New Testament Survey REVELATION

Author: John (1:1,4,9; 22:8 - Authorship is attested by all early church fathers. Some question authorship because of difference in the style compared to John's other writings, but this fails to consider the differences in subject and manner of revelation nor does it adequately acknowledge the many similarities of style).

Date: c. 95 (Written while John is banished to Patmos during reign of Domitian according to Irenaeus - the disciple of Polycarp who was John's disciple)

Theme: The Revelation of Jesus Christ - the Messiah of Israel, the Lord of the Church and Judge of the World.

Misc. Greek title is ᾿Αποκάλυψις Ἰοαννοῦ / *Apokalypsis Ioannou*. (Apocalypse of John). Its first words are ᾿Αποκάλυψις Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ / *Apokalypsis Iesous Christou* (Apocalypse of Jesus Christ. It is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor (Turkey).

Revelation is the most difficult book to interpret. Four major views are: *Symbolic* in which everything in the book is viewed as symbolic and not actual. *Preterist* in which all events are viewed as past history and symbolic in interpretation. *Historicist* in which the book is an allegorical panorama of history from the First Century to the Second Advent (many variations of this view). *Futurist* in which the events are viewed as prophetic of future events which will occur immediately preceding the Second Advent. The first three views are either *Amillennial* (there will not be a physical reign of Christ, only a spiritual one which is already present) or *Postmillennial* (the gospel will continue to spread until it brings a golden age of peace on earth after which Christ will return). The last view is *Premillennial* (Jesus will return and establish a 1,000 earthly reign on David's throne in Jerusalem which will be followed by a new universe and eternity).

All four interpretive approaches to Revelation agree that it was written to assure the recipients of the ultimate triumph of Christ over all who rise up against Him and His saints. It was also written to challenge complacent Christians to stop compromising with the world. According to futurists, it also provided a perspective on end-time events.

Brief Outline

- I. The Things Which Were 1
- II. The Things that Are 2-3
 - A. The Message to Ephesus Good Works, but Lost First Love 2:1-7
 - B. The Message to Smyrna The Persecuted Church 2:8-11
 - C. The Message to Pergamum Faithful, but have False Doctrine Within 2:12-17
 - D. The Message to Thyatira Good Deeds, but Tolerant of Jezebel 2:18-29
 - E. The Message to Sardis The Dead Church 3:1-6
 - F. The Message to Philadelphia The Persevering Church 3:7-13
 - G. The Message to Laodicea The Lukewarm Church 3:14-22
- III. The Things Which Will Be 4-21
 - A. The Scene in Heaven. (4-5)
 - B. The Tribulation. (6-18)
 - C. The Second Coming. (19)
 - D. The Millennium & Judgment (20)
 - E. The Eternal State. (21-22)

Key Chapters & Verses: (Bold required of Elders)

- **2 & 3**. . . Messages to the Seven Churches (2- Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, 3 Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea)
- 3:10. . . . "I will keep you from the hour of testing." Foundational verse for Pre-Tribulational position.
- 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock..."
- 4. John's vision of Heaven
- 5:12 "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive..."
- **7:4-8...** The 144,000 sealed Israelites
- 12..... The Woman, Dragon, & Male child War in heaven.
- vs. 1-4 Woman = Israel, Dragon = Satan, Child = Jesus
- 19:7-10 The Marriage of the Lamb
- 19:11-21 The Return of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords
- **20.....** The Millennium & the Great White Throne Judgment
- 20:4 Tribulation martyrs will share in millennium.
- 21-22. . . The Eternal State
- 22:17 . . . "and the Spirit and the bride say, 'come.'..."
- 22:18-19 "... if anyone adds ..." "... if anyone takes away ..."

Day of Yahweh in the Old & New Testament

																								Results						Fulfillment											
Passage	Fo	rm		_		()bj	ects	8	_							D	esc	rip	tior	ıs						N	leg	ativ	/e			I	Pos	itiv	e		Fι	me	nt	
	ירודו / יונז ידודו (Day of Yahweh)	ύο τοῦ ἡ Ἰμέρα τοῦ Kupion (Day of the Yahweh)	Proud, Lofty	False Prophets	Commercialism	Idolatry	Physical creation	Israel	Babylon	Egypt	Edom	Nations in General	Light loss / darkness	Seismic activity	Violent weather	Darkness & Gloom	Clouds & Thick Darkness	Blood	Fire & Smoke	Great / Awesome / terrible	"Destruction of Almighty"	Anger / Fury / Wrath	Pour out Spirit	Trumpet / Battle Cry	Coming of Elijah	Abasement	Death / Annihilation	Destruction / desolation	Distress / terror	Houses plundered	Wives ravished	Family relations restored	Land restored	Living waters	Dreams / Prophesying	Salvation for Remnant	Know the Lord	Imminency	Near → Eschatological	Near Historical	Eschatological
Isaiah 2:12		X	X		X		X					X														X			X												X
13:6	X		X						X												X					X		X	X									X	X		
13:9	X		X										X	X								X				X	X			X	X										X
Ezekiel 13:5	X			X				X							X												X													X	
30:3		X	X							X							X										X	X									X	X		X	
Joel 1:15	X																				X							X										X	X		
2:1-11	X												X	X		X	X	X	X					X				X										X	X		
2:31 (3:4)	X											X	X					X	X	X			X												X	X					X
3:14(4:14)	X											X	X	X																			X	X			X	X			X
Amos 5:18-20	X												X			X																								X	
Obadiah 15	X										X	X															X									X		X	X		
Zephaniah 1:7-18	X		X		X	X	X	X				X				X	X	X		X		X		X			X	X	X	X								X	X		
Zechariah 14:1		X										X	X	X																X	X			X		X					X
Malachi 4:5 (3:23)	X																			X					X							X									X
Acts 2:20	X												X					X	X	X			X												X	X					X
1 Corinthians 5:5		X	X																							X	X									X					X
1 Thess. 5:2	X		X																									X								X		X			X
2 Thess. 2:2		X	X	X																						X	X														X
2 Peter 3:10	X		X				X					X															X	X								X		X			X

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Comparison of Rapture & Second Coming Verses

Events of the Rapture

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (see above)
 - 1) The Lord Himself shall descend
 - A) With Voice of Archangel
 - B) With trump of God
 - 2) Dead in Christ shall rise
 - 3) Those alive and remaining caught up
 - 4) Both 2) & 3) meet Christ in the air
 - 5) Both 2) & 3) will ever be with the Lord

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

- 1) Last trumpet shall sound
- 2) Dead raised incorruptible
- 3) Those alive change in the twinkling of an eye

Though Paul speaks of Jesus' return multiple times throughout 1 Thessalonians (1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:1-4, 9-10, 23), there is no mention of the types of events preceding it as are contained in the Second Coming passages

Events of Second Coming

Zechariah. 14:4-5

- 1) Lord goes forth & fights nations
- 2) Lord's feet stand on Mount of Olives
- 3) The Mount of Olives cleaves in two
- 4) Men shall flee
- 5) The Lord God comes with all the Holy ones

Acts 1:11 - 12

Jesus returns in same way as He was taken - in the clouds onto the Mount of Olives

Matthew 24:30-31

1) After the tribulation

Sun & Moon darkened

Stars fall from heaven

Powers of heaven shaken

- 2) Sign of the Son of Man appears in the sky All the tribes of the earth will mourn Son of Man comes in the clouds with power
- 3) His angels sound a trumpet
- 4) Angels gather together the elect

Matthew 25:31-32

- 1) Son of Man comes in His glory
- 2) All the angels are with Him
- 3) He shall sit on His glorious throne
- 4) All nations gathered before Him
- 5) Judgment of "sheep and goats" Goats to hell (vs. 34) Sheep to heaven (vs. 41

Revelation 19:11 - 21

1) Christ comes

Seated on white horse; eyes are flames of fire; many crowns on his head; vesture dipped in blood

- 2) Followed by armies of heaven
- 3) Makes war against the Beast, the kings of earth and their armies
- 4) Slays all the armies.

The descriptions of conditions surrounding the coming of Christ also seem to suggest different situations.

