wage), and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!"

6:7-8 4. Fourth Horseman (pale green): seeing death and Hades; violence and slaughter.

⁷ When he opened the <u>fourth seal</u>, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "<u>Come</u> <u>forth</u>!"

⁸ And I looked, and behold, a <u>pale green horse</u>! And its rider's name was <u>Death</u>, and <u>Hades</u> followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, <u>to kill</u> with <u>sword</u> and with <u>famine</u> and with <u>slaughter</u> and by <u>wild beasts</u> of the earth.

6:9-11 5. Souls of Martyrs – seeing the persecution, injustice, and violence. How long?

⁹ When he opened the <u>fifth seal</u>, I saw under the altar the souls/lives (*psyché*) of those who had been <u>slain because of the message</u> (*logos*) <u>of God</u> and for the <u>testimony</u> they had borne. (Rev 1:9) ¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice,

"<u>How long</u>, Sovereign Lord, the holy and true,

do you not judge and avenge our blood

on those who dwell on the earth?"

¹¹ Then they were each given a <u>white robe</u> and told that <u>they will rest a little longer</u>, until their fellow servants and their brothers and sisters who are going to be killed, as they were, are fulfilled.

6:12-17 6. Cosmic Grief-Wrath – Creation convulses in response to human evils

¹² When he opened the <u>sixth seal</u>, I looked, and behold, there was a great <u>earthquake</u>, and the <u>sun</u> became black as sackcloth, the full <u>moon</u> became like blood, ¹³ and the <u>stars</u> of the sky

fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. ¹⁴ The <u>sky</u> vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every <u>mountain</u> and <u>island</u> was removed from its place.

The conquerors and powerful blame evils and consequences on wrath from God & the Lamb.

¹⁵ Then the <u>kings</u> of the earth and the <u>great ones</u> and the <u>generals</u> and the <u>rich</u> and the <u>powerful</u>, and everyone, <u>slave</u> and <u>free</u>, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks,

"Fall on us and <u>hide us</u> from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from <u>the wrath of the Lamb</u>,
¹⁷ for the great day of <u>their wrath</u> has come, and who can stand?"

7:1-8 (Interlude 1) John steps back, he <u>hears</u> about 144,000 servants of God from the 12 tribes.

7:¹ After this I saw <u>four angels</u> standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the <u>four winds</u> of the earth, that no wind might blow against the <u>earth</u> or against the <u>sea</u> or against any <u>tree</u>.

² Then I saw another <u>angel</u> ascending from the <u>rising of the sun</u>, holding the <u>seal</u> of *the* <u>living</u> <u>God</u>, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to injure the earth and the sea, ³ saying, "<u>Do not harm the earth</u> or the <u>sea</u> or the <u>trees</u>, until we have sealed the <u>servants of our God</u> on their foreheads." ⁴ And <u>I heard</u> the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

⁵ 12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed,

12,000 from the tribe of Reuben,

12,000 from the tribe of Gad,

⁶ 12,000 from the tribe of Asher,

12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali,

12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh,

⁷ 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon,

12,000 from the tribe of Levi,

12,000 from the tribe of Issachar,

⁸ 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun,

12,000 from the tribe of Joseph,

12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.

7:9-17 (Interlude 2) What John sees is an innumerable multitude saved from all parts of humanity

All of these know that salvation and blessing, not destruction, belong to God & the Lamb.

⁹ After this I <u>looked</u>, and behold, a great <u>multitude</u> that no one could number, from <u>every</u> <u>nation</u>, from all <u>tribes</u> and <u>peoples</u> and <u>languages</u>, (Rev 5:9) standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in <u>white robes</u>, with <u>palm branches</u> in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice,

"<u>Salvation</u> belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

¹¹ And <u>all the angels</u> stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, *"Amen! The <u>blessing</u> and <u>glory</u> and <u>wisdom</u> and <u>thanksgiving</u>*

and <u>honor</u> and <u>power</u> and <u>strength</u> belong to our God into the ages of ages! Amen."

¹³ Then one of the <u>elders</u> responded by saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they and where have they come from?"

¹⁴ I said to him, "My lord, you know."

They have learned this truth through their suffering, sharing in the Lamb's gift of his life. And he said to me, "These are the ones from the great suffering (Dan 12:1; Mk 13:19). They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ "Therefore they are before the throne of God,

and minister for him day and night in his sanctuary;

and the one who sits on the throne will spread his tabernacle over them.

¹⁶ They shall <u>hunger no more</u>, neither thirst anymore;

the sun shall not fall upon them, nor any burning.

¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will shepherd them,

and he will guide them to springs of waters of life,

and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (Rev 21:4; Isa 25:8)

8:1-5 7. Silence in Heaven – Prayers of the Saints lead to avenging trumpets.

