

The Plot of the Bible

The History & Structure of the Bible

1. Definitions

- 1.1_ Bible - from the Greek word for book or scroll
- 1.2_ Scripture - from the Greek word for a writing
- 1.3_ Testament - from the Greek word for a covenant

Old Testament/Covenant	New Testament/Covenant
Law	Spirit
Mt Sinai	Mt Calvary
Moses	Jesus Christ
Types & Shadows (pictures)	Substance & Realities
Anticipation	Fulfilment

2. Dates

- 2.1 Moses wrote the first 5 books (Genesis-Deuteronomy) c.1445 BC
- 2.2 John wrote Revelation c. AD 66
- 2.3 The whole Bible was written over a period of 1500 years
- 2.4 Old Testament history ends with Nehemiah (all the rest fits back into the history from genesis to Nehemiah)
- 2.5 There were 400 years between the end of the OT and the beginning of the NT (called the Intertestamental Period)

3. Division of the Books

- 3.1 The English Bible follows the Septuagint division & arrangement of books
- 3.2 The Septuagint is the Greek Translation of the OT

3.3 The Ancient Hebrew Bible

Law (Torah)	Prophets	Writings
Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	<u>Former:</u> Joshua Judges Samuel Kings <u>Latter:</u> Isaiah Jeremiah Ezekiel The Twelve	<u>Poetic:</u> Psalms Proverbs Job <u>Rolls:</u> Canticles (S of S) Ruth Lamentations Esther Ecclesiastes <u>Historical:</u> Daniel Ezra-Nehemiah Chronicles

4. Arrangement of Books

4.1 Old Testament

- 4.1.1 Genesis through Nehemiah is history
- 4.1.2 Ruth takes place during the time of Judges
- 4.1.3 1 & 2 Chronicles parallels the time of 2 Samuel through 1 & 2 Kings
- 4.1.4 Esther takes place in the middle of Ezra
- 4.1.5 Job through Malachi (poetry & prophets) fit back into the time of Genesis through Nehemiah

4.2 New Testament

- 4.2.1 Luke-Acts make one narrative
- 4.2.2 Paul's epistles are arranged by recipient (churches, then individuals) and by length (longest to shortest)
- 4.2.3 The General Epistles are arranged by author & length

5. Languages

- 5.1 OT was written in Hebrew and Aramaic
- 5.2 NT was written in Greek

The Message of the Bible

1. The Theme of the Bible
 - 1.1_ The Bible is God's revelation of Himself and of His purpose for the world centering upon redemption in the Lord Jesus Christ
 - 1.2_ The OT is about Jesus Christ
 - 1.2.1 Matthew 5:17 - Jesus fulfilled the OT by giving its true meaning and accomplishing everything it prophesied and pictured
 - 1.2.2 Luke 24:27, 44 - The OT was about Jesus and His work
 - 1.2.3 John 5:39 - The OT tells us about Jesus
 - 1.2.4 Hebrews 10:7 - The OT was written about Jesus

2. Christ - centred Interpretation of the Bible
 - 2.1 God progressively revealed Himself and His plan of redemption bit by bit over 1500 years
 - 2.2 He revealed Christ in the OT through symbols, prophecies and the history of Israel
 - 2.2.1 The OT is not ultimately about Israel, but uses them to foreshadow and prefigure Christ Himself
 - 2.2.2 The OT is like God's picture book leading to the mature Word of the NT
 - 2.3 Jesus fulfils the OT and He is the final installment of God's revelation who interprets everything else
 - 2.3.1 Jesus is like the last piece of a puzzle that finally gives true perspective and meaning to all the rest of the pieces
 - 2.3.2 To understand God's message in the OT we must begin with Jesus and the NT
 - 2.3.3 Once we see how a passage points to Christ, then we can see how it relates to us
 - 2.4 The story line of the whole Bible must be interpreted/understood in relationship to Christ
 - 2.5 See charts on p.4 from Graeme Goldsworthy's book, According to Plan

Covenantal Development

1. God works in and speaks to His creation on the basis of covenant
2. *A covenant* is a relationship God makes with man sealed in blood in which He promises blessing and requires obedience
 - 2.1 Relationship - “I will be your God and you will be My people”
 - 2.2 Sovereignty - God establishes the covenant on His terms by His initiative of sovereign grace
 - 2.3 Sealed in Blood - the covenant invokes a life or death situation; the shedding of blood (death) is the cost of the relationship
 - 2.4 Blessing - God promises the ultimate blessing of eternal life with various lesser blessings included

- 2.5 Obedience - God requires obedience to show our love and loyalty to Him
 - 2.6 God's covenant blessings are not earned by our obedience, they are given by His grace. But our enjoyment of those blessings is conditional upon our obedience. Our obedience is not the righteousness God requires, therefore it does not earn blessing - our obedience does not deserve to be blessed. Yet God in His grace chooses to bless our obedience and in His righteousness does not bless disobedience.
3. There is only one Covenant of Grace with various administrations/installments or developments/revelations of it
- 3.1 The Eternal Covenant (Heb 13:20; Rev 13:8)
 - 3.2 The Adamic Covenant of Creation
 - 3.3 The Noahic Covenant of Preservation
 - 3.4 The Abrahamic Covenant of Promise
 - 3.5 The Mosaic Covenant of Law
 - 3.6 The Davidic Covenant of Kingdom
 - 3.7 The New Covenant of Christ
4. To understand the Bible we must trace the development of God's covenant purpose of redemption in Christ Jesus through the historical revelation of Scripture seeing each part in relationship to the whole, unified message of Christ

The Main Stages of Development

(in God's Revelation of His Covenant Redemption in Christ)

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|-----|---|---|
| 1. | Creation (covenant with Adam) | Genesis |
| 2. | Fall of Man | Genesis |
| 3. | Flood (covenant with Noah) | Genesis |
| 4. | Abraham (covenant) | Genesis |
| 5. | Exodus (covenant with Moses) | Exodus-Leviticus |
| 6. | Wilderness Wanderings | Numbers-Deuteronomy |
| 7. | Conquest of Canaan | Joshua |
| 8. | Judges | Judges-Ruth |
| 9. | Kingdom (covenant with David) | 1 Samuel-2 Chronicles (poetry & prophets) |
| 10. | Exile & Return | Ezra-Esther (prophets) |
| 11. | Fulfilment of New Covenant in Christ | Gospels |
| 12. | Establishment of New Covenant by Apostles | Acts |
| 13. | Explanation of New Covenant for Believers | Epistles |
| 14. | Declaration of Victory | Revelation |

1. Creation
 - 1.1_ God created everything with His Word and rules everything by His Word
 - 1.2_ John 1:1-14 tells us that Jesus Christ is the Word - Creator & Lord
 - 1.3_ God's original creation was without sin, disorder and disharmony. This is the ideal state of His Kingdom - everything harmoniously in its proper relationship to God and everything else.
 - 1.4_ God created the world and established His kingdom to point to Christ's Kingship over the world.
 - 1.5_ Adam was created in God's image with dominion over creation and as humanity's representative before God.
 - 1.6_ Jesus is the last Adam (1 Cor 15:45) who is better than the first Adam because:
 - 1.6.1 He is God's express image (Heb 1:3)
 - 1.6.2 He has perfect, godly dominion (Psalm 8; Heb 2:5-9; Mat 28:18)
 - 1.6.3 He succeeds where Adam failed to represent His people in righteousness (Rom 5:12-19)
 - 1.6.4 He creates a new humanity in Himself (2 Cor 5:17)
 - 1.7_ The Adamic Covenant of Creation (Jer 33:20-26; Hos 6:7)
 - 1.7.1 Relationship - Creator and creature in fellowship
 - 1.7.2 Sovereignty - God put Adam in garden with His terms/test on trees to eat from
 - 1.7.3 Blood - If Adam fails the test, he will die
 - 1.7.4 Blessing - If Adam passes the test, he will eat from the Tree of Life
 - 1.7.5 Obedience - God institutes the Sabbath, labour and marriage
 - 1.8_ Christ fulfills all of this because Adam failed
 - 1.8.1 Christ obeys all God's commands and is the Tree of Life for His people (Rev 22:1-2, 14)
 - 1.8.2 Christ is our true sabbath rest from sin and condemnation (Mat 11:28-30)
 - 1.8.3 Christ's labour/works provide our righteousness before God (Rom 5:12-19)
 - 1.8.4 Christ is the Bridegroom of the Church, His Bride (Eph 5:22-33)

2. The Fall of Man

2.1 Satan's temptation

- 2.1.1 Disguised himself as part of God's good creation
- 2.1.2 Disrupts God's order by getting the woman to lead her husband
- 2.1.3 Doubts & denies God's Word/authority
- 2.1.4 Defames God by making it seem like God is withholding something good
- 2.1.5 Deceitful offer making sin look better than God's kingdom & rule
- 2.1.6 Satan is opposed to God and wants to take God's kingdom from Him. Since that kingdom was put under man's dominion, Satan attacks man

2.2 Adam's sin

- 2.2.1 Adam is responsible even though Eve ate first because he is the representative head of humanity before God
- 2.2.2 Adam failed to obey God's Word
- 2.2.3 Adam failed to exercise dominion over the serpent
- 2.2.4 Adam failed to lead his wife in holiness
- 2.2.5 Adam failed to maintain the order of God's kingdom

Adam	Christ
Sinless world	Sinful world
One command	Whole Law
Beautiful garden	Barren wilderness
Without sin	Without sin & Divine
Lost godly dominion	Regained godly dominion
Failed	Succeeded

2.3 God's curse on sin directed at the blessings of creation

- 2.3.1 The woman's blessing of childbirth is cursed with much pain
- 2.3.2 The man's blessing of work & rest is cursed with toil & sweat
- 2.3.3 The earth's blessing of fruitfulness is cursed with thorns & barrenness
- 2.3.4 Mankind's blessing of marriage is cursed with domineering woman & abusive men

2.4 All creation changes because the order of God's kingdom is disrupted

- 2.4.1 Snakes crawl on bellies

- 2.4.2 All men are born sinful with Adam's guilt
- 2.4.3 All creatures must die
- 2.4.4 Clothing must be worn to cover the disgrace of sin (atonement means a covering)
- 2.4.5 God Himself makes coverings for sinful man by shedding blood
- 2.4.6 The earth produces thorns & is harder to cultivate

2.5 God's first promise of redemption (protoevangelium) Genesis 3:15

2.5.1 God puts hostility between the seed of the serpent & the seed of the woman. Two humanities will develop - the godly seed of the woman (Kingdom of God) and the ungodly seed of the serpent (Kingdom of Darkness)

Seed of Woman	Seed of Serpent
Seth	Cain
Noah	Those drowned in the flood
Abraham	Babel
Israel	Gentiles
David	Pagan nations
Christ	Unbelieving Israel
All believers in Christ	All unbelievers

- 2.5.2 The ungodly line of Cain develops culture (music, tools, industry, architecture) by God's common grace while the godly line of Seth walks with God.
- 2.5.3 God will send a warrior-saviour from the line of the woman (through Seth) to crush the head of Satan. This will destroy the Kingdom of Darkness and re-establish God's kingdom on earth.
- 2.5.4 The serpent who is Satan (through Cain) will strike the warrior-saviour's heel - not a fatal blow.
- 2.5.5 Jesus Christ is the Warrior-Saviour who is crucified (heel struck by serpent) to crush the Satan's head.

3. Flood

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 The godly line of Seth had intermarried with the ungodly line of Cain
- 3.1.2 Seth's line were called the "sons of God" & Cain's the "daughters of

- men” (Gen 6)
- 3.1.3 This corrupted the godly seed of the woman as they lost godly dominion over the earth
- 3.1.4 The Kingdom of God on earth was declining, not driving out the Kingdom of Darkness
- 3.2 God sent a global flood to destroy the dominion of the ungodly
- 3.3 God saved Noah by His grace showing the basis of salvation from judgement and acceptance among the godly
- 3.4 The Covenant with Noah
 - 3.4.1 Relationship - God’s common grace to all creatures
 - 3.4.2 Sovereignty - God is the preserver and sustainer of all creation; He gives, takes or preserves life according to His Word
 - 3.4.3 Blood - Noah sacrifices some of the clean animals; the death penalty demonstrates the ultimate penalty of sin (destroying God’s image)
 - 3.4.4 Blessings - Preservation of the creation; eating meat; dominion over animals helped by fear of man in them
 - 3.4.5 Obedience - Be fruitful & multiply to fill the earth; exercise godly dominion; do not eat blood; death penalty for murder because an is in God’s image
 - 3.4.6 Sign of the covenant - Rainbow
- 3.5 Purpose of the Flood & Covenant
 - 3.5.1 The godly seed is preserved to lead to Christ
 - 3.5.2 The created order is preserved for the Kingdom of God to be established on earth by the coming dominion of Christ
 - 3.5.3 The flood and death penalty emphasize the wages of sin being death & the sacrifices point to Christ taking that penalty upon Himself.
- 4. Abraham
 - 4.1 After the Flood people gathered around the Tower of Babel so God scattered them by confusing their languages. This was the beginning of nations settling in their own lands around the globe.
 - 4.2 God called Abram in order to build one special nation that would express His Kingdom on earth.
 - 4.2.1 Abram was part of a pagan family so his calling was by grace at God’s initiative.
 - 4.2.2 Abram had to follow God by faith which was credited to him as righteousness (Gen 15:6 - justification)

