

SUMMARY

1:1 – 8: Prologue / Introduction

1:9 – 22:9: The Narrative of John’s Vision on Patmos

1:9 – 3:22: Opening Vision of Christ and the Churches

4:1 – 16:22: Opening Vision of Heaven followed by Three Series of Seven Judgments

4:1 – 5:14: Opening Vision of Heaven that leads to the unfolding of God’s Plan for Creation

6:1 – 8:1; 8:3-5: The Seven Seals

8:2; 8:6 – 11:19: The Seven Angels and Trumpets

12:1 – 14:20; 15:2-4: The Story of God’s people in conflict with Evil

15:1, 5 – 16:21: The Seven Angels and Bowls

17:1 – 19:10: A Vision in the Desert: The Punishment of the Prostitute

19:11 – 21:8: A Vision of the Kingdom of this world becoming the Kingdom of our God

21:9 – 22:9: A Vision from a Mountain: The Bride, the City of God

22:6 – 21: Epilogue/ Conclusion

OUTLINE

1:1 – 8: Prologue / Introduction

1:1 : Apocalypse of Jesus Christ

1:3: Prophecy

1st Blessed: Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

1:4-6: Epistolary Opening

1:4-5: Address and Greeting

1:6: Doxology

1:7-8: Prophetic Oracle

1:9 – 22:9: The Narrative of John’s Vision on Patmos

1:9 – 3:22: Opening Vision of Christ and the Churches

1:9-10a: Introduction of the vision

Key Phrase: In the Spirit

1:10b-11: Command to write and send

Key Pattern: I heard... I saw... (10b & 12)

1:12-16: Vision of Jesus

1:17-18: Worship and Self-Declaration

1:19-20: Command and Interpretation

2:1 – 3:22: Words to the seven angels (the order of the churches follow the geographical distribution of a circular letter)

Note on General Structure:

A. To the Angel of the church of X

B. These are the words of (from initial vision given to John)

C. I know...

D. Nevertheless I have this against you (if appropriate)

In first three: E. He who has an ear

F. Promise to those who overcome

In last four: E. Promise to those who overcome

F. He who has an ear

4:1 – 16:22: Opening Vision of Heaven followed by Three Series of Seven Judgments

4:1 – 5:14: Opening Vision of Heaven that leads to the unfolding of God’s Plan for Creation

What we see:

- A theophany from the language of Sinai: “From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder” (4:5)
- God on the throne being worshipped
- Jesus worthy to open the scroll of History
- Jesus revealed: I heard the Lion of the tribe of Judah, I turned and saw one like a Lamb slain.
- Jesus on the throne being worshipped with God

6:1 – 8:1; 8:3-5: The Seven Seals

6:1-2: 1st Seal: white horse (crown/conquest)

6:2-3: 2nd Seal: red horse (sword/war)

6:4-5: 3rd Seal: black horse (scales/famine)

6:6-7: 4th Seal: pale horse (named death/hades)

Notice Pattern :

- Lamb opens seal
- John Heard
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Living Creature say, “Come!”
- He looked: Colored Horse
- Symbolic object
- Variation on 4th Horse

6:8 – 11: 5th Seal: Cry for Justice

Question: How Long, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?

Response: A little while until number fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed was complete

6:12 – 17: 6th Seal: The coming of the day of wrath

Question: who can stand?

7:1-17: Vision in response to the questions

7:1-8: The Israel of God

Key Phrase: I heard the number of those who were sealed.

7:9-17: The Multitude who can stand

Key Phrase: After this I looked...

8:1; 3-5: 7th Seal: The Coming of God

What we hear and see:

- Silence in heaven – God stops the eternal worship that happens before his thrown to listen to the prayers of his saints.
- In response to the sacrificial prayers of His saints fire is hurled upon the earth and God’s presence is revealed in the language of Sinai: “there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightening and an earthquake.”

8:2; 8:6 – 11:19: The Seven Angels and Trumpets

8:2,6: Introduction of Seven angels with seven trumpets

8:7: The 1st angel: 1/3 of the earth burned, trees, grass

8:8-9: The 2nd angel: 1/3 of the sea, sea creatures, ships

8:10-11: The 3rd angel: 1/3 of the rivers and springs, people died from bitter water.

