



Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New King James Version (NKJV), copyright © by Thomas Nelson, 1984.

Copyright © 2022 by Joshua R. Embry

All rights reserved

Structural Analysis of Revelation Chapters 4-11 via Outline

Before adding commentary, it is important to note that Revelation is prophecy and contains visions provided to John, some of which may use imagery which may not be made completely clear until the events have happened. While interpreters may endeavor to understand and speculate on future events, it should be remembered that unless otherwise clearly stated, these statements are conjecture and mere opinions where the text has not clearly defined them. I take this same position with any statements I make below and encourage the reader to do the same. Part of this is due to the nature of future things to come, some is not revealed by God, such as the date and hour, and other portions such as those mentioned where John is told to seal those things up. These point to examples within the text itself where it is shown that not all was to be revealed, but only a glimpse.

I. VISION OF HEAVEN 4:1-11

A. A door standing open in heaven

1. First voice sounded like a trumpet
 - i. Come up here, I will show you things which much take place after this
2. Immediately I was in the Spirit and a throne set in heaven and One sat on it
 - i. He who sat on it was like a jasper and sardius stone in appearance
 - ii. There was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald
 - iii. 24 elders sat around the throne, white robes, crown of gold
3. Seven lamps burning before the throne 4:5
 - i. These are the 7 Spirits of God
4. Before the throne a sea of glass, like crystal 4:6
5. Four living creatures 4:6-9
 - i. Eyes in front and in back
 - ii. First creature was like a lion
 - iii. Second creature was like a calf
 - iv. Third creature had a face like a man
 - v. Fourth creature was like a flying eagle
 - vi. Each had 6 wings, were full of eyes around and within, do not rest day/night
 - vii. Say "Holy holy hoy Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"
 - viii. Whenever the creatures give glory, the 24 elders fall down and worship Him Casting their crowns before the throne.

This first section appears to have John witness heaven opening up, as through a door, and being called up, then he appears or has a vision in heaven of the throne and God on the throne. From here he describes what he sees which includes the appearance of God as well as the 24 elders, the seven lamps, a sea of glass, and four living creatures. The text itself defines the seven lamps as the seven Spirits of God, but does not define those Spirits any further.

We see God in His glory being worshipped by beings we cannot fully comprehend, confirming that He is holy and eternal.

II. THE SEVEN SEALED SCROLL 5:1-14

A. Who is worthy to open the seal?

1. Jesus the lamb is worthy
2. Jesus worshiped
3. Angels exalt Jesus

In this portion of John's vision a scroll with seven seals is revealed, and at first he is disheartened that no one is worthy to open it, but alas, Christ, the Lamb of God is found to be worthy to take and open the scroll. This leads to Christ's worship by those in heaven, and then being exalted by the angels.

III. SEALS 1-6 6:1-17

A. Seal 1 6:1-2

1. White horse
2. Bow and crown
3. Went out conquering

White generally signifies honor, but context does not seem to give that attribute here. The bow is that of a warrior, the crown of a king, and the objective was to conquer. This first seal is that of a warrior king, unleashed.

B. Seal 2 6:3-4

1. Fiery red horse
2. A great sword
3. Took peace from the earth so that people would kill one another

Fiery red horse may signify rage, the sword destruction and the description provided here is that peace was taken away from the earth so that the people would kill each other. It does not say that the wielder of the sword killed, but that it caused people to war against and kill each other.

C. Seal 3 6:5-6

1. Black horse
2. Pair of scales in hand
3. Famine (a quart of wheat for a denarius and three quarts of barley for a denarius)
 - i. But do not harm the oil or wine

Black often signifies darkness or death, the tool here was scales and a measure of value is also given. The price of goods is to increase as in a time of famine. This parallels Old Testament prophecies where prices would be used to signify battle severity or even a lifting of battle. In this case, higher prices mean that this would be a hard time and the wheat and barley (food items) would be damaged or destroyed. Supply and demand would cause severe price inflation. For some reason oil and wine would be spared. Perhaps as a mercy, perhaps as a means to continue on life for the remaining seals.