4.3 Abrahamic Covenant

- 4.3.1 Relationship - “I will be your God and you (and descendants) will be My people”
- 4.3.2 Sovereignty - God chose Abram by grace from paganism; God chose Isaac, not Ishmael; God chose Jacob, not Esau (contrary to Isaac’s choice)
- 4.3.3 Blood - Genesis 15 presents a self-maledictory oath ceremony of cutting animals in half, but only God passed between them showing He would pay the price for Abraham’s disobedience; God told Abraham to sacrifice the son of promise (Isaac), but God provided a substitute ram showing that God would provide a substitute for His people in Christ, the Lamb of God
- 4.3.4 Blessings -
 - 1) Descendants (seed) making a great nation; the miraculous births of Isaac, Jacob & Esau and some of the 12 sons of Jacob point to the miraculous virgin birth of Christ.
 - 2) Land of Canaan for the nation Israel to picture & demonstrate God’s kingdom on earth by exercising godly dominion in the land resulting in the meek inheriting the whole earth.
 - 3) Blessing to all nations (Gospel - Gal 3:6-9); God would bring the Seed of Abraham (Christ - Gal 3:16) to save all nations making them His people - God’s intention was never just for Israel as a nation; true Israel is everyone in Christ by grace through faith like Abraham (Rom 2:28-29; 4:16-17)
- 4.3.5 Obedience - faith; “walk before Me and be blameless”; Sign of Circumcision on males 8 days after birth as a picture and pledge of spiritual cleansing by God’s electing grace

5. Exodus

- 5.1 The Exodus establishes the pattern of redemption - before God’s people can enter His kingdom (Promised Land) they must first be redeemed
- 5.2 Bondage in Egypt showed the people their need for redemption (freedom from sin) since our sin enslaves us
- 5.3 God acts to free Israel from Egypt to keep His covenant promise through Abraham having made them a great nation
- 5.4 God frees His people from slavery to sin/world so they can become slaves to Him and serve in His kingdom
- 5.5 God delivers His people at the hands of a Mediator (Moses) who represents

God to His people and His people to God - Christ is our Mediator perfectly representing God to us since He is God and perfectly representing us to God since He became Man

- 5.6 The Passover showed the necessity of blood shed (of a spotless lamb) for redemption and safety from God's wrath - the Israelite children deserved death as well as the Egyptian children, the only difference was the blood of the lamb
- 5.7 God delivered His people from bondage by His mighty power (parting the Red Sea) apart from any works of theirs
- 5.8 The Red Sea and the Passover show God's two-edged sword - the same act that saved His people, destroyed His enemies
- 5.9 God's giving of the Law at Mt Sinai was a covenant of grace that ordered His people into a nation morally and religiously
- 5.10 The Law was never a way to be saved, but was given to show the people their need of God's forgiveness through blood shed (sacrifices) and to direct them in how to serve a holy God in His righteous kingdom
- 5.11 The Law Covenant showed that a better covenant had to come since the people failed in obedience before God and His glory on Moses' face was fading - Christ obeyed perfectly on our behalf and gives us an unfading glory
- 5.12 Law is not the opposite of grace - In the New Covenant we have received grace and therefore obey, just as the Israelites were redeemed and then given the law - we cannot be part of God's kingdom and live contrary to His will
- 5.13 Each of the Ten Commandments points to Christ
 - 1. No other gods - Christ is the only-begotten of the Father, no other way to God
 - 2. No images for worship - Christ is the express image of God, anything else will misrepresent Him
 - 3. Not take Lord's name in vain - Christ has the name that is above every name
 - 4. Sabbath - Christ gives us true, eternal rest for our souls
 - 5. Honour parents - submission to authority ultimately means bowing to Christ who has all authority in heaven and on earth
 - 6. No Murder - Christ is the giver of life
 - 7. No adultery - Christ is a faithful Husband to His bride, the church
 - 8. No stealing - Christ owns all things & disposes of it to whom He will - double restitution was required and Christ paid double for our salvation in (1) His obedient life and (2) His substitutionary death
 - 9. Not to bear false witness - Christ is the Truth
 - 10. Not to covet - Only Christ truly satisfies and deserves to be glorified

5.14 The Tabernacle demonstrated God's covenant promise to dwell in the midst of His people

1. The outer court curtains were dyed red so those entering would be surrounded with the colour of atonement
2. Bronze altar showed God's presence could not be entered with blood sacrifice - Christ's sacrifice of Himself is our entrance to God
3. Laver for ceremonial cleansing in water - Christ the living water and cleanses us with new birth (regeneration)
4. Lampstand kept burning day and night - Christ the Light of the world & Holy Spirit (like oil) dwells within us to always shine Christ's light
5. Table of Showbread had 12 loaves fresh every day - Christ is bread of life for all His people, always fresh for us, showing our table-fellowship with Him
6. Altar of Incense before the throne room of God with fragrant smoke ascending to Him as the prayers of the saints - Christ intercedes for us making our prayers acceptable to God and making us the fragrance of Himself to the world around us
7. The Veil separated God's very presence from any but the High Priest once a year - Christ our High Priest enters the veil on our behalf with His own blood, tearing the veil in two and opening up the way to God through Him alone
8. Ark of the Covenant was God's footstool/throne with the mercy seat on top - Christ enthroned at right hand of Majesty on high because He showed mercy by propitiating (satisfying God's wrath in Himself) for our sins
9. Inside the Ark were the Ten Commandments (Christ kept the Law for

us), a jar of manna (Christ is our Sustainer & nourishment), and Aaron's rod that budded (Christ is our rightful Leader and fruitful Vine)

10. The Holy of Holies was God's very dwelling place and had perfect dimensions as a square. Moving away from God's presence to the Holy Place and then the Outer Court, the shape becomes less and less perfect
11. Outside the camp is where the unclean stayed in outer darkness - Christ bore our sins (uncleanness) outside the camp by being crucified outside the city walls of Jerusalem

6. Wilderness Wanderings

- 6.1 Israel had to wander in the wilderness for 40 years because of their unbelief when spying the land of Canaan for 40 days- Christ was tempted in wilderness 40 days to succeed where Israel failed
- 6.2 God provided manna to show man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the Father - Christ is the true bread from heaven who nourishes His people for ever
- 6.3 The people rebelled against Moses as the Mediator and were killed - Christ is the only Mediator between God and man; rebellion against Him leads to eternal death
- 6.4 God provided water from a rock for His people, but Moses struck the rock twice instead of speaking to it - Christ is the Rock of our salvation giving us living water; He did not have to be struck (crucified twice) and willingly went to the cross by the Father asking/speaking to Him
- 6.5 When the people were dying from fiery serpents, God told Moses to lift up a bronze serpent on a pole and those who looked at it would live - Christ was lifted up on the pole of a cross and all who look to Him (to what He did on that cross) will live eternally
- 6.6 Balaam was hired to curse Israel, but God turned his curses into blessings - Christ suffered the curse of sin for us so that we can receive God's blessing