8:12: The 4th angel: 1/3 of heavens, sun, moon, stars

8:13: The Eagle announces three woes associated with the last three trumpets.

9:1-12: The 5th Angel: The Destroyer given power to torment the unsealed people of the earth with locust from the Abyss.

9:12: The first woe has past, two other woes are yet to come.

9:13-21;11:14: The 6th Angel: 1/3 of mankind destroyed:

What we see: the plagues that destroyed 1/3 of mankind did not bring about repentance.

10:1 – 11:13: God's Mystery (salvation) will not fail.

11:14: The second woe has past; the third woe is coming soon.

11:15-19: The 7th Angel: The Coming of the Kingdom

What we hear and see:

- God being worshipped for taking possession of the earth.
- The coming of God in the language of Sinai: And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and an earthquake, and a great hailstorm.

12:1 – 14:20; 15:2-4: The Story of God’s people in conflict with Evil

Key Phrase: A Great and Wonderous Sign appeared in heaven...

12:1-17: Enmity between the Woman, the Serpent and her seed, and His followers.

13:1-10: The Beast of the Sea and those who follow him

13:11-18: The Beast of the Earth and those who wear his mark

14:1-5: Jesus and those who follow him.

14:6-7: The call of Repentance

14:8: The Announcement of Heaven’s Victory

14:9-12: Warning and Call for Faithful Endurance

14:13-20: The Coming of the Son of Man

2nd Blessed: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.

15:2-4: The servants of God worshipping and celebrating the victory over the beast.

15:1, 5 – 16:21: The Seven Angels and Bowls

15:1: I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues.

15:5-8: The coming of the seven angels.

After this I looked in and in heaven the temple that is, the tabernacle of the Testimony, was opened. (Notice the allusion to the end of the seventh trumpet: “Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant” (11:19).

16:1: Command to send out the Bowls

16:2: The 1st Angel: On the land

16:3: The 2nd Angel: On the sea

16:4-7: The 3rd Angel: On the rivers and springs

16:8-9: The 4th Angel: On the the sun.

16:10-11: The 5th Angel: On the throne of the Beast

16:12-14,16: The 6th Angel: On the river Eurphrates to prepare for Armageddon.

16:15: 3rd Blessed: Behold I come like a thief. Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his

clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed.

16:17-21: The 7th Angel: It is done!

What we hear and see:

- It is done!
- The coming of God in the language of Sinai: there came flashes of lightning, rublings, peals of thunder...earthquake...hailstones.

Observation of Structure:

3 Series of 7

7 Seals: 4 + 1 + (1 with additional vision) + 1

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(additional vision)

7 Seals: 4 + 1 + (1 with Blessed) + 1

- Each series ended with the coming of final judgment and words of theophany characterized by Sinai found in the opening scene in the throne room of heaven.
- Each theophany (4:5, 8:5, 11:19, 186:18-21) expanded upon the previous. This tied each series of judgement with the opening scene of God being worshipped and Jesus who is the only one worthy to enact God's plan of salvation.

17:1 – 19:10: A Vision in the Desert: The Punishment of the Prostitute

17:1-3a: Invitation to see the punishment of the Prostitute by one of the seven angels who poured out God's wrath. Journey made to the desert "in the Spirit."

17:3b-18: Vision of the Prostitute with interpretation.

18:1-24: The fall of Babylon is woe on the earth.

19:1-10: The fall of Babylon is worship in heaven.

19:9: **4th Blessed:** Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!

19:10: At this I fell down to worship him. But he said to me, "do not do it. I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

19:11 – 21:8: A Vision of the Kingdom of this world becoming the Kingdom of our God

20:6: 5th Blessed: Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

21:9 – 22:9: A Vision from a Mountain: The Bride, the City of God

21:9-10: Invitation to see the Bride by one of the seven angels who poured out God's wrath. Journey made "in the spirit" to a mountain great and high.

21:11-22:5: The description of the Holy City with explanation.

22:6-9: Affirmation and end of vision

22:7: 6th Blessed: Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.

22:8-9: And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who been showing them to me. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophetess and all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!"

22:6 – 21: Epilogue/ Conclusion

22:6-11: Conclusion of the Visionary Narrative

22:12-17: Prophetic Oracle

22:14: 7th Blessed: Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

22:18-21: Closing Remarks of Letter