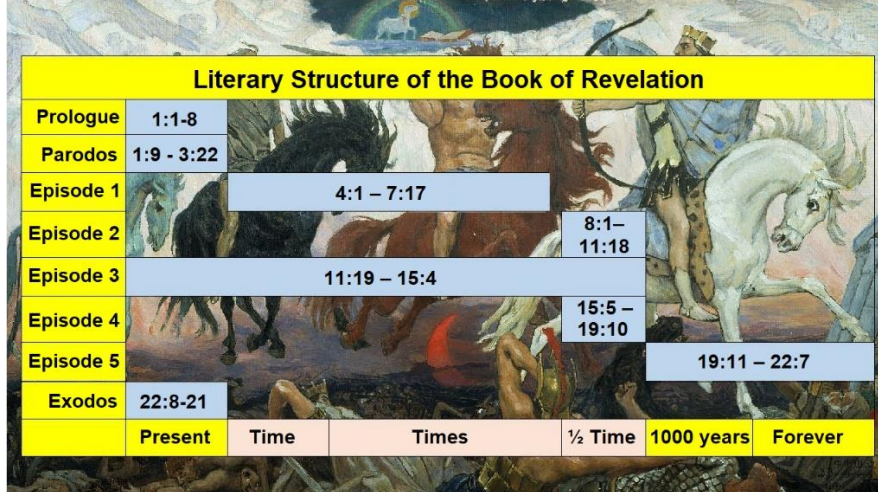


OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Powellhurst Men's Bible Study

Episode 2, 8:1—11:18

May 2023



Literary Structure of the Book of Revelation						
Prologue	1:1-8					
Parodos	1:9 - 3:22					
Episode 1	4:1 – 7:17					
Episode 2		8:1–11:18				
Episode 3	11:19 – 15:4					
Episode 4		15:5 – 19:10				
Episode 5		19:11 – 22:7				
Exodos	22:8-21					
	Present	Time	Times	½ Time	1000 years	Forever

Learning objectives

- Identify a spiritual cause of natural calamity.
- Situate the 'wrath of the Lamb' in prophecy.
- Identify the two end-times 'witnesses'.

Setting and summary: five months (9:5)

- Silence in heaven
- Saints pray in heaven
- Ancient prophecy fulfilled
- Wrath of the Lamb
- Natural disasters
- Depopulation
- Repentance resisted
- End-time testimony rejected
- Victory proclaimed
- Praise to God in heaven

Interpretive hints

- Find meaning in the Hebrew Bible and second-temple literature, first.
- Catch the flow of the drama, before pondering unfamiliar details.
- Consider historical or future fulfillments, before applying to current events or politicians.
- Note that heavenly scenes employ symbols, whereas earthly scenes remain more literal.

Apocalypse

8:1 When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.
2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. ...
6 Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets made [themselves] ready to blow them.

Trumpet 1

7 The first ^o[angel] blew his trumpet, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were hurled to the earth, and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

- Confiscated lands
- Forests and food trees
- Fields and flora

Trumpet 2

8 The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning ^o[with fire], was thrown into the sea. 9 A third of the sea became blood, a third of the living creatures [having a soul] in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

- Protected seas
- Seafood sources
- Maritime trade

Trumpet 3

10 The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers ^o[and on the springs of water]. 11 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many died from the water because it was made bitter.

- Confiscated sources
- Taxed by the rich
- Ancient worm remedy

Trumpet 4

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

- Climate insanity
- Insufficient light for agriculture
- Astrology frustrated

Trumpet 5 = Woe 1

9:1 The fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. ... 3 Then from the smoke came locusts... 4 People who do not have the seal of God ... 6 ^o[will] seek death but will not find it ... 10 for five months. 11 They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.

Trumpet 6 = Woe 2

13 Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet... 16 the number of the troops of cavalry was two hundred million... 18 A third of humankind was killed... 20 The rest of humankind ... did not repent of the works of their hands or give up worshiping demons ^o[and idols] ... 21 their murders or their sorceries or their prostitution [~wickedness] ^o[or their thefts].

