

Structure of the Book of Revelation

- **Key verse: Revelation 1:19**
 - *“Things which you have seen”*-- the past vision of the exalted Christ (Revelation 1:18)
 - *“Things which are”*-- the seven letters to seven historical churches in Asia Minor -- Revelation 2--3
 - *“Things that will take place after this”*-- future, Revelation 4:1--22:5
- **Revelation 4**-- John taken up to heaven, foreshadowing the rapture of the church. Rev. 4:1-2
- **Revelation 5**-- Jesus Christ receives from God the Father the seven sealed scroll containing the title deed to the earth and the plan for reclaiming it. Happens prior to the beginning of the tribulation period.
- **Revelation 6**-- **Jesus begins to break the seals one by one.**
 - The first seal unleashes the Antichrist, who makes a covenant to protect Israel. From a human perspective, this starts God’s timeclock in fulfilling the last seven years of God’s 490-year plan of Daniel 9
 - The fifth seal uncorks the cries of the martyrs who ask God to avenge their deaths.
 - The sixth seal, the cosmic disturbances, marks the beginning of the “Day of the Lord” or the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation period, known also as the “Great Tribulation”
- *((Revelation 7-- parenthetical, providing supplemental, additional information regarding two groups of saved individuals during the Tribulation: the 144,000 Jewish evangelists, and the myriad of Gentile martyrs))*
- **Revelation 8:1-5 -- Opening of the Seventh Sealed Judgment**
 - The continuity in Revelation 6:1--19:21 provided by the events symbolized in the seals, trumpet, and bowl judgments, culminating in the collapse of the Antichrist’s spiritual and political empire, the battle of Armageddon, and the return of Jesus Christ.
 - The seventh Seal unleashes the Seven Trumpet judgments, and the Seventh Trumpet contains the seven Bowl Judgments-- and the judgments move the narrative along.
- **Revelation 8:6--9:21-- The first six Trumpet Judgments**
- *((Revelation 10:1--11:14-- another parenthesis))*
 - *((Revelation 10-- John and the “little book”, no delay in judgment-- Rev. 10:7))*
 - *((Revelation 11:1-14-- The career of the “two witnesses”. Their death signals more judgment. Rev.11:14))*
- **Revelation 11:15-19 -- the the Seventh Trumpet which unleashes the Seven Bowl Judgments**
- *((Revelation 12--14-- Another parenthesis with additional, supplemental information))*
 - *((Revelation 12-- Satan banished from heaven and makes war with the Jews who flee Jerusalem and are protected and provided for by God for 3 ½ years.))*
 - *((Revelation 13-- The reign of terror by the Antichrist and false prophet))*
 - *((Revelation 14-- Glimpse of still future events: return of Jesus Christ, the fall of Antichrist’s kingdom, and the final Great White Throne judgment.))*
- **Revelation 15:1--16:21-- The Seven Bowl Judgments**
 - Sixth bowl is preparation for the battle of Armageddon. Revelation 16:14, 16
 - Seventh bowl God pours out judgment on the Antichrist’s religious and political empire
 - *((Revelation 18-- judgment on Babylon, his religious empire))*
 - *((Revelation 19-- judgment on Babylon, his commercial empire))*

- **Revelation 19-- Second Coming of Jesus Christ and the defeat and demise of the Antichrist. Revelation 19:20-21**
- **Revelation 20-- Christ's Millennial Kingdom and Satan bound. Great White Throne Judgment. Rev. 20:15**
- **Revelation 21--22 -- New Heavens and new earth. The eternal kingdom of God.**