

“How shall we understand this [Rev. 1:12-16] description of the heavenly Christ? It may seem paradoxical to say that the description does not mean what it says; it means what it means” (Bruce Metzger).

Chapters 8 & 9

Raphael (Tobit 12:15) plus Uriel, Raguel, Michael, Sariel, Gabriel, and Remiel (Enoch 20)

The heavenly chorus offers to Jesus the prayers of the saints (5:8), **prayers that invite the plagues he will soon release for their vindication (6:10; 8:4-6)**. For the connection between prayer and incense, see Psalm 141:2 and Luke 1:10.

God is working in the world, prompted by the anguished prayers of His people.

Upon whom did the plagues in Exodus fall? Egyptians? Israelites? (Exodus 8:22-23; 9:6-7)

Notice the progression: 1/4 (6:8) > 1/3 (8:7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12; 9:15, 18) > 1 (16:3)

Could the sudden eruption of Vesuvius, which engulfed the city of Pompeii, have informed the first century’s readers’ understanding of 8:8?

seals, trumpets, bowls are synchronous (8:5; 11:19; 16:18; see also 4:5)

“The divine retribution revealed by the seals and announced by the trumpets is now executed by the bowls. From a literary standpoint, the bowls seem to be the unfolding of the seventh trumpet, just as the trumpets were an expansion of the seventh seal. . . The visions are intended more to confront man with **vivid portrayals of eschatological truth than to supply him with data for a precise chronology of the consummation**” (Mounce, *The Book of Revelation*, p. 284).

First trumpet (8:7)	Earth	First bowl (16:2) *16:2
Second trumpet (8:8-9)	Sea	Second bowl (16:3)
Third trumpet (8:10-11)	Rivers	Third bowl (16:4-7)
Fourth trumpet (8:12)	Sun	Fourth bowl (16:8-9)
Fifth trumpet (9:1-12)	Pit of the abyss or throne of the beast	Fifth bowl (16:10-11)
Sixth trumpet (9:13-21)	Euphrates	Sixth bowl (16:12-16)
Seventh trumpet (11:15-19)	Second coming in judgment	Seventh bowl (16:17-21)

8:13: “inhabitants of the earth” occurs ten times in Revelation (3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10 (twice); 13:8, 14 (twice); 17:2, 8 [see also 13:12]), always referring to those outside of Christ.

Note the 4 + 2 + interlude + 1 sequence in seals, trumpets, and bowls

The overall intention of the seven trumpets is not to inflict vengeance but to bring people to repentance. Since trumpets warn (see Amos 3:6), we have a call to repentance.

The first four trumpets harm the wicked in their bodies, the last three bring spiritual anguish (hell itself is let loose).

The Lord will afflict the persecutors of the church!

The eagle bodes evil (Matt 24:28; Hosea 8:1): Woe! Woe! Woe!

Contrast 7:2-4 with 9:4

Satan receives power to open the abyss and to let loose the demons (hell before the final judgment).

Smoke = deception and delusion; sin and sorrow; moral deafness and degradation = operation of the powers of darkness in the souls of wicked men

Foolish men continue to transgress both the first (9:20) and the second greatest commandments (9:21).

9:13-21 "This is God's way of letting evil do its worst, so that it may eventually fall under its own weight" (Wright, p. 92).

Chapter 10

10:4 see 2 Corinthians 12:4 Let us be very careful in making predictions regarding the future: we may be leaving out a very important factor!

Little scroll: See Ezekiel 2:8; 3:1-3; *Psalm 119:103. Is this the same scroll of 5:1?

God's words are to become John's words in order that they can become reality.

The gospel is sweet, but its proclamation is followed by bitter persecution. **Chapter 11 shows the bitter experience which the true church must endure when it preaches the sweet gospel of salvation.**

The people of God are delivered not from martyrdom and death, but through martyrdom and death to a glorious resurrection.

Chapter 11

The temple symbolizes God's people.

The "temple of God" (Rev 11:1) appears ten times in the NT. Notice the usages: (1) Matt 26:61; (2) Rev 3:12; 11:19; (3) 2 Thess 2:4; (4) *1 Cor 3:16, 17 (twice); *2 Cor 6:16 (twice); see also 1 Cor 6:19; *Eph 2:19-22 and *1 Peter 2:5.

The term "temple" is used 16 times in Revelation (3:12; 7:15; 11:1, 2, 19 (twice); 14:15, 17; 15:5, 6, 8 (twice); 16:1, 17; 21:22 (twice). The first usage in 21:22 is the only place where a physical temple is in mind.

Measuring is done in order to build and repair = to restore and revive the church.

Two witnesses: missionary task of the church (Luke 10:1; see also Deut. 19:15)

42 months (period of persecution) = 1,260 days (period of proclamation) = 3 & ½ years,
the traditional length of Gentile domination (Daniel 9:27; 12:7).

Defilement of the temple by Antiochus Epiphanes for 3 and 1/2 years (167-164 BC)

Preaching repentance and for this reason they are clothed in sackcloth, a sign of mourning for the wickedness of the world and the evil it will bring on itself

11:5 see *Jer 5:14 // Matt 18:18

1 Kings 17:1 Exodus 7:20

death of the faithful lamb and now the death of the lamb's faithful followers

The world may think the church's voice has been silenced.

Ezekiel 37 God's breath coming into the dead corpse.

***11:16-18 + 19 perfect access to God and a clearer vision of his splendor.**

Prophetic witness, its faithful death, its vindication by God

Through the awful turmoil of the world, God is establishing through Jesus a people who are bearing witness, often through their own suffering, so that God will be king over all.