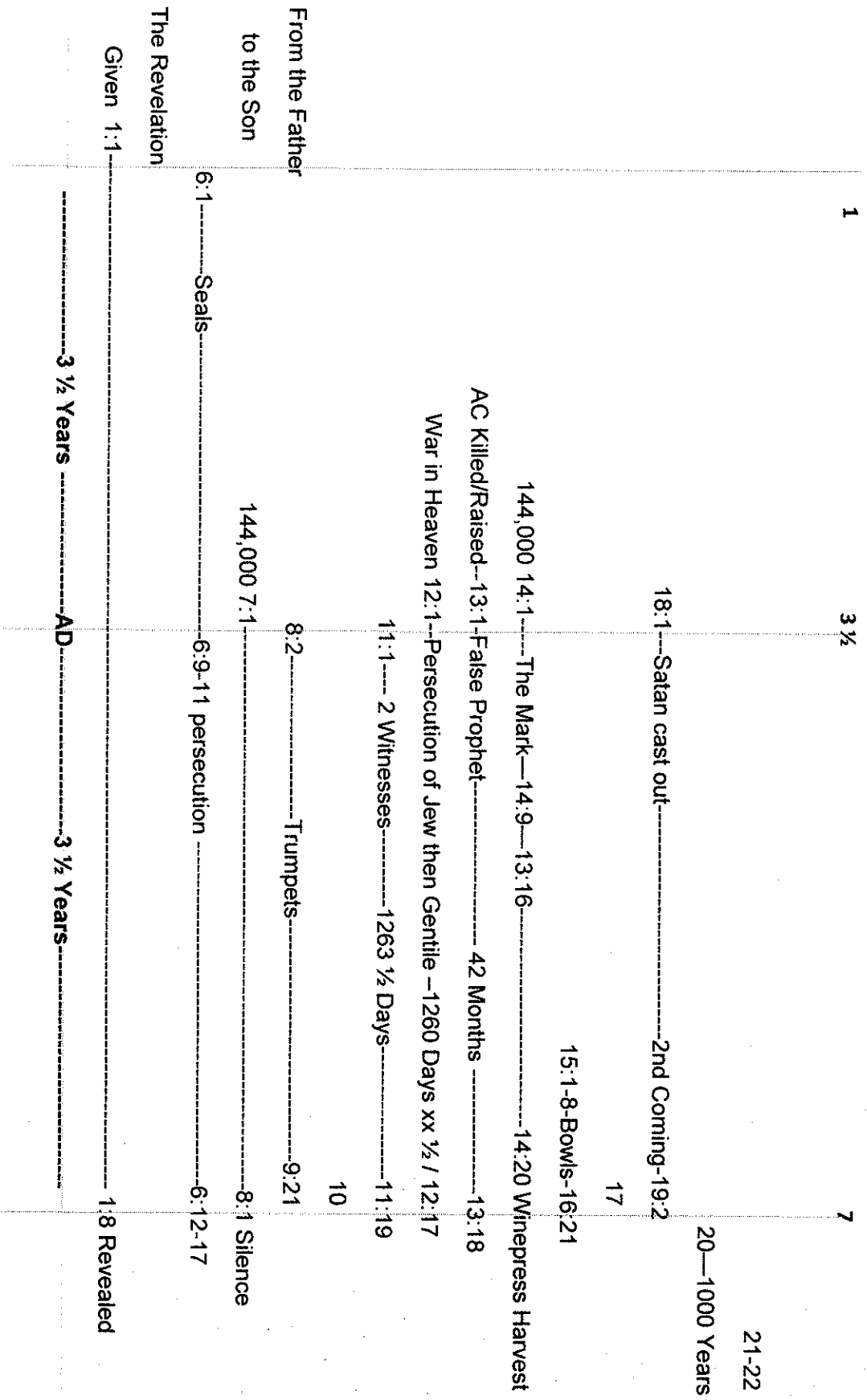


### Chart of the Revelation chapter layout and placement





**The Comparison of methods and the problem of interpretation:**

This section of our study is going to show the difference between the two most popular methods of interpretation. Please pay close attention to the problematic areas that will be pointed out in the course of the outline. What I mean by problematic will be explained in more detail below. These will be marked with an asterisk. Please take the time to look up the scripture verses that will be listed below. All of these in the diagram will be found in the book of Revelation, so attention will only be focused on chapter and verse. All other references will be marked clearly apart from the diagram.

