The Gospel in the Book of Revelation
Session Outlines

The Rev. Dr. Rod Whitacre
Trinity School for Ministry
The Gospel in the Book of Revelation

The Rev. Dr. Rod Whitacre
Trinity School for Ministry

Session Outlines

Table of Contents

The Book of Revelation Section by Section 2
Diagram of the Book of Revelation 3
A Brief List of Resources for Studying the Book of Revelation 4

Outlines:

Session 1: Decoding the Book of Revelation 5
Session 2: John’s Introduction to the Book, the Messenger, and God 6
Session 3: The Opening Vision of the Exalted Christ 7
Session 4: Jesus’ Message to the Seven Churches, Part 1 8
Session 5: Jesus’ Message to the Seven Churches, Part 2 9
Session 6: Jesus’ Message to the Seven Churches, Part 3 10
Session 7: The Throne in Heaven and the Lamb 12
Session 8: The Scroll and the Seven Seals 13
Session 9: The 144,000 and the Great Multitude 14
Session 10: Seven Trumpets and a Little Scroll 15
Session 11: The Woman and Her Child versus the Dragon 17
Session 12: Two Beasts and the Lamb 18
Session 13: Seven Bowls and Armageddon 19
Session 14: The Defeat of Babylon 20
Session 15: Songs of Victory and the Defeat of the Two Beasts 22
Session 16: The Millennium 23
Session 17: The Defeat of Satan and the Last Judgment 25
Session 18: All Things New; An Epilogue 26
The Book of Revelation Section by Section

I. An introduction to the book, the messenger, and God
   1. Rev. 1.1-8 Introduction

II. The exalted Lord Jesus and His message to the Seven Churches
   2. Rev. 1.9-20 A vision of the Lord Jesus
   3. Rev. 2-3 The Lord in the midst of His Church

III. A vision of heaven—Worship and the Lamb’s purchase of a People for God
   4. Rev. 4-5 Heaven: The throne, the Lamb, and the scroll

IV. The seven seals—The Lamb’s authority over all of history
   5. Rev. 6 The six seals
   6. Rev. 7 First Interlude
      ~ Rev. 7.1-8: The 144,000
      ~ Rev. 7.9-14: The great multitude
   7. Rev. 8.1 The seventh seal

V. The seven trumpets—A close-up of the sixth seal
   8. Rev. 8-9 The seven trumpets—including the first two woes
   9. Rev. 10-11 Second Interlude
      ~ Rev. 10: The angel with the little scroll
      ~ Rev. 11: The two witnesses

VI. A central vision of the great conflict
   10. Rev. 12-13 An ancient story interprets history
      ~ Rev. 12: The Woman, the Child and the Dragon
      ~ Rev. 13: The two Beasts
   11. Rev. 14 Third Interlude
      ~ Rev. 14.1-5: The Lamb and the 144,000
      ~ Rev. 14.6-20: The message of the three angels

VII. The seven bowls—A continuation of the close-up of the sixth seal
   12. Rev. 15-16 The seven bowls—the third woe

VIII. The coming defeat of the enemies of God
   13. Rev. 17-18 The fall of Babylon
   14. Rev. 19.1-10 Fourth Interlude: Rejoicing in heaven over the fall of Babylon
   15. Rev. 19.11-21 The King of kings and the defeat of the two Beasts
   16. Rev. 20.1-6 The Millennium—Penultimate Reign or Fifth Interlude
   17. Rev. 20.7-10 The defeat of Satan in the last battle

IX. The Last Judgment and the Dwelling of God with His People
   18. Rev. 20.11-15 The books are opened: Who are the heirs?
   19. Rev. 21.1-22.5 The new heaven, the new earth, and the new Jerusalem:
      What do the heirs inherit?

X. Concluding promises and warnings
   20. Rev. 22.6-21 Epilogue
Diagram of the Book of Revelation

Introduction to the book, the author, and God (Chp. 1)

Vision of the Heavenly Christ (Chp. 1)

Christ’s message to His Church (Chp. 2-3)

Vision of Heaven: the throne, the Lamb, and the scroll (Chp. 4-5)

**SEALS**

Chp. 6

1 2 3 4 5 6

Chp. 7

“There was silence in heaven” (8.1)

[Interlude 1]

7

**TRUMPETS**

Chp. 8-9

1 2 3 4 5 6

Chp. 10-11

“He shall reign forever and ever” (11.15)

[Interlude 2]

7

Chp. 12-13

Central vision of the conflict and an introduction of the enemies

Chp. 14

Angels announce God’s judgment

Chp. 14

[Interlude 3]

**BOWLS/PLAGUES**

Chp. 15-16

1 2 3 4 5 6

“it is done!” Babylon is split in three parts (16.17)

Woe 3

7

- Dragon
- 2 Beasts assemble kings for battle

Chp. 19

Defeat of kings and 2 Beasts

Chp. 19

[Interlude 4]

Chp. 19

Fall of Babylon

Chp. 17-18

Penultimate Reign of Christ or

Chp. 20

Defeat of Dragon/Satan

Chp. 20

[Interlude 5]

**Last Judgment: Books opened (Chp. 20)**

New Heavens, New Earth, New Jerusalem (Chp. 21-22)

Epilogue (Chp. 22)
The Gospel in the Book of Revelation

A Brief List of Resources for Studying the Book of Revelation

Commentaries

Larger
Grant Osborne, *Revelation* (Baker, 2002).