D. Seal 4 6:7-8

1. Pale horse
2. Death
3. ¼ earth killed with sword, hunger, death and beasts of the earth

Pale often represents illness or fatigue, and in this case death and hunger, and even attacks by beasts of the earth kill ¼ of the earth.

E. Seal 5 6:9

1. Martyrs
2. Ask the Lord, how long?
 - i. Answer – more martyrs must come, soon

3. Dressed in white robes

This seal represents the plea of those who have been martyred or killed for God, who have been patiently waiting for His judgement. God lets them know the time has not yet come and there are still those to be added to their number. They are honored with white robes which represents purity and righteousness for the honoring sacrifice they have made for God. They were faithful.

F. Seal 6 6:12-17

1. Great earthquake
2. Sun became black
3. Moon like blood
4. Sky receded as a scroll when rolled up
5. Every mountain and island moved out of its place
6. Men hid themselves in caves hoping for death

6:15-17

The sixth seal came with natural disasters, there was no horse or rider, simply action, earthquake, the sun blackened, the moon red like blood. The description of the sky receding like a rolled up scroll is interesting, could this mean something happens to the atmosphere or sky? Is the atmosphere lost due to the sun burning out or being blackened? Again speculation. There is such a great tumult that every mountain and island is moved out of its place, this could signify tectonic action, or a breaking of the earth's crust and/or mantle. Men flee and hide in caves, hoping they will crash down on them and end their lives.

IV. PARENTHETICAL PAUSE 7:1-14

- A. Jews and Gentiles
- B. No wind
- C. Do not harm until the servants of God are sealed on their forehead
- D. 144,000 Jews
- E. Great multitude of Gentiles from all nations clothed with white robes
- F. Who are these?
 1. Those who come out of the great tribulation

7:9-10

7:14

The scrolls are departed for a moment and specifics are provided regarding those who come out of the great tribulation. 144,000 Jews and a great multitude of Gentiles. Not much is provided here other than that they will be spared of harm.

V. SEVENTH SEAL OPENED 8:1-6

- A. Silence in heaven for about half an hour
- B. 7 angels before God
 1. 7 Trumpets
- C. Another angel with a golden censer
 1. Incense and the prayers of the saints offered to God
 2. Angel took censer filled it with fire from the altar and threw it to the earth.
 3. Earthquake, lightening, thunder, noises
- D. Angels prepared to sound the trumpets

8:6

The seventh seal leads to a hushed silence in heaven for half an hour. Then the 7 angels with 7 trumpets are revealed. An additional angel appears and presents an offering of incense and prayer to God, then takes the fire from the altar, fills the censer and throws it to the earth. This causes an earthquake, lightening, thunder, and other noises.

VI. TRUMPETS 1-6 8:7-9:21

Each of the trumpets announce some form of coming wrath as noted below:

A. Trumpet 1 8:7

1. Hail and fire followed, mingled with blood and thrown to the earth.
2. 1/3 of all trees were burned up and all green grass was burned up

B. Trumpet 2 8:8-9

1. Something like a great mountain, burning with fire thrown into the sea
2. 1/3 of the sea became blood
3. 1/3 of living creatures in the sea died
4. 1/3 of ships were destroyed

The sea is filled with 1/3 of it's creatures killed and with blood (presumably their blood). Death now lingering in the water, likely making it putrid.

C. Trumpet 3 8:10-11

1. A great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch- named Wormwood
2. Fell on 1/3 of rivers and on springs of water
3. 1/3 of the waters became wormwood
 - i. Many men died from the water because it was made bitter

The waters were poisoned by this event. The seas had already been tainted with the prior seal, now 1/3 of the earth's freshwater was ruined and poisoned.

D. Trumpet 4 8:12-13

1. 1/3 of the sun was struck and darkened
2. 1/3 of the moon was struck and darkened
3. 1/3 of the stars struck and darkened
4. 1/3 of the day and 1/3 of the night did not shine
5. Angel flying through heaven saying "Woe, woe woe...because of the remaining...trumpet"

1/3 of the light both in the day and night was darkened. This means plant growth is affected, temperatures are affected as well. Times of darkness have increased.

