

# *The Structure of Revelation: Appreciating the Tapestry*





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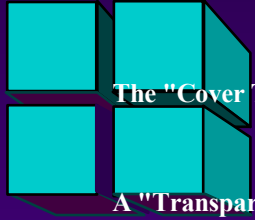
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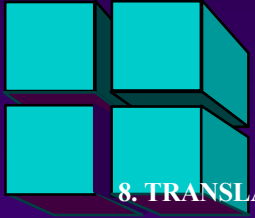
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# *Epistolary Structure*

**I. Prologue 1:1-3**

**II. Introduction of Letter 1:4-5a**

**III. Body of the Letter 1:5b-22:20**

**A. Body-Opening 1:5b-8**

**\*B. Body-Middle 1:9-22:17**

**C. Body-Closing 22:18-20**

**IV. Conclusion 22:21**



## *Developing Plot*

- ❑ **Begin with letter form and Rev. 1:19.**
- ❑ **Look for language of Second Coming.**
- ❑ **Similