

The “Plot” of Revelation

4.1FF. THE DOOR IN HEAVEN IS OPENED AND JOHN IS CALLED TO GO THROUGH IT IN THE SPIRIT

-) A brilliant throne is revealed with one seated on the throne
-) vision of a heavenly liturgy is revealed: all creation celebrates the Creator

5.1FF: THE ONE SEATED ON THE SCROLL IS SEEN TO HOLD A SEALED SCROLL IN HIS RIGHT HAND.

-) An angel asks, “who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?”
-) A failed search is conducted.
-) An elder consoles John who then sees a “Lamb standing as if slaughtered,” who takes the scroll
-) A vision of a heavenly liturgy is revealed: a new song celebrates the Lamb

6.1FF: THE LAMB BREAKS SIX OF THE SEVEN SEALS: EMPIRE’S CLAIMS TO AUTHORITY ARE UNVEILED.

7.1FF: JOHN HEARS AN ANGEL CALL FOR THE MARKING OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD WITH A SEAL.

-) He “hears” the number of sealed people as 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes of Israel
-) But when he “looks,” he sees “a great multitude that no one can count from “all nations, tribes, peoples and languages”
-) A vision of a heavenly liturgy is revealed: salvation is from God and the Lamb

8.1FF: THE SEVENTH SEAL IS OPENED AND THERE IS SILENCE IN HEAVEN.

-) Six plague-trumpets are blown, echoing the Egyptian plagues and other biblical imagery.
-) The trumpets, however, fail to lead most people to repent.

10.1FF: A SECOND, SMALLER, OPEN SCROLL IS HELD BY AN ANGEL WITH A “FACE LIKE THE SUN”

-) John is told to eat the scroll, which is “bitter-sweet”
-) John is then told to prophesy

11.1FF: JOHN IS GIVEN A ROD AND TOLD TO MEASURE “THE TEMPLE OF GOD AND THE ALTAR AND THOSE WHO WORSHIP THERE”

-) Two witnesses (= olive trees and lampstands, i.e., two *ekklēsiai*) prophesy for 1260 days and are protected by God until they complete their witness
-) But then, the “beast from the abyss” makes war on them and kills them, while the people of “the great city” celebrate their death.
-) But the “breath of life” re-enters the witnesses and they are taken up to heaven, leading to an earthquake and partial repentance

12.1FF: THE VISION OF A PREGNANT “WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN”

-) She is chased by a dragon who seeks to devour her child.
-) The earth comes to aid the woman and a war breaks out in heaven
-) The dragon/serpent/devil/satan is “thrown down”

13.1FF: THE VISION OF THE BEASTS FROM THE SEA AND LAND AND THE DRAGON

-) A vision of a demonic liturgy: “who is like the beast and who can fight against it?”
-) The number of the beast is revealed to be a human number, 666

14.1FF: THE VISION OF THE LAMB ON MT. ZION

-) The redeemed celebrate a heavenly liturgy with a song only they can learn
-) The first proclamation of Babylon’s fall is heard

15.1FF: THE VISION OF THE BOWL-PLAGUES

-) A heavenly liturgy celebrates God’s just judgments
-) Seven angels pour forth the bowls of God’s wrath on the earth

17.1FF: THE VISION OF FALLEN BABYLON

19.1FF.: THE FINAL HEAVENLY LITURGY: A CELEBRATION OF GOD’S JUDGMENT ON BABYLON

-) The marriage feast of the Lamb is announced
-) A white horse, ridden by “Faithful and True,” is tattooed, “king of kings and Lord of lords”
-) An angel standing in the sun calls for the “great supper of God”

20.1ff: The final judgment

) **THE DRAGON IS BOUND IN A PIT FOR 1000 YEARS**

) Those beheaded for their witness to Jesus are enthroned.

) Satan will be released and will be defeated and thrown into a lake of fire and sulfur.

) The book of life is opened and the dead are judged.

21.FF: THE VISION OF NEW JERUSALEM