8:¹ When the Lamb opened the <u>seventh seal</u>, there was a <u>silence in the heaven</u> for about half an hour.

² Then I saw the <u>seven angels</u> who stand before God, and <u>seven trumpets</u> were given to them.

³ And <u>another angel</u> came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much <u>incense</u> to offer with the <u>prayers of all the saints</u> on the golden altar before the throne, ⁴ and the smoke of the incense, with the <u>prayers of the saints</u>, rose before God from the hand of the angel.

⁵ Then the angel took the censer and filled it with <u>fire</u> from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

8:6 – 11:19 The Seven Trumpets: Destruction; Showing Jesus; Triumph

8:6-7 1. First trumpet: Destruction from above to earth and plants: hail, fire, blood.

⁶ Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them.

⁷ The <u>first angel</u> blew his trumpet, and there followed <u>hail</u> and <u>fire</u>, mixed with <u>blood</u>, and these were thrown upon the earth.

And <u>a third of the earth</u> was burned up, and a third of the <u>trees</u> were burned up, and all <u>green grass</u> was burned up.

8:8-9 2. Second: A mountain from above destroys the sea, sea creatures, ships.

⁸ The <u>second angel</u> blew his trumpet, and something like a <u>great mountain</u>, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a <u>third of the sea</u> became <u>blood</u>.

⁹ A third of the <u>living creatures in the sea died</u>, and a third of the <u>ships</u> were destroyed.

8:10-11 3. Third: Wormwood star falls, a third of fresh water is destroyed

¹⁰ The <u>third angel</u> blew his trumpet, and a <u>great star fell from heaven</u>, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the <u>rivers</u> and on the <u>springs of water</u>. ¹¹ The name of the star is <u>Wormwood</u>.

A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter.

8:12-13 4. Fourth: Sun, moon, and stars are struck; day and night are destroyed.

¹² The <u>fourth angel</u> blew his trumpet, and a <u>third of the sun</u> was struck, and a <u>third of the</u> <u>moon</u>, and a <u>third of the stars</u>, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the <u>day</u> might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the <u>night</u>.

¹³ Then I looked, and I heard an <u>eagle crying</u> with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, "<u>Woe</u>, <u>woe</u>, <u>woe</u> to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!"

9:1-12 5. Fifth: Angel of the Abyss releases demonic locusts like an army.

9:¹ And the <u>fifth angel</u> blew his trumpet, and I saw <u>a star</u> fallen from the heaven to the earth, and the key to the well of the abyss was given to him. (Rev 1:18) ² He opened the well of the abyss, and a smoke rose from the well like smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened from the smoke of the well.

³ And out of the smoke came <u>locusts</u> onto the earth, and they were given authority like the scorpions of the earth have authority. ⁴ They were told not to injure the <u>grass</u> of the earth or anything <u>green</u> or any <u>tree</u>, but only <u>those people</u> who do not have the <u>seal of God</u> on their foreheads. ⁵ They were not allowed to kill them but they will be harassed for five months, and their harassment is like the harassment of a scorpion when it stings a person.

⁶ And in those days the people will <u>seek death</u> and surely <u>not find it</u>. They will desire to die, but death flees from them.

⁷ The appearance of the locusts was like <u>horses</u> prepared for war. On their heads were what looked like <u>crowns</u> of gold, and their faces were like <u>faces</u> of humans. ⁸ Their hair was like <u>women's hair</u>, and their teeth like <u>lions' teeth</u>. ⁹ They had breastplates like <u>iron breastplates</u>, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of many chariots with <u>horses</u> galloping into war. ¹⁰ They have tails and stings like scorpions, and in their tails is their authority to injure people for five months.

¹¹ They have as <u>king</u> over them the <u>angel of the abyss</u>. His name in Hebrew is <u>Abaddon</u> (Job 26:6), and in Greek he is called Apollyon.

¹² The <u>first woe</u> has passed; behold, two woes are still to come.

9:13-21 6. Sixth: Demonic cavalry kills. Destruction brings no human repentance.

¹³ Then the <u>sixth angel</u> blew his trumpet, and I heard one <u>voice</u> from the four horns of the <u>golden altar before God</u>, ¹⁴ saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "<u>Release the four</u> <u>angels</u> who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

¹⁵ So the four angels, who were prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were <u>released to kill a third of the people</u>. ¹⁶ The number of cavalry troops was <u>two myriads of myriads</u>. I heard their number.

¹⁷ And this is how I saw the <u>horses</u> in the vision and those riding them: they have breastplates, fiery and hyacinth-blue and sulfurous, and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and from their mouths come <u>fire</u>, <u>smoke</u> and <u>sulfur</u>. ¹⁸ From these <u>three blows</u>, a third of people were killed, from the fire and smoke and sulfur coming out of their mouths. ¹⁹ For the authority of the horses is in their mouth and in their tails, for their tails are like <u>serpents</u> with heads, and by means of them they injure.