Shorter

Brief Comparative Commentary

Preterist

Dispensationalist

Millennialism Studies

Other Studies
A very good guide to most of the major topics related to the Bible’s teaching on future events.
A helpful introduction to Dispensationalism and recent developments within this tradition.
The authors are Dispensationalists.
A helpful overview and critique by a non-Dispensationalist in an irenic tone. This is available as a book and also free on the web at http://www.frame-poythress.org/poythress_books.htm
Session 1
Decoding the Book of Revelation

I. The challenge of the Book of Revelation
   A. Fascination and fear
   B. Striking symbolism

II. An approach to the interpretation of Scripture
   A. Person—The revelation of God
   B. Plan—The revelation of God’s plan in history and beyond
   C. Pattern—The revelation of the pattern of life in sync with God

III. Approaches to the interpretation of the Book of Revelation
   A. Five basic approaches
      1. Forth-telling rather than foretelling
      2. Preterist—focus on the first century
      3. Historicist—events throughout history
      4. Futurist—primarily future
      5. Idealist—symbols relevant throughout history
   B. An assessment of these approaches
      1. The Great Code
      2. History
         a. First century
         b. The Second Coming

IV. Four important points to orient us
   A. The nature of apocalyptic literature
      1. Background
      2. Characteristics
      3. Comparison with the Book of Revelation
   B. Two views of history
      1. Two Ages
      2. Overlapping of the Ages—the Already and the Not Yet
      3. Prophetic foreshortening
   C. Predictive prophecy vs. fulfillment of patterns
   D. The relation between apocalyptic imagery and history

V. A message for three sets of readers
   A. Those in the first century
   B. Those at the time of Christ’s return
   C. Us today
Session 2
John’s Introduction to the Book, the Messenger, and God
(Rev. 1.1-8)

I. The Prologue to the Book of Revelation (1.1-3)
   A. The message is introduced (1.1)
      1. Revelation of Jesus Christ—Apocalypse (ἀποκάλυψις, apokalupsis)
      2. Chain of command: God, Jesus Christ, angel, slave (δοῦλος, doulos)
      3. Soon—prophetic foreshortening
   B. The messenger is introduced (1.2)
   C. The blessing is pronounced (1.3)

II. Address and Greeting (1.4-8)
   A. The timeless aspect of eschatology: the Eternal God (1.4)
      1. The fullness of the Church
      2. The eternal God (cf. 1.8, 17; 4.8; 16.5)
      3. The seven spirits (cf. Isa. 11.2; Zech. 4)
   B. The escatological tension: already and not yet as seen in Jesus
      1. The Already (1.5-6)
         a. Three attributes relevant to John’s audience (1.5)
            1) Faithful witness
            2) Firstborn from the dead
            3) Ruler of the kings of the earth
         b. He has dealt with the problem of sin (1.5b)
         c. He has formed the new People (1.6)
      2. The Not Yet (1.7)
         a. Daniel 7.13
         b. Zechariah 12.10
   C. The Eternal God (1.8)
      1. Alpha and Omega (Rev. 21.6; 22.13)
      2. The Presence of the Eternal One
Session 3

The Opening Vision of the Exalted Christ
(Rev. 1.9-20)

I. John’s call to write
   A. A description of John and the first Christians (1.9-11)
      1. Humility
      2. Tribulation, kingdom, patient endurance
   B. The Lord’s day vision (1.10)
   C. The call to write (1.11)

II. The vision of the exalted Christ (1.12-16)
   A. The seven golden lampstands
   B. The exalted Christ
      1. Description combines imagery used of God and a powerful angel in Daniel and elsewhere (Dan. 7.9; 10.5-6)
         a. “One like the Son of Man” (Dan. 7.13)
         b. Robe and sash (Exod. 28.4; Ezek. 9.2, 11; Dan. 10.5-6)
         c. Head and hair (Dan. 7.9)
         d. Eyes (Dan. 10.6; Sirach 23.19)
         e. Feet (Dan. 10.6; Ezek. 1.7)
         f. Voice (Ezek. 43.2)
         g. Seven stars (Dan. 12.3; Job 38.7)
         h. Two-edged sword (Isa. 49.2; 11.4)
         i. Face (Dan. 10.6; Ps. 84.11; Matt. 17.2)
      2. He is present amongst His people

III. The message of the exalted Christ (1.17-20)
   A. John’s response to the vision
      1. Falling on one’s face (cf. Ezek. 1.28; Dan. 8.17)
      2. Terror (cf. Isa. 6.5; Dan. 7.28)
      3. Esther 4.11
   B. Jesus’ self-description (1.17b-18)
      1. His eternity
      2. His Life
      3. His authority
   C. Jesus’ call for John to write (1.19)
   D. Jesus’ interpretation of the lampstands and the stars (1.20)
      1. Lampstands: churches
      2. Stars: angels of the churches (cf. Matt. 18.10; Dan. 10)
Session 4: 
Jesus’ Message to the Seven Churches, Part 1  
(Rev. 2.1-7)

I. Introduction to the Seven Letters
   A. Unique letters
   B. An Ancient Near East covenant/treaty form, the Hittite Suzerain-Vassal treaty form
      1. The ancient covenant/treaty form
         a. Introduction of the Great King
         b. Historical prologue
         c. Stipulations of the covenant
         d. Deposit of a written copy
         e. Requirement that it be read occasionally
         f. Witnesses
         g. Curses and blessings
      2. The seven letters
         a. Christ introduces himself, identified by his saving activity
         b. Narrative of the history of the particular church
         c. Call to response, usually repentance and/or perseverance
         d. Announcement of curses and blessings
   C. Interplay between community and individual
      1. Ephesus—mixed community (2.4)
      2. Smyrna—faithful community
      3. Pergamum—mixed community (2.14)
      4. Thyatira—mixed community, but a few faithful individuals (2.24)
      5. Sardis—unfaithful community, but a few faithful individuals (3.4)
      6. Philadelphia—faithful community
      7. Laodicea—unfaithful community, but a call to individuals (3.20)

