

- Are Based On A Firm Belief In:
 - The Inerrancy And Authority:
 - Of The Bible - With A Desire To:
 - Understand & Apply The Book Of Revelation Better!

6. The Approach That:

- We Are Taking In These Lessons:
 - To The Book Of Revelation As A Whole:
 - Is What We Called:
 - An Eclectic-Futurist Approach!
 - Which Means That:
 - Even Though We Believe That:
 - Much Of Revelation Is:
 - Prophecy - Its Message Is Also:
 - Relevant For All Of God's People, No Matter Where Or When They Live! Past / Present / Future!
 - And - This Is In Line With:
 - The Use Of All Prophecy:
 - That We Find In The Bible!
- We Know That Revelation:
 - **Is Prophecy:**
 - Because Of What We Find At Both:
 - The Beginning & The End Of The Book!
 - At The Beginning:
 - In 1:3 - John Writes:
 - "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this *prophecy*, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand!"
 - And Then - At The End:
 - In 22:7 - Jesus Himself Says To John:
 - "Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the *prophecy* of this book!"
 - And, Of Course, Prophecy Often Deals With:
 - What Is In The Future:
 - To The Time When The Writer & His Audience Lived!
 - But - We Also Know That Revelation:
 - **Is Relevant:**
 - To All Of God's People:
 - In All Ages:
 - Because Of The Same Verses:
 - That Tell Us That It Is A Prophecy!
 - Because - As We Read & Hear The Book Of Revelation Being Taught:
 - We Need Be On The Look-Out For Ways:
 - That We Are To:
 - "Keep Those Things Which Are Written Therein!" - And To Keep:
 - "The Sayings Of The Prophecy Of This Book!"

7. So - We Will Be Approaching:

- Chapters 6-16:
 - In The Same Way!
- As Future Prophecy:
 - From When John Was Given This Revelation:
 - That Has Significance & Relevance:
 - To Us Even Today!
 - But - Even As We Approach:
 - These Chapters As Prophecy:
 - There Are Some Different Ways:
 - To Approach The:
 - Seals, Trumpets, And Seals:
 - That We Will Come To!
 - And - This Is What:

- We Will Spend Some Time Today & Next Week:
 - Over-Viewing - Before:
 - We Dig Into The Details!
- 8. Now - When It Comes To These Chapters:
 - There Is A Definite Literary Arrangement:
 - That Must First Inform:
 - Our Approach To This Part Of:
 - John's Vision!
 - And - It All Begins:
 - When Jesus Takes The Scroll:
 - From The Hand Of The One:
 - Sitting On The Throne!
 - And - According To:
 - 5:1 - This Scroll Was:
 - "Written Within And On The Backside, Sealed With Seven Seals!"
 - And - All The Wonder & Worship:
 - That We Looked At In Chapter 5:
 - Focused On The Fact That:
 - Jesus Christ - As Both The Lion & Lamb Of God:
 - Was Found Worthy To "Take The Book, And To Open The Seals Thereof!"
 - So - The Great Anticipation & Expectation:
 - Of Every Creature That Is Found Singing In The Three Songs Of This Chapter:
 - Is That The Lamb *Will* Do:
 - What He Was Found *Worthy* To Do!
 - And John Is Then Given A Series:
 - Of Visions Of Scenes That Will Unfold:
 - The Rest Of God's Plan:
 - For This World!
 - Not As A Movie Projector:
 - But Through Pictures Painted With Words:
 - That Have Much Symbolic & Biblical Meaning!
 - And - This Is What Chapters 6-16 Entails! So:
 - In Chapter 6:
 - The First Thing The Lamb Does Is:
 - **Break Open The First 6 Seals:**
 - That Keep The Scroll Tightly Closed!
 - The First 4 Seals:
 - Of The Four Colored Horses & Their Riders:
 - Have A Close Connection Between Them!
 - And So Does:
 - The Next 2 Seals!
 - But - The 7th Seal Remains Intact! Because:
 - In Chapter 7:
 - There Is A Break Between:
 - The 6th & 7th Seals:
 - **That Is Called An "Interlude" By Many!**
 - And - This Interlude:
 - Is A "Closeup" That Reveals Some Truths:
 - About God's People:
 - During The Scenes Of The Previous Seals!
 - In Chapters 8-9:
 - The 7th Seal Is Finally Broken:
 - Which Then Brings Forth:
 - **7 Angels With 7 Trumpets!**
 - And When Each Angel Sounds His Trumpet From Heaven:
 - Something Happens In & To This World!
 - Now - Since The 7 Seals Where Used:

- To Seal The Scroll - Then:
 - The 7 Trumpets Reveal:
 - The Actual Contents Of The Scroll!
 - The First 4 Trumpets:
 - Have A Close Connection Between Them:
 - In That They All Deal With:
 - The World Of Nature!
 - And The Last 3 Trumpets:
 - Are Also Closely Related:
 - Because They All Deal With:
 - The World Of Man - And Are Classified As “Woes!”
 - But - Before The 7th Trumpet Is Sounded:
 - In Chapters 10-11a (10 - 11:14)
 - There Is Another Break Right Between:
 - The 6th & 7th Trumpet!
 - **Another Interlude / Closeup:**
 - That Reveals Some More Truth:
 - About John & About God’s People:
 - During The Events Of The Previous Trumpets!
 - In Chapter 11b (11:15-19):
 - The 7th Trumpet Is Finally Sounded:
 - At Which Point It Is Declared:
 - “The Kingdoms Of This World Are Become The Kingdoms Of Our Lord, And Of His Christ; And He Shall Reign For Ever And Ever!”
 - Now - At This Point:
 - We Would Come To Expect:
 - The 7 Bowls To Be Poured Out!
 - But - Since The 7 Vials / Bowls Represent:
 - The “Seven Last Plagues” In Which “Is Filled Up The Wrath Of God!” (15:1)
 - In Chapters 12-14:
 - There Is Still Another Break Between:
 - The 7th Trumpet & The 1st Bowl!
 - So - Instead Of An Interlude:
 - **It Is A Prelude:**
 - Before The Final Judgment & Wrath Of God Is Poured Out!
 - And - In This Prelude:
 - There Is Another, Longer “Closeup” That Reveals Even More Truths:
 - About God’s People:
 - During The Scenes Of This Tribulation & Judgment!
 - In Chapters 15-16:
 - Seven More Angels Are Finally Given:
 - The “Seven Golden Vials Full Of The Wrath Of God” To Be:
 - Poured Out “Upon The Earth!” (15:1)
 - And - Just Like The Seals & Trumpets:
 - The First 4 Bowls:
 - Have A Close Connection Between Them:
 - In That They Also Deal With:
 - **The World Of Nature!**
 - And The Last 3 Bowls:
 - Also Deal With:
 - The World Of Man!
 - But - Upon The Pouring Out:
 - Of The 7th Bowl “Into The Air”:
 - It Is Declared:
 - “It Is Done!”
9. This Is The Literary Arrangement:
- Of The 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, And 7 Bowls:
 - That John Saw In His Vision:

- Since - The Last Seal:
 - Encompasses The 7 Trumpets - And:
 - The 7th Trumpet:
 - Encompasses The 7 Bowls!
- Though This Is A Very Natural Way:
 - For Us To Read Through Revelation:
 - Especially In Our American & Western Way:
 - Of Reading!
 - One Challenge To This Approach Is:
 - What Happens With:
 - The Last Seal, Trumpet, Bowl!
 - At The End Of Each Series:
 - We Find What Is Called A:
 - "Storm Theophany" - Which Is What Heralds Of The Return Of Christ!
 - It Is A Picture Of:
 - Heaven Coming To Earth:
 - Since In 4:5 We Are Told That:
 - "Out Of The Throne Proceeded Lightnings And Thunderings And Voices!"
- So - After The 7th Seal Is Broken Open:
 - In 8:5 - We Are Told That:
 - "There Were Voices, And Thunderings, And Lightnings, And An Earthquake!"
 - "Earthquake" - "Seismos" (σεισμός)
 - A Commotion / Shaking - Whether In Heaven Or On Earth!
 - Something Similar Described In:
 - Joel 2:10 - "The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble!"
- When The 7th Trumpet Is Sounded:
 - Not Only Are We Told In 11:15 That:
 - "The Kingdoms Of This World Are Become The Kingdoms Of Our Lord!"
 - In 11:19 - We Are Also Told That:
 - "The Temple Of God Was Opened In Heaven, And There Was Seen In His Temple The Ark Of His Testament: And There Were Lightnings, And Voices, And Thunderings, And An Earthquake, And Great Hail!"
 - This All Leads To The Moment When:
 - In 14:14 - John Sees The Return Of Christ!
 - In "A White Cloud, And Upon The Cloud One Sat Like Unto The Son Of Man, Having On His Head A Golden Crown, And In His Hand A Sharp Sickle!"
- When The 7th Bowl Is Poured Out:
 - Not Only Are We Told In 16:17 That:
 - "It Is Done!"
 - But In 16:18 - We Are Told Again That:
 - "There Were Voices, And Thunders, And Lightnings; And There Was A Great Earthquake, Such As Was Not Since Men Were Upon The Earth, So Mighty An Earthquake, And So Great!"
 - And In 16:21:
 - "And There Fell Upon Men A Great Hail Out Of heaven, Every Stone About The Weight Of A Talent!"
 - And This All Leads To The Moment When:
 - In 19:11 - John Sees:
 - "Heaven Opened, And Behold A White Horse; And He That Sat Upon Him Was Called Faithful And True, And In Righteousness He Doth Judge And Make War!"
- Now - In Each Of These Descriptions:
 - Something Is Added:
 - To The Lightning & Thunder & Voices:
 - That Appear Out Of The Throne:
 - In 4:5!
 - In 8:5 - When The 7th Seal Is Opened:
 - There Is Also:
 - An Earthquake!

- In 11:16 - When The 7th Trumpet Is Sounded:
 - There Is Also:
 - Great Hail!
- In 16:18, 21 - When The 7th Bowl Is Poured Out:
 - Both The Earthquake & The Hail:
 - Are Described As “Great!”
- These Differences Do Not Mean That:
 - They Refer To Separate Events:
 - But Are Instead A Way To Emphasize The Intensity:
 - Of The Final Judgment That Jesus Will Bring With Him:
 - To The Earth!
- This Literary Device:
 - **Is Known As “Progressive Expansion!” (Mounce)**
 - And It Is Used For Effect:
 - In Different Ways In Revelation!
 - For Example:
 - We Saw This Already Back In:
 - 5:3-4 - “And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to *open* the book, neither to *look* thereon. / And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to *open* and to *read* the book, neither to *look* thereon!”
 - In The Same Way:
 - The “Progressive Expansion” Of The 7th Seal & Trumpet & Bowl Is Used:
 - To Focus Our Attention On The Great Power & Purpose Of God’s Judgment!
- So - Even Though:
 - There Appears To Be Some Definite Progression:
 - From The Seals To The Trumpets To The Bowls:
 - That Progress Seems To Be Related More To The First 6 Of Each:
 - With The 7th Of Each Taking The Readers Of Revelation:
 - **To The Very Threshold** Of The Lord’s Return!
 - Which - If You Remember From:
 - 1:7 - Is The Main Theme Of Revelation!
 - “Behold, He Cometh With Clouds! And Every Eye Shall See Him, And They Also Which Pierced Him: And All Kindreds Of The Earth Shall Wail Because Of Him! Even So, Amen!”
 - The Purpose Of This:
 - Repetition Of The 7th Seal / Trumpet / Bowl:
 - Is - “To Never Permit (Our) Gaze To Drift From The Invigorating Centre Of (Our) Hope – (Our) Returning Lord Jesus!” (Dale Reaper Davis)

Conclusion:

1. So - The Absolute Sequential Approach:
 - To The Seals, Trumpets, And Bowls:
 - Seems To Break Down!
 - So - To Account To The Similarities:
 - Another Approach Has Been Suggested:
 - Which We Will Look At Next Week - Which Has Been Described As:
 - The Simultaneous Approach!