

## Parallelism in Revelation

You'll find all sorts of theories of how Revelation fits together. Some see the series of 7 seals, 7 trumpets, and 7 bowls chronologically following one after another. The interpretation I think works best is a partial parallelism as suggested below. You'll see many parallels, but some don't fit so well. Certainly, parallelism has some weaknesses – but so do all the other views.

| Matthew 24   | 7 Seals (Rev 6)   | 7 Trumpets (Rev 8-9, 11)   | 7 Bowls (Rev 16)  |
|--|---|--|---|
| Many come in my name (5)   | 1. White Horse (false messiah?), conquering (1-2)                                   |  |   |
| Wars & rumors of wars (6-7a)   | 2. Red Horse, war (3-4)   |  |   |
| Famines & earthquakes (7b-8)   | 3. Black horse, famine (5-6)  |  |   |
|  | 4. Pale horse, pestilence, famine, death (7-8)                                      |  |   |
| Tribulation of the church, many fall (9-11)  | 5. Heavenly vision of martyrs (9-11)  |  |   |
| Love grow cold, endure, gospel preached (12-14)  |   |  |   |
| Desolating sacrilege in holy place (15)  |   |  |   |
| Feeling judgments on Jerusalem (16-20)   |   |  |   |
| Great tribulation (21-22)  |   |  |   |
|  |   | 1. Hail and fire (8:7)   | 1. Sores (2)  |
|  |   | 2. Seas turn to blood (8:8-9)  | 2. Sea like blood (3)   |
|  |   | 3. Wormwood, bitter (8:10-11)  | 3. Fresh water turns to blood (4)   |
| Sun dark, moon dark, stars fall, heavenly bodies shaken (29)                                       | 6. Earthquake, sun dark, moon blood, stars fall, sky rolled up, earth moves (12-14) | 4. Sun, moon, stars darkened (8:12)  | 4. Sun scorches people (8-9)<br>5. Darkness on beast's kingdom  |
| Nations mourn (30a)  | Ungodly leaders hide in caves, cry for fear of wrath of the Lamb (15-17)            |  |   |
|  | Sealing of 144,000 for protection (chapter 7)                                       |  |   |
|  | 7. Silence (8:1)  |  |   |
|  |   | 5. Locusts torture unbelievers, but not believers (9:1-12)                               |   |
|  |   | 6. 200 million cavalry kills 1/3 (9:13-19)   | 6. Nations assemble, battle of Armageddon (12-16)   |
| Son of Man on the clouds with great power and glory, trumpet call, gathers his elect—rapture (30b) |   | 7. Kingdoms are Christ's, dead judged, servants rewarded, destroyer destroyed (11:15-19) | 7. "It is done." Lightning, thunder, earthquake, Babylon falls, hailstones, cursing God (16-21). Marriage Supper, judgment (chapters 19-20) |