

## The Outline/Structure of the Book of Revelation

Knowing how a book is “put together” will help you know where it’s going and how it gets there

- If you’d never seen a car before, you wouldn’t know what was what

### 1. Concise Outline, following 1:19

- 1) The things John **saw**, chapter 1
- 2) The things which **are**, chapters 2–3
- 3) The things which shall occur **after** these things, chapters 4–22

### 2. Theological/Interpretive Outline

Considering the Book of Revelation from the standpoint of *the rest of prophecy in Scripture*—particularly the OT—we will note that in the end times there will come:

- 1) A period when God will pour out his **judgments** upon the world
- 2) Following these judgments a **Messianic** Kingdom of God will be established on the earth
- 3) This Kingdom will become **universal** in scope and be prolonged without end.

These three ideas are the general ideas of the Book of Revelation and they are stated in **the same order**. Passing over the introductory material (1:1–3:22), **the book presents three general subjects**:

- 1) A period of **judgment** on the world, 4–18
- 2) The coming of Christ to establish his **kingdom** on earth, 19–20
- 3) An extension of this reign of Christ into the **eternal** kingdom of God in the new heavens and earth, 21–22 (especially 22:3–5)

### 3. General Content Outline

- 1) Christ’s Word to the Churches, 1–3
- 2) Christ’s Judgment on the World, 4–18
- 3) Christ’s Coming to Rule, 19–22

### 4. Exegetical Outline

- 1) Prologue, 1:1–8
- 2) The Revelation of Jesus Christ concerning the Things Which Are, 1:9–3:22
  - The vision of Christ, 1:9–20
  - The Letters to the Seven Churches, 2:1–3:22

- 3) The Revelation of Jesus Christ concerning the Things Which Shall Take Place after These Things, 4:1–22:5
  - The Tribulation Judgments, 4:1–18:24
    - (1) The Background for the Tribulation Judgments, 4:1–5:14
    - (2) The Seven Seal Judgments, 6:1–8:5
    - (3) The Seven Trumpet Judgments, 8:6–14:20
    - (4) The Seven Bowl Judgments, 15:1–18:24
  - The Return of Christ, 19:1–20:15
    - (1) The Events Surrounding the Return of Christ, 19:1–10
    - (2) The Battle of Armageddon, 19:11–21
    - (3) The Millennial Kingdom, 20:1–10
    - (4) The Great White Throne Judgment, 20:11–15
  - The Eternal State, 21:1–22:5
    - (1) The New Heaven and Earth, 21:1–8
    - (2) The New Jerusalem, 21:9–22:5
- 4) The Epilogue, 22:6–21

### Quick Survey

1. Prologue, 1:1–9
2. The Revelation of Jesus Christ concerning the things which are, 1:10–3:22
3. The Revelation of Jesus Christ concerning the things which shall take place after these things, 4–22

#### *Prologue, 4:1–5:14*

##### A. The Tribulation, 6–19

###### 1. Seal Judgments, 6

###### *Interlude, 7*

###### 2. Trumpet Judgments, 8–9

###### *Interlude, 10–15*

###### 3. Bowl Judgments, 16

###### *Interlude, 17–19*

##### B. The Millennium, 20

##### C. The Eternal State, 21–22

Interludes are common literary devices used in the literature of the ancient Mediterranean world. John strategically places these interludes in Revelation to provide **background** information and to add **clarification** to the events described in the surrounding judgments.

Determining *when* the events of these interludes takes place must be determined in each case by their respective contexts. In other words, **the time frame for each interlude may not correspond to the precise point in the sequence of judgments in which they occur.**