

Studies in Biblical Eschatology
What About the Book of the Revelation? (Part 2)
Jan. 21, 2001 (Message #12)

Heavily indebted to Dennis Johnson, Vern Poythress, *The Returning King*; William Hendricksen, *More Than Conquerors*; G.K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation*, NIGNTC.

III. The Style of the Book of Revelation

- A. The Genre (literary type)
 - 1. It is apocalyptic - the use of symbols
 - 2. It is prophetic (1:3; 22:7)
 - 3. It is epistolary (introduction, exhortation, conclusion, to the churches)

- B. Rich in symbolism
Beale, 69 “The General Purpose of Symbolism in the Apocalypse”

- C. Rich in O.T. imagery
Revelation has more O.T. references than any other NT book.

IV. The Structure of the Book of Revelation

- A. General Futurist Understanding of the Book’s Structure (Dispensational)
 - 1. Rev. 1:17 – What you have seen, (1:9-20); what are (2-3); what must come to pass (6-22)

 - 2. Usual Outline
 - seal 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
 - trumpets 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
 - bowls 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

- B. Progressive Recapitulation (Progressive Parallelism)
 - 1. Definition: the Book of Revelation follows a repetitive or cyclical pattern, where there is thematic overlap and progression. The seal, trumpets and bowls run parallel with each, each set of seven spanning the time between the First Advent and Second Advent. The Book then follows an Already/Not prophetic perspective, which culminates each time with final judgment and salvation.

2. There are repeated scenes of eschatological judgment and salvation
 - a) 6:12-17 // 7:9-17
 - b) 11:18a // 11:18b
 - c) 14:14-20 // 15:2-4
 - d) 16:17-21 (17:1-18:24) // 19:1-10
 - e) 20:7-15 // 21:1-8
 - f) 21:9-22:5
(11:14-18; 16:17; 21:6; 6:12-17)
3. The Nature of the Scroll and Seals
4. The Obvious Structural Pattern of Seven
5. Repetition of Themes, Images and Phrases
 - a) three and half years (11:2-3; 12:6, 14; 13:5)
 - b) gathered together for the war (16:14; 19:19; 20:8)
 - c) the fall and destruction of Babylon (14:8; 16:19; 17:16; 18:2, 10, 17, 19-21; 19:2-3)
6. Other recapitulatory literature
Daniel, Ezekiel and even 1 John

C. An Overview of the Book