

THE BOOK OF

REVELATION

...the great power
...the people
...will be needed to pluck
...roots.
7. Following Septuagint, Syriac, and Vulgate, Masorah

“The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending His angel to His servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.” **(Revelation 1:1-3)**

7 Seals



7 Trumpets



7 Thunders



7 Bowls of God's Wrath



7 Seals



7 Trumpets



7 Thunders



7 Bowls of God's Wrath



7 Seals



Plagues of
Egypt

7 Trumpets



7 Thunders



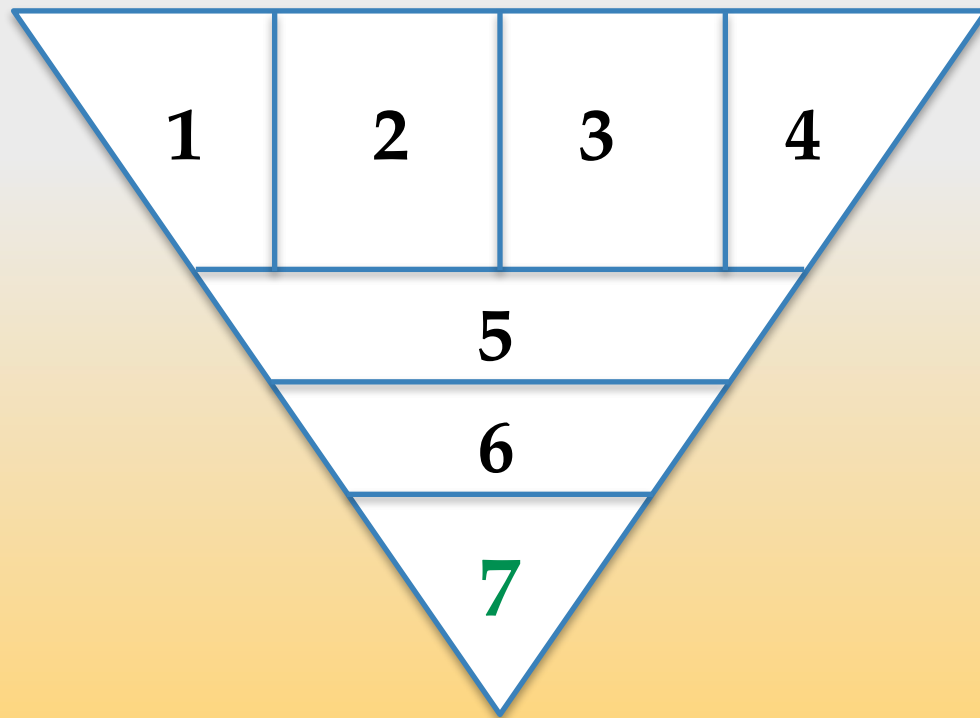
**Babylonian
Exile**

7 Bowls of God's Wrath



???

???



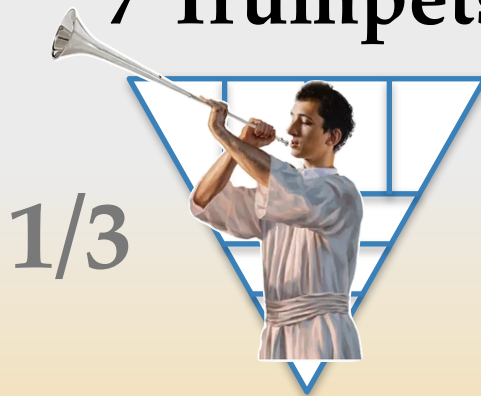
A Cycle of Sevenfold Judgment

7 Seals



1/4

7 Trumpets



1/3

7 Thunders



1/2

7 Bowls of God's Wrath



100%



Revelation previews a process of increasingly severe warning judgments meant to **PUNISH** evil and bring the world to **REPENTANCE**.



Four Cycles of Sevenfold Judgment

LEVITICUS 26

Leviticus 26:14-16 (ESV)

“But if you will not listen to me and will not do all these commandments, if you spurn my statutes, and if your soul abhors my rules, so that you will not do all my commandments, but break my covenant, then I will do this to you: I will visit you with 1) panic, with 2) wasting disease and 3) fever that consume the eyes and make the heart ache. And 4) you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.”

Leviticus 26:17-18 (ESV)

“I will set my face against you, and 5) you shall be struck down before your enemies. 6) Those who hate you shall rule over you, and 7) you shall flee when none pursues you. And if in spite of this you will not listen to me, then I will discipline you again sevenfold for your sins...”

Leviticus 26:40-42 (ESV)

“But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me, so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies—if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity, then I will remember my covenant with Jacob...”

Leviticus 26:42, 45 (ESV)

“...And I will remember my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land... But I will for their sake remember the covenant with their forefathers, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am the LORD.”



Revelation 10 breaks the patten.
This jarring **DISCONTINUITY** alerts us that
God has something incredibly important to
REVEAL.

Revelation 10:1-3 (ESV)

1 Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire. 2 He had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land, 3 and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. When he called out, the seven thunders sounded.



- Robed with a cloud
- Haloed with a rainbow
- A face shining like the sun
- Legs as fiery pillars
- A gait that spans all realms
- A voice like a lion



- While not God Himself, this angel's appearance has elements associated with **the appearance of God** in the Old Testament.

“And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder.” (Exodus 19:19)

“The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over
many waters. The voice of the LORD is
powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of
majesty.” (Psalm 29:3-4)

Revelation 10:4-5 (ESV)

4 And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down.” 5 And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven

Revelation 10:6-7 (ESV)

6 and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay, 7 but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.



God is not concealing the judgments the thunders will bring; He is **CANCELLING** them outright.



Why?

“And I will scatter you among the nations,
and I will unsheathe the sword after you,
and your land shall be a desolation, and your
cities shall be a waste. Then the land shall
enjoy its Sabbaths as long as it lies desolate,
while you are in your enemies’ land; then the
land shall rest, and enjoy its Sabbaths.”

(Leviticus 26:33-34)

Revelation 10:6-7 (ESV)

6 and swore by him who lives forever and ever,
who created heaven and what is in it, the earth
and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it,
that there would be no more delay, 7 but that in
the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by
the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be
fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants
the prophets.



*“For God so loved
the world...”*

- God at His core is a Maker and Redeemer, not a Destroyer.

Revelation 9:20-21 (ESV)

20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshipping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, 21 nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.



Sharper and sharper discipline proves **INEFFECTIVE** in prompting repentance. It fails to transform the hearts of a rebellious and sin-sick world.

In Scripture, a **MYSTERY** is a truth or reality which God knows, but which humans **DO NOT ANTICIPATE** and which is hidden from their awareness until the moment of **DISCLOSURE**.

Revelation 10:8-9 (ESV)

8 Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, “Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.” 9 So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, “Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.”

Revelation 10:10-11 (ESV)

10 And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter. 11 And I was told, “You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings.”

Revelation finds its meaning and its power
IN CONVERSATION with the other texts
of Scripture.

“For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.” (**Colossians 1:19-20**)



CRAIG R. KOESTER

Revelation & the End of All Things

second edition

Craig Koester,
*Revelation & the End
of All Things* (2018)

2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:11 (ESV)

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:11 (ESV)

“Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, ‘In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.’ Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:11 (ESV)

“We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger;”

2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:11 (ESV)

“By purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise.”

2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:11 (ESV)

“We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.”

2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:11 (ESV)

**“We have spoken freely to you,
Corinthians; our heart is wide open.”**