E. Trumpet 5 9:1-12

1. A star fallen from heaven to earth 9:1
2. To Him (star) given the key to the bottomless pit. 9:2
 - i. He opens it, smoke arose out like out of a great furnace
 - ii. The sun and air were darkened because of this smoke from the pit

The star is personified, likely an angel as seemingly identified later on

3. Out of the smoke come locusts upon the earth 9:3-10
 - i. Given power like scorpions
 - ii. Commanded not to harm the grass or any green thing or tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.
 - iii. Not authorized to kill them but to torment them for 5 months like a scorpion
 - iv. Shaped like horses, heads had crowns of something like gold

- v. Faces like men, hair like women, teeth like lions, breastplate of iron, wings like sound of chariots with many horses running, stings like scorpions in their tails.
- 4. Men will seek to die but not be able to 9:6
- 5. Locust king over them is Abaddon 9:11
- 6. First woe has passed, two more to come 9:12
- F. Trumpet 6 9:13-21
 - 1. Heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God
 - 2. Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.
 - i. The four had been prepared for the hour, day, month, and year
 - ii. Released to kill 1/3 of mankind

It is unclear if these are fallen angels or angels who were simply created for this exact purpose. It says they had been prepared for this time.

- 3. Number of army of horseman was two-hundred million (I heard the number of them)
 - i. Those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow
 - ii. Heads of the horses were like the heads of lions
 - iii. Out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone

By these 3 plagues 1/3 of mankind was killed

- iv. Power is in their mouth and tails, tails like serpents having heads and do harm
- 4. The rest of mankind were not killed by these plagues, but did not repent
 - i. worship demons, idols, murders, sorceries, sexual immorality, thefts.

Despite all that has occurred – death, famine, darkness, poisoning of water, crumbling of their surroundings, meteorites crashing down, mankind still holds on to their sinful ways and does not repent.

- VII. PARENTHETICAL PAUSE 10:1-11:14
 - A. Another might angel clothed with a cloud, rainbow on his head, face like the sun, feet like pillars of fire
 - 1. Had a little book open in his hand
 - 2. Set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, cried with a loud voice like a lion's roar
 - 3. 7 Thunders uttered their voices when he roared
 - i. John was about to write what the thunders said but the angel spoke
 - ii. Seal up what the said and do not write them

This is an interesting segment that shows we are not to know all of the details until they occur. This is where I find solace in the fact that not all imagery or statements have a clear meaning, this is a perfect example that things are purposefully being kept hidden until the proper time.

- 4. Angel rose his hand swearing no more delay, the mystery of God would be finished
- 5. Voice from heaven said to take the little book from the hand of the angel
 - i. Eat it, it will be sweet as honey but bitter in your stomach
- 6. Angel tells John he must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.
- B. Measuring the temp of God
 - 1. John given a reed like a measuring rod, told to rise and measure the temple of God
 - i. Measure temple, altar, and those who worship there
 - ii. Leave out the court for it has been given to the Gentiles to worship there

iii. Gentiles will tread the holy city for 42 months

42 months is 3.5 years (using the modern calendar, the Jewish calendar can range 353-355 days per year)

C. Power will be given to two witnesses who will prophesy 1,260 days

1. Clothed in sackcloth
2. These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth
3. If anyone wants to harm them fire proceeds from their mouth and devours them.
4. They will have power to shut up the rain, waters to blood, strike earth with plagues as often as they desire.

1260 days is used later in Revelation as well, so there is a significance to this number. It is roughly 3.5 years by either the modern or Jewish calendar, the Jewish calendar having 353, 354, or 355 days per year, some combination of these numbers could get there.

The second woe is past, the third is coming quickly		11:14
VIII.	SEVENTH TRUMPET	11:15-19
A. Trumpet 7 sounded by 7 th angel		
1. Loud voices in heaving saying “the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ...”		
2. 24 Elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces worshiping God		11:16-18
3. The temple of God was opened in heaven		11:19
4. The ark of His covenant was seen in His temple		
5. Lightnings, thundering, an earthquake, and great hail.		

Chapter eleven ends on a bang if you will. The temple of God is opened in heaven, the ark of the Covenant is exposed, and there are flashing lights, loud sounds, shaking, and hail. It’s a crescendo of an ending for this section.