II. The Letter to the Church in Ephesus—Orthodoxy without Love (2.1-7)
   A. Introduction (2.1)
      1. Christ holds the seven stars (cf. 1.16)
      2. Christ walks among the lampstands (cf. 1.12-13)
   B. History (2.2-3)
      1. The setting in Ephesus (cf. Acts 19)
      2. Christ’s commendation
   C. Call to response (2.4-5a)
      1. Lost their first love
      2. Call to repentance
   D. Curses and blessings (2.5b-7)
      1. Warning (cf. Matt. 7.23)
      2. Commendation (cf. 2.14-15)
      3. Promise
Session 5:
Jesus’ Message to the Seven Churches, Part 2
(Rev. 2.8-29)

I. The Letter to the Church in Smyrna: Faithful Suffering (2.8-11)
   A. Introduction (2.8)
      1. Christ is the first and last (cf. 1.17)
      2. Christ died and came to life (cf. 1.18)
   B. History (2.9-10)
      1. Poverty
      2. Slander (cf. John 8; Rom. 2.25-29)
      3. Prison (cf. Dan. 1.12)
      4. Death
   C. Call to response (2.10)
      1. Do not fear
      2. Be faithful unto death (cf. Martyrdom of Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna)
      3. Crown of life (cf. John 19.2; Matt. 27.29; Mark 15.17)
   D. Christ’s promise to the one who overcomes (2.11)
      1. Not be hurt by the second death (cf. 21.8; 20.10, 14)
      2. Lack of curses/warnings

II. The Letter to the Church in Pergamum: Remaining True but also Compromising (2.12-17)
   A. Introduction: the sharp two-edged sword (2.12; cf. 1.16; 19.13, 15)
   B. History (2.13-15)
      1. Satan’s throne (2.13)
      2. Balaam (2.14; cf. Num. 22-24; 25.1-2; 31.16)
      3. The Nicolaitans (2.15; cf. Acts 6.5)
   C. Response: repent (2.16a)
   D. Curses and blessings (2.16b-17)
      1. The sword of his mouth
      2. The hidden manna (cf. Exod. 16.33-34; Deut. 18.15; John 6)
      3. A white stone
      4. A new name

III. The Letter to the Church in Thyatira: Love and Faithful Service, but Tolerating Immorality (2.18-29)
   A. Introduction (2.18)
      1. Christ with eyes like a flame of fire (cf. 1.14; 2.23)
      2. Christ with feet like burnished bronze (cf. 1.15)
   B. History (2.19-21)
      1. Increasing good works
      2. Jezebel (1 Kings 16.29-32; 19.1-2; 2 Kings 9.22)
   C. Response (2.22-25)
      1. Repent of the works of Jezebel
      2. Hold fast
   D. Promise (2.26-29)
      1. Authority over the nations (cf. Ps. 2.8-9)
      2. The morning star
Session 6:
Jesus’ Message to the Seven Churches, Part 3
(Rev. 3)

I. The Letter to the Church in Sardis: A Reputation without the Reality, but also a Remnant (3.1-6)
   A. Introduction (3.1a)
      1. Christ has the seven spirits of God (cf. 1.4)
         a. Possibly a reference to the seven archangels (*1 Enoch* 20.1-7)
         b. Probably the Holy Spirit (cf. Isa. 11.2; Zech. 4.2, 10; John 15.26)
      2. Christ has the seven stars (cf. 1.15, 20)
   B. History (3.1b-2)
      1. Reputation without reality
      2. Not watchful, close to death, works not complete
   C. Response (3.3-4)
      1. Remember and wake up
      2. Threat of coming like a thief (cf. 16.15; Matt. 24.42-44; Luke 12.39-40; 1 Thess. 5.2; 2 Pet. 3.10)
   D. Curses and Blessings (3.3-6)
      1. A remnant with garments not soiled
      2. White garments (cf. 7.14; 19.8)
      3. Book of Life
         a. Danger of being blotted out (cf. 13.8; 17.8; 20.12, 15; Exod. 32.32-33; Ps. 69.28)
         b. Encouragement to those whose names are in the book
            (21.27; Dan. 12.1; Luke 10.20; Phil. 4.3)
      4. Christ will confess their name before His Father and His angels
         (cf. Matt. 10.32-33; Mark 8.38; 2 Tim. 2.12)

II. The Letter to the Church in Philadelphia: Patient Endurance (3.7-13)
   A. Introduction (3.7)
      1. Holy and true (cf. 6.10)
      2. Key of David (Isa. 9.6; 22.22)
   B. History (3.8-9)
      1. Little power (cf. 2 Cor. 12.8-10; Phil. 4.13)
      2. Faithful and active
   C. Response: Hold fast (3.11a)
   D. Promise (3.10-13)
      1. Open door (cf. Acts 14.27; 1 Cor. 16.9; 2 Cor. 2.12)
      2. Vindication (cf. Isa. 60.14)
      3. Protected from the great trial (cf. John 17.15)
      4. A pillar in the temple of my God (cf. 21.22)
      5. The Name (cf. Exod. 28.36-38)
III. The Letter to the Church in Laodicea:  
Lukewarm and Self-deceived; The Lord is Outside Knocking (3.14-22) 
A. Introduction (3.14)  
1. The Amen (cf. Isa. 65.16)  
2. Faithful and true witness (cf. 1.5)  
3. The origin of God’s creation (cf. John 1.3; Col. 1.15, 18)  
B. History (3.15-18)  
1. Neither hot nor cold  
2. Rich but wretched  
3. Need for eye medicine  
C. Response (3.19-20)  
1. Reproof and discipline  
2. Call to respond to the knock at the door  
3. Invitation to intimate fellowship (cf. 19.9; Isa. 25.6; John 6.51-58; 15.1-11)  
D. Promise: A share in Christ’s rule (3.21-22)
Session 7:
The Throne in Heaven and the Lamb
(Rev. 4-5)

