The Book of Revelation

1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

A. Revelation and the book of Daniel are the two books in the Scripture that are primarily apocalyptic. Of the two, the book of Revelation contains the most apocalyptic imagery of any book in the Bible. It is one of the most unique books in the Bible.

1. Many people avoid studying the book of Revelation because it seems intimidating, but it is part of Scripture and we should study it. While we may have unanswered questions about a section of Scripture, we do not want to avoid the regular study of every part of Scripture.

2. Identifying some of the key themes of the book and a basic outline for approaching the book makes it much more approachable and easier to study. The book of Revelation also has more Old Testament quotations and allusions than any other New Testament book. Studying and understanding the Old Testament prophets makes it much easier to study and understand the book of Revelation.

B. First of all we must understand the book of Revelation is a book of majesty, mystery, and misery. We need to understand the primary themes in that order. Too many neglect the subject of majesty and end up with an unbalanced view of the book.

1. The majesty of Jesus is the greatest theme of the book of Revelation.

2. That is followed by the mystery of God's plan of redemption. By understanding the Old Testament prophets and the symbolism in the book of Revelation much of the mystery can be understood.

3. Finally the book describes the misery that will come as a result of man's rebellion and the rule of the Antichrist.

C. There are four primary approaches to the book:

1. **Preterist** – Preterists believe that most of the book of Revelation describes events that occurred in the first century under the Roman Emperors.

2. **Historicists** – Historicists see the book of Revelation as describing events that occur throughout history from the time of Jesus first coming to the time of His second coming.

3. **Idealists** – Idealists approach the book of Revelation as a description of the ideal struggle between good and evil and not necessarily as something correlated to actual events.

4. **Futurists** – Futurists see the book of Revelation as primarily referring to events in the future that occur at the end of the age.
D. Premillennialists adopt a futurist view of the book due to the way they interpret biblical prophecy in general and to be consistent with their view of other passages that parallel the information in Revelation.

E. According to John, the primary theme of the book of Revelation is the revelation of Jesus. To get all that God intends us to get from the book, we must recognize the centrality of Jesus in the book. The end times must be understood as the sequence of events whereby God ends the rebellion and entrones His Son Jesus. The end of the age is primarily about Jesus’ coronation and not primarily about the events of the Antichrist. God has been waiting a long time to enthrones His Son and this is one reason why the end of the age is the most dramatic hour of human history. God will make the entire earth stop to see and acknowledge the glory of His Son.

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, (Revelation 1:1 NKJV)

F. The book of Revelation begins and ends with a unique blessing and a grave warning. No other book in the Bible begins and ends in this way.

2 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near. (Revelation 1:3 NKJV)

18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; (Revelation 22:18 NKJV)

1. A blessing is given to those who read and hear the words of this prophecy. Hearing is not just “hearing” the words, but also understanding them and responding to them. Jesus uses the phrase “He who has an ear let him hear” 7 times in the book (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22). The exhortation to have “Ears to hear” was also one of Jesus’ most common exhortations in the gospels (Matthew 11:15; 13:9, 15, 16, 43; Mark 4:9, 23; 7:16; 8:18; Luke 8:8; 14:35). The clear implication is that it’s possible to hear and read words, but not recognize, understand, or obey what is being said.

2. We are also told to “keep” the prophecy of Revelation. The main thrust of this word is that we are to obey the prophecy, which implies that we must understand it. This is an exhortation to take the book seriously and to allow it to affect the way we live.

3. The book ends with a grave and sober warning to anyone who would attempt to change the words of the book. No other book in the Bible contains this kind of warning which indicates the severity of the warning.

4. Based on the introduction to the book it is clear that God expects the church to both understand and respond to the book of Revelation. While there can be details in the book of Revelation that we do not have full understanding of, it is clear we are to understand the primary message of the book and respond to it.
G. The book of Revelation intimidates many people, but most of the symbolism in the book is interpreted within the book and the general structure of the story is straightforward. The Old Testament is also key to understanding the book of Revelation. There are over 500 references to the Old Testament in the book of Revelation. When we view Revelation in light of the Old Testament, we find it builds on existing biblical prophecy while adding new details and emphasizing the victorious church and the victory of Jesus.

