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**INTRODUCTION**

1. The importance of "literary structure" as to how Revelation is interpreted.
2. Rv1:3 may we be *blessed* in reading Rev intelligently

**1st: The Cyclic Structure of the Book of Revelation [see handout]**

1. 2 prts - 1<sup>st</sup>: Conflict on Earth [chp 1-11]; 2<sup>nd</sup> Conflict in Heaven [chp 12-22]
2. 7 units of literature: overlap while progressing to 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. See outline.
3. OT vocab & allusions w/ NCov meaning: Eden; Flood; Exous; exile & return [2<sup>nd</sup> Exodus] = types wh/ inform our exp of NCov salvation.
4. Review our progress thus far. Revelation teaches us to appreciate the blessings we already have - connects us w/ saints in disembodied state esp'ly in LD worship - spur to overcome. See disembodied & see ourselves.
5. Each cycle overlaps - as we move to 3<sup>rd</sup> we hear what Spirit says to churches

**2nd: Similarities and Differences: the Seals and the Trumpets**

1. Similarities between seals & trumpets.
  - i. 1<sup>st</sup> 4 seals = 4hrsmn: trib // 1<sup>st</sup> 4 trmpts: catastrophes: Rv 8:6-12
  - ii. 5<sup>th</sup> seal - martyrs in heaven // 5<sup>th</sup> trmpt view from heaven - Rv 9:1-2. As chpt 7 = interlude midst seals, chpt 10 = interlude midst trmpts. Then 7<sup>th</sup> seal & 7<sup>th</sup> trmpt depict 2<sup>nd</sup> coming/ FJ.
2. Differences tw/ seals/trmpts. Seals: God's redemptive purposes for Church; trmpts God's judgments on enemies: *woe!* Rv 8:13; 9:12; 11:14
  - i. Hab 2 - 5 taunt-songs of woe - Ezek 16:23
  - ii. 5<sup>th</sup> seal: martyrs; 5<sup>th</sup> trmpt: angel release locust -> jdgmnts. Consolation
  - iii. 6<sup>th</sup> seal - FJ on earth; 6<sup>th</sup> trmpt - judgment on idolaters
  - iv. Interludes - after 6<sup>th</sup> seal & 6<sup>th</sup> trmpt.
  - v. Seals depict history leading to FJ. Trumpets give greater detail.

**3rd: The Old Testament Background to Trumpets**

1. Occasions when OCov blew Trumpets.
  - i. 1<sup>st</sup> ref to trmpt = Sinai - Exo 19:16-19; after 10c - Exo 20:18. Tokens of Sinai = inclusio of trmpt cycle - Rv 8:5 & 11:19.
  - ii. Num 10:1-10 call Israel to formation: Sabs; worship - v10 war

2. Jericho - Josh 6:4-6 silence then trmpts & ark of cov [same sequence in Rv 8:1 then trmpts of 8:6ff. Rv 11:19 [7<sup>th</sup> trmpt] - ark of cov appears]
3. Gideon's victory over Midian - Jdg 7:16-22
4. Egyptian plagues // trmpts: 1<sup>st</sup> 5 trmpts: hail; H2O & blood; darkness, locust
5. Is purpose for trmpts to judge or warn & call to repent? Mainly jdmnt as seen by paralle w/ Egyptian plagues [Num 33:4 jdgmnt on gods, idols]
  - i. Yet Ex 12:38 a *mixed company* => some Egyptians left Egypt w/ Israel.
  - ii. Main purpose is jdgmnt, some repent. God's patience -> repent [Rm2]
  - iii. Xns experience trmpts as trib/tests: must overcome

**4th: The Significance of Trumpets**

1. Trmpts signify coming to God - jdgmnt for men who are not in X.
2. Rv 9:20-21 mankind = the killed & impenitent. But trmpts are not FJ.
3. We will hear the heavenly trmpt - Mat 24:30-31; 1Th 4:16; 1C 15:52.

**Applic #1: Ask the Spirit to Teach You How to Read Revelation & be Blessed**

1. If you discern the literary structure of Rev, you will be blessed as you read.
2. Also learn how Jn writes NT w/ OT ink, vocab & references.

**Applic #2: Pray and Act Upon Habakkuk 3:2**

1. Jdgmnt has arrived; but God is at work.
2. Trmpts -> collapse of Jericho - but what about Rahab? *The day of salvation*
3. Grace -> repent. Gospel: flee jdgmnt. Hab 3:2

## INTRODUCTION

1. Review - approaching Rv w/ Idealist interp - symbolic & cyclic.
2. Today & next LD - examine the literary structure of Rv using outline.
3. This is most important SS class in these intro classes to Rv.  
The literary structure of Rv is the KEY to interpreting Rv

## 1st: An Outline Showing the Literary Structure of Revelation

### 2nd: Cyclic Conclusions & Interludes in the Literary Structure

1. Rv as literature is not a linear prophecy - recapitulation of Ch-Age in 7 cycles, progressively focusing on Eschaton.
2. Each cycle starts w/ 1st coming [altho not explicit in 3rd, 5th, & 6th cycles] & ends w/ explicit description of 2nd coming.
3. Worship & Witness
  - i. Church's witness = warfare -> martyrs: slaughtered lamb.
  - ii. Church's worship - interludes - refresh then return to battle
4. Cyclic crescendo to climatic contraction: *last days* - already/not yet
5. Climatic contraction issues into birthing of resurrection glory for sons of God and creation.