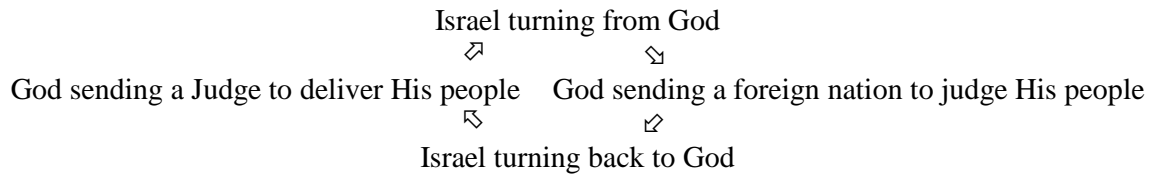
7. Conquest of Canaan

- 7.1 God acts to fulfil His covenant promise to Abraham after 500 years in giving Israel the land of Canaan
- 7.2 Obedience to God's Law (covenant with Moses) is emphasised for the people to know God's blessing in this next stage of His kingdom, an organised nation in their own land

- 7.3 Rahab of Jericho expresses faith in Israel's God by helping the spies so she and her family will be spared. The scarlet cord resembles the Passover blood showing that faith in Christ saves from God's judgement
- 7.4 Similar events to the Exodus establish Joshua as the new leader - crossing the Jordan River on dry ground, celebrating the Passover and Joshua standing before God on holy ground removing his sandals
- 7.5 Joshua's name means, "Jehovah saves" and is the same as the name "Jesus"
- 7.6 God demonstrates that His kingdom is entered only through faith and not by our own works
1. All the males are circumcised after crossing the Jordan leaving them open to attack from the Canaanites, but God protects them
 2. The march around Jericho and its walls falling down before the Ark of the Covenant without Israel lifting a sword shows the battle is the Lord's
 3. Christ is our mighty warrior (Joshua) who defeats our enemies by His own mighty power, not by our works
- 7.7 Achan's sin and Israel's defeat at Ai demonstrate the necessity of obedience in serving God, even though that obedience does not earn the salvation/victory, but rather expresses faith in God's authority over all of life
- 7.8 Israel was a tool of God's wrath against the pagan nations of Canaan. They exercised the dominion of God's kingdom over the land with a sword, but Christ's church today is to exercise the dominion of God's kingdom with the sword of His Word for the salvation of the pagan nations
- 7.9 Joshua led Israel to conquer a land - Christ, a better warrior, leads us to inherit the earth because He has already conquered the enemy in His death & resurrection
- 7.10 God fulfilled all His promise to Abraham about the land, yet many pagans were left alive by the Israelites, showing that a greater conquest with a greater Conqueror, Jesus Christ, had to come
- 7.11 Joshua holds a covenant renewal just before his death in which the people are told they cannot serve God because He is holy, showing that only by grace, not our sinful works, can we ever serve God acceptably in His Kingdom
8. The Judges
- 8.1 After Joshua's conquest Israel was not yet a kingdom but a loosely connected group of tribes

8.2 This period showed the need for a King to rule God's people with God's authority (18:1; 19:1; 21:25)

8.3 This period followed a cycle of



8.4 The Judges were Warrior-Saviours delivering Israel again and again from bondage in whole string of mini-exoduses which repeated the pattern of redemption over and over again

8.5 Each judge failed in some way showing that a better Warrior-Saviour, Jesus Christ, had to come - when a judge died, the people went back into sin but Jesus lives forever keeping His people saved from sin forever (2:10-19)

8.6 Some judges are just mentioned while others have their story told. The reason for this is to give the historical connection with all judges while giving details about the other judges who picture Christ's work in some way.

8.7 Othniel shows that salvation is accomplished in the power of the Holy Spirit

8.8 Ehud shows that God's salvation comes in a surprising way (left-handed hidden sword) and by destroying the enemy king (Satan)

8.9 Deborah & Barak show that God saves through weakness (the men of Israel's cowardice, a woman killing Sisera → the cross & suffering of Christ)

8.10 Gideon shows that God saves even those with weak faith and does so with many or with few so He gets the glory

8.11 Jephthah shows the cost of God's salvation is the sacrifice of His Child/Son

8.12 Samson shows that God will save by the Divine strength of one man fully dedicated to God who will accomplish more in his sacrificial death than in life

8.13 The Levite and his concubine show that Christ will have to be 'torn in pieces' (crucified) to save His people

8.14 Ruth takes place during this tragic time of the Judges as a more positive picture of Christ's work as Kinsman-Redeemer (pictured by Boaz)

1. The Kinsman-Redeemer was related to the person - Christ took on our

- human flesh to redeem us (Galatians 4:4; Hebrews 2:16-17)
- 2. He willingly redeemed the person - Christ willingly went to the cross to redeem us (John 10:15-18; 1 John 3:16)
- 3. He had to have enough resources to redeem the person - Christ' infinite Person and precious blood redeemed us (1 Corinthians 6:20; 1 Peter 1:18-19)
- 4. He secured the person's inheritance - Christ makes us joint-heirs with Him of an eternal inheritance (Romans 8:17; Ephesians 1:18-19; Colossians 1:12-13)
- 5. He had to have the power to take possession of and rule over the redeemed person's estate - Christ subdues us to Himself (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:17-18; Psalm 110:1-3)
- 6. He took the redeemed as his own bride - Christ takes us as His bride (Ephesians 5:25-27; Revelation 21:2)

8.15 Samuel became the last judge of Israel and anointed the first two kings (Saul & David) bringing entrance into the fullest OT expression of God's Kingdom now that the pattern of redemption had been well established during the Judges

9. The Kingdom & Covenant with David

- 9.1 The people want a king for sinful reasons, but God overrules to accomplish His purpose - to picture the reign and authority He will one day give to THE King, Jesus Christ
- 9.2 Saul is rejected as King because of his failure to truly represent God's Kingship & because the Ruler of God's kingdom is the one God Himself chooses, not the person the people want
- 9.3 God chooses David because He looks at the heart and David is a man after God's own heart - one who will represent God's own Kingship
- 9.4 David defeats Goliath as the Warrior-Saviour while God's people are helpless against their enemy
- 9.5 David is persecuted and attacked by Saul and his men as Christ would be by the leaders in Jerusalem whom He had rejected
- 9.6 David does not kill Saul when he has the opportunity out reverence for the office of King in God's kingdom
- 9.7 When David becomes King he conquers Jerusalem on Mt Zion as his stronghold and capital city which becomes symbolic of God's rule over His people (Psalm 48; Isaiah 62:6-7; Hebrews 12:22-24)
- 9.8 David brings the Ark of the Covenant (God's throne) to Jerusalem showing

that God is the true King over His people

9.9 God makes a covenant with David in 2 Samuel 7

1. God will build David a house (dynasty) rather than David building God a house (temple) to show that God's kingdom is one of God's initiative and grace to us, not of our works for Him
2. One of David's descendants will reign forever - Jesus (Luke 1:32-33)
3. This Descendant of David is the one who will build a 'house' for God - Solomon built the temple, but Christ builds the true temple of God's New Covenant people
4. This descendant will be God's Son - the Davidic kings were adopted by God (Psalm 2), but is the true Son of God eternally
5. When this Davidic King of God sins, he will be punished - Christ had no sin of His own, but was punished for our sins on the cross

9.10 Although he was a man after God's own heart, David failed in his sin with Bathsheba - showing he was not THE King of God's eternal kingdom - as a result, David's kingdom fell apart with Absalom's rebellion

9.11 God's grace and covenant faithfulness continued as David & Bathsheba's son, Solomon, became the next king

9.12 Solomon built the temple making permanent the dwelling of God among His people as His glory filled the place of sacrificial bloodshed for atonement

9.13 God gave Solomon great wisdom which the kings of all nations came to hear - showing that Christ's greater reign of righteousness and peace would make disciples of all nations

9.14 But Solomon also failed in his sins against Deuteronomy 17:16-17 showing that a "greater than Solomon" had to come (Matthew 12:42)

9.15 After Solomon the kingdom split and deteriorated into gross idolatry showing that a better kingdom than earthly, political Israel would be the true fulfilment of God's covenant promises

10. Exile & Return

10.1 The prophets had warned Israel of coming judgement because of their unfaithfulness to His covenant

10.2 Northern Israel was taken into captivity by Assyria in 722 BC and Southern Judah was taken in to captivity by Babylon in 586 BC

10.3 These captivities were yet another picture of the people's bondage to sin (like in Egypt and other nations during the Judges)

- 10.4 Through the prophets God promised a New Covenant (Jeremiah 31; Ezekiel 36)
- this covenant would focus on internal regeneration to keep it from being broken like the Old Covenant was
 - this covenant would bring together all the promises of the covenants with Abraham, Moses and David in One Divine Redeemer
- 10.5 The New Covenant would come about with a:
- New Exodus (Isaiah 35-43)
 - New Creation/Heavens and Earth (Isaiah 65-66)
 - New Temple (Ezekiel 40-47)
 - New Global Kingdom (Isaiah 9-11, Daniel 2 & 7)
 - New Outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Ezekiel 37, Joel 2)
- 10.6 When the Jews return to Jerusalem after the captivity, the Temple and city walls are rebuilt, but they are disappointing compared to the prophets' promises (Ezra 3:12)
- 10.7 This showed a greater and better fulfilment of New Covenant promises which were to come about in Christ
- 10.8 The Old Testament ends with an expectation of judgement upon unbelieving Jews and salvation for the faithful to be announced by an Elijah-like prophet (who turns out to be John the Baptist - Malachi 4; Luke 1, 3)

11. Fulfilment of the New Covenant in Christ

11.1 Jesus Christ fulfills all the Old Testament (Luke 24:25-27, 44-45; John 5:39-40)

11.2 Jesus is the Mediator of the New Covenant so in Him and by His work all the promises of the New Covenant come about

- New Creation - He establishes a new order of things
- New Exodus - He redeems a new people for Himself
- New Temple - He is the center of worship
- New Global Kingdom - He reigns until all enemies submit
- New Outpouring of the Holy Spirit - He sends the Spirit to His Church

11.3 Matthew demonstrates how Jesus fulfills the entire history of Israel as the true Seed of the woman, Abraham & David

- Matthew 1-7 - The Exodus
- Matthew 8-10 - The Conquest
- Matthew 11-13 - The Kingdom
- Matthew 14-18 - Divided Kingdom
- Matthew 19-25 - The Exile
- Matthew 26-28 - The New Exodus

Pictures of Christ in the Psalms	
➤	Christ's perfect righteousness Psalms 1, 15, 17, 26, 43, 101, 112, 119, 128, 131
➤	Christ's dependence upon the Father Psalms 3-5, 7, 11, 20, 28, 30-31, 46, 49, 57, 61-62, 71, 91, 104, 121, 127, 138-139, 141-142, 144, 146
➤	Christ's sufferings and atonement Psalms 6, 10, 12-14, 22, 38-41, 54-56, 69, 88, 102, 116, 123-124, 129, 143
➤	Christ's exaltation and Kingdom Psalms 2, 8, 16, 21, 24, 29, 33, 45, 47-48, 67, 72, 76, 93, 95-97, 99, 108, 110, 113, 145, 148, 150
➤	Christ's Conquest and Judgement of His Enemies Psalms 9, 35-37, 50, 52-53, 58, 60, 64, 70, 75, 79, 82-83, 92, 94, 109, 120, 137, 140
➤	Christ's salvation for His people Psalms 19, 23, 25, 27, 32, 34, 51, 65-66, 80, 85, 87, 103, 114, 118, 130, 147, 149
➤	Christ's covenant faithfulness Psalms 44, 74, 77-78, 81, 89-90, 98, 100, 105-107, 111, 115, 117, 122, 125-126, 132, 135-136
➤	Christ's communion with the Father Psalms 42, 63, 73, 84, 133-134
➤	All of the above Psalms 18, 59, 68, 86

- 11.4 Mark emphasises Christ as the true Servant of Jehovah, the true Warrior-Saviour destroying the kingdom of darkness; Mark records the most cases of Jesus casting out demons
- 11.5 Luke focuses on Jesus fulfilling the righteousness of the Law as the perfect human - the last Adam
- 11.6 John identifies Jesus as the covenant God (I Am) come in the flesh doing sign-miracles that only God Himself could do
- John 6 - I Am the true Bread of life from heaven
 - John 8-9 - I Am the true Light of the world
 - John 10 - I Am the true Door for and Shepherd of the sheep
 - John 11 - I Am the true Resurrection and Life
 - John 14 - I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life
 - John 15 - I Am the true Vine
- 11.7 The life of Jesus is presented in the Gospels, not as a biography, but showing how Jesus fulfilled all the Old Testament pictures and the New Covenant realities
- 11.7.1 *Genealogy* - connects Christ with Adam, Abraham & David showing His humanity, Covenant Seed and Kingship
 - 11.7.2 *Virgin Birth* - fulfills specific prophecy emphasising His deity and kingship; His body is the true Temple of God
 - 11.7.3 *Baptism* - demonstrates the New Exodus, now out of Israel instead of Egypt, and His anointing with the Holy Spirit to fulfill all righteousness as Prophet, Priest and King (the three offices in Old Testament involving an anointing ceremony)
 - 11.7.4 *Temptation* - identifies Christ with Israel in wilderness (40 days/years) and the beginning of His conquest over the kingdom of darkness
 - 11.7.5 *Calling of Disciples/Apostles* - Christ as the true Prophet, Priest and King calls out a New Covenant people for His name - a new Israel in whom He will take dominion of the earth (which Adam & Old Testament Israel failed to do)
 - 11.7.6 *Teaching Ministry* - Christ is a greater prophet than Moses in fulfilling the Law and bringing New Covenant revelation; His parables revealed the true nature of His kingdom to His true people (disciples) but kept the truth hidden from the covenant-breaking Jews
 - 11.7.7 *Miracles* - Shows His divine power pointing to His dominion & Kingship over creation, sin and demons as He brings about the New Creation