I. The scene in Heaven
A. The eternal perspective
   1. Open door in heaven (4.1)
      a. Door (cf. Gen. 28.17; John 1.51)
      b. Heaven
         1) Sky (cf. Matt. 8.20)
         2) The spiritual realm in general (cf. Eph. 6.12)
         3) The spiritual realm of God and those aligned with Him (cf. Eph. 1.20; 2.6; 2 Cor. 12.2)
   2. “After these things” (4.1; cf. 7.1, 9; 15.5; 18.1; 19.1)
B. The heart of the universe
   1. God glory (cf. Isa. 6; Ezek. 1)
   2. God’s throne
   3. The earthly temple and heavenly sanctuary (cf. Exod. 25.40; Heb. 8.1-5; 9.1-5, 23-24)
   4. The vision of God (4.2-3; cf. Gen. 9.13-17; Ezek. 1; Exod. 19)
   5. The sea of glass (4.6; cf. 15.2; 21.1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Earthly Temple</th>
<th>Heavenly Sanctuary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holy of Holies (Exod. 26)</td>
<td>God’s Throne (Rev. 4.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven-branched lampstand (Exod. 25)</td>
<td>Seven torches of fire before the Throne (4.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze basin (Exod. 30; 1 Kings 7)</td>
<td>Sea of glass (4.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherubim over the Mercy Seat (Exod. 25)</td>
<td>Four Living Creatures around the Throne (4.6-7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priests (Exod. 29)</td>
<td>Elders (kings and priests) (4.4, 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altar of burnt offering (Exod. 27)</td>
<td>Altar (6.9-11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incense altar (Exod. 30)</td>
<td>Incense altar (8.3-5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ark of the covenant (Exod. 25)</td>
<td>Ark of the covenant (11.19)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted in part from W. Wiersbe, *Be Victorious*, p. 53.

C. The Lion/Lamb (5.5-6).
   1. Irony
   2. Focal point of the whole book

II. The five hymns
A. First Hymn (4.8; cf. Gen. 9.9-10; Ezek. 1; Isa. 6.1-4)
B. Second Hymn (4.11; cf. 1 Chron. 24-25)
C. Third Hymn (5.9-10)
D. Fourth Hymn (5.11-12)
E. Fifth Hymn (5.13)
Session 8:
The Scroll and the Seven Seals
(Rev. 5-6)

I. The Scroll
   A. View 1: The future of world history
   B. View 2: The Lamb’s last will and testament (cf. 3.5; 13.8; 17.8; 20.12, 15; 21.27)

II. Various interpretations of the seals
   A. The End Time events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revelation 6</th>
<th>Matthew 24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White horse—conquering (1-2)</td>
<td>False Christs (4-5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red horse—war (3-4)</td>
<td>Wars (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black horse—famine (5-6)</td>
<td>Famines (7a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pale horse—death (7-8)</td>
<td>Death (7b-8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martyrs under the altar (9-11)</td>
<td>Martyrs (9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worldwide chaos (10-12)</td>
<td>Worldwide chaos (12-17)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. All the chaos of human history
   1. The first four seals (6.1-8)
   2. The fifth seal (6.9-11; cf. Gen. 4.8; Matt. 23.35)
   3. The sixth seal (6.12-17)
      a. Joel 2.28-31; Acts 2.14-21
      b. Rev. 16.17-21; 18
   4. The seventh seal (8.1)

Historical Sequence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seals 1 2 3 4 5 6 7</th>
<th>Trumpets 1 2 3 4 5 6 7</th>
<th>Bowls 1 2 3 4 5 6 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Close-ups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seals 1 2 3 4 5 6 7</th>
<th>Trumpets 1 2 3 4 5 6 7</th>
<th>Bowls 1 2 3 4 5 6 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Session 9:  
The 144,000 and the Great Multitude  
(Rev. 7)  

I. First Interlude: The sealing of the 144,000 and the triumph of the redeemed  
   A. The four winds and the sealing of God’s slaves (7.1-3)  
      1. Sealing (cf. 7.3; 13.16; cf. Ezek. 9.4; Exod. 12.13)  
      2. The angels and the winds (7.1-3)  
   B. The 144,000 (7.4-8)  
      1. The symbolism of the number  
      2. Their identity (cf. 1.6; 5.5; 14.4; 21.12-14; Exod. 19.6)  
   C. The vast multitude (7.9-14)  
      1. The symbolism of the number (cf. Gen. 12.3; 15.5)  
      2. Their identity  
      3. Washed robes  
         a. Jesus’ blood (cf. 1.5; 5.9)  
         b. Garments (cf. 19.8; 22.14-15)  
         c. Background (cf. Exod. 19; 29; Gal. 6.14; Rom. 6.6; Lev. 23.40-43; Zech. 14.4, 16-19)  

II. The relation to the Great Tribulation  
   A. Two periods of the Great Tribulation  
      1. Before the Great Tribulation  
      2. After the Great Tribulation  
   B. Two aspects of the Great Tribulation  
      1. The wrath of God  
      2. The wrath of the Beast  

III. The experience of this vast multitude (7.15-17)  
   A. Throne and temple (cf. 21.22; ναός, naos; ἱερόν, hieron)  
   B. Joy (cf. 6.15-17)  
   C. Their hymns (7.10-12; cf. Gen. 11.9)  
   D. God shelters them (7.15; cf. John 1.14; Isa. 49.10; λατρεύω, latreō)  
   E. The Lamb shepherds them (22.1; cf. Ps. 80.1; Ezek. 34.20-24)
Session 10:  
Seven Trumpets and a Little Scroll  
(Rev. 8-11)