Luke 17:26-30: As the days of Noah & Lot - then Son of man revealed

Matthew 24:36-39 as the days of Noah - then Son of Man shall come

1 Thess. 5:2,3 - the Lord comes as a thief in the night, men shall be saying, "Peace & Safety!" then destruction

Comparison Chart of Rapture vs. Second Coming Verses

Comparison Chart of Raptu	16 VS	s. 50	Jona	COL	ıımg	V CI	303	ī			
Passage	1 Thess. 4:13-18	1 Cor. 15:50-57	Lk 17:26 / Mt. 24:36f	1 Thess. 5:2-3	Zech. 14:1f	Acts 1:9f	Matt. 24:29f	Mark 13:26f	Luke 21:25f	Matthew 25:31f	Rev. 19:11f
Lord Descends / comes from heaven	X					X	X	X	X		X
Voice of Archangel	X										
Trumpet of God	X										
Last Trumpet		X									
Great Trumpet							X				
Christian dead raised imperishable	X	X									
Christians given glorified bodies	X	X									
Christians caught up	X										
Lord is met in the air	X										
Christians ever with the Lord	X										
As the days of Noah			X								
Comes as a thief in the night /			X	X							
men saying "Peace & Safety," then destruction				X							
Nations gathered to fight the Lord (at Jerusalem)					X				X		X
Lord's feet upon the Mt. of Olives					X	X					
Earthquake / Mt. of Olives splits					X						
Earthquake (s) precede							X	X	X		
Lord accompanied by Holy Ones					X						
Lord accompanied by Angels										X	
Lord accompanied by Armies of Heaven											X
No light / they dwindle sun darkened					X		X	X			
Water flows 2 ways out of Jerusalem -					X						
Lord returns in/on/with cloud(s)	X					X	X	X	X		
Preceded by Abomination of Desolation							X	X			X
Lord returns on a horse											X
Preceded by Great Tribulation							X	X			X
Preceded by Signs in the Sky							X	X	X		X
Angels sent to gather the elect							X	X			
Angels gather all the nations (sheep/goat judgment)										X	
Son of Man sits on His glorious throne after										X	X
Angels gather all the nations (sheep/goat judgment)							X	X			X

The point is that there is a distinct possibility that Jesus' return coming is more than one event. Added to the above are the variations in the OT passages dealing with the future coming of Messiah

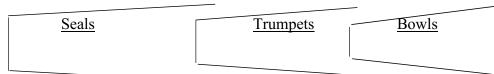
I. The Things Which Were 1 A. Introduction vs. 1-3 B. Salutation vs. 4-8 C. The Patmos Vision vs. 9-20 II. The Things that Are 2-3 A. The Message to Ephesus - Good Works, but Lost First Love 2:1-7 B. The Message to Smyrna - The Persecuted Church 2:8-11 C. The Message to Pergamum - Faithful, but have False Doctrine Within 2:12-17 D. The Message to Thyatira - Good Deeds, but Tolerant of Jezebel 2:18-29 E. The Message to Sardis - The Dead Church 3:1-6 F. The Message to Philadelphia - The Persevering Church 3:7-13 G. The Message to Laodicea - The Lukewarm Church 3:14-22 III. The Things Which Will Be 4-21 A. The Scene in Heaven. 4-5 1. The Throne in Heaven (4:1-11) a. John is Taken in the Spirit before the Throne (4:1-2) b. The One on the Throne (4:3) c. The Elders Around the Throne (4:4) d. The Description of the Throne (4:5-6) e. The Four Living Creatures Around the Throne (4:7-8) f. The Worship of the Lord God (4:9-11)

2. The Seven-sealed Scroll (5:1-14)

- a. The Unopened Seven-sealed Scroll (5:1-4)
- b. The Worthy Lamb (5:5-7)
 - i. The Worship of the Worthy Lamb (5:8-10)
 - ii. Angelic Exaltation of the Worthy Lamb (5:11-12)
 - iii. Universal Adoration of the Worthy Lamb (5:13-14)

Chronology of the Judgments of Revelation

It is best to understand the judgments of the seals, trumpets, and bowls in a telescopic sequence, i.e. the seven trumpets come out of the seventh seal and the seven bowls come out of the seventh trumpet.



Support for this interpretation is as follows:

- 1. The unsealing of the seven sealed book appears to be the whole program of judgment. This would mean that the totality of judgment is represented by the seven seals and that the trumpets and bowls must be included. The comprehensive nature of the seals is further supported by the fact that they are introduced by the direct actions of the Lamb while the others are introduced by angels.
- 2. There is no content of judgment with the opening of the seventh seal. Rather, the trumpets immediately follow (cf. 8:1,2). Similarly, there is no direct judgment as a result of the seventh trumpet. It simply announces the end (cf. 11:15-19). The temple in heaven is opened (11:19), but it is only with the bowls that the angels come out with the seven last plagues.

