

# A study of Revelation

Lesson 3

## Styles of Prophetic Literature

Greek  
(Left brain)

- Logical
- Rational
- Objective
- Direct
- Linear

➤ Chronological

Hebraic  
(Right Brain)

- Imaginative - story, parable, no real logic
- Irrational – “unstructured”
- Subjective – need to find out; guessing
- Indirect – linked something else, somewhere
- Layering – layers, over one another
- Cyclical – stories/events in cycles
- Symbolic – may and may not be
- Time is literal!

➤ May not be chronological

## Example of Unchronological Order in Chapters

**Revelation 5:** " 7 He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. 9 And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign [b] on the earth."

11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. 12 In a loud voice they were saying:

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

14 The four living creatures said, "Amen." and the elders fell down and worshiped.

## Revelation 5 : 7-14

### ▀ Sequential Order of Events

- ▀ 1. Before Jesus Opens the Seals (vv7-10)
  - ▀ v7 - Jesus took the scroll from The Father
  - ▀ v8 - 4 Creatures and 24 Elders fall down before the Lamb
  - ▀ v9 - They sang a new song
- ▀ 2. After Armageddon (vv11-14) [**FLASH FORWARD**]
  - ▀ v11 - Voices of angels
    - ▀ Thousands upon thousands, and 10 thousands of 10 thousands
      - ▀ They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.
  - ▀ v13 – Voices of every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea
    - ▀ (Luke 20:43)

## Example of Unchronological Order in Chapters

- ▶ Revelation 1, 2, 3
- ▶ Revelation 12
- ▶ Revelation 10
- ▶ Revelation 4 (The Resurrections of the Past)
- ▶ Revelation 5: 7-14
  - ▶ **Revelation 5:7-10 (Before opening of the scroll)**
    - ▶ Revelation 7
    - ▶ Revelation 8
    - ▶ Revelation 6
    - ▶ Revelation 9
    - ▶ Revelation 11
    - ▶ Revelation 9
  - ▶ **Revelation 5:11-14 (After Armageddon)**
- ▶ Revelation ...

## Characters and Symbols

1. **The Lord God, the Almighty:** God Himself
2. **The Throne Room of God:** The Heavenly 'Holy of Holies'
3. **The (Divine) Lamb:** Jesus.
  1. "King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Alpha and Omega, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David, One like a Son of Man, Faithful and True, Word of God, Faithful Witness, First Born of the Dead, the Ruler of the Kings of the Earth".
  2. Jesus is also symbolized by three 'angels' in Revelation:
    1. The Angel in the Rising Sun of Revelation 7:1
    2. The "Strong" Angel of Revelation 10:1 and
    3. The 'Resplendent Angel' of Revelation 18:1.

## Characters and Symbols

4. **Four Living Creatures:** Heavenly beings near God's throne who do His bidding and are the guardians of His glory. Probably the same as cherubim in the Old Testament.
5. **24 Elders:** The priestly body of Christ in heaven; the 'brethren' of the 'saints'. Occupied with worship and intercession.
6. **The Male child:** Christ, who rules all nations.
7. **The Child:** Believers who are taken alive into heaven at the first rapture on the Day of Atonement.
8. **Angels:** Messengers of God; spirit beings, can be good or evil.

## Characters and Symbols

9. **Mighty Angel:** The Angel of the Lord, who is **Christ**, who comes to resurrect the dead and 'change' the living. He also delivers the 'little scroll.' (Revelation 10)
10. **The Angel from the Rising Sun:** An appearance of **Christ** as the Angel of the Lord, sealing the 144K of Israel. (Revelation 7)
11. **The Glorious Angel: Christ** as the Angel of the Lord overseeing the destruction of Mystery, Babylon, and leading the remnant into the wilderness. (Revelation 18)
12. **The 144,000 of Israel:** Men and women of Israel who worship the Lamb during the time of the end, the first fruits/firstborn of saved Israel.

## Characters and Symbols

13. **Virgin:** Someone who has not been spiritually corrupted by the Harlot religious system.
14. **The Saints:** Believers who live during the time of the end.
15. **Earth Dwellers:** "those who dwell on earth," mankind, man. All those who worship the Beast/Dragon or are a part of the Harlot church.
16. **The Woman in travail:** The remnant of Israel; The "Woman."
17. **The Two Witnesses:** Moses and Elijah. They also embody characteristics of Joshua the High Priest and Zerubbabel in Zechariah 4, and John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ.

## Characters and Symbols

- 18. Stars:** Angels, or literally stars in the sky
- 19. Dragon:** Satan, the 'ancient serpent,' devil.
- 20. Harlot / "Mystery" Babylon / the Woman who Rides the Beast:** The first of two end-time religious systems. This religion may be based in Rome, but represents an amalgamation of all religions, and is world-wide.
- 21. The Scarlet Beast:** The 7th end time king. Rules in conjunction with the Harlot before the midpoint.
- 22. Ten Horns:** Ten end time kings who rule with the Beast from the Sea.
- 23. Frogs:** Demonic spirits

## Characters and Symbols

- 24. The Beast from the Sea:** The 8th end time king who rules over the 7th kingdom. Rules with the False Prophet (Beast from the Earth) and the 10 Kings. A continuation of the 7th king. "The Beast who ascends from the bottomless pit."
- 25. Beast From the Earth:** The False Prophet. Spokesman, miracle worker and 'deceiver in chief' for the 'Beast from the Sea'/8th king/Beast who ascends from the bottomless pit/Apollyon.
- 26. Apollyon:** Angel from the bottomless pit (Abyss) who manifests in/as the 8th end-time king. Also known as Abaddon, the Destroyer, the king of the 'Watchers.'