Diagram #1

This is an outline of the final seven years, or the seventieth week of Daniel.

BEGINNING	MIDDLE	END
1 year	3 1/2 years	7 years
<u>Historically understood interpretation of sequence: succession without overlapping.</u>		
7 Seals	7 Trumpets	7 Bowls
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
	6:12-17*The end	11:15-19 *The end 16:17-21*The end

\*The asterisks have the end of the world occurring at three different points.

If you were to read through the book of the Revelation without stopping, you would first read of the Seal judgments, followed by the Trumpet judgments, and then finally the Bowl or vile judgments. The span and content of these judgments is almost half of the book. They begin in chapters six, and run through chapter sixteen. In these three types of judgments we have twenty-one individual judgments, or three sets of seven. The diagram above shows the way in which these judgments have been historically understood. They have been viewed as if they ran in a direct succession one right after the other without any overlapping. Please take a minute and notice the placing of the asterisks under the diagram. Each of these asterisks shows the final judgment from its own perspective. Therein lies the problem, you cannot have the final judgment occurring three separate times and it be the final judgment. I hope that you can see the need for an answer that will dovetail the information in such a way that it will aid us in understanding the framework of the Revelation. We need to have a model that will arrange the data in a logical understandable manner without misrepresenting it in any way. Let's look at the examples of the final judgment in the diagram.

The first picture of the final judgment is *the sixth seal* (Rev. 6:12-17) in which there is a great earthquake, the sun becomes as black as the sackcloth of ash and the moon becomes like blood. This is followed by stars or possibly meteors crashing to the earth like great hailstones, as the sky is receding like a scroll. The effects on earth are seen in that every mountain and valley is moved out of its place. We are then told of the horror that this judgment inflicts on the unsaved as they cry out in fear. Why is all of this happening? The text says that it is because "...the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" With these kinds of catastrophes happening, the end obviously is occurring.

Next, the second picture of the final judgment is seen as *the seventh trumpet* (Rev. 11:15-19) is sounded, and its very proclamation speaks of the end. "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" is

stated by loud voices. The 24 elders first mentioned in Rev. 4:4, proclaim the good news of the King who has taken His great power and reigned. The elders then reveal through a series of statements the effects of Christ taking His rightful rule. The immediate unhappiness of the nations at the loss of their ruling power is first mentioned. Followed by the resurrection of the dead. The resurrected dead are then judged and divided. Those found in Christ's righteousness will be rewarded for their faithfulness, the rest banished from God's presence eternally. Then in some mysterious way the temple of God is seen in heaven. As the temple is unveiled, the Ark of the Covenant, or the place of mercy is contemplated and remembered. Then the lightnings, noises, and thunderings, and earthquakes mentioned in the last judgment are likewise listed.

Finally the last picture of the final judgment is viewed in *the seventh bowl or vile judgment* (Rev. 16:17-21). Without ambiguity, its intention is obvious. "It is done!" A definitive declaration of finality. The same noises, thunderings, and lightnings, along with the great earthquake are mentioned first to properly set the scene. The great city (Jerusalem) is divided into three parts, and then the cities of the nations follow suit in their demise. The Lord is said to have remembered great Babylon in His wrath. This is followed simultaneously by every island and mountain being moved as we have seen in the first judgment. The scene is then concluded by the pelting of the earth, and unregenerate mankind, with one hundred and twenty pound hailstones.

If we read the book with succession this clearly could not be the case. You cannot have the final judgment happening three separate times. Therefore, we conclude that the events listed in the revelation are not in a sequential order but rather must be evaluated to conclude the correct order of flow. Let's look at the reformatted view of order on the diagram below.

