

Outline of the Book of Revelation

The Book (it is a pastoral letter!) is built around seven visions:

Vision 1: The Church(es) in Asia Minor (Western Turkey). The “Seven churches” probably represent all churches everywhere at every time (Chapters 1-3)

Vision 2: Seven Seals (Chapters 4-8:5). Begins with a vision of God’s throne. Each seal grows in intensity, until at the seventh seal we reach the day of judgment.

Vision 3: Seven Trumpets (Chapters 8:6-11:19).

Vision 4: The battle against Satan (Chapters 12-14). A further pattern of seven unfolds. This is history “behind the scenes”.

Vision 5: Seven Bowls (Chapters 15-16). With growing intensity, the vision describes God’s wrath poured out on the earth.

Vision 6: The Downfall of Babylon (godless civilization) by the triumphant Christ
See Chapters 17-19

Vision 7: The New Heavens and the New Earth (Chapters 20-22)

Revelation is about the triumph of God and the Lamb. It is intended to be understood by the church. It tells us that the victory is ours in Christ.

With acknowledgements to Derek Thomas.