

Parallelism in Revelation

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<http://www.jesuswalk.com/revelation/parallelism.pdf>



You'll find all sorts of theories of how Revelation fits together. Some see the series 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, and 7 Bowls chronologically following one after another. The interpretation I think works best is a partial parallelism, 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 (Revelation 6)	7 Trumpets (Revelation 8-9, 11)	7 Bowls (Revelation 16)
Many come in my name (5)	1. War 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 church, many fall away, false prophets (9-11)	5. Heavenly vision of martyrs (9-11)		
Love grow cold, endure, gospel preached (12-14)			
Desolating sacrilege (15)			
Fleeing judgments on Jerusalem (16-20)			
Great tribulation (21-22)			

Matthew 24	7 Seals (Revelation 6)	7 Trumpets (Revelation 8-9, 11)	7 Bowls (Revelation 16)
		1. Hail & 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)
Powers of heavens shaken (29)	6. Earthquake, sun dark, moon blood, stars fall, earth moves (12-14)	4. Sun, moon, stars darkened (8:12)	4. Sun scorches people (8-9) 5. Darkness on beast's kingdom (10-11)
Nations mourn (30a)	Ungodly leaders hide in caves, cry out for fear of wrath of the Lamb (15-17)	5. Locusts torture unbelievers, but not believers (9:1-12)	
		6. 200 million cavalry kills 1/3 (9:13-19)	6. Demonic spirits assemble nations for battle of Armageddon (12-16)
	7. Silence (8:1)		
Christ appears (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 of the Lamb, judgment (chapters 19-20)
Trumpet call, rapture (31)			