

The Structure of Revelation (addendum)

I wanted to spend a little time before going into the Seals, Trumpets and Vials and talk about the structure of the book. Expositors of the word have provided various outlines of the the book of Revelation. Obviously the structure one holds to tends to influence his interpretation of the book.

Chronological / Sequential Structure

This view follows a sequential chronological path.

Things which are	Things which shall be hereafter	Eternal states
Christ in His Church (Rev 1-3)	Seven Seals (Rev 4-7)	
	Seven Trumpets (Rev 8-11)	
	Great Tribulation (Rev 12-14)	
	Seven Vials (Rev 15-16)	
	Babylon Woman & City (Rev 17-18)	
	Armageddon 2nd Coming (Rev 19)	
	Millennium (Rev 20)	
	New Earth (Rev 21-22)	

Progressive Parallel Structure

This view says there are seven sections in Revelation, and these seven sections run parallel from the first coming of Christ until His second coming.

FIRST COMING

SECOND COMING

- 1) Seven Churches (Rev 1-3)
- 2) Seven Seals (Rev 4-7)
- 3) Seven Trumpets (Rev 8-11)
- 4) Christ in Conflict with the Dragon (Rev 12-14)
- 5) Seven Vials (Bowls) of God's Wrath (Rev 15-16)
- 6) The Judgment of Babylon (Rev 17-19)
- 7) The Judgments on Satan and His Hosts & the New Heavens and New Earth (Rev 20-22)

The Heaven and Earth Structure¹

As you go through the chapters of Revelation you will notice that John sees things first in heaven, then he sees the resultant action on earth. The place of the visions is heaven, God's dwelling place -- the fulfillment of the visions is earth, man's dwelling place.

¹ <https://gods-kingdom-ministries.net/daily-weblogs/2015/11-2015/the-structure-of-revelation/>

- Introduction (ch. 1)
 - The People on the earth (2, 3)
- 1. Vision In Heaven (4, 5)
 - Vision On Earth (6:1-7:8)
- 2. Vision In Heaven (7:9-8:6)
 - Vision On Earth (8:7-11:14)
- 3. Vision In Heaven (11:15-19)
 - Vision On Earth (11:19)
- 4. Vision In Heaven (12:1-12)
 - Vision On Earth (12:13-13:18)
- 5. Vision In Heaven (14:1-5)
 - Vision On Earth (14:6-20)
- 6. Vision In Heaven (15:1-8)
 - Vision On Earth (16:1-18:24)
- 7. Vision In Heaven (19:1-16)
 - Vision On Earth (19:17-20:15)
- The People on the New Earth (21:1-22:5)
- Conclusion (22:6-21)

Christian Millennialist Structure²

Christian Millennialist, a structure coined by Kevin J. Connor in order to classify his beliefs as to a millennium. He does not hold to a “**Jewish Millennium**” wherein the Mosaic economy is restored. Also designating that he is not an “**A-Millennialist**” who believes the church is in the millennium now.

Within the Christian Millennialist view Connor believes there are parts of the other views that hold merit. For example: There would be **some chapters that would fulfill progressive parallelism** (11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16,,17, 18 and consummate with Chapter 19).

Connor comes to this conclusion for two reasons:

- 1) **Time Period** - the time period mentioned in Revelation 11, 12 and 13 is three and a half years. This should be seen as depicting different events during the same 3.5 years rather than a total of 10.5 years... This is obviously dependant upon your interpretation.