1. Many recognize the similarities between the book of Revelation and the book of Daniel, but miss just how many allusions there are to other passages in the Old Testament. Once we recognize these quotes and allusions we see just how similar Revelation is to the Old Testament prophecies of the end of the age.

2. When the book of Revelation is approached in isolation without its natural Old Testament context, the book becomes much more confusing and the interpretation becomes much less specific and certain. When the book is interpreted in light of the Old Testament it becomes more straightforward.

H. The book of Revelation would have been understood by John as:

1. A confirmation that God would fulfill all the promises He had made in the Scripture, specifically the promises made to Israel.

2. A promise that there would be a victorious people in the final hour of human history.

3. A promise that God would glorify Jesus and He would judge and rule the nations.

I. Revelation is unique because it is the only book in the Bible written primarily from heaven’s perspective. The context for the end time story is the One upon the throne and the Lamb (Revelation 4-5). Everything in the book is to be interpreted in terms of the Father’s throne, Jesus glory and sovereignty. John is given a vision of the throne, and the Father and the Son, in the beginning of the book (Revelation 4-5) because that is his interpretive grid for the entire revelation.

J. It’s important to see how the book was designed to give John’s heart comfort. John had lived with eager longing for the return of Jesus and had not yet seen it. John also had seen the city of Jerusalem destroyed and the Jewish people driven into exile. He was beginning to see many of His Jewish brethren rejecting Jesus as Messiah rather than embracing Him.

1. John was in a very similar situation to Daniel. Like Daniel he lived through the destruction of Jerusalem and great trouble for his people. Like Daniel he lived in the midst of this trouble to an old age.

2. John, like Daniel, could have been tempted to wonder if God’s promises would ever be fulfilled. Just like Daniel, he received a warning that trouble that was far greater was coming, but the Lord would triumph over the nations and would set Jesus on a throne over the nations.

4. The Book of Revelation specifically gives John hope regarding the salvation of Israel. This is why John introduces the book of Revelation in chapter 1 with the promise that Jesus is coming and that the “tribes of the earth” will mourn.

   a. This is not the mourning of the nations in sadness because of judgment; it is the mourning of the tribes of the land (i.e. the tribes of Israel) in repentance as they recognize Jesus. It is a quote Zechariah 12:10-14 in the Septuagint.

   b. From the beginning, John is identifying Revelation as a vision that describes the events that will result in Israel’s repentance and salvation.

K. Like the book of Daniel, there is a controversy around the date of the book of Revelation. Traditionally, the book is dated towards the final decade of the first century, but some preterist scholars try to make a case for a much earlier date for the book. It is important to recognize why some debate so strongly for the earlier date of the book.

   1. The traditional date of the book means that the book of Revelation is after the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70 and the reign of Nero.

   2. Preterist scholars try to make a case for an earlier date of the book because they view the book as primarily fulfilled in the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70 and in the reign of Nero. The traditional dating of the book is a problem for preterists because it puts the prophecies of Revelation after the events of AD 70.

   3. While we should embrace sound scholarship regarding the dating of any book, it is important to see that the controversy over the date of the book of Revelation is usually based on whether you want to make the case that the book of Revelation is primarily fulfilled by the Roman Empire or whether it is a future reality. In other words, scholars typically have a theological bias that influences their desire to argue for an earlier date for the book.
II. CENTRAL THEMES IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

A. The Glory of Jesus – The book emphasizes the glory and dominion of Jesus. In the same way that Daniel 7 puts the Antichrist and opposition to God’s plan in context to the glory of the Son of Man who will judge the Antichrist, the book of Revelation also magnifies the Son of God. The book begins with His glory, emphasizes His glory as the context for the entire book (Revelation 4-5) and finishes with His glorious judgment of all wickedness.1

5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (Revelation 1:5 NKJV)

7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. 8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” (Revelation 1:7–8 NKJV)

12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. 17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. 19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. 20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches. (Revelation 1:12–20 NKJV)

1 “To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: (Revelation 2:1 NKJV)

8 “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: (Revelation 2:8 NKJV)

12 “And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: (Revelation 2:12 NKJV)

18 “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, ‘These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: (Revelation 2:18 NKJV)

