

THE REVELATION TO JOHN – STRUCTURE¹

INTRODUCTION 1:1-8	1:1-3 1::4-8	John's Preface and the 1 st Beatitude (reading and hearing this book) John greets the Seven Churches in Asia – Voice of the Lord God
OPENING VISION 1:9-3:22	1:9-20 2:1-3:22	I John (in the Spirit on the Lord's Day) – Vision of One Like a Son of Man The Seven <u>Letters</u> , to Ephesus – Smyrna – Pergamum – Thyatira – Sardis – Philadelphia – Laodicea
1 st THRONE VISION 4:1-7:8	2 ⁴ :1-11 5:1-14 6:1-8 6:9-11 6:12-17 7:1-8	The One Sitting on the Throne and the 24 Elders The Lamb The first four <u>Seals</u> : the Four Horsemen The fifth Seal : the souls of the Martyrs The sixth Seal : signs in heaven, doom on earth Heavenly Interlude on earth : sealing of the 144.000 Servants of the Lord
2 nd THRONE VISION 7:9-11:14	7:9-12 7:13-17 8:1 8:2-5 8:6-12 8:13 9:1-12 9:13-21 10:1-11 11:1-14	Song of Those who Came Through; the Angels' Song of Praise Those in White Robes, explanation by one of the Elders Opening the seventh Seal – Silence in heaven The angel with the golden censer, the prayers of the saints The first four <u>Trumpets</u> Heavenly Interlude : the Eagle in Midheaven The fifth Trumpet, being the first Woe The sixth Trumpet, being the second Woe Heavenly Interlude : the Strong Angel with the Book for the Seer (The seven <u>Thunders</u>) The two Witnesses. Announcing the third Woe
3 rd THRONE VISION 11:15-13:18 [The seven visions of the Dragon]	11:15-19 12:1-6 12:7-9 12:10-12 12:13-18 13:1-10 13:11-14 13:15-18	The seventh Trumpet : Hymn in heaven, the Elders giving thanks First vision of the Dragon : The Cosmic Woman and the Birth of her Son 2 nd Vision : Michael battling the Dragon 3 rd Vision : Hymn of Victory in heaven 4 th Vision : The Dragon battling on earth 5 th Vision : The first Beast 6 th Vision : The second Beast 7 th Vision : The Mark of the Beast – the Number 666
4 th THRONE VISION 14:1-20 [The seven visions of the Son of Man]	14:1-5 14:6-7 14:8 14:9-12 14:13 14:14-16 14:17-20	The Lamb on Mount Zion with the 144.000 The first Angel : the Eternal Gospel The second Angel, announcing Judgment on Babylon The third Angel, announcing Judgment on those who follow the Beast 2 nd Beatitude (Those who die in the Lord) The Son of Man reaping the earth with his sharp sickle The Angel with the Sickle and the Angel with Power over Fire

¹ Here following Christoph Rau, in his article on the Structure of the Revelation to John, in *Ich sah den Himmel aufgetan*, pp 37-52 (ed. Johannes Lauten), Urachhaus, Stuttgart 2006.

² "After this" which means "After these things", indicates a beginning after a longer interval in time. See for instance 4:1, 7:1, 7:9, 15:5, 18:1 and 19:1.

5 th THRONE VISION 15:1-16:16 [The seven angels with their bowls]	15:1-5 15:6-8 16:1-11 16:12-14 16:15 16:16	The Sea of Glass and the Song of Praise of those Who Conquered The seven angels receive the seven golden <u>Bowls</u> The first five Bowls of Wrath poured out The sixth Bowl of Wrath poured out 3 rd Beatitude (Warning to be awake and to keep one's garments) Assemblage at Armageddon
INTERLUDE 16:17-18:24 [The seventh Bowl and the seven visions of soom]	16:17-21 17:1-6 17:7-18 18:1-3 18:4-8 18:9-20 18:21-24	The seventh Bowl of Wrath poured out The World Harlot of Power The Angel interpreting her Appearance Woe on Babylon Another Angel warning the Believers Lament of Kings, Merchants and Seafarers The Angel with the Millstone, symbol of destruction
6 th THRONE VISION 19:1-20:15 [Seven Stages of Trial by Triumph and Judgment]	19:1-10 19:11-16 19:17-21 20:1-3 20:4-6 20:7-10 20:11-15	"Hallelujah" after Babylon's Fall – 4 th Beatitude (Those called to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb The White Horseman triumphant Triumph over the Beast and its Vassals The Dragon chained The Thousand Years – 5 th Beatitude (The First Resurrection) Satan's Last Struggle and his Defeat The Last Judgment
FINAL VISION 21:1-22:7 [New Jerusalem]	21:1-4 21:5-8 21:9-17 21:18-21 21:22-27 22:1-5 22:6-7	A New Heaven and New Earth God's Promise The Heavenly City, Lay-out and Measurements The City's Fundament, the twelve jewels and twelve gates The Residents of the City The River of the Water of Life and the Tree of Life Christ's Coming – 6 th Beatitude (To keep the words of this book)
CONCLUSION 22:8-21	22:8-9 22:10-12 22:13 22:14-15 22:16-17 22:18-19 22:20-21	I John (affirming) – the Angel Voice of the Lord "I am coming soon" – "Recompense" Voice of the Lord God 7 th Beatitude (Those with washed robes – Tree of Life and City) I Jesus – Voice of the Lord : "I have sent" – "Come" The Seer on the words of this prophecy Voice of the Lord : "Surely I am coming soon" – Prayer and Blessing

LITERATURE

In Alfred Heidenreich, *The Book of Revelation* (Floris Books, Edinburgh, 1977) there has been posthumously published a series of lectures held by him in 1968, the year before his death in 1969, on the invitation of the Anthroposophical Society in Great Britain. A translation of The Revelation to John by Heidenreich has been added.

Rudolf Frieling, in the last chapter of his *Christianity and Reincarnation* (Floris Books, Edinburgh 1977, pp 90-117) describes "Human Evolution in the Apocalypse of John", with the intention to see what it has to say about mankind's Christian progress.