Vision shows that all of these punishments bring no real change of heart.

²⁰ The rest of the people, who were not killed by these blows, <u>did not repent of the works of</u> <u>their hands</u> nor give up <u>worshiping demons and idols</u> of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, ²¹ <u>nor did they repent of their murders or their</u> <u>sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts</u>.

10:1-11 (Interlude 1) John eats a scroll from an angel; he must prophesy anew.

10:¹ Then I saw <u>another mighty angel</u> coming down <u>from the heaven</u>, clothed in a <u>cloud</u>, with a <u>rainbow</u> over his head, and his face was like the <u>sun</u>, and his legs like <u>pillars of fire</u>. (Ex 13:21) ² He had a <u>little scroll</u> open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the <u>sea</u>, and his left foot on the <u>land</u>, ³ and called out with a loud voice, like a <u>lion roaring</u>.

When he called out, the <u>seven thunders</u> sounded. ⁴ And when the seven thunders had sounded, <u>I was about to write</u>, but I heard a <u>voice from heaven</u> saying, "<u>Seal up what the seven</u> thunders have said, and do not write it down."

To see God's true kingdom, John is recommissioned for new prophecy.

 $^{\rm 5}$ And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven $^{\rm 6}$ and swore

by the one who lives into the ages of ages,

who created the heaven and the things in it,

and the earth and the things in it,

and the sea and the things in it,

that time will no longer be allowed,

⁷ but that in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound the trumpet, also the <u>mystery of God</u> was <u>completed</u>, just as he announced as good news to his own servants, the prophets.

⁸ Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go, <u>take the</u> <u>scroll</u> that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land."

⁹ So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll.

And he said to me, "<u>Take and devour it</u>; it will make <u>your stomach bitter</u>, but in <u>your mouth</u> <u>it will be sweet as honey</u>." (Ezek 3:1-3)

¹⁰ And <u>I took the little scroll</u> from the hand of the angel and <u>devoured it</u>. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter.

¹¹ And I was told, "<u>You must again prophesy</u> about many <u>peoples</u> and <u>nations</u> and <u>languages</u> and <u>kings</u>."

11:1-14 (Interlude 2) Faithful witnesses testify like Jesus: death, resurrection.

11:¹ Then I was given a <u>measuring rod</u> like a staff, and I was told, "Rise and <u>measure</u> the <u>temple</u> of God and the <u>altar</u> and <u>those who worship</u> there, ² but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the <u>nations</u>, and they will <u>trample the holy city</u> for forty-two months. ³ And I will grant <u>authority</u> to <u>my two witnesses</u>, and they will <u>prophesy</u> for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." (Ezek 40:2ff.)

⁴ These are the <u>two olive trees</u> and the <u>two lampstands</u> that stand before the Lord of the earth. (Zech 4:1-14) ⁵ And if anyone wants to injure them, fire pours from their <u>mouth</u> and consumes their foes. If anyone would <u>injure</u> them, this is how he must be killed.

⁶ They have the authority to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, (1 Kg 17:1) and they have power over the <u>waters</u> to turn them into <u>blood</u> and to strike the earth with every kind of <u>plague</u>, as often as they desire. (Ex 7:17)

True witnesses follow Jesus to conquer not enemies but death by resurrection.

⁷ And when they complete their <u>testimony</u>, the wild beast that rises from the abyss will make <u>war with them</u> and <u>conquer</u> them and <u>kill them</u>, ⁸ and their dead body will lie in the street of the great city that spiritually is called <u>Sodom</u> and <u>Egypt</u>, where <u>their Lord was crucified</u>.

⁹ For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead body and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, ¹⁰ and <u>those dwelling on</u> <u>the earth rejoice over them</u> and make merry and send gifts to each other, because these <u>two</u> <u>prophets</u> harassed those who dwell on the earth.

¹¹ But after the three and a half days a spirit/breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and a great fear fell on those who saw them.

¹² Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "<u>Come up here</u>!" And they went up into the heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them.

¹³ And at that hour there was a <u>great earthquake</u>, and a tenth of <u>the city</u> fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and <u>gave glory to</u> <u>the God of heaven</u>.

¹⁴ The <u>second woe</u> has passed; behold, the <u>third woe</u> is soon to come.

11:15-19 7. Seventh: Such witnesses, following Jesus, show the triumph of the kingdom of God.

¹⁵ Then the <u>seventh angel</u> blew his trumpet, and there were <u>loud voices</u> in the heaven, saying,

"The kingdom of the world has become <u>the kingdom of our Lord</u> and of <u>his Messiah</u>, and <u>he shall reign into the ages of ages</u>."

¹⁶ And the <u>twenty-four elders</u> who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying,

"We give thanks to you, LORD God Almighty,

the one who is and the one who was,

because you have taken your great power

and <u>established your kingdom</u>.

