

Midweek Bible Study

Exposition of Revelation

Prologue to the Revelation of Jesus Christ

Rev. 1:1-8

Parallel of Prologue and Epilogue, forms an *inclusio* to the book

Table 1.3: Parallels between Revelation's prologue and epilogue

Revelation 1:1-8	Revelation 22:6-8
God sent his angel (v. 1)	The Lord sent his angel (v. 6)
'show to his servants the things that must soon take place' (v. 1)	'show his servants what must soon take place' (v. 6)
John 'bore witness . . . to all that he saw' (v. 2)	John 'heard and saw these things' (v. 8)
'Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those . . . who keep what is written in it' (v. 3)	'Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book' (v. 7)
'Behold, he is coming with the clouds' (v. 7)	'And behold, I am coming soon' (v. 7)

I. Foreword (1-3)

A. The Apocalypse of Jesus Christ

B. The chain of revelation

God to Jesus to angel to John to the churches

1. Which God gave to Him

2. To show His slaves

3. What must happen very soon

"While many over the centuries have plundered the pages of Revelation for eschatological schemes and timetables related to their own time, the primary focus is on John's own generation. Whatever capacity it has to inspire subsequent generations, the Apocalypse must have had a particular message to those first-century congregations who originally heard it." Ian Boxall



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4. And having sent and signified through His angel
*To communicate by sign, make known by symbol
 5. To His slave John
 6. Who testified to the Word of God and testimony of Jesus Christ, all that he saw
- C. The Daniel connection
Dan. 2:28-29, 45-47
- D. The Beatitude (3)
Seven beatitudes in Revelation (1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14)
1. Blessed is he who reads
 2. Blessed are those who hear the Words of this prophecy
And obey the things which are written in it
 3. For the time is near
- *Note on temporal expressions:

II. Greeting and Doxology (4-6)

- A. John: The sender
- B. To the seven churches, which are in Asia: The recipients
- C. Grace to you and peace
- D. The Trinitarian Source (note the Triads, and Triads within Triads)
 1. From the One is, who was, and who is coming
1:4; 1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 16:5
Comes from Ex. 3:14-15, the Divine Name
 2. And from the Seven Spirits who are before His throne
Some think “angels” but probably a ref to the Holy Spirit
Isa. 11:2; Zech. 4:2, 10. The Spirit’s perfect and effective work
 3. And from Jesus Christ
 - a) The faithful witness – the One who testified to the Father, for the truth, against the powers of evil, even unto death.
Isa. 43:10-13



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- b) The firstborn from the dead – Psa. 89:27, the Heir and supreme sovereign over death, Inaugurator of the New Creation by His resurrection.
- c) The ruler of the kings of the earth – there are kings on the earth, but the exalted One rules over the Herods, the Pilates, the Caesars (19:10). Jesus is the perfect Davidic King.

E. Doxology

1. To Him who loves us – present tense.
2. And loosed us from our sins by His blood – Exodus language
3. And made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father
4. [Be] Glory and power unto the ages, Amen

“Celebrates the superior work and worth of God and Christ in defeating the powers of evil and effecting salvation. Here “glory” is more than praise, but with “might” connotes “the splendor” or “glory” of the King of kings, the sovereign Lord of the universe.” Osborn

Amen – commitment to the truth with this affirming utterance

III. Theme (7-8)

A. Dan. 7:13 and Zech. 12:10

*Behold He is coming with the clouds
And every eye shall see Him
Even those who pierced Him
And all the tribes of the earth shall mourn for Him.
Yes. Amen*

1. Most see this as the Second Coming
Either depicting mourning in repentance or at the judgment
2. A different suggestion
Dan. 7:13-14 is the ascension, when Jesus receives authority to exercise His kingship over the nations.
*The “coming of Christ” in Revelation is not always the final, second advent.
“Better understood as a process occurring throughout history.” Beale 2:5, 2:16; 3:11*
Jn. 19:37 cites Zech 12:10



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Every eye/those who pierced Him = All the tribes of the earth (Gentiles)
Shall mourn for Him = repentance

B. Alpha and Omega

*I am the Alpha and Omega, says, the Lord God
The One who is, who was, and who is to come
The Almighty*

1. Alpha and Omega
Rooted in Isa. 41:4; 44:6; 48:12
1:8 – God the Father
1:17 – Jesus Christ
21:6 – God the Father
22:13 – Jesus Christ
Richard Bauckham, “He is the origin and goal of history.”
2. Says the Lord God
Yahweh of Hosts, El Shaddai
The omnipotent Ruler over everything
3. The One who is
The existing One, the One who is existence in Himself
Present with His people, active in history
4. The Almighty
1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7; 19:6; 21:22
“Indicates not so much God’s abstract omnipotence as His actual control over all things” (Bauckham).

Conclusion