- 11.7.8 *Transfiguration* - Revealed Christ's divine glory and His superiority to Moses (Law) and Elijah (Prophets)
- 11.7.9 *Triumphal Entry* - Christ was recognised as King and praised by the people, but was rejected by official Judaism; His entry also revealed the meek nature of His Lordship
- 11.7.10 *Crucifixion* - Christ fulfills all the temple sacrifices bringing about the true Passover/Exodus in His redemption of His New Covenant people
- 11.7.11 *Resurrection* - The ultimate conquest and dominion over sin, death & Satan which establishes the New Creation in Himself
- 11.7.12 *Ascension* - Christ's acceptance back into heaven shows the Father was satisfied with all His work (righteousness & sacrifice) and He now extends His reign as King of Kings over all the earth through the witness of His Church

12. Establishment of the New Covenant by the Apostles

- 12.1 Acts begins at the Ascension of Christ to show how He exercises His reign on earth through His church (1:1)
- 12.2 The Great Commission to reach all the earth is repeated over against the question of a Jewish Kingdom (1:6-8)
 - 12.2.1 The movements in Acts follow the progression of 1:8
 - 12.2.2 The New Covenant people of God are fully brought out of (exodus) Judaism from Jews - Samaritans - Gentiles
- 12.3 Pentecost is the fulfilment of the great New Covenant promise of the Holy Spirit (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Acts 1:4-5)
 - 12.3.1 Pentecost an Old Covenant feast (Leviticus 23) along with Passover (Christ's death) and Firstfruits (Christ's resurrection)
 - 12.3.2 Pentecost was the Feast of Harvest picturing the ingathering of the New Covenant people under the exalted Christ (Matthew 13:30; 2 Corinthians 5:5)
 - 12.3.3 Pentecost also demonstrates the exaltation of Christ as He is the One who sends the Spirit after being glorified (Matthew 3:11-12; John 7:39; John 14:16-18; 16:7)
 - 12.3.4 Attended with signs of wind (signifying the blessing of the Spirit -

- Ezekiel 37:9-10; John 3:8) and tongues of fire (signifying the judgement on unbelieving Israel to come - Matthew 3:11-12; Isaiah 28:11; Matthew 19:28)
- 12.3.5 Speaking in tongues (real, translatable languages) was to signify the reverse of the Tower of Babel where nations were separated by languages. Now the Gospel is proclaimed to every nation so they can understand (Acts 2:5-11) making them one in Christ.
- 12.4 Peter's preaching at Pentecost emphasised the resurrection & ascension of Christ granting the Holy Spirit according to prophecy
- 12.4.1 Joel 2:28-32 - Last days of Old Covenant age, Spirit poured out on all believers as New Covenant blessing, new revelation given, salvation for all (Jew or Gentile) who call on Name of the Lord (ascended Christ) -The cosmic signs are judgement language from OT referring to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD after the period of Apostolic peaching. This was the OT prophecy of baptism with Spirit and fire.
- 12.4.2 Psalm 16 & 110 - David prophesied of Christ's resurrection & exaltation to reign. Christ now reigns as God's appointed King, putting all enemies under His feet in submission with the proclamation of the Gospel and in defeat with the judgements to come.
- 12.5 The healing/miracle ministry of the Apostles is to demonstrate they have the power and authority of Christ to give new revelation. This proves the exaltation of the resurrected Christ (Acts 3:18-23; Hebrews 2:2-4).
- 12.6 Persecution of the Apostles/Christians shows the Jews' continual rejection of Christ and vindicates the judgement of AD 70 since they are now considered as part of the Gentile, pagan nations (Acts 4:23-28; Psalm 2:1-6).
- 12.7 The Spirit came upon the Samaritans (Acts 8) next following the pattern of 1:8. They were converted, then the Apostles came with the authority of Christ to give them the Spirit (Matthew 16:18-19; Ephesians 2:20).
- 12.8 The Spirit then came upon the Gentiles (Acts 10) with the same signs as Pentecost to show that Gentile inclusion in the New Covenant people of God is on the same basis as Jews (Acts 10:45-47; 11:15-18).
- 12.9 Persecution and preaching continue to spread Gospel to all the world (Acts 11:19; 13:32-38). Paul preaches the same as Peter and practices going to the Jew first, then to the Gentiles in each city (Acts 14:1-7).
- 12.10 The Council in Jerusalem (Acts 15) dealt with the nature of the New Covenant people as not being "Jewish" in having to follow OT customs, especially circumcision. The Gentiles have been cleansed by God through faith (Acts 15:9; 10:15). Amos 9:11-12 spoke of full Gentile inclusion.

- 12.11 Jewish rejection continues throughout the missionary journeys of Paul to the point where he goes almost exclusively to Gentiles (Acts 18:1-8).
 - 12.12 As the Apostolic age winds down, Paul is arrested & sent to Rome to testify there (Philippians 4:22).
 - 12.13 Acts 28:23-31 summarise the Apostolic ministry as the gospel by the power of the Spirit establishes God's New Covenant Kingdom on earth.
13. The Explanation of the New Covenant for Believers
- 13.1 The epistles are letters which were written by the Apostles & their associates to churches and individuals to explain the New Covenant situation
 - 13.2 While full of practical teaching about how to live as subjects in Christ's kingdom, they also teach in terms of the New Covenant promises
 - 13.3 New Creation - 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - 13.4 New Exodus (from Jewish law especially) - 2 Corinthians 3:7-18; 5:15-16; Galatians 4:21-31; Hebrews 3-4
 - 13.5 New Temple - 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 5:16; Ephesians 2:19-22; Hebrews 7-10; 1 Peter 2:4-10
 - 13.6 New Global Kingdom - 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Ephesians 1:19-23; Philippians 2:6-11; Hebrews 1-2
 - 13.7 New Outpouring of Holy Spirit - Romans 8:1-17; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 1:13-14; 5:18-20
 - 13.8 New People of God (Gentile inclusion) - Romans 2:28-29; 10:9-20; 15:8-16; Ephesians 2:11-18
14. Declaration of Victory
- 14.1 The book of Revelation is the revealing of Jesus Christ in victory, exalted as King of kings and Lord of lords
 - 14.2 Background & Interpretation
 - 14.2.1 Apocalyptic literature - highly symbolic using Old Testament imagery so must be interpreted non-literalistically
 - 14.2.2 Written to 7 churches in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) to encourage

their perseverance through Jewish and Roman persecution (1:4,9)

14.2.3 Apostle John wrote it while under Roman exile to island of Patmos (1:1,4,9)

14.2.4 The readers in John's day would have understood this literature and its symbols as relevant in their own day (1:3)