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1 See also https://samuelwhitefield.com/1747/the-fathers-zeal-to-glorify-the-son-in-his-second-coming
1“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, ‘These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. (Revelation 3:1 NKJV)

7“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”: (Revelation 3:7 NKJV)

14“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: (Revelation 3:14 NKJV)

5But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.” 6And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. (Revelation 5:5–7 NKJV)

12saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!” (Revelation 5:12 NKJV)

10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” (Revelation 7:10 NKJV)

15Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” (Revelation 11:15 NKJV)

5She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. (Revelation 12:5 NKJV)

10And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” 11Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (Revelation 19:10–16 NKJV)
And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. (Revelation 22:12 NKJV)

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.” (Revelation 22:16 NKJV)

He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:20 NKJV)


Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. (Revelation 1:7 NKJV)

And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed: 5 of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed; 6 of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed; 7 of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed. (Revelation 7:4–8 NKJV)

But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. 3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.” 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. 6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. (Revelation 11:2–6 NKJV)

Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman [Israel] who gave birth to the male Child. 14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. 15 So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. 16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. 17 And the dragon was enraged with the...
woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Revelation 12:13–17 NKJV)

Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads… They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God. (Revelation 14:1, 3–5 NKJV)

C. The Victorious Church – The book of Revelation consistently presents a picture of a victorious church. Even in the midst of great opposition and martyrdom, the church is seen as completely loyal to Jesus, operating in power, interceding for God’s purposes, and worshipping at His judgments.

And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” (Revelation 5:9–10 NKJV)

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” (Revelation 7:9–10 NKJV)

And I said to him, “Sir, you know.” So he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” (Revelation 7:14–17 NKJV)

And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand. (Revelation 8:4 NKJV)

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. (Revelation 12:11 NKJV)

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife...
has made herself ready.” And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (Revelation 19:6–8 NKJV)

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:4 NKJV)

7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. (Revelation 21:7 NKJV)

9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” (Revelation 21:9 NKJV)

D. Prayer – The book emphasizes the role the prayers of the saints play in the unfolding of the purposes of God. There is a divine partnership between heaven and earth in the book and John gets a glimpse into how our prayers relate to God’s work on the earth.

8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. (Revelation 5:8 NKJV)

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” (Revelation 6:10 NKJV)

3 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand. (Revelation 8:3–4 NKJV)

E. Worship – Worship and singing are central to the book of Revelation. The heavens and the believers on earth break out into song repeatedly in the book. They often break out into singing specifically over the judgments of God.

17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. (Revelation 1:17 NKJV)

8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!” Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.” (Revelation 4:8–11 NKJV)
And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!” And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!” Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever. (Revelation 5:9–14 NKJV)

All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, (Revelation 7:11 NKJV)

And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: “We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that the y should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth.” (Revelation 11:16–18 NKJV)

Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. (Revelation 12:10 NKJV)

Again they said, “Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!” And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, “Amen! Alleluia!” Then a voice came from the throne, saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!” And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!” Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (Revelation 19:3–8 NKJV)

III. PRIMARY SYMBOLS IN THE BOOK

A. While many people believe the symbols in the book of Revelation are impossible to understand, this is not the case. There are seven main symbols in the book of Revelation. The events and numbers in Revelation are to be taken in their plain meaning (literal) unless the passage clearly indicates that it is symbolic (Rev. 1:20; 5:6; 11:8; 12:1; 3, 9; 17:7, 9, 15-18, etc.).
B. **Dragon** – Symbolic of Satan (Rev. 12:3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17; 13:2, 4; 16:13; 20:2)

C. **First Beast** – Symbolic of the Antichrist (Rev. 13; 14:9-11; 17:3-17; 19:19-21; 20:4, 10)

D. **Another Beast** – Symbolic of the False Prophet called “another Beast” just once (Rev. 13:11)

E. **Seven heads** – Seven empires from history that persecuted Israel (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, Antichrist Empire of Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3-16)

F. **Ten Horns** – Represent a ten-nation confederation that serves the Antichrist (Rev. 17:12-13)

G. **Harlot Babylon** – Points to a demonically inspired religious and economic system (Rev. 17-18)

H. **The Woman** – The faithful remnant of Israel through history (Rev. 12)

I. **The Male-child** – Jesus (Rev. 12).

IV. **THE STRUCTURE OF REVELATION IN 4 PARTS**

A. The book of Revelation can be approached as a chronological story. Viewing it chronologically helps to make sense of the various parts of the book. Like many Old Testament prophecies, there are details in these sections that are in some ways similar to ancient prophecy, but when we look at all these sections together they do not match any moment in ancient history.