I. The relation between the seals, the trumpets, and the bowls
   A. Parallels between the trumpets and bowls  
   B. Apocalyptic language in the 7th trumpet and bowl, like the sixth seal  
   C. The 7th trumpet, bowl, and seal depict the very end in three stages, in reverse   
      chronological order  
      1. 7th Bowl announces “It is done” but also includes the destruction of the city   
      2. 7th Trumpet describes celebration and the open heaven, God has begun His reign  
      3. 7th Seal is the silence just before the opening of the scroll  

II. The significance of the trumpets and bowls
   A. The connection with the Exodus  
   B. Patterns within the trumpets and bowls  
      1. The first four trumpets and bowls  
      2. The last three trumpets and bowls  
      3. The three woes  

III. The interlude between the 6th and 7th trumpets (Rev. 10)
   A. The call to prophesy  
   B. The angel with the scroll  
      1. The coming of the angel (10.1-7)  
      2. Eating the scroll (10.8-11; cf. Ezek. 2.8-3.4)  
         a. The contents of the scroll  
         b. The symbolism of the eating  
   C. The two witnesses  
      1. Measuring the temple, altar and worshipers (11.1-2; cf. Ezek. 40-48; Zech. 2.1-2)  
      2. The symbolism of the two witnesses (11.3-6; cf. Deut. 17.6; 19.15)  
         a. Imagery from Moses and Elijah (cf. Exod. 7.17; Num. 14.2; 1 Kings 17.1; 19.10;  
            2 Kings 1.10)  
         b. Olive trees and lampstand (cf. Zech. 3-4, esp. 4.11-14)  
      3. The pattern of faithful witness (11.7-14; cf. Dan. 7.21)  
         a. Death and resurrection (cf. Ezek. 37.5, 10-12)  
         b. Taken to heaven (cf. 2 Kings 2.11; 1 Thes. 4.16-17)  

IV. The seventh trumpet (11.15-19)  
   A. Hymns of triumph  
   B. A vision of the ark in heaven (cf. Josh. 3.11-17; 2 Sam. 6.2; Isa. 37.16)  
   C. Symbols of God’s Presence
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exodus</th>
<th>Trumpets</th>
<th>Bowls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Seventh plague (Ex. 9.18-26).</td>
<td>1. Hail, fire, and blood fall on the earth, one third of which is burned up.</td>
<td>1. A bowl is poured on the earth. Malignant sores come on men who had the mark of the beast and worshipped his image.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. First plague (Ex. 7.19-21).</td>
<td>2. A blazing mountain falls into the sea. One-third of the sea becomes blood, a third of seas-creatures die, and a third of ships are destroyed.</td>
<td>2. A bowl is poured on the seas. They become blood, and every living thing in them dies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. No analogous plague, but cf. the bitter waters at Marah (Ex. 15.23-27).</td>
<td>3. A blazing star (Wormwood) falls on a third of rivers and fountains; their waters are poisoned and many die.</td>
<td>3. A bowl is poured on rivers and fountains, and they become blood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Ninth plague (Ex. 10.21-23).</td>
<td>4. A third of sun, moon, and stars are struck. Darkness results for a third of a night and day.</td>
<td>4. A bowl is poured on the sun, which scorches men with fire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Eight plague (Ex. 10.1-20).</td>
<td>5. The shaft of the pit is opened. Sun and air are darkened with smoke from which locusts emerge to torment men without the seal of God.</td>
<td>5. A bowl is poured on the throne of the beast. His kingdom is darkened and men are in anguish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Since the sixth trumpet and bowl are most directly about peoples’ death, perhaps there is a connection with the tenth plague, against the firstborn.</td>
<td>6. Four angels bound at the Euphrates are released, with their 200 million cavalry. A third of men are killed by these.</td>
<td>6. A bowl is poured on the Euphrates, which dries up for kings from the east. Kings of the world assemble for battle at Armageddon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. The seventh trumpet and bowl are not woes, but rather the end of the conflict. So there would be no plague associated with them.</td>
<td>7. Loud voices in heaven announce the coming of the kingdom of God and of Christ. Hymn of praise. Temple in heaven opened. Lightening, thunder, earthquake, and hail occur.</td>
<td>7. A bowl is poured into the air, a loud voice from God’s throne announces, ‘It is done.’ Lightening, thunder, and an unprecedented earthquake occur, and terrible hail falls.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part of this chart is adapted from G. R. Beasley-Murray, Revelation, pp. 238-239.
Session 11:
The Woman and Her Child versus the Dragon
(Rev. 12)

I. Jesus and the Woman versus the Dragon
   A. Genesis 3.15
   B. Greco-Roman sources
   C. Isaiah 26.16-27, esp. 26.17-18 in the Greek Old Testament (the Septuagint)

   And as a woman in travail is about to give birth and cries out in her pangs, so were we to your beloved because of the fear of you, O Lord. We conceived and travailed and gave birth; we produced a wind of your salvation on the earth, but those who dwell on the earth will fall.
   (New English Translation of the Septuagint)

II. The Woman
   A. Israel (cf. Isa. 54.1; 66.7-10; Micah 5.3; Gen. 37.9-10)
   B. Mary
   C. The Church

III. The Dragon
   A. The Serpent in the Garden (cf. Gen. 3.1-15)
   B. Leviathan (cf. Ps. 74.13-14; Isa. 27.1)
   C. Rahab the Monster (cf. Job 26.12-13; Ps. 89.10; Isa. 30.7; 51.9)

