

The Mediating Structure of Revelation¹

¹Brighton, Louis A. 1999. *Revelation*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, p.280-81

The Prologue (1:1-8)

**Jesus Commissions John
(1:9-20)**

Jesus as Mediator

The Letter of Preparation to the Seven Churches (2:1 – 3:22)

Jesus as Mediator

I. Heavenly Vision of the Throne of God (4:1-11); The Exaltation of the Lamb, and the Seven-Sealed Scroll (5:1-14)

Jesus as Mediator

A. First Sevenfold Vision: The Seven Seals of the Scroll (6:1 – 8:5)

1. Rider of the White Horse (6:1-2)
2. Rider of the Red Horse (6:3-4)
3. Rider of the White Horse (6:5-6)
4. Rider of the Ghostly Pale-Green Horse (6:7-8)
5. Souls of the Martyrs (6:9-11)
6. The End: Terror (6:12-17)

Jesus as Mediator

A. First Sevenfold Vision: The Seven Seals of the Scroll (6:1 – 8:5)

First Scene of the Interlude: Sealing of the 144,000 (7:1-8);

Second Scene of the Interlude: Heavenly Multitude of the Saints (7:8-17)

7. Silence in Heaven: The Seven Angels of God's Presence (the Seven Angels of the Churches) are given Trumpets; the Angel of the Incense Altar (8:1-5)

Angels as Mediators

**The Mighty Angel (10:1-11)
Stands in the Place of Christ and
Represents All Angelic Mediators**

Angels as Mediators

B. Second Sevenfold Vision: The Seven Trumpet-Angels (8:6 – 11:19)

1. Hail and Fire (8:6-7)
2. Great Mountain of Fire (8:8-9)
3. Bright Star, Woodworm (8:10-11)
4. Sun, Moon, and Stars Darkened (8:12)

Announcement of the Three Woes

5. First Woe: The Angel and Host of the Abyss (9:1-12)
6. Second Woe: Evil Host at the Euphrates (9:13-21)

Angels as Mediators

B. Second Sevenfold Vision: The Seven Trumpet-Angels (8:6 – 11:19)

First Scene of the Interlude: The Mighty Angel
Commissions John (10:1-11)

Second Scene of the Interlude: The Temple Measured and
the Two Witnesses (11:1-14)

7. **Third Woe:** The End; The Kingdom of God (11:15-19)

Angels as Mediators

II. The Vision of the Woman and Her Child: The Dragon Expelled from Heaven (12:1-18); The Two Beasts (13:1-18); and the Saints Prevail and the Harvest of the End (14:1-20)

Angels as Mediators

C. Third Sevenfold Vision: The Seven Censer-Angels (or Bowl-Angels) (15:1 – 16:21)

Preparation for the Last Plagues (15:1-8)

1. Suffering and Evil of Humanity (16:1-12)
2. Sea Becomes Blood (16:3)
3. Rivers and Waters Become Blood (16:4-7)
4. Sun Burns People (16:8-9)
5. Throne of the Beast Darkened (16:10-11)
6. Armageddon (16:12-16)
7. It is Finished (16:17-21)

Angels as Mediators

III. The Parousia (17:1 – 22:5)

Judgment of the Harlot and Fall of Babylon (17:1 – 18:24)

Song of Victory and Marriage Feast of the Lamb (19:1-10)

“The King of Kings and The Lord of Lords” (19:11-21)

Millennium, Gog and Magog (20:1-10)

Resurrection and Judgment (20:11-15)

The New Heaven and The New Earth (21:1 – 22:5)

The Epilogue (22:6-21)

Important Points:

1. The heart of the prophetic message of the Apocalypse of Jesus Christ are the three cycles that you see highlighted in Gold (the Sevenfold Visions). Each of these cycles reveals events that will take place over the very same time period: The New Testament era beginning with the Ascension of our Lord Jesus and culminating at His Second Advent.

Important Points:

a. These cycles are used as an ancient method of teaching. The first cycle relates the foundational events; the second cycle, though with different events and emphases, builds upon what is revealed in the first cycle; and lastly, the third cycle recapitulates what is revealed in both the first and second cycles. In other words, the three sevenfold visions are not independent of each other, though there are different events and emphases.

Important Points:

2. As Jesus opens the Seventh Seal, we are introduced to the second cycle (B of the outline). Since the first cycle is mediated by our Lord Jesus and the second and third via angels, this doesn't mean that our Lord isn't the overall Mediator. Remember that this is His Apocalypse, His Revelation; therefore, He controls and directs all the events of His Apocalypse.

Important Points:

3. The Roman numerals (I. II. and III.) are visions that are revealed to John and they overshadow the three cycles of the sevenfold visions. Thusly, the three cycles of the sevenfold visions are to be interpreted in view of these three overarching visions.

Important Points:

4. The seven letters to the seven churches in Chapters 2 and 3 are preparatory. Their function is to call the congregations, then and today, to repentance so that they may be prepared to receive the message which begins in Chapter 4. The letters are mediated by Jesus to the seven angels of the seven churches. Throughout the rest of our Lord's Apocalypse, whenever anything is to be revealed and received as relevant for and directed to the Church, it is mediated by angels on behalf of Jesus.