## 1st: An Outline Showing the Literary Structure of Revelation

1. **Green** = reference to 1st coming at beginning of each cycle
2. **Red** = reference to 2nd coming end of each cycle
3. **Blue** - interlude giving sight into heaven to refresh during worship

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**I. Earthly Conflict Between the Church & the Unbelieving World - chpt 1-11****1st Parallel Cycle: The Son of Man & the Seven Churches - 1:1-3:22**

1. Prologue to the Apocalypse - 1:1-20
  - i. The source of the revelation is God the Father - 1:1a
  - ii. The messenger of the revelation is John - 1:1b-3
  - iii. The recipients of the revelation are the seven churches - 1:4-9
    - a. 1:4-6 - reference to Jesus' blood
  - iv. The focus of the revelation is the glorified Jesus Christ - 1:10-20
2. Jesus' Letters to Each of the Seven Churches - 2:1-3:22
  - i. Ephesus - 2:1-7
  - ii. Smyrna - 2:8-11
  - iii. Pergamos - 2:12-27
  - iv. Thyatira - 2:18-29
  - v. Sardis - 3:1-6
  - vi. Philadelphia - 3:7-13
  - vii. Laodicea - 3:14-22
    - a. 3:20-21 - 2nd coming - allusion to marriage supper [Rv 19:7-9]

**2nd Parallel Cycle: The One Seated on the Throne - 4:1-8:5**

1. The Enthroned Creator/Redeemer - 4:1-5:14
  - i. 5:5-6,9 alludes to Jesus having overcome as Lamb
2. The Seven Seals - 6:1-8:5
  - i. 6:12-17 - 6th seal: FJ - wrath of the Lamb
  - ii. 7:1-17 - 144K in heaven; 8:1-6 7th seal: prayers of the saints

**3rd Parallel Cycle: The Seven Trumpets - 8:6-11:19**

1. The 1st six Trumpets - 8:6-9:21 [no explicit ref to 1st coming]
2. The Little Book - 10:1-11
  - i. 10:7 anticipates the 7th trumpet and the Eschaton
3. The Two Witnesses - 11:1-12 - overview of Church's witness [1st coming is not explicit but implied in commencement of Church's witness] - martyrdom and resurrection at the 2nd coming [11:11-14]
4. The Seventh Trumpet - 11:13-19

i. 11:15-17 - Celebration in heaven

ii. 11:18-19 - FJ - 7th trumpet

**II. Heavenly Conflict Between Church & Demonic World - chpt 12-22****4th Parallel Cycle: The Enmity of the Two Seeds - 12:1-14:20**

1. The Woman and the Dragon - 12:1-17
  - i. 12:1-5 incarnation -> ascension of Jesus
2. The Two Beasts - 13:1-18
3. The Victory of the Lamb - 14:1-20
  - i. 14:1-5 - 144K on mtn
  - ii. 14:14-20 - FJ - Final Harvest by Jesus and angels

**5th Parallel Cycle: The Seven Bowls - 15:1-16:21**

1. The Prologue to the Bowls - 15:1-4 [no explicit ref to 1st coming]
2. The Presentation of the Bowls - 15:5-8
3. The Pour Out of the Bowls - 16:1-21
  - i. 16:15-21 - 7th bowl

**6th Parallel Cycle: Babylon and the Bride - 17:1-19:21**

1. The Judgment of Babylon - 17:1-19:6 [no explicit ref to 1st coming]
2. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb - 19:7-10
  - i. 19:1-10 - Hallelujah!
3. The Second Coming - 19:11-21
  - i. 19:11-21 - 2nd coming & Lake of Fire

**7th Parallel Cycle: Final Judgment & New Cosmos - 20:1-22:21**

1. The Binding and Loosing of Satan - 20:1-10
  - i. 20:1-3 binding of Satan = allusion to Jesus' 1st coming
2. The Great White Throne Judgment - 20:11-15
  - i. 20:7-15 - Defeat of Satan - Lake of Fire
3. The New Heavens and New Earth - 21:1-22:7
4. Epilogue - 22:8-21
  - i. Exhortation of the Angel - 22:8-11
  - ii. Proclamation of Christ - 22:12-21