IV. The conflict
   A. The Woman and her Child versus the Dragon (12.1-6)
      1. The Woman is about to give birth (12.1-2)
         a. Heaven
         b. Sun, moon, stars (cf. Gen. 37.9)
      2. The Dragon sweeps down stars from heaven to earth and waits to devour the Child (12.3-4; cf. Dan. 8.10)
      3. The Child is born, caught up to God, and the Woman flees to the wilderness where she is nourished by God (12.5-6)
         a. The short version of the story
         b. The period of the 1260 days (cf. Dan. 7.25; 9.27; 12.7)
   B. War in heaven: The Dragon is cast out of heaven (12.7-12)
      1. Michael the archangel (cf. Dan. 10.13, 21; 12.1; Testament of Dan 6.2)
      2. The heavenly dimension of the conflict between the Woman and the Dragon
      3. The defeat and the Cross (Rev. 5.9-10; Matt. 12.28-29; Acts 10.38; 2 Tim. 1.10; Heb. 2.14; 1 John 3.8; John 12.31).
   C. The Dragon attacks the Woman (12.13-17)
      1. Wilderness and safety and pilgrimage; conflict and challenge
      2. Exodus imagery (Exod. 19.4; Deut. 32.11; Num. 16.30-33)
      3. Tribulation and witness—You are here (Eph. 6.12).
Session 12:  
Two Beasts and the Lamb  
(Rev. 13-14) 

I. Two beasts (Rev. 13)  
   A. First Beast: Political empire (13.1-10)  
      1. Daniel 7.3  
      2. Parody of God and Christ  
   B. Second Beast: Religious propaganda (13.11-18)  
      1. False prophet (cf. 16.13)  
      2. Relation to the First Beast  
   C. Deception, and the need for discernment  
      1. Parody of Christ (cf. Exod. 7-8; Matt. 7.15, 22-23; 24.24; 2 Thes. 2.9-10)  
      2. The mark of the Beast (cf. Exod. 28.36)  
      3. Buying and selling (cf. 2.9-11, 14, 20-21; 6.5-6; 17-18)  

II. The Third Interlude (Rev. 14)  
   A. The Lamb and the 144,000 (14.1-5)  
   B. Messages of the three angels (14.6-20)  
      1. The eternal Gospel (14.6-7)  
      2. Babylon’s fall announced (14.8)  
      3. The winepress of God’s wrath (14.9-20; cf. Jer. 25.15; Ps. 75.8)  
         a. Doom to worshipers of the (First) Beast (14.9-11)  
         b. Call to perseverance (14.12-13)  
         c. The harvest and wine press of God’s wrath (14.14-20)  
      4. The relation to the 6th Seal  
   C. God’s wrath in relation to God’s goodness
Session 13:
Seven Bowls and Armageddon
(Rev. 15-16)

I. The Seven Bowls
   A. Relation to the sixth Seal
   B. Relation to the three Woes
   C. God’s cup of wrath (cf. Isa. 51.17, 22)

II. Preparation for the bowls (Rev. 15)
   A. Seven plagues (15.1)
   B. The Song of the Lamb (15.2-4)
      1. An interlude at the beginning rather than the end
         a. No interlude between Bowl 6 and 7
         b. Bowl 7 as transitional
      2. Song of Moses (Exod. 15.1-18)
      3. Sea mingled with fire (cf. Deut. 4.24; 9.3; Ps. 97.3; Heb. 10.27; 12.29)
      4. The nations
   C. The Tent of Witness (15.5-8)
      1. Symbol of God’s Presence
      2. “The temple, that is, the tent of witness”

III. The imagery of the bowls (Rev. 16)
   A. The plagues (16.1-16)
      1. Directly affect humans
      2. First five parallel plagues against Egypt
         a. Bowl 1 = Plague 6—sores (Exod. 9.10-11)
         b. Bowls 2 and 3 = Plague 1—turning water to blood (Exod. 7.14-21)
         c. Bowls 4 and 5 = Plague 9—sun scorches and goes dark (Exod. 10.21-22)
   B. The desire for repentance (16.9, 11)
      1. God’s desire that all people be saved (1 Tim. 2.3-4)
      2. Parallel with the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart
         a. God hardened Pharaoh’s heart (Exod. 4.21; 7.3; 9.12; 10.1, 20, 27; 11.10; 14.4, 8)
         b. Pharaoh hardened his own heart (Exod. 8.15, 32; 9.34)
         c. Ambiguous, “was hardened” (Exod. 7.13, 14, 22, 23; 8.19; 9.7, 35)
   C. Armageddon (16.16)
      1. Har-Megiddo—Mount Megiddo
      2. Location of Megiddo
      3. Place of battle in history (cf. Judg. 5.19; 2 Kings 23.29; 2 Chron. 35.22)
      4. Relation to eschatological battle (cf. Ezek. 38.8; 39.2, 4, 17; Zech. 12.11)
      5. Place of prophetic battle (cf. 1 Kings 18; cf. Rev. 19.15; 20.9)
      6. Relation of Bowl 6 and the battle itself (cf. Rev. 19.19-21)
   D. The seventh bowl (16.17-21)
      1. Echo of Plague 7 in Exodus (cf. Exod. 9.13-26)
      2. The fall of Babylon
      3. Apocalyptic imagery
      4. “It is done!” (16.17; cf. 21.6; John 19.30)
Session 14:
The Defeat of Babylon
(Rev. 17-18)

I. The Defeat of the Enemies of God—Introduction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction</th>
<th>a</th>
<th>Rev. 12</th>
<th>Dragon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b</td>
<td>Rev. 13</td>
<td>Two Beasts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c</td>
<td>Rev. 14</td>
<td>Babylon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defeat</td>
<td>c'</td>
<td>Rev. 17-18</td>
<td>Babylon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b'</td>
<td>Rev. 19</td>
<td>Two Beasts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a'</td>
<td>Rev. 20</td>
<td>Dragon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. The Fall of Babylon