## Characters and Symbols

- 27. Locusts:** The 'Watchers' who have been imprisoned in the pit and will be released during the last days.
- 28. Bride:** The inhabitants of the New Jerusalem.
- 29. Churches:** The 'ekklesia' of God; those called *out of the world and to God*. In Revelation 2 & 3, the 144K of Israel are the members of the 7 churches.
- 30. The Rider on the White Horse:** The 7th king as represented by Nimrod.
  1. Nimrod was the prototype of the Antichrist mentioned in Genesis; the ruler of Babel, who was transformed into a mighty man, a '*gibborim*' — mighty man.

## Characters and Symbols

- 31. The Holy City:** Jerusalem, both earthly and heavenly.
- 32. Sodom and Egypt:** Jerusalem under the reign of the 8th king.
- 33. Clouds:** The manifestation of God's glory; heavenly transportation.
- 34. Scroll with 7 Seals:** Writ of judgement against the earth and its inhabitants.
- 35. Horn:** Power and authority.
- 36. Eyes:** All-seeing, omniscient.
- 37. Little scroll:** The heavenly authorization to rebuild the temple.

## Characters and Symbols

- 38. Two Olive Trees and Two Candlesticks:** Moses and Elijah as types of Joshua, the High priest and Zerubbabel, who oversaw rebuilding the 2nd Temple (Zechariah 3 and 4).
- 39. Grapes:** Living people doomed to destruction in the winepress of God's wrath.
- 40. Great tribulation:** There are three different 'great tribulations':
1. the tribulation which takes place in the first part of the 7 years for the martyrs;
  2. at the midpoint/6th Trumpet for the Harlot/'Jezebel' and her followers; and
  3. the tribulation which takes place during the 2nd half of the 7 years, for Israel.

## Characters and Symbols

- 41. Mark of the Beast:** irreversible evidence of Beast worship
- 42. Image of the Beast:** a 'new race' of man 'created' in the "Image" of the Beast
- 43. Fiery red:** The color of the Dragon and the 2nd Seal Horse; represents evil, war and destruction.
- 44. Scarlet:** The color related to blood and religion.
- 45. Purple:** The color related to royalty and wealth and associated with the Harlot.
- 46. Crowns:** Rulership and authority.
- 47. Altar:** The altar of incense in heaven; the place where prayers are received and answered.





## Characters and Symbols

- 48. Ark of the Covenant:** God's throne of judgement and mercy in heaven.
- 49. White robe:** Glorified body; also represents righteous deeds
- 50. Torches of fire:** Holy Spirit. Also represented by the 7 'eyes' and 7 'horns' of the Lamb, sent out into all the earth.
- 51. The River of Life:** A picture of the Holy Spirit in the New Jerusalem.
- 52. Gold:** Glory, divinity, purification through trial.
- 53. Trumpet:** That which announces something.

## Characters and Symbols

- 54. Lampstand:** That which facilitates the impartation of spiritual light and truth; the 7 churches of Asia Minor are represented by seven lampstands, as are the Two Witnesses.
- 55. Waters:** People, multitudes and nations.
- 56. The Sea:** place of the dead, including the dead Beast.
- 57. Tribulation:** Persecution and trials
- 58. The Land:** the place of the living: "the land of the living". Also a reference to the land of Israel.
- 59. Jews:** People of Israel who follow the traditions of men; in juxtaposition to those 'of Israel,' who follow the Lord.

## Characters and Symbols

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- 60. "7"**: The number of fulness, completion, maturity, totality and divinity.
- 61. "24"**: The number associated with the temple, the priesthood, worshipers, stewards and co-rulers.
- 62. "12"**: The number associated with the 12 tribes of Israel and the Apostles. Twelve is the number associated with government and rulership, both earthly and spiritual.
- 63. "1000"**: Represents the fullest amount possible, therefore:  $12 \times 1000$  equals the fullest representation of each of the tribes of Israel.
- 64. "666"**: The number of the Beast. Six is the number of man. Three '6's' = the full manifestation of man or 'superman.'
- 65. "1,260" days**: The equivalent of 3 and a half years. Also 42 months and "time, times and half a time."

## The 7<sup>th</sup> Seal (Revelation 8:1)

- "When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour." (Rev 8:1)
- "Be silent, all flesh, before Yahweh; for he has roused himself from his holy habitation!" (Zechariah 2:13 )
- "Be silent at the presence of the Lord Yahweh, for the day of Yahweh is at hand. For Yahweh has prepared a sacrifice. He has consecrated his guests." (Zephaniah 1:7)
- "For behold, the Lord is coming out from his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity, and the earth will disclose the blood shed on it, and will no more cover its slain." (Isaiah 26:21)

## The 6<sup>th</sup> Seal (Revelation 6:12-17)

"I saw when he opened the **sixth seal**, and there was a **great earthquake**. The **sun** became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole **moon** became as blood. 13 The **stars** of the sky fell to the earth, like a **fig** tree dropping its unripe figs when it is shaken by a great wind. 14 The **sky** was removed like a scroll when it is rolled up. Every **mountain** and **island** was moved out of its place. 15 The kings of the earth, the princes, the commanding officers, the rich, the strong, and every slave and free person, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains.

16 They told the mountains and the rocks, 'Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, 17 for the **great day of his wrath has come**, and who is able to stand?'"

## God's Wrath

- ▶ **Revelation 16:1**, "Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go, pour out the seven bowls of **God's wrath** on the earth."
- ▶ **Psalms 7:11**, "God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day."
- ▶ **Hebrews 10:31**, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."
- ▶ **Colossians 3:6**, "On account of these the **wrath of God** is coming." God coming out of His place for judgment.
- ▶ **Ezekiel 25:17**, "I will execute great vengeance on them with **wrathful rebukes.** Then they will know that I am the Lord, when I lay my vengeance upon them."
- ▶ **Isaiah 13:13**, "Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place, at the **wrath of the Lord** of hosts in the day of his fierce anger."
- ▶ **1 Thessalonians 1:10**, "And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the **wrath to come.**"
- ▶ **Romans 5:9**, "Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the **wrath of God.**"

## ... Before the Judgment Begins

### ▶ A. Scene on earth

- ▶ **Romans 1:21-24** “<sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. <sup>24</sup>Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.”
- ▶ **Rev 7:1** “After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back its four winds so that no wind would blow on land or sea or on any tree.”
- ▶ The following **Old Testament** allusions depict **wind** as a symbol of judgment:
  - ▶ **Jeremiah 4:11,12** “At that time, it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem, ‘A **hot wind** blows from the bare heights in the wilderness toward the daughter of my people, not to winnow, nor to cleanse. <sup>12</sup> A full wind from these will come for me. Now I will also utter judgments against them.’”
  - ▶ **Daniel 7:2** ” Daniel said: “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the **four winds** of heaven churning up the great sea.”
  - ▶ **Psalms 11:6** “Upon the wicked He will rain snares; Fire and brimstone and burning **wind** will be the portion of their cup.”

## ... Before the Judgment Begins

### ▶ A. Scene on earth

- ▶ **Rev 7:1** “After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back its four winds so that no wind would blow on land or sea or on any tree.”
  - ▶ The four angels who stand on the four corners of the earth holding back the four winds, are holding back the judgments of God.
  - ▶ The ‘**winds**’ symbolically depict God’s judgment; and
  - ▶ they are not just holding back the Trumpets, but ALL judgments will be withheld, until after the **144K are ‘sealed’**:
    - ▶ “Do not harm the land or sea or trees until we have sealed the foreheads of the servants of our God.” **Revelation 7:3**

## ... Before the Judgment Begins

### B.1 Scene in Heaven

- ▶ **Rev 7:2** "Then I saw **another angel** coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. [Seal here is the Signet of God]
- ▶ He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: "
- ▶ **Rev 7:3** "Do not harm the land or sea or trees until we have sealed the foreheads of the servants of our God."
- ▶ **Rev 7:11** "All the angels were standing around the **throne** and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, " [a) 7 angels without trumpets yet]
- ▶ **Rev 8:2** "And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and **seven trumpets** were given to them." [b) 7 angels with trumpets with NO instructions yet]

## ... Before the Judgment Begins

- ▶ **B.2 Scene at the Throne with the Gold Bowls of Incense**
- ▶ **Rev. 5:7-8** " <sup>7</sup> **He** went and took the scroll from the right hand of **HIM** who sat on the throne. <sup>8</sup> And when **he** had taken it, the four living creatures and the **twenty-four elders** fell down before the **Lamb**.
  - ▶ **Each one** had a harp and they were holding **golden bowls full of incense**, which are the prayers of God's people."
- ▶ **Rev 8:3-5** "<sup>3</sup> Another **angel**, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. **He** was given **much incense** to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne. <sup>4</sup> The smoke of the **incense**, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand. [FULL of prayers from suffering believers remaining on earth]
- ▶ <sup>5</sup> Then the **angel** took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of **thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.**" [Prelude to the judgment]

## The Judgment **Begins** (Rev 8:6-13) **The Trumpets**

### [c] 7 angels with trumpets with instructions!

<sup>6</sup> Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.

<sup>7</sup> The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

<sup>8</sup> The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, <sup>9</sup> a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

<sup>10</sup> The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water— <sup>11</sup> the name of the star is Wormwood.<sup>[a]</sup> A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.

<sup>12</sup> The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.

<sup>13</sup> As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!"

You also, be patient.

**ESTABLISH  
YOUR HEARTS,**

for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

JAMES 5:8



Faithlife