It would look like this

Three & One Half Years

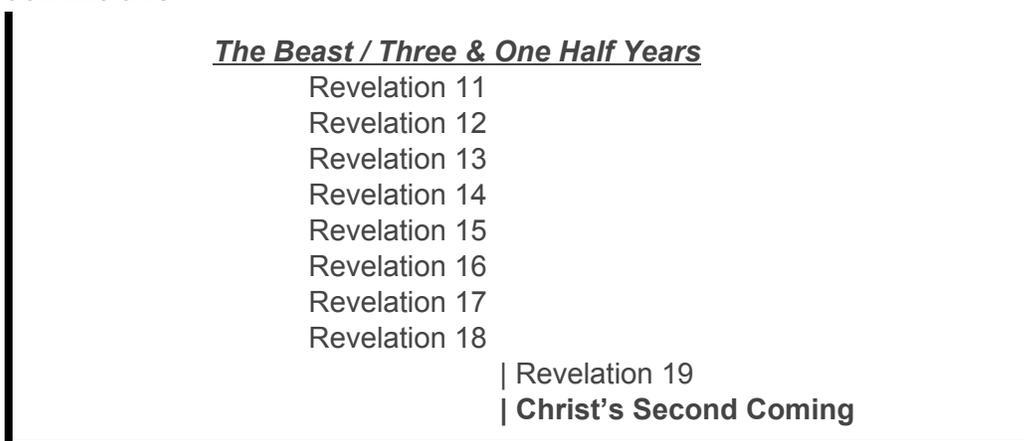
- 1) Revelation 11 (1,260 days)
- 2) Revelation 11 (forty two months)
- 3) Revelation 12 - Time, Times and Half a Time
- 4) Revelation 13 - Time, Times and Half a Time

² Kevin Connor, Interpreting the Book of Revelation

- 2) **The Beast** - the time period mentioned in Revelation 11, 12 and 13 is three and a half years. The first mention of the beast is Rev 11:7, the final mention is Rev 20:10...(at least 37 mentions).

When comparing Daniel 7 with Revelation 13 you will see “the little horn” of Daniel and “the beast” of Revelation both make war with the saints for three and one-half years...the conclusion is “the beast” and “the little horn” are both speaking of the same thing. So “the beast” and the “time, times and half a time” would fall into a progressive parallelism model which looks like this.

It would look like this



The Christian Millennialist Structure is sort of a hybrid where most of the chapters fall into the Chronological Structure and some into the Progressive Parallel Structure.

Christ’s Ascension	Church History	Christ’s Coming
Seven Churches (Rev 1-3) 7 Seals (Rev 4-7) 7 Trumpets (Rev 8-10) 3½ Years (Rev 11-18)(Progressive Parallelism) 2nd Coming of Christ (Rev 19) 1000 Years (Rev 20) New Heaven & Earth Eternity (Rev 21-22)		

The “Then I Saw” Structure

This structure breaks up the book of Revelation based on the “Then I Saw” statements of John, where each of these seems to be a breaking point describing something new.

Rev 5:1-2 NIV **Then I saw** in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?"

Rev 5:6 NIV **Then I saw** a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

Rev 7:2 NIV **Then I saw** another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea:

Rev 10:1 NIV **Then I saw** another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars.

Rev 13:11 NIV **Then I saw** a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon.

Rev 14:6 NIV **Then I saw** another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth--to every nation, tribe, language and people.

Rev 16:13 NIV **Then I saw** three impure spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

Rev 19:19 NIV **Then I saw** the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army.

Rev 20:11-12 NIV **Then I saw** a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

Rev 21:1-2 NIV **Then I saw** "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Chiastic Structure³

A chiasm (also called a chiasmus) is a literary device in which a sequence of ideas is presented and then repeated *in reverse order*. The result is a "mirror" effect as the ideas are "reflected" back in a passage. Each idea is connected to its "reflection" by a repeated word, often in a related form. The term *chiasm* comes from the Greek letter *chi*, which looks like our letter X. Chiastic pattern is also called "ring structure."

³ <https://www.gotquestions.org/chiasm-chiastic.html>

Sample chiastic pattern ABCDXDCBA (two A's have a match, the two B's have a match etc). Here is an example from Scripture(Matt 6:24)⁴

- (A) No one can **serve two masters**;
- (B) for either he will **hate** the one
- (C) and **love** the other,
- (C') or he will be **devoted** to one
- (B') and **despise** the other.
- (A') You cannot **serve God and wealth**.