#### Diagram #2

This is an outline of the final seven years, or the seventieth week of Daniel:

BEGINNING	MIDDLE	END
1 year	3 1/2 years	7 years
<u>Revised understanding: overlapping and simultaneous also many continue to the end once enacted.</u>		
<b>7 Seals:</b>		
1234	5	6 7 The end
<b>7 Trumpets:</b>		
	1      2      3	4   5   6 7 The end
<b>7 Bowls:</b>		
		1 2 3 4 5 6 7 *      The end

- This asterisk indicates the idea of their being a closer relationship between these events that could possibly allow them to run very closely together and maybe even some overlapping.

This will hopefully show that the flow of judgments overlap and intermingle. They actually play off of each other in certain instances. Notice the lining up of the sixth seal, the seventh trumpet with the seventh bowl or vile. Remember they are actually all differing aspects of the same final judgment as told from their perspective. What I am trying to do with this diagram is bring continuity to the scope and framework of the book. If you read it without seeing these issues, you will have a hard time following this book with any type of logical cohesiveness.

## The Comparison of Methods and the Problem of Interpretation

I would like to offer you a diagram that will show even more similarities not presented in the book of Revelation alone. This diagram will help establish the framework of the book of Revelation by showing the New Testament counterparts found in the gospels. If we can establish that other sources have this same view of the events concerning Christ's return, then the ideas expressed above will be lent credibility in the mouth of two or three witness.

What I have done in this diagram is outline for you the accounts given to us by Matthew, Mark, and Luke and then tied these events in with what John saw while on Patmos in Revelation 6,7,8. This will help you to see the seals we are about to study in a much clearer light.

### Diagram #3

Mt 24	Mk 13	Lk 21	Rev6,7,8 Beginning of 7 yrs
1. Deception	1. Deception	1. Deception	1. Deception
2. Wars - Rumors	2. Wars - Rumors	2. Wars - Rumors	2. War- Peace taken
3. Famines	3. Earthquakes	3. Earthquakes	3. Famines
4. Pestilence's	4. Famine - Troubles	4. Famines	4. 1/4 mankind killed a. beasts b. sword c. famine d. death
5. Earthquakes	5. Persecution Gospel preached	5. Pestilence's fearful sights and great signs	5. Persecution
6. Persecution False prophets arise Gospel preached		6. Persecution	
Abomination of Desolation			3 ½ years
Flee Great Tribulation More false Christ's	Flee Great Tribulation	Flee Jerusalem trampled Great distress in the land	
7. Sun/moon darkened	6. Sun/moon darkened	7. Signs in sun /moon stars	6. Great earthquake, sun /moon darkened
Stars fall from heaven Heavens shaken Sign of Son of Man Tribes of earth mourn	Stars fall from heaven Heavens shaken	Distress of nations  Men's hearts fail Heaven shaken	Stars fall from heaven Sky recedes like a scroll Every mountain and island moved Men hid in caves
Son of Man returning on clouds of heaven	Son of man coming on clouds	Son of Man coming in a cloud	Great day of His wrath has come
Sends angels to gather elect/sound of trumpet	Sends angels to gather elect	Look up redemption draws near	Rev 7:9-17 came out of the Great Tribulation <u>End of the 7 yrs</u> 7. Rev 8:1 Silence in heaven half hour

## Revelation Beast Examined

### Descriptive Passages:

**Revelation 12:3** "And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. <sup>4</sup>His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth."

**Revelation 13:1-3** "Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. <sup>2</sup>Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. <sup>3</sup>And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast."

**Revelation 17:7-15** "But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. <sup>8</sup>The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. <sup>9</sup>"Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. <sup>10</sup>There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. <sup>11</sup>The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition. <sup>12</sup>"The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. <sup>13</sup>These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. <sup>14</sup>These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful. <sup>15</sup>Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues."

### List of Images:

Red Dragon – The Devil – Satan – Serpent of old -

Seven Heads – 7 world Empires – also 7 Kings ruling those Empires

Ten Horns – 10 Kings – 8th Empire of the AC/Beast

Ten/Seven Crowns/Diadems – Power and authority

Waters – People groups

Harlot – Jerusalem