¹⁸ The nations were wrathful, but your wrath came,

and the time for the dead to be judged,

and to reward your servants, the prophets and saints,

and those who fear your name, the small and the great,

and to destroy the destroyers of the earth."

¹⁹ Then the sanctuary of <u>God</u> in the heaven was opened, and <u>the ark of his covenant</u> appeared in his sanctuary. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

Revelation An Overview ~ Outline

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- 1:4-7 John's Address to the Readers

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- 1:8-16 John's identity and situation and the Appearance of Christ
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- 2:1-7 1. Ephesus (Faithful, enduring church, but one that lost its first love)
- 2:8-11 2. Smyrna (Poor, persecuted, but truly rich)
- 2:12-17 3. Pergamum (Persecuted, assimilating where Satan's throne is)
- 2:18-28 4. Thyatira (Enduring/Compromising church tolerates Jezebel)
- 3:1-6 5. Sardis (Fallen church: Seems alive but is really dead)
- 3:7-13 6. Philadelphia (An seemingly weak but faithful church)
- 3:14-22 7. Laodicea (Complacent church: Neither cold nor hot. Hope to sit on throne)

4:1 - 5:14 Revelation of the Gospel in the Throne of God and the Lamb

- 4:1-11 God's Throne: Four Living Creatures and 24 Elders worship God as creator.
- 5:1-5 The Unopened Scroll with Seven Seals. Who is worthy?.
- 5:6-7 Revelation of the Lion-Slain Lamb who is worthy to open the scroll
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- 6:1-2 1. First Horseman (white): conquest and empire
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- 6:5-6 3. Third Horseman (black): famine, economic injustice and poverty
- 6:7-8 4. Fourth Horseman (pale green): death and Hades.
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8:6 – 11:19 The Seven Trumpets: Destruction, Showing Jesus, Triumph

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- 8:8-9 2. Second: A mountain from above destroys the sea, sea creatures, ships.
- 8:10-11 3. Third: Wormwood star falls, a third of fresh water destroyed
- 8:12-13 4. Fourth: Sun, moon, and stars are struck; day and night are destroyed.
- 9:1-12 5. Fifth: Angel of the Abyss releases demonic locusts like an army.
- 9:13-21 6. Sixth: Demonic cavalry kills. Destruction brings no human repentance.

- 10:1-11 (Interlude 1) John eats a scroll from an angel; he must prophesy anew.
- 11:1-14 (Interlude 2) Faithful witnesses testify like Jesus: death, resurrection.
- 11:15-19 7. Seventh: This witness shows the triumph of the kingdom of God.

12:1 – 15:4 Visions of Cosmic Conflict, Persecution, Judgment and Victory

- 12:1-17 1. The Woman and her Child and church attacked by the Dragon/Satan.
- 13:1-10 2. The Beast from the Sea Satan's emissary counterfeit Christ.
- 13:11-18 3. The Beast from the Earth (False Prophet)
- 14:1-5 4. The Lamb and the 144,000 on Mt. Zion
- 14:6-13 5. Angels announce Victory and call for Endurance
- 14:14-20 6. Judgment of the Son of Man: Winepress of God's wrath
- 15:1-4 7. The Songs of Moses and the Lamb praise to God.

15:5 – 19:10 Seven Bowls: Destroying the Destroyers of Earth: Judgment, and Victory

- 15:5-16:1 Vision of seven angels and seven bowls of plagues
- 16:2-9 First four bowls:
 - 1. earth and people,
 - 2. sea and sea creatures,
 - 3. fresh water becomes blood.
 - 4. sun scorches people.
- 16:10-11 5. Throne of the beast plunged into darkness
- 16:12-16 6. Euphrates and demonic spirits preparing for battle.
- 16:17-21 7. Splitting the great city God remembered Babylon.
- 17:1-18 Judgment on the Great Harlot: a City with Power (Rome)
- 18:1-24 Announcement of Babylon's fall and Dirges for her.
- 19:1-10 Hymns of Salvation and Victory; Marriage supper of the Lamb

19:11 - 22:5God's Judgment, Victory, and New Creation

- 19:11-20:3 Christ crucified, Word of God (White horse): against the Beasts and Satan
- 20:4-10 The Reign of Christ and the Martyrs and Destruction of Satan
- 20:11-15 World Judgment before a great white throne: Death Destroyed
- 21:1-8 A New Heaven and a New Earth; God dwells with people.
- 21:9-27 The New Jerusalem, Bride of the Lamb; God's glory is light.
- 22:1-5 The River of Life from the Throne of God; healing of humanity.

22:6-21 Conclusion

- 22:6-15 Prophetic closing: Unsealed Prophecy
- 22:16-21 Expectation of Christ's Coming.