

INTRODUCTION

1. Being taught worshipfully in the presence of Christ. Rv 1:3 - understanding the literary structure helps to *read* & be *blessed*

1st: A Conclusion and a Resumption: The Literary Structure of Revelation

1. See outlines - situate ourselves in Rev. "Progressive Parallelism"
2. 1st 1/2 [chpts 1-11 Conflict w/ unbelieving world] - 2nd 1/2 [chpts 12-22 Conflict with the demonic] overlaps & repeats the same history 1st 1/2
3. End of world: motif of earthquake [seals 6:12; trmpts 11:13,19; bowls 16:18]
4. 2nd 1/2 begins w/ reference to Gen 3:15 - 2 seeds, enmity [creation to the 2nd coming of Christ].
 - i. 4th cycle [chpt 12-14] continuity w/ OT believers [Heb 11] advanced in union w/ resurrected Jesus: conflict in heavenly places
 - ii. 5th cycle bowls [chpt 15-16] after parenthesis, bowls repeat seals/trmpts but judgment becomes more intense/extensive
 - iii. 6th cycle [chpt 17-19] destroy Harlot, Beasts & Satan; deliver Bride
 - iv. 7th cycle [chpt 20-22] defeat of Satan & glory begins - new Eden
5. Worship & witness on earth among men [1st 1/2] - now war w/ Satanic forces *in the heavenly places* [Eph 6:10-13].

2nd: An Overview of the 4th Literary Cycle

1. Study the battlefield: see the *powers & principalities* [PPs] that operate behind & thru the unbelieving world. Cycles overlap.
 - i. Christ's 7 letters: tempted w/ false docts & seduction/persecution
 - ii. Seals & trmpts: increasing tribulation - the 2 seeds recognizable
 - iii. Final 3 trmpts = woes - we are protected from apostasy as overcomers.
2. 4th cycle: the 2 Seeds - distinction made evident in Final Jdgmnt.
3. 4th cycles consists of 7 "visions" in 12:1-15:4 [*appeared, saw, looked*]
 - i. 12:1-13:1a - conflict tw/ serpent & wmn/seed
 - ii. 13:1b-10 - persecution by beast from sea
 - iii. 13:11-18 - persecution by beast from land
 - iv. 14:1-5 - Lamb & 144K on Mtn Zion
 - v. 14:6-13 - proclamation of gospel & jdgmnt by 3 angels
 - vi. 14:14-20 Son of Man's harvest of the earth
 - vii. 15:1&2-4 saint's celebrate victory of beast of sea [stitch to 5th cycle]

4. 4th cycle - Church wars w/ Satanic opponents - overview of chpt 12-14

3rd: An Overview of Chapter 12

1. v1-6 = Jesus' birth & resurrection to throne: commences the Church-age
2. v7-12 = interpretive key: Christ is victorious; we must be faithful witnesses
3. v13-17 - a time of Satanic opposition & divine protection: be encouraged

4th: An Overview of Satan's Opposition

1. Oscar Cullman: D-Day [June '44] & VE-Day [May '45] & VJ-Day [Aug '45]: victory is already certain, the end of war is just a matter of time. 4 enemies: Satan [Dragon]; 2 Beasts & Babylonian Harlot: destroyed in Lake of Fire in reverse order.
2. Satan is already defeated
 - i. 12:5 fails to devour child
 - ii. 12:7-9 loses war w/ angels in heaven
 - iii. 12:10-12 *cast out, thrown down* - 5x in vv9-13
 - iv. 12:15-16 would drown woman but fails - v17 we are overcomers
3. Dragon will do all he can, but he cannot do all that he would like to do:
 - i. limited time [12:6,14; 13:5; 12:12 - 2Cor 4:17-18]
 - ii. limited power [Job 2:6; Rv 12:6, 14-16, 17]

Applic #1: Satan is a Formidable Foe. We Must and We Will Overcome

1. Satan is not savable [Hb2:14f]. Satan animate evil.
2. Babylon is Satanic - should shock us out of careless dalliances. We are sealed [7:1-8]; measured [11:1-2] & invincible until we finish our testimony
3. The 2 Beasts are Satanic - should embolden our courage. We are persecuted, not b/c Satan is stronger than us, but b/c he knows he is already defeated. We are already more than conquerors thru Christ who loves us. His name is above every name - Eph 1:21.