- Murders: *phonos*, 'out of the heart' (Mt 15:19)
- Sorceries: *pharmakon*, 'drug' BDAG.
- Prostitution: *porneia*, sexual immorality
- Thefts: *klemma*. How to confiscate wealth?

Intermission

10:1 I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head; his face was like the sun and his legs like pillars of fire. ... "There will be no more delay, 7 but in the days when the seventh angel is to blow his trumpet, the mystery of God will be fulfilled, as he announced to his servants [and] the prophets."

- Angel: Where have we met him, before?
- Mystery: Formerly hidden, now revealed
- Prophets: Hebrew Scripture: the Day of the LORD

The temple of God

11:1 I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, "Come and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, 2 but do not measure O[the court] outside [~within] the temple; leave that out, for it is given over [also] to the nations, and they will trample over the holy city for forty-two months. 3 And I will grant my two witnesses authority to prophesy for one thousand two hundred sixty days, wearing sackcloth."

- The temple of God: *ton naon tou theou* = 2 Thessalonians 2:4 of 'the lawless one'.

Theories of the temple of God

- God's chosen remnant: Qumran; cp. Rev. 12:3
- Herod's temple: If Rev. written in the 60s CE
- The church: 1 Cor. 3:16

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- Christians' body: 1 Cor. 6:19
- God's temple in heaven: Heb. 14:17
- An interfaith worship centre: Jerusalem?
- Ezekiel's temple: Symbolic? Millennial temple plan?
- Another end-times temple: yet to be constructed.

Theories of the 1,260 days

- 1,260 solar days: 11:3; 12:6
- 42 lunar months: 11:2; 13:5
- Three and a half times (years): 12:14
- Calendar: Duration of the end times
- Calendar: Duration of certain end-times events
- Calendar: Symbolic of Christ's soon return
- Calendar: One half of the 'week' from Daniel 9:27 about the Maccabean revolt (167-160 BCE); applied by Jesus to 65-71 CE.

Theories of the two witnesses

- High priest and king: Zecharia:11-13
- Enoch and Elijah: Never died so must come do so. (Logical, but not all must 'die once'.)
- Moses and Elijah: Their miracles. (Similarity?)
- Israel and the church: Both are witnesses.
- The Spirit and the Bride: As in 22:17.
- Jews and Gentiles: (The church still on earth?)
- Catholics/Orthodox and Protestants: ?!
- First and New Testaments: Bible personified?
- Two real human beings: Not yet identified.

Trumpet 7 = Woe 3

14 The third woe is coming very soon.

15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign forever and ever. [Amen]"

- The kingdom of the world: Global government?
- Has become: Is about to become?
- Lord and his Christ: The true invisible God rules over earth through his anointed human King.
- Forever: As in Daniel 7:13-14.

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Glory to God on earth

13 At that moment there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

- Glory to the God of heaven: How do the terrified lost give glory to God?

Worship to God in heaven

16 Then the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God. 17 “You have taken your great power and begun to reign. ... 18 destroying those who destroy the earth.”

- Destroy: *diaphtheirô*, to spoil, corrupt, ruin. BDAG
- Earth: *gé*, Land, ground, soil, territory, country.

What will be the extent of the apocalypse? Planetary, international, hemispheric, Middle East, Israel?

So, what?

- Jesus: The Lamb of God reigns in haven.
- Scripture: Biblical prophecy must be fulfilled.
- The wicked: Will fail and will be punished.
- Jesus: Intervenes in human history.
- Tribulation: “In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” —Jesus in John 16:33
- The Righteous: We sing with joy to Jesus.



A Sagittarius, an Egyptian zodiac sign uncovered in the Temple of Esna, Egypt, completed in A.D. 250. Sagittarius was part of Babylonian astronomy brought to Egypt in Ptolemaic (Greco-Roman) times. Compare Revelation 9:3-7. Photo © Ahmed Emam, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. From <https://www.businessinsider.com/full-set-zodiac-star-signs-astrology-ancient-egyptian-temple-esna-2023-3>