A. The Great Prostitute and the Beast (Rev. 17)
   1. The vision of the Great Prostitute and the Beast (17.1-6a)
      a. OT echoes (cf. Isa. 23.15-17; Nahum 3.4-5; Isa. 1.21; Jer. 3)
      b. Seated on many waters
      c. Image of the wilderness (cf. Isa. 13.21)
   2. Explanation of the Woman and the Beast (17.6b-14)
      a. Fluid imagery
      b. Rome
      c. Beast as an eighth ruler
   3. Further explanation of the vision (17.15-18)
      a. Waters are peoples
      b. Nero connection
      c. The Beast and an alliance of kings against Babylon
B. Announcement of the fall of Babylon—Part 1 (18.1-3)
   1. OT echoes (cf. Isa. 13, 21, 47; Jer. 50-51; Ezek. 26-27)
   2. Babylon’s condition
C. Call to come out from Babylon (18.4-8)
   1. OT echoes (cf. Isa. 48.20; Jer. 50.8; 51.6, 45)
   2. Pay Babylon back double (cf. Exod. 22.4)
D. Lamentation over Babylon’s fall (18.9-24)
   1. Kings (18.9-10)
   2. Merchants (18.11-17a)
   3. Shipmasters and sailors (18.17b-20)
E. Announcement of the fall of Babylon—Part 2 (18.21-24)
   1. Destruction (cf. Jer. 51.63-64)
Ozymandias
Percy Bysshe Shelly

I met a traveller from an antique land
Who said: “Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. Near them on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown
And wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them and the heart that fed.
And on the pedestal these words appear:
’My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings:
Look on my works, ye mighty, and despair!’
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare,
The lone and level sands stretch far away.”
Session 15:
Songs of Victory and Defeat of the Two Beasts
(Rev. 19)

I. The Fourth Interlude
   A. Songs of victory in heaven (19.1-8)
      1. First choir (19.1-3)
         a. A great multitude in heaven (cf. Rev. 7.9; 11.16-18; 15.3-4)
         b. God’s judgment of the Great Prostitute
            1) Hallelujah!
            2) Judgment and avenging
      2. Second choir (19.4)
         a. The 24 Elders and Four Living Creatures
         b. Amen! Hallelujah!
      3. Third choir (19.5-8)
         a. A voice from the throne calls upon God’s slaves to praise God
         b. A great multitude responds (cf. Rev. 11.18)
         c. The marriage supper of the Lamb and the Bride
            1) God’s People as bride (cf. Isa. 54.5; 61.10; Ezek. 16.7-14; Hos. 2.16-20)
            2) She has made herself ready (cf. Eph. 5.25-27; Phil. 2.12-13)
   B. Encouragement to John and his hearers/readers (19.9-10)
      1. Blessed are those invited to the supper of the Lamb
      2. Worship God, not His servants (cf. Rev. 13.5-6, 15; 22.8-9)
      3. Hold to the testimony of Jesus

II. The end of the Beast and the False Prophet
   A. Description of the King of Kings (19.11-16)
      1. Titles
         a. Faithful and True (cf. Rev. 1.5; 3.14)
         b. Unknown Name (cf. Rev. 2.17)
         c. The Word of God
         d. King of kings and Lord of lords
      2. Military, shepherding, and agricultural imagery (cf. Isa. 49.2; 63.1-6; Ps. 2.9)
      3. The robe dipped in blood (cf. Rev. 1.5; 5.9; 7.14; Isa. 63.1-6)
   B. The defeat of the Beast and the False Prophet and their followers (19.17-21)
      2. The capture and elimination of the Beast and the False Prophet (19.19-20; cf. Ezek. 38.22)
      3. The sword of the King (19.21)
         a. The prophetic word of witness (cf. Jer. 1.9-10)
         b. The fate of the slain
Session 16:
The Millennium
(Rev. 20.1-6)

I. The Fifth Interlude: The Millennium (20.1-6)
   A. Views of the Millennium
      1. Views from the early Church to today
         • Justyn Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho 80-81; Irenaeus, Against Heresies 5.32-35; Augustine, City of God 20.7
      2. Sequential vs. non-sequential views of the flow of Revelation 19-20
         a. Sequential
            1. Revelation 19.11-20.3—The defeat of the kings and the Beasts, and the binding of the Dragon
            2. Revelation 20.4-6—An intermediate reign of Christ on earth between the Second Coming and the final defeat of Satan
            3. Revelation 20.7-10—The release of Satan and his defeat
         b. Non-sequential
            1. Revelation 19.11-21—The defeat of the kings and the Beasts
            2. Revelation 20.1-6—The binding of Satan and the spiritual reign of Christ now, before the Second Coming and the defeat of God’s enemies
            3. Revelation 20.7-10—The defeat of Satan, continuing the scene in Revelation 19.11-21
      3. Sequential: The Millennium as an Intermediate Penultimate Reign
         a. Dispensationalist Premillennialism
            1. Christ returns before the Millennium, a literal thousand years
            2. The Millennium is the reign on earth of Jews who accept Christ
               • John MacArthur, Because the Time is Near: John MacArthur Explains the Book of Revelation (Moody, 2007).
               • Craig Blaising and Darrell Bock, Progressive Dispensationalism (Baker, 2000).
               • Vern Poythress, Understanding Dispensationalists (P & R Publishing, 1993)—also available online.
         b. Historic Premillennialism
            1. A long period of time that Christ inaugurates at His return
            2. The saints reign with Christ over the nations
               • Craig Keener, Revelation, NIVACS (Zondervan, 2000).
               • Grant Osborne, Revelation, BECNT (Baker, 2002).
               • J. Ramsey Michaels, Revelation, IVPNTC (IVP, 1997).
4. Non-sequential: The Millennium section of Revelation as an Interlude
   a. Postmillennialism
      1. The Church reigns now spiritually
      2. The Church is to gain dominion within the world in preparation for Christ’s return
      3. There is no return of Christ mentioned in Revelation
   b. Amillennialism / Inaugurated Millennialism
      1. The Millennium is the present spiritual reign of Christ through His Church
      2. Not a literal thousand years, but a significant period of time

