

INTRODUCTION

1. The key to interpreting Rv is the literary structure.

Introduction: Rv 15:1-4 - The Transition From the 4th Cycle into the 5th Cycle

1. v1-4 = hinge: concludes 4th cycle & intro's 5th cycle. cf. 8:1-6 - interlocking
 - i. v1 intro's 5th cycle - 7 angels w/ 7 bowls of wrath
 - ii. v2-4 concludes 4th cycle: heavenly worship occasioned by saint's victory.
 - iii. v5-6 begins 5th cycle - 7 angels w/ 7 bowls
 - iv. 5th cycle - 15:5-16:21. Wrath: 7 bowls - 7 symbolic items in sequence like trumpets. Bowls, censers for burning incense - Rv 8:3-5 = FJ
2. 'Progressive Parallelism': cycles overlap & rehearse Church-Age yet linear progress moving to end of age. Increased focus on FJ.

1st: A Sign in Heaven - v1

1. 3rd sign in heaven: 1st [12:1]; 2nd [12:3]. Now 7 angels w/ 7 plagues of wrath
2. *great & marvelous*: phrase repeated v3 - vocab from OT. We are looking at supernatural thgs that have been unfolding since the dawn of human history.
 - i. *great* - 'mega' immense significance. *marvelous* - miraculous power
 - ii. Pagans & modern man - trivialize

2nd: Seven Angels With Seven Plagues

1. *7 angels who had 7 plagues* - #7 => God's complete purpose for creation & salvation Not '666' but '777'
2. *angels* - involvement in human history
3. *7 plagues* - trmpts: recall plagues on Egypt. Salvation from wrath. 22:18-19.

3rd: A Summary of the 5th Cycle

1. v1 is both an intro to 5th cycle & a summary. The *last, God's wrath finished*.
2. Futurist interp: seals then trmpts then bowls. Some say *last* = Jn's final vision. Idealist Symbolism: cycles overlap - Progressive Parallelism.
3. Progressive parallelism. These 7 plagues -> culmination [sing song of victory in v2-4]. *last & finished* - thgs are moving to the End: revelation of wrath: hell.
4. *finished* - w/ bowls, wrath for this age has been "completely expressed" or has *reached its completion*. *It is finished* [Jn 10:30]. Seals reveal to wrath &

trmpts delve deeper & bowls give full disclosure. An unfolding of the revelation of wrath & w/ completion of bowls, the Judge Himself comes.

5. Parallelism - bowls delve deeper into the thgs already revealed. Progressive - moves to the culmination of wrath in this age -> Eschaton: eternity.

Applic #1: Pause for Perspective

1. What is Jn asking us to do by arranging his vss as interlocking the 4th & 5th cycles? Then, in v2-4 revealing heaven's celebration of victory?
2. A literary Selah - musical pause: given time to reflect on the words - look back on what has been revealed & prepare for what is about to come.
 - i. v1 gets us ready for 5th cycle of bowls of wrath
 - ii. v2-4 reorients us to what we've seen in 4th cycle & ends w/ FJ & another heavenly scene of worship: eternal victory
 - iii. v5 begins cycle of bowls - deeper into the reality of wrath.
3. Look ahead, then back, then ahead: pause & reflect: ask for insight, 13:18.

Applic #2: The Culmination of the Curse

1. W/ bowls, the all-encompassing curse of death is revealed - 22:3
2. Life in cursed world is 'natural' to us: good creation; common curse & common grace. We struggle to understand Rm 1: God's abandonment. We're drenched by out-poured bowls & are insensitive to death - Ps 90:3-12; v11.
3. Curse = context for gospel's good news of resurrection of Jesus: life for a world cursed w/ death.

Applic #3: Where is the Finish-Line?

1. *last & finished* - the end. Angels in 14:6-11 - the end is NOW. 2Pt 3:3-7 men misinterpret revelation of wrath: Flood.
2. When wrath is finished, so is summons to salvation. Hendriksen. JA Alexander "The Hidden Line" [goggle it].
3. Wrath is revealed [4 horsemen, seals, trmpts, bowls] - judgments pervade. Yet men believe Satan's lie: *you will surely not die!*
4. I need salvation. You need salvation - from wrath. Jesus is the Savior of death-deserving sinner who repents & trusts in Him for salvation from wrath.