

Mapping Revelation

This chart aims to lay out the building blocks of Revelation 5 through 22, which are anchored by three sets of sevens: the seals, the trumpets, and the bowls of wrath. These building blocks are preceded by seven letters to the churches — historical congregations at the end of the first century. The Apocalypse ends with the fall of Babylon, the judgment, and the establishment of the New Jerusalem — which might be the historical collapse of the Roman Empire together with the survival of the Church on earth, or it might be the final end of this world at a time in the future. Do the building blocks line up sequentially from beginning to end — in the past, or stretching into the future? Do they overlap partially, e.g. the seventh seal being the seven trumpets, and the seventh trumpet being the seven bowls — forming telescopic pattern? Or might they overlap completely in a circular pattern, e.g. similar to Jewish midrash, taking a closer and closer look at the events of the final times? Which final times — the collapse of the Empire or the end of the world? Related to the above, where does the seventh bowl of wrath portion end and the end of the story begin (if there is such an ending portion)?

My working view is that we start with history in the seven churches and finish with the end of times, and that John describes the journey from the present to the future three times in the seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls. Each time, the description is intensified — possibly because he is “getting a closer view each time round”, or because events in time are in fact becoming more intense. At this point in Revelation through chapter 17, I have yet to spell out whether or not chapters 19-22 are part of the seventh bowl, or are a separate section outlining the end — if so, the last section might make a matching set with the description of the seven churches, outlining the present times. Likewise, chapter 1:1-8 and 22:6-21 do form the literary prologue and epilogue of the whole revelation. –LCF+ (5 Sept 2012)

	Seals (Ch. 5:1-8:5)	Trumpets (Ch. 8:6-14:20)	Bowls 15:1-19:10?)
Intro	One scroll, given in the midst of praise for the Lamb who is worthy to open the Scroll	(Note angels with trumpets in 8:2)	Seven Angels called, while the Elders and Creatures praise the Throne, the tent is opened, and smoke ascends
Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. White horse, conquering and being conquered 2. Red horse, conflicts 3. Black horse, heavy inflation (or possibly taxes) 4. Pale horse disease and death 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hail and fire on the land 2. Burning mountain thrown 3. Star fell into rivers 4. Darkness covers the sky 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sores poured on people with the mark of the beast (A) 2. Blood poured out on the sea 3. Blood poured on rivers, with response of praise for God's justice 4. Scorching heat of the sun poured on the earth, people did not repent

Number 5	Martyrs revealed under the altar	"Woe, woe, woe..." Locusts released from the deep abyss, those marked with the seal of God are protected, first woe has passed	Darkness poured out on the throne of the beast, the people did not repent
Number 6	Earthquake and Angels holding back the winds 144000 sealed from the tribes; a great multitude of the nations; elders singing praise disaster	4 angels or armies set out from the Euphrates, and the people did not repent (10:1-11:14) Seven thunders—sealed up; ate the little scroll; two witnesses, killed for 3 1/2 days and then raised; earthquake; second woe has passed	Euphrates dries up, Dragon, Beast and False Prophet send out demons to amass armies from the nations for battle
Number 7	Silence for half an hour, then angels with trumpets gather, with incense rising and fire descending; peals, rumblings, flashes and an earthquake	Worship in heaven with the 24 elders, temple opened, ark seen, flashes and peals, quakes and hail (12:1-14:20) Woman (Israel)—mother of Messiah and Church—against Dragon; Michael joins the battle; first beast, call for endurance; second beast, angel cries Babylon is fallen, second call for endurance; harvest of grain and wine	The Prostitute/Babylon sits on the Beast; another angel declares that Babylon is fallen; another angel calls the people out of her lest they too be judged; then the kings, the merchants, the traders, and the shippers stand back and mourn Babylon; a great multitude in heaven cry out Hallelujah!
Picture of the End?			(19:6-22:5) Marriage supper; Millennium; Defeat of Satan; Judgment Throne; New Heaven and Earth; New Jerusalem; River of Life