B. Comparison between Historic Premillennialism and Amillennialism

1. The binding of Satan (Rev. 20.2)
   a. Amillennial view (cf. Mark 3.27; Luke 10.18; 2 Thes. 2.7-10)
   b. Historic Premillennial view (cf. 2 Cor. 4.4; 1 Tim. 3.7; Eph. 2.2)
2. The coming to life (Rev. 20.4, 5)
   a. Amillennial view (cf. Rev. 6.9-11; 2 Cor. 5.1-8; John 5.25, 28-29)
   b. Historic Premillennial view (ἐζήσαν, ezēsan, “they came to life”)
3. Assessment
   a. Historic Premillennial view
   b. Amillennial view
   c. The interpretation puzzle: Which context?
Session 17:
Millennium Imagery, the Defeat of Satan, and the Last Judgment
(Rev. 20.7-15)

I. The Millennium imagery
A. The Garden of Eden (Rev. 20.2, 3, 8; Gen. 3)
   A — Satan’s fall
   B — The Garden of Eden
   B’ — The Millennial Kingdom
   A’ — Satan’s defeat
B. Priests who reign (Rev. 20.6; 1.6; Exod. 19.6)
C. The Second Death (Rev. 20.6; Gen. 2.17; Luke 15.24)

II. The completion of Satan’s defeat (20.7-10)
A. After the Millennium
B. Gog and Magog (cf. Ezek. 37-48)
C. The final defeat of Satan (cf. Matt. 25.41)

III. The Last Judgment (20.11-15)
A. The Presence of the One seated on the throne
   1. Heaven (cf. Rev. 4-5)
   2. Earth and sky flee (cf. Isa. 65.17-25; 2 Pet. 3.12-13)
B. The books of the deeds and the Book of Life
   1. Death and Hades and the sea (cf. Rev. 21.1)
   2. The two books (cf. Testament of Abraham 12-13)
   3. Faith and works (cf. Gal. 5.6; Rom. 14.12; 1 Cor. 3.12-15; 2 Cor. 5.10)
C. The Lake of Fire
   1. God is a consuming fire (cf. Deut. 4.24; 9.3; Heb. 12.29)
   2. God and fire (cf. Gen. 15.17; Exod. 3.2; 13.21; 19.18; Dan. 7.9, 10; Matt. 3.10-12; 25.41; Mark 9.49; Luke 12.49; Acts 7.30; 1 Cor. 3.15)
   3. Death and Hades (cf. 1 Cor. 15.26)
   4. The Consuming Fire and judgment
   5. Wrath and love (1 John 4.8, 16; Luke 13.22-30; 1 Cor. 15.2; Heb. 6.4-6; 2 Pet. 1.10)
Session 18:
All Things New; An Epilogue
(Rev. 21-22)

I. New Heavens, New Earth, and New Jerusalem (21.1-22.5)
   A. The ultimate goal of the suffering Church
   B. The New Jerusalem
      1. City imagery (cf. Rev. 17.1-4; 21.9-11)
      2. Complete re-creation (Rev. 21.1; cf. Isa. 65.17-25; Dan. 7.3; Rev. 13.1)
      3. Dwelling place of God (Rev. 21.2-4; cf. Isa. 54; 60; John 14.2;
         Rev. 21.3: σκηνή, skēnē, tent, dwelling)
      4. God speaks (Rev. 21.5-8; cf. 1.8)
      5. Description of the city (Rev. 21.9-21)
         a. Size of the New Jerusalem (cf. Ezek. 40-48)
         b. The shape of the city (cf. 1 Kings 6.20)
         c. Jewels (cf. Exod. 28.17-20; 39.8-14; Rev. 21.22-27)
      6. No temple, sun or moon (Rev. 21.22-23)
         a. God’s glory (cf. Rev. 21.8; 4.3; 21.11)
         b. Temple imagery (cf. John 2.21; 1 Cor. 3.16; 6.19)
      7. The praise of true believers from among the nations (Rev. 21.24-27; 18)
      8. Those unable to enter (Rev. 21.27; cf. 22.15; Matt. 19.26; Mark 14.36; Luke 1.37; Jer. 32.27)
      9. Heaven and the Garden
         a. River of life (Rev. 22.1-2; cf. Gen. 2.10; Ezek. 47.1-9; Zech. 14.8; Joel 3.18)
         b. God’s slaves worshipping and reigning (Rev. 22.3-4; cf. 1 John 3.2)

II. Epilogue (22.6-21)
   A. Emphasis on the inspiration of this message (Rev. 22.6-10)
      1. Affirmation of the trustworthiness of this prophecy
      2. I am coming soon (Rev. 22.7, 12)
   B. A call to holiness
      1. Persistence in evildoing or righteousness (Rev. 22.11; Dan. 12.10)
      2. Those outside (Rev. 22.15; cf. 21.27)
   C. The picture of Jesus (Rev. 22.13, 18; 1.8)
   D. A warning label (Rev. 22.18-19; Deut. 4.1-2; 12.32; 29.19-20)
   E. Come to Jesus (Rev. 22.17; cf. Isa. 55.1; John 7.37)
   F. Come, Lord Jesus! (Rev. 22.20; cf. Didache 10.5-7; 1 Cor. 16.22)