

THE REVELATION TO JOHN:

The book essentially declares the message that God is in control and that all evil will be destroyed eventually. The structure of the work is a **chiasm of 7 sections of '7s'**, whereby each section includes an introduction and seven parts. Given Christian, first century interpretation of the meanings of 'numbers' (and there is much meaning in numbers in this book), the structure of the book itself expresses the belief of the Church in 'a perfect completion and fulfilment of all God's purposes'. As the book says: the church simply needs to remain true and faithful to the 'Lord Jesus'.

Opening and other references to lamp stands and allusions to Zech. 4.2-3,v.11 suggest strongly that the writer had the Jewish *menorah* in mind as he chose his structure:

Prologue: 1.1-8 (1-3/4-6/7-8) Introduction; Address and Greeting; 'Jesus is coming'

Section 1: 1.9-3.22 The Messages to the Seven Churches

(63 verses) Intro./ parts 1-7 1.9-20 / 2.1-7; 8-11; 12-17; 18-29; 3.1-6; 7-13; 14-22

Section 2: 4.1-8.1 The Seven Seals

(60 verses) Intro./ parts 1-7 4.1-5.14 / 6.1-2; 3-4; 5-6; 7-8; 9-11; 6.12-7.17; 8.1

Section 3: 8.2-11.18 The Seven Angels with Trumpets

(62 verses) Intro./ parts 1-7 8.2-6 / 8.7; 8-9; 10-11; 12-13; 9.1-12; 13-11.14; 11.15-1

Section C: 11.19-15.4 Seven Visions

(60 verses) Intro./ parts 1-7 11.19-12.18 / 13.1-10; 11-18; 14.1-5; 6-13; 14-20; 15.1; 2-4

Section 3': 15.5-16.17 The Seven Angels with Plagues (Bowls of Wrath)

(21 verses) Intro./ parts 1-7 15.5-16.1 / 16.2; 3; 4-7; 8-9; 10-11; 12-16; 17

Section 2': 16.18-19.10 Seven Words of Condemnation on Babylon

(56 verses) Intro./ parts 1-7 16.18-17.6 / 17.7-14; 15-18; 18.1-3; 4-20; 21-24; 19.1-5; 6-10

Section 1': 19.11-22.15 Seven Final Visions

(68 verses) Intro./ parts 1-7 19.11-16 / 19.17-18; 19-21; 20.1-3; 4-10; 11; 12-15; 21.1-22.15

Epilogue: 22.16-21 (16-17/18-19/20-21) Concluding Testimony: 'Jesus is coming'

Notes:

What was key to the analysis was the discovering of the repeating formula of 'And I saw', *Kaì εἶδον*, that the writer used in what I now designate his Central and Final sections. I was then able to determine the parts of what is now designated Section 2'. Introductory phrases, *Kaì εἶπέν...* and variations, 'And he said to me...'; 'And he says to me...', helped establish this series of parts. At first, I viewed the whole seven section scheme as a linear one. But when I saw the parallels, in sequence, between the seven parts of Section 3 and the seven parts of what was up until then Section 5 (now designated Section 3'), I began to test the whole structure for a chiasm, for which, for example, consider 1.9-20 and 19.11-16 (descriptions of our glorified Lord).

The menorah likely influenced the design. It began life, in written terms, in the Book of Exodus. To Orthodox rabbis, it represents 'the life and light of God in the world'. In John's Gospel, we are distinctly told that 'Jesus is the life and light of God in the world', also that believers will re-present/re-presence him. Here in the Revelation, it would appear we are being told that 'the Church of the 'Lord Jesus' is the life and light of God in the world'.

Prologue: 1.1-8: Introduction; Address and Greeting: 'Jesus is coming'

A	1.1-3	ABB'	
B	1.4-6	ABB'	
B'	1.7-8	ABB'	

Section 1: 1.9-3.22: The Messages to the Seven Churches (63 verses)

Introduction	1.9-20	ABB'	9-12a/12b-16/17-20
Parts 1-7	2.1-7	ABB'	1-6/7a/7b
	2.8-11	ABB'	8-10/11a/11b
	2.12-17	ABB'	12-16/17a/17b
	2.18-29	ABB'	18-25/26-28/29
	3.1-6	ABB'	1-4/5/6
	3.7-13	ABB'	7-11/12/13
	3.14-22	ABB'	14-20/21/22

Section 2: 4.1-8.1: The Seven Seals (60 verses)

Introduction	4.1-5.14	ABB''	4.1a-c/1d-11//5.1-14
Parts 1-7	6.1-2	abb'	
	6.3-4	abb'	
	6.5-6	abb'	
	6.7-8	abb'	
	6.9-11	abb'	
	6.12-7.17	ABB'	6.12-17/7.1-8/9-17
	8.1	abb'	

Section 3: 8.2-11.18: The Seven Trumpets (62 verses)

Introduction	8.2-6	ABB'	
Parts 1-7	8.7	abb'	
	8.8-9	abb'	
	8.10-11	abb'	
	8.12-13	abb'	
	9.1-12	ABB'	
	9.13-11.14	ABB'	13-21/10.1-11/11.1-14
	11.15-18	ABB'	

Section C: 11.19-15.4: Seven Visions (60 verses)

Introduction	11.19-12.18	ABB'	11.19-12.4b/4c-12/13-18
Parts 1-7	13.1-10	ABB'	
	13.11-18	ABB'	
	14.1-5	ABB'	
	14.6-13	ABB'	
	14.14-20	ABB'	
	15.1	abb'	
	15.2-4	ABB'	

Section 3': 15.5-16.17: The Seven Plagues (Bowls of Wrath) (21 verses)

Introduction	15.5-16.1	ABB'	
Parts 1-7	16.2	abb'	
	16.3	abb'	
	16.4-7	ABB'	
	16.8-9	abb'	
	16.10-11	abb'	
	16.12-16	ABB'	
	16.17	ABB'	

Section 2': 16.18-19.10: Seven Words of Condemnation on Babylon (56)

Introduction	16.18-17.6	ABB'	16.18-21/17.1-2/3-6
Parts 1-7	17.7-14	ABB'	7-8/9-11/12-14
	17.15-18	ABB'	
	18.1-3	ABB'	
	18.4-20	ABB'	4-8/9-10/11-20
	18.21-24	ABB'	
	19.1-5	ABB'	
	19.6-10	ABB'	6a-c/6d-8/9-10

Section 1': 19.11-22.15: Seven Final Visions (68 verses)

Introduction	19.11-16	ABB'	
Parts 1-7	19.17-18	ABB'	
	19.19-21	ABB'	
	20.1-3	ABB'	
	20.4-10	ABB'	4/5-8/9-10
	20.11	abb'	
	20.12-15	ABB'	
	21.1-22.15	ABB'	1-4/5-8/9-10a// 10b-14/15-21/22-27// 22.1-7/8-11/12-15

Epilogue: 22.16-21: Concluding Testimony: 'Jesus is coming'

A	22.16-17	ABB'	
B	22.18-19	ABB'	
B'	22.20-21	ABB'	