This is supported by the fact that the mystery of God is said to be "finished" (ἐτελέσθη / etelesthē 10:7) with the seventh trumpet and in the bowls the wrath of God is "finished" (ἐτελέσθη / etelesthē, 15:1). The completion comes with the seventh bowl when a voice states, "It is done" (16:17)

3. The <u>differences</u> between the judgments in the series are greater than the <u>similarities</u>. In the seals, 1/4 of earth is affected by the plagues of certain seals. In the trumpets, 1/3 of earth is affected by certain plagues. In the Bowls, it is all inclusive.

#	Seals	Trumpets	Bowls
1 st	White horse - Rider with bow & crown going out to conquer	Hail and fire mixed with blood. 1/3 of earth, trees & grass burned up	Malignant sores upon all who have mark of the Beast.
2 nd	Red horse - Rider takes peace from earth. Men slay one another	Great burning mountain cast into sea. 1/3 of it becomes blood	Sea becomes blood. Every living thing in it dies
3 rd	Black horse - Rider brings famine	Star - Wormwood falls from sky. 1/3 of fresh water becomes wormwood.	All rivers and springs of water become blood.
4 th	Ashen horse - Rider is Death. Kills 1/4 of men on earth	1/3 of sun, moon and stars smitten & darkened. Sun shines only 1/3 of day, moon 1/3 of night	Sun scorches men

5 th	Martyrs are killed	Bottomless pit opened. Locust - scorpions torment men not sealed by God for five months	Darkness that causes pain.
6 th	Great earthquake. Sun becomes black as sackcloth. Whole moon becomes as blood. Sky split apart. Men are in terror of the wrath of the Lamb	200,000,000 man army from East. 1/3 of mankind killed.	Euphrates dried up. Kings of whole world gathered to war against God at Har-Magedon.
7^{th}	Silence in heaven. Trumpets given to seven angels	Angelic announcement of end. Temple opened. Lightning, thunder, earthquake, hailstorm	Lightning, thunder, greatest earthquake ever. All islands & mountains disappear. 100 lb hail
B. T	ne Tribulation. (6-18)		
	1. Opening Six Seals 6 a. First Seal - The Conqueror (vs	. 1-2)	Matthew 24:6-7
	b. Second Seal - War (vs. 3-4)		Matthew 24:7b
	c. Third Seal - Famine (vs. 5-6)		Matthew 24:7c-8
	d. Fourth Seal - Death (vs. 7-8)		
	e. Fifth Seal - Martyrs (vs. 9-11)		Matthew 24:9-14
	f. Sixth Seal - Terror (vs. 12-17)		
	See Comparison of Cosmic S	igns with Revelation 6:12-14 below	
2	2. Parenthetical: The Saved of the T a. Interlude (vs. 1-3)	ribulation Period (7:1-17)	
	b. The Remnant Out of Israel Sea	aled (vs. 4-8)	

c. The Multitude from the Tribulation (vs. 9-17)

Comparison of Cosmic Signs with Revelation 6:12-14

Rev. 16:8-11, 17-21

*8 And the fourth [angel] poured out his bowl upon the sun; and it was given to it to scorch men with fire. 9 And men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues; and they did not repent, so as to give Him glory.

*10 And the fifth [angel] poured out his bowl upon the throne of the beast; and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain, 11 and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.

17 And the seventh [angel] poured out his bowl upon the air; and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, "It is done." 18 And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder;

*and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake [was it, and] so mighty.

* 19 And the great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.

*20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

*21 And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, ^came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague ^was extremely severe.

Notes: *Sun scorches, no mention of it becoming black. *Kingdom becomes darkened, but no mention of sun, moon, stars. *lighting & thunder described.

*Greatest earthquake to date is more than just a "great earthquake" *Islands & mountains fleeing / not found not same as just be moved out of place.

*Hailstones described.

Matthew 24:29-30

*29 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days

*the sun will be darkened,

*and the moon will not give its light,

*and the stars will fall from the sky,

*and the powers of the heavens will be shaken,

*30 and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn,

*and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory

Notes:

*Sun being darkened may be equiv. to becoming "black," *Moon not giving light is not the same as "becoming like blood."

*Stars falling is the same. *No mention of earthquake and results.

*No mention of sky being split and rolled up -*Adds sign of Son of Man in the sky and His coming with power and great glory. Isaiah 13:10-13

*10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not flash forth their light; The sun will be dark when it rises, *And the moon will not shed its light. 11 Thus I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud, And abase the haughtiness of the ruthless.
*12 I will make mortal man scarcer than pure gold, And mankind than the gold of Ophir.

*13 Therefore I shall make the heavens tremble.

*And the earth will be shaken from its place At the fury of the Lord of hosts In the day of His burning anger.

Notes:

*The context mentions the
"Medes" so is may have a near
fulfillment - with a future
fulfillment possible too.

*Sun being dark may be equiv.
to being "black."

*Moon not shedding light is not

*Moon not sneading light is not same as becoming like "blood." *Scarcity of man is described. *Heavens "tremble" is general

*Heavens "tremble" is general description.

*Earth shaken from its place may be equiv. to earthquake, but not further described.

Rev. 6:12-14 2 And I looked when He broke the sixth seal. * and there was a great earthquake; *and the sun became black as sackcloth [made] of hair, * and the whole moon became like blood: *13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its

when shaken by a great wind. * 14 And the sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up; *and every mountain and island were moved out of

their places.

unripe figs

darkened and the day might not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way. Notes: 1/3 of sun, moon and starts are smitten so that they do not shine for 1/3 of the time - not the same as sun becoming black, moon becoming like blood and

stars falling

Rev. 8:12

12 And the

fourth angel

*and a third

*and a third

*and a third

were

of the sun

of the moon

of the stars

smitten, so

that a third

of them

might be

sounded,

Joel 2:10

- *10 Before them the earth quakes,
- *The heavens tremble, The sun and the moon grow dark,
- *And the stars lose their brightness.
- *11 And the Lord utters
 His voice before His
 army; Surely His camp
 is very great, For strong
 is he who carries out His
 word. The day of the
 Lord is indeed great and
 very awesome, And who
 can endure it?

Notes:

- *not detailed the strength of the earthquake.
- *Sun grows dark perhaps equiv. of turning black *moon grows dark instead
- of becoming like blood.
- *stars loose brightness instead of fall.
- *no mention of sky being split, etc.,
- *This is part of the day of the Lord - vs. 11

Joel 2:30-31

- *30 "And I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire, and columns of smoke.
- *31 "The sun will be turned into darkness,
- *And the moon into blood, Before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.

Notes:

- *The sun becoming black vs darkness are similar. The appearance of the moon is the same.
- *There is no mention of stars, earthquake or sky being split and rolled up only general statements of "display of wonders" which include "fire and columns of smoke not mentioned in Rev. 6
- *These signs are specifically stated to be "before" the "great and awesome" day of the Lord"

Joel 3:15-16

- *14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision
- *15 The sun and moon grow dark,
- *And the stars lose their brightness.
- *16 And the Lord roars from Zion And utters His voice from Jerusalem, And the heavens and the earth tremble.

Notes:

- * The sun growing dark is not the same as being "black as sackcloth."
- *The moon growing dark is not the same as "become like blood"
- *stars losing their brightness is not the same as stars falling.
- *There is no mention of the sky being split and rolled up.
- *The heavens and earth tremble - but no description of its strength.
- *The day of the Lord is "near" - vs 14. (vs. 12 sets this at the judgment of the nations)

Zech. 14:4-9

- *4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. 5 And you will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah.
- *Then the Lord, my God, will come, [and] all the holy ones with Him!
- * 6 And it will come about in that day that there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle. 7 For it will be a unique day which is known to the Lord, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light.
- *8 And it will come about in that day that living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea

Notes: *The earthquake is described in diff. terms than Rev. 6:14. *No light is not the same as moon "became like blood" *This is a "unique day" - the other passages do not make the same claim.

Ezekiel 32:7-8
*7 "And when [I]
extinguish you, I
will cover the
heavens,

- *and darken their stars;
- *I will cover the sun with a cloud,
- *And the moon shall not give its light.
- *8 "All the shining lights in the heavens I will darken over you And will set darkness on your land," Declares the Lord God

Notes: *Heavens covered added.
*Sun covered with a cloud instead of becoming black.
*Moon shall not give its light instead of becoming like blood. *Stars are darkened instead of falling. - Context is a prophecy concerning judgment of Egypt

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3. The Seventh Seal & The Seven Trumpets
   a. The Seventh Seal & Seven Trumpets (8:1-2)
   b. Preparations for the Trumpets (8:3-6)
   c. The First Trumpet - 1/3 of Earth Burned Up (8:7)
   d. The Second Trumpet - 1/3 of Sea Turned to Blood (8:8-9)
   e. The Third Trumpet - 1/3 of Waters become Wormwood (8:10-11)
   f. The Fourth Trumpet - 1/3 of Sun, Moon & Stars Darkened (8:12-13)
   g. The Fifth Trumpet - The First Woe: Creatures from the Bottomless Pit (9:1-12)
   h. The Sixth Trumpet - 1/3 Mankind Killed by 200 Million Man Army (9:13-21)
4. Parenthetical
                  10:1-11:14
   a. The "Little Book" 10
       i. The Mighty Angel (vs. 1-7)
       ii. John Eats the Book (vs. 8-11)
   b. The Second Woe
                         11:1-14
       i. Jerusalem Trampled for Forty-two Months (vs. 1-2)
       ii. The Two Witnesses (vs. 3-14)
          \alpha. Their Ministry (vs. 3-6)
          β. Their Death (vs. 7-10)
          γ. Their Resurrection (vs. 11-14)
5. The Seventh Trumpet
                          11:15-19
6. Explanatory Prophecies 12-14
   a. The Woman, Dragon and Child (12:1-6)
   b. War in Heaven: Michael vs. Satan (12:7-12)
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c. War on Earth: The Dragon vs. The Woman & Her Offspring (12:13-17)
  d. The Beast from the Sea (13-1-10)
  e. The Beast from the Earth (13:11-18)
  f. The Lamb & The 144,000 (14:1-5)
  g. The Three Angels & Their Announcements (14:6-13)
      i. The Gospel is Preached (vs. 6-7)
      ii. Babylon is Fallen (vs. 8)
      iii. Torment Upon the Worshipers of the Beast (vs. 9-13)
  h. The Harvest Judgment (14:14-20)
7. Seven Bowls 15-16
  a. Preparation for the Bowl Judgments 15
  b. The First Bowl - Malignant Sores (16:1-2)
  c. The Second Bowl - Death of All Sea life (16:3)
  d. The Third Bowl - Rivers & Springs become Blood (16:4-7)
  e. The Fourth Bowl - Sun becomes Scorching Heat (16:8-9)
  f. The Fifth Bowl - Darkness (16:10-11)
  g. The Sixth Bowl - Euphrates Dried Up (16:12)
  h. Parenthetical: Gathering for Armageddon (16:13-16)
  i. The Seventh Bowl - Great Earthquake & Hailstones (16:17-21)
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- 8. Fall of Religious & Economic Babylon 17-18
 - a. Overthrow of the Great Harlot 17
 - i. The Great Harlot Described (vs. 1-6)
 - ii. The Great Harlot Destroyed (vs. 7-18)
 - b. Overthrow of Babylon the Great 18
 - i. Babylon the Great is Destroyed (vs. 1-8)
 - ii. The Lament for Babylon (vs. 9-24)
- C. The Second Coming. 19
 - 1. The Fourfold Hallelujah (vs. 1-6)
 - 2. The Marriage of the Lamb (vs. 7-10)
 - 3. The Coming of the King 19:11-21
 - a. The King Described (vs. 11-16)
 - b. The Angelic Announcement (vs. 17-18)
 - c. The Destruction of His Enemies (vs. 19-21)
- D. The Millennium & Judgment 20
 - 1. The Binding of Satan for 1,000 Years (vs. 1-3)
 - 2. The First Resurrection & 1,000 Year Reign (vs. 4-6)
 - 3. The Release, Rebellion and Destruction of Satan (vs. 7-10)
 - 4. The Great White Throne Judgment (vs. 11-15)
- E. The Eternal State. 21-22
 - 1. Seven New Things (21:1-22:7)
 - a. The New Heaven, and The New Earth (21:1-2)

b. The New Peoples (21:3-8)
c. The Lamb's Wife: the New Jerusalem (21:9-21)
d. The New Temple (21:22)
e. The New Light (21:23-27)
f. The New Paradise and its River of the Water of Life (22:1-7)
F. Epilogue, Final Instructions and Invitation (22:8-21) 1. Final Instructions (vs. 8-19)
2. Final Promise (vs. 20-21)