B. When the book of Revelation is viewed chronologically, there are 4 parts in the structure of the book of Revelation with the fourth part being the largest consisting of 5 chronological sections in which the events occur in sequential order.

C. **Part 1: John’s calling to prophesy about the end times (Rev. 1).** John gave truths about Jesus’ majesty that formed the way he prophesied about the end times. These truths are also to equip us.

D. **Part 2: Jesus’ 7 letters to the churches (Rev. 2-3)** – The instructions Jesus gave to these churches about overcoming sin also give insight into what the end-time church must overcome.

E. **Part 3: Jesus takes the scroll (Rev. 4-5)** – Contains the earth’s title deed and His plan to cleanse it. Jesus takes a 7-sealed scroll from the Father. The scroll represents the title deed of the earth and the battle plan to judge, cleanse, and prepare the nations for Jesus’ rule over all the earth, while bringing the Church to a mature Bride who partners with Him in the plan (Rev 6-22).

F. **Part 4: Jesus’ plan (Rev. 6-22)** – Includes Great Tribulation judgments against the Antichrist. Jesus reveals His main storyline of love to cleanse the earth of evil. His plan is seen in 5 chronological sections describing the main storyline of the 21 judgment events (7 seals, 7 trumpets, and 7 bowls) that are released on the Antichrist’s empire in sequential order.
G. After each chronological section, an angel explains to John why the events just described are necessary. The angelic explanations function as a parenthesis that puts the storyline on “pause.” They answer questions arising from the chronological sections: Why is God’s wrath so severe? What will happen to the saints? Angels explain to John what happens to God’s people including what Jesus will do to help them, and what the Antichrist will do to persecute them.

V. FIVE CHRONOLOGICAL SECTIONS OF JESUS’ PLAN (REV. 6-22)

A. The fourth part of the book of Revelation, Jesus’ plan, consists of five chronological sections. These sections include both events that are chronological and angelic explanations where John is given context and further information about the events and the spiritual dynamics associated with them.

B. **Chronological Section #1 (Rev. 6)** – The seal judgments against the kingdom of darkness. Angelic Explanation #1 (Rev. 7). The church receives protection from judgments and falling away.

C. **Chronological Section #2 (Rev. 8-9)** – The trumpet judgments against the Antichrist’s empire. Angelic Explanation #2 (Rev. 10-11). The church receives direction by increased prophetic ministry.

D. **Chronological Section #3 (Rev. 11:15-19)** – Jesus’ second coming royal procession and the rapture leading to Jesus replacing all the kings and top governmental leaders on earth. Angelic Explanation #3 (Rev. 12-14)—the Antichrist’s violent confrontation with the saints deserves Jesus’ judgment and the replacement of all his evil governments.

1. At the 7th and last trumpet (1 Thes. 4:16; 1 Cor. 15:52; Rev. 10:7), Jesus will rapture the Church and travel across the sky in a royal procession so that every eye will see Him (Rev. 1:7).

   "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. (Revelation 1:7 NKJV)"

2. After this, Jesus will enter Jerusalem and stand on the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4).

E. **Chronological Section #4 (Rev. 15-16)** – Bowl judgments destroy evil infrastructures in society. Angelic Explanation #4 (Rev. 17-18). The seduction of Babylon’s evil religion will permeate and infiltrate all the structures of society, requiring that Babylon be totally destroyed.


"I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns... Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them... And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS... I saw the beast,
the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him...  

20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet...these two were cast alive into the lake of fire...  

21 The rest were killed with the sword...  

20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.  

2 He laid hold of...Satan, and bound him for a thousand years...so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished...  

4 I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them...they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.  

(Revelation 19:11-20:4 NKJV)