Here is one idea of how the chiastic structure might look in the book of Revelation.⁵

1:2 ...the testimony of Jesus	Rev 22:16 NIV "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches.
Rev 1:3 NIV Blessed is the one who reads...	Rev 22:7 NIV ... Blessed is the one who keeps...
Rev 1:7 NIV "Look, he is coming with the clouds,"	Rev 22:12 NIV "Look, I am coming soon!
Rev 1:8 NIV "I am the Alpha and the Omega ,"	Rev 22:13 NIV I am the Alpha and the Omega , the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.
Rev 2:1 NIV [Jesus] walks among the seven golden lampstands .	Rev 21:23 NIV The city does not need the sun ... the Lamb is its lamp .
Rev 2:7 NIV ...To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life	Rev 22:2 NIV On each side of the river stood the tree of life ...
Rev 3:8 NIV ... I have placed before you an open door	Rev 21:25 NIV On no day will its gates ever be shut ...
Rev 3:21 NIV ... just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne .	Rev 22:3 NIV ... The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.
Rev 3:12 NIV The one who is victorious... I will write on them the name ...of the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven	Rev 21:10 NIV ... showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.
Rev 3:11 NIV I am coming soon	Rev 22:7 NIV "Look, I am coming soon! ...
Rev 4:1 NIV ...there before me was a door standing open in heaven ...	Rev 19:11 NIV I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse...

⁴ http://www.bible-discernments.com/joshua/whatisachiasm_two.html

⁵ (adapted from) http://amazingdiscoveries.org/S-deception-Revelation_prophecy_chiasm_eschatological

<p>Rev 6:9-10 NIV When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.</p>	<p>Rev 20:4 NIV ...And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God...</p>
<p>Rev 6:11 NIV Then each of them was given a white robe...</p>	<p>Rev 19:14 NIV The armies of heaven...riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.</p>
<p>Rev 6:15-16 NIV Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. 16 They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!</p>	<p>Rev 19:17-18 NIV And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, 18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small."</p>
<p>EARTH Rev 8:7 NIV The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.</p>	<p>LAND Rev 16:2 NIV The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly, festering sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.</p>
<p>SEA Rev 8:8-9 NIV The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, 9 a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.</p>	<p>SEA Rev 16:3 NIV The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead person, and every living thing in the sea died.</p>
<p>RIVERS Rev 8:10-11 NIV The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water-- 11 the name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.</p>	<p>RIVERS Rev 16:4 NIV The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.</p>
<p>SUN, MOON and STARS Rev 8:12 NIV The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned</p>	<p>SUN Rev 16:8-9 NIV The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was allowed to scorch people with fire. 9 They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these</p>

dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.	plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.
BOTTOMLESS PIT Rev 9:1 NIV The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.	KINGDOM OF THE BEAST PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS Rev 16:10 NIV The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in agony
EUPHRATES Rev 9:14 NIV It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates. "	EUPHRATES Rev 16:12 NIV The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East.
LOUD VOICES - THE KINGDOM IS HIS Rev 11:15 NIV The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever."	A LOUD VOICE FROM THE THRONE Rev 16:17 NIV The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!"
Rev 12:1 NIV a woman clothed with the sun	Rev 17:4 NIV The woman [harlot] was dressed in purple and scarlet...
Rev 12:17 NIV ...her offspring --those who keep God's commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.	Rev 17:5 NIV The name written on her forehead was a mystery: BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES ...
Rev 12:14 NIV The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness , where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.	Rev 17:3 NIV Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.
Rev 12:3 NIV Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads.	Rev 17:3 NIV Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.
Rev 14:8 NIV A second angel followed and said, " Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, " which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries."	Rev 18:2 NIV With a mighty voice he shouted: " Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! " She has become a dwelling for demons and a haunt for every impure spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal.