

**THE LITERARY STRUCTURE OF REVELATION, Pt 1 & 2**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Review - approaching Rv w/ Idealist interp - symbolic & cyclic.
2. Today & next LD - examine the literary structure of Rv using outline.
3. This is most important SS class in these intro classes to Rv. The literary structure of Rv is the KEY to interpreting Rv

**1st: An Outline Showing the Literary Structure of Revelation**

**2nd: Cyclic Conclusions & Interludes in the Literary Structure**

1. Rv as literature is not a linear prophecy - recapitulation of Ch-Age in 7 cycles, progressively focusing on Eschaton.
2. Each cycle starts w/ 1st coming [altho not explicit in 3rd, 5th, & 6th cycles] & ends w/ explicit description of 2nd coming.
3. Worship & Witness
  - i. Ch's witness = warfare -> martyrs: slaughtered lamb.
  - ii. Ch's worship - interludes - refresh then return to battle
4. Cyclic crescendo to climatic contraction - *last days* - already/not yet
5. Climatic contraction issues into birthing of resurrection glory for sons of God and creation.

**1st: An Outline Showing the Literary Structure of Revelation**

1. **Green** = reference to 1st coming at beginning of each cycle
2. **Red** = reference to 2nd coming end of each cycle
3. **Blue** - interlude giving sight into heaven to refresh during worship



**Earthly Conflict Between the Church & the Unbelieving World - chpt 1-11****1st Parallel Cycle: The Son of Man & the Seven Churches - 1:1-3:22**

1. Prologue to the Apocalypse - 1:1-20
  - i. The source of the revelation is God the Father - 1:1a
  - ii. The messenger of the revelation is John - 1:1b-3
  - iii. The recipients of the revelation are the seven churches - 1:4-9
    - a. 1:4-6 - reference to Jesus' blood
  - iv. The focus of the revelation is the glorified Jesus Christ - 1:10-20
2. Jesus' Letters to Each of the Seven Churches - 2:1-3:22
  - i. Ephesus - 2:1-7
  - ii. Smyrna - 2:8-11
  - iii. Pergamos - 2:12-27
  - iv. Thyatira - 2:18-29
  - v. Sardis - 3:1-6
  - vi. Philadelphia - 3:7-13
  - vii. Laodicea - 3:14-22
    - a. 3:20-21 - 2nd coming - allusion to marriage supper [Rv 19:7-9]

**2nd Parallel Cycle: The One Seated on the Throne - 4:1-8:5**

1. The Enthroned Creator/Redeemer - 4:1-5:14
  - i. 5:5-6,9 alludes to Jesus having overcome as Lamb
2. The Seven Seals - 6:1-8:5

- i. 6:12-17 - 6th seal: FJ - wrath of the Lamb
- ii. 7:1-17 - 144K in heaven; 8:1-6 7th seal: prayers of the saints

**3rd Parallel Cycle: The Seven Trumpets - 8:6-11:19**

1. The 1st six Trumpets - 8:6-9:21 [no explicit ref to 1st coming]
2. The Little Book - 10:1-11
  - i. 10:7 anticipates the 7th trumpet and the Eschaton
3. The Two Witnesses - 11:1-12 - overview of Church's witness [1st coming is not explicit but implied in commencement of Church's witness] - martyrdom and resurrection at the 2nd coming [11:11-14]
4. The Seventh Trumpet - 11:13-19
  - i. 11:15-17 - Celebration in heaven
  - ii. 11:18-19 - FJ - 7th trumpet

**Heavenly Conflict Between Church & Demonic World - chpt 12-22**

**4th Parallel Cycle: The Enmity of the Two Seeds - 12:1-14:20**

1. The Woman and the Dragon - 12:1-17
  - i. 12:1-5 incarnation -> ascension of Jesus
2. The Two Beasts - 13:1-18
3. The Victory of the Lamb - 14:1-20
  - i. 14:1-5 - 144K on mtn
  - ii. 14:14-20 - FJ - Final Harvest by Jesus and angels

**5th Parallel Cycle: The Seven Bowls - 15:1-16:21**

1. The Prologue to the Bowls - 15:1-4 [no explicit ref to 1st coming]
2. The Presentation of the Bowls - 15:5-8
3. The Pour Out of the Bowls - 16:1-21
  - i. 16:15-21 - 7th bowl

**6th Parallel Cycle: Babylon and the Bride - 17:1-19:21**

1. The Judgment of Babylon - 17:1-19:6 [no explicit ref to 1st coming]
2. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb - 19:7-10
  - i. 19:1-10 - Hallelujah!
3. The Second Coming - 19:11-21
  - i. 19:11-21 - 2nd coming & Lake of Fire

**7th Parallel Cycle: Final Judgment & New Cosmos - 20:1-22:21**

1. The Binding and Loosing of Satan - 20:1-10
  - i. 20:1-3 binding of Satan = allusion to Jesus' 1st coming

2. The Great White Throne Judgment - 20:11-15
  - i. 20:7-15 - Defeat of Satan - Lake of Fire
3. The New Heavens and New Earth - 21:-22:7
4. Epilogue - 22:8-21
  - i. Exhortation of the Angel - 22:8-11
  - ii. Proclamation of Christ - 22:12-21