



Structure of Revelation

Robert H. Mounce, *The Book of Revelation* (Eerdmans, 1977)

"The basic structural question is whether John intended his readers to understand the visions recorded in his work in a straightforward chronological sense or whether some form of recapitulation is involved." (Mounce, 31)

- I. Prologue (1:1-20)
- II. Letters to the Seven Churches (2:1-3:22)
- III. Adoration in the Court of Heaven (4:1-5:14)
- IV. The Seven Seals (6:1-8:1)
 - a. Seals #1-6 (6:1-17)
 - b. Interlude: Visions of Security and Salvation (7:1-17)
 - c. Seal #7 (8:1)
- V. The Seven Trumpets (8:2-11:19)
 - a. Trumpets #1-6 (8:6-9:21)
 - b. Interlude: Visions of the Prophetic Role (10:1-11:14)
 - c. Trumpet #7 (11:15-19)
- VI. Conflict Between the Church and the Powers of Evil (12:1-14:5)
- VII. Interlude: Visions of Final Judgment (14:6-20)
- VIII. The Seven Last Plagues (15:1-16:21)
- IX. The Fall of Babylon (17:1-19:5)
- X. The Final Victory (19:6-20:15)
- XI. The New Heaven and the New Earth (21:1-22:5)
- XII. Epilogue (22:6-21)

Darrell Johnson, *Discipleship on the Edge* (Regent College Publishing, 2004)

"The key to the structure of Revelation is the verb (and idea) 'to open.' ...opening up the unseen realities of the future, and primarily, opening up the unseen realities of the present." (Johnson, 391)

- 1:1-8 Prologue
1:9-3:22 The Son of Man speaks to the seven churches (1:9 "I heard")
4:1-11:18 The Lamb unseals the scroll (4:1 "open")
11:19-15:4 The cosmic conflict (11:19 "open")
15:5-19:10 The bowls of wrath and fall of Babylon (15:5 "open")
19:11-22:7 Man on the horse through the coming of the City of God (19:11 "open")
22:6-21 Epilogue

By Lindsay Olesberg

Using structural cue "in the Spirit" (1:10, 4:2, 17:3, 21:10)

- I. Prologue – John testifies 1:1-8
- II. Vision #1 – Jesus address his church 1:9-3:22
 - a. Jesus amongst the lampstands (1:9-20)
 - i. 7 letters (2:1-3:22)
- III. Vision #2 – The Lamb unseals the scroll 4:1-16:21
 - a. Throne room of heaven (4:1-5:14)
 - i. 7 Seals (6:1-8:1)
 1. Seals #1-6 (6:1-17)
 2. Interlude - Servants of God in worship (7:1-17)
 3. Seal #7 (8:1-5)
 - a. 7 Trumpets (8:6-11:18)
 - i. Trumpets #1-6 (8:6-9:21)
 - ii. Interlude – Prophets of God (10:1-11:14)
 - iii. Trumpet #7 (11:15-18)
- IV. The enemies of God and his people (11:19-16:21)
 - a. The dragon/Satan (12:1-17)
 - b. The beast and the false prophet (13:1-18)
 - c. Assembling God's army (14:1-15:4)
 - d. 7 bowls of wrath (15:5-16:21)
- V. Vision #3 – Judgment of God's enemies 17:1-21:9
 - a. Pronouncement of Babylon's doom (17:1-19:5)
 - b. Interlude – Announcement of wedding of the Lamb (19:6-10)
 - c. Final defeat of beast and false prophet (19:11-21)
 - d. Final defeat of Satan (20:1-10)
 - e. Final judgment of humanity (20:11-21:8)
- VI. Vision #4 – Vision of new heaven and earth 21:9-22:5
- VII. Epilogue – John testifies 22:6-21