14.2.5 Revelation was written about AD 64-65 since the Temple is still standing in 11:1 (not destroyed until AD 70) and Nero Caesar began the Roman persecution against Christians (AD 64-68)

14.2.6 The prophecies in Revelation were to take place "soon" and the time was "near" (1:1,3; 3:10-11; 22:6-7,10,12,20)

- These statements are in the straightforward teaching portions of the book, not in the main body of the symbolism

- Numbers 24:17 prophesies Christ's first coming in Bethlehem and says it was NOT near 1400 years before it came to pass

- Revelation then must have been fulfilled in the past - primarily in the destruction of the Temple in AD 70

14.2.7 Revelation 1:7 is the theme of the book and blends Daniel 7:13 (Christ's ascension) with Zechariah 12:10 (Christ's crucifixion)

- This coming of Christ is a "cloud" coming (judgement - Isaiah 19:1; Matthew 23:29-39) and was the "soon" coming He spoke of in Matthew 24:2-3,30,34)

- Those who crucified Him would witness this coming in judgement and mourn because of it (Acts 4:10; Matthew 26:64) though Jesus Himself would not be visible (cf. Isaiah 30:30-31)

- "all the peoples of the earth" is literally translated "all the tribes of the land" referring to Israel as the slain Lamb takes vengeance upon those who crucified Him and are now persecuting His people (6:9-10)

14.2.8 The significance of the destruction of the Temple in AD 70

- The New Covenant church met in the temple and was seen as a Jewish sect - no longer after AD 70

- Old Covenant order of things abolished from the earth - if there's no temple, there's no OT religion

- Christ is vindicated as King of His people against their persecutors

(Jews & Romans)

14.2.9 If Revelation is speaking about the final coming of Christ in the future from us, then Jesus was deceptive in saying it was “soon” and “near”

- If revelation is speaking about repeated events throughout history, then it would not be of value to the historical churches to whom it was written in their particular crisis of persecution

- It is relevant to us the same way all fulfilled prophecy is - in showing us how God has brought about His plan with the abiding principles of how He works

14.3 Revelation is structured with 7 main sections in the book

Section 1: Exhortations of Perseverance to the Churches (1-3)

1. The glorified Christ revealed as Lord in His church (1:9-20)
2. Ephesus must restore first love for Christ (2:1-7)
3. Smyrna must prepare for persecution (2:8-11)
4. Pergamum must be cleansed of immorality (2:12-17)
5. Tyatira must be purged of idolatry (2:18-29)
6. Sardis must be revived (3:1-6)
7. Philadelphia must use their opportunity (3:7-13)
8. Laodicea must repent of worldliness (3:14-22)

Section 2: The Seals introduce the Destruction of Jerusalem (4-7)

1. God's throne room - judicial setting (4)
2. Only the Lamb is worthy to open the seven-sealed scroll (5)
 - Ezekiel 1-2 is a similar scene where the scroll is a decree of judgment on Israel
 - Lev. 26:18 is God's warning of a sevenfold punishment on Israel
 - God's certificate of divorce to Israel (Jer.3:6-8)
3. The seals of judgment give a brief introduction to Israel's judgments (6; cf. Ezekiel 14:21)

Seal 1: Christ leading the roman armies to Jerusalem (v.1-2)

Seal 2: Collapse of the *Pax Romana* as the Jewish War begins in Spring of A.D. 67 (v.3-4)

Seal 3: Famine in Jerusalem due to the siege (v. 5-6; cf. Josephus 5:10:2-3)

Seal 4: Death of those fallen in the battle (v. 7-8)

Seal 5: Christian martyrs in heaven crying out for vengeance which is promised to come soon (Lev. 26:25)

Seal 6: De-creation language sums up the covenantal implications for Israel's world (v. 12-17; Isaiah 13:1,9-10; 34:4-5; Ezk. 32:7-8; cf. Josephus 6:7:3)

4. The sealing of 144,000 shows God's protection of His elect in the midst of the Jewish War (7)

-answers 6:17, "Who can stand?"

-a brief reprieve in the attack on Jerusalem gives Christian Jews a chance to "flee to the mountains" as Roman Generals Vespasian and Titus attend to matters of state in light of Nero's suicide A.D. 68

-144,00 is a symbolic number representing all the elect from the Jews (v. 4-8)

-the Gentile believers who have been martyred are also seen, but as an innumerable multitude compared to the Jewish remnant (v. 9-17; cf. Isaiah 49:8-13)

Section 3: The Seven Trumpets (used for calling people to war) give further details of the Destruction of Jerusalem (8-11)

1. The seventh seal gives answer to the prayers of the saints against their persecutors, unleashing seven trumpets of judgment (8:1-5)

2. The first six trumpets give further details of the Lamb's wrath in the Jewish War with Rome (8:6-9:21)

Trumpet 1: Hail, fire and blood destroy one third of the land of Israel as Vespasian and Titus march from Galilee to Jerusalem burning villages (8:6-7; cf. Josephus 3:4:1)

Trumpet 2: The Roman forces destroy Israeli ships and dump dead bodies into the lakes and rivers (8:8-9; cf. Josephus 3:9:3 & 4:7:6)

Trumpet 3: The result of the pollution caused by trumpet two (8:10-11; cf. Josephus 3:10:9) Wormwood is a common plant in Israel that is very bitter

Trumpet 4: Sun, moon and stars often picture the people of Israel and one third of them are killed (8:12-13; cf. Lev. 11:13) Eagles were unclean birds and the symbol of the Roman army

Trumpet 5: When Titus laid siege to Jerusalem in April, A.D. 70, for 5 months, the Jews went mad engaging in cannibalism and all kinds of cruelties, due to demonic inspiration (9:1-12; cf. Mt. 12:43-45; Josephus 5:10:5 & 5:13:6)

Trumpet 6: Four more legions of Roman soldiers come from the area of the Euphrates to bring the siege to an end with catapults and battering rams. The Jews continued their madness, even cursing God (9:13-21; cf. Josephus 5:1:6 & 6:1:1) “200 million” is literally “myriads of myriads”

3. Christ is the real conqueror and executioner of His enemies by Divine decree (scroll) (10)
4. The temple and the two witnesses (11)
 - measuring only the inner sanctuary of the temple indicates preservation of God’s inner spiritual worshipers while the outer physical temple is destroyed by the Gentiles (Roman armies) (v.1-2; cf. Luke 21:24)
 - the Jewish War lasted about 42 months from the Spring of A.D. 67 to August of A.D. 70 (v. 2)
 - during that time the two witnesses of the Law (pictured by Moses’ plagues) and the prophets (pictured by Elijah’s miracles) testified in the Jews’ consciences of the curses for breaking God’s covenant (Dt. 28:15-19, 25-29, 49-63) (v. 3-6)
 - once the temple was destroyed the OT (Law & Prophets) gave way to the New Covenant (v. 7-12)
 - once Jerusalem fell the slain Lamb was vindicated (v. 13-19)

Section 4: The Focus Changes from Rome’s destruction of Jerusalem to Rome’s persecution of Christians (12-14)

1. Satan tried to destroy the seed of Israel (Christ) when he was born (Herod’s slaughter in Bethlehem) but failed. The Jewish remnant was saved from the Jewish War so Satan attacked them and Gentile believers with persecution (12)
 - 12:3 - cf. Daniel 7:3-7
 - 12:4 - cf. Daniel 8:10,24; 12:3
2. The beast refers to both the Roman Emperor and/or the Roman Empire throughout this section - coming out of the sea is the geographic orientation of Rome to Israel (v. 1)
3. The beast is Nero Caesar (13)
 - he was often called a “beast” in the contemporary literature
 - 10 horns with crowns - the 10 kings of the 10 Imperial Roman Provinces
 - his description is that of Daniel’s fourth beast (Rome), following Babylon, Medo-Persia & Greece (Dan. 7) (v.1-2)
 - when Nero committed suicide the empire seemed to die along with him, but it revived to everyone’s amazement (v. 3-4)
 - the Neronian persecution of Christians lasted for 42 months from November, A.D, 64 to his suicide in June, A.D. 68 - Paul was beheaded about A.D. 66 (v. 5-9)

- Nero killed himself by driving a sword through his throat (v. 10)
- the beast from the land is either the Jewish false religion or the Roman imperial priesthood who made the people worship Caesar (v. 11-15)
- the mark of the beast speaks of allegiance to him rather than to Christ by emperor worship. Nero Caesar's name in Hebrew has the numerical value of 666 (v. 16-18)
- for more on Nero as the beast see notes on chapter 17

4. In the midst of the Jewish War and Neronian persecution Christ protects His people (14)

- His presence with His church (v. 1-5; cf. 2 Cor. 11:2)
- three angelic announcements mark:
 - 1) Gentile evangelism from the Jewish remnant (v. 6-7)
 - 2) the final destruction of Jerusalem (Babylon) (v. 8)
 - 3) warning against emperor worship and blessing upon martyrdom (v. 9-13)
- the drama now returns to Jerusalem's destruction as the wrath of God against those following the beast(s) instead of the Lamb (v. 14-16 - harvest of martyrs; v.17-19 - harvest of wrath)
- v.20 - 200 miles/1600 stadia ie. The length of Israel as a Roman province (cf. Ezk 32:6)

Section 5: The Seven Bowls give a Final Recap of the Destruction of Jerusalem (15-16)

1. The heavenly view of Jerusalem's Destruction is one of praise for God's justice as He (using the Roman army) executes His wrath on the enemy (Jerusalem) (15)
2. The seven bowls are poured out repeating and intensifying the scene of Jerusalem's destruction (16)
 - v. 15 this was Christ's coming
 - v. 16 the Jewish War was the battle of Armageddon (cf. 2 Chron. 35:20-25; Zech. 12:10-11)
 - v. 21 God stones his adulteress wife to death according to His own law (Lev. 20:10) with the Roman catapults (Josephus 5:6:3)

Section 6: The Adulteress Relationship of Jerusalem and Rome is Exposed (17-19)

1. The Babylonian Prostitute is Jerusalem (17:1-6,18; cf. Isaiah 1:21)
 - she is begin punished for adulteress relationships with the kings of Rome rather than being faithful to God (cf. Jn. 19:15) (v. 12)
 - she relied upon the Romans to execute her wickedness against Christ (v. 3)

- she is dressed in the clothing of the high priest and with the adornment of the temple (Ex. 28) (v. 4)
- she has a name on her forehead the opposite of the high priest (Ex. 28:36-38) (v. 5)
- she was a persecutor of Christians (v. 6)
- she is the “great city” (v. 18) (cf. 11:8; Ezk. 5:5)

2. The Beast is corporately Rome and specifically Nero Caesar (17:7-17)
 - the seven heads are seven hills - Rome (v. 7-9)
 - the seven heads are also seven kings of which 5 are already dead, the sixth is ruling and the seventh will rule only a short time (v. 10)

The Caesars of Rome

1. Julius
2. Augustus
3. Tiberius
4. Gaius
5. Claudius
6. Nero (alive when John wrote)
7. Galba (who reigned for only 7 months)

- an eighth is not the eighth emperor but the empire itself, which revives following the civil wars during and after Nero (v. 8,11)
- the ten kings represent those nations under Roman authority who engage in persecution of Christians (v. 12-14)
- they also attack Jerusalem in the war (15-17)

3. The Fall of Babylon is Jerusalem’s Final Destruction. It has repercussions throughout the roman Empire since there were synagogues in many cities (18)
4. Now that the adulteress wife is divorced and executed, Jehovah takes a new bride, the Church (19)
 - in contrast to the nations mourning over Jerusalem’s destruction in chapter 18, there is rejoicing in heaven (19:1-5)
 - the Marriage of the lamb can now take place (19:6-10)
 - Christ has come, the victorious conqueror over Jerusalem and Rome, to rule over the nations with his New Covenant bride (19:11-21)

Section 7: The Glories of the New Covenant Church, the Bride of Christ are Extolled (20-22)

1. The 1,000 year reign of Christ refers to the whole New Covenant era

(20:1-6)

-1,000 means a long period of time in its completeness (1,000 being the cube of 10) and is always used symbolically in Scripture (cf. Ps. 50:10)

-Christ has bound Satan (Mt. 12:28-29) so he no longer deceives the nations, making the Great Commission successful (v. 1-3)

-the martyrs were evidently resurrected to reign with Christ (v. 4-6)

2. The final resurrection and judgment take place after the New Covenant church ends (20:7-15)

-this is the only part of Revelation that has yet to be fulfilled

-Satan will be released for one last persecution, but will be cast into hell (v. 7-10)

-the final resurrection and judgment of the rest of the dead will send everyone to their eternal destiny (v. 11-15)

3. The new Heaven and new Earth refers to the New Covenant order of the Glorious Bride of Christ today (21-22) (cf. 2 Cor. 5:17)

-the New Jerusalem is the Bride of heavenly origin vs. earthly Jerusalem (cf. Gal. 4:24-26) (21:1-5)

-these are the redeemed (21:6-8)

-the city is pictured as the dwelling place of the glory of God (21:9-11), built on the foundation of the apostles (21:12-14; cf. Eph. 2:20) and as a perfectly giant cube (21:15-21) big enough to hold the disciples nations (21:24-27), as God's new holy Temple (21:22-23)

-all who are part of this new creation have eternal life (22:1-2) and freedom from the curse of sin (22:2) as servants of God's kingdom (22:3-6)

Conclusion: 22:7-21

1. At the time of John's writing Jesus was coming soon so John was not to seal up the prophecy, but make it known to the churches (v. 6-16)

2. The final invitation and warning is given to take heed to this prophecy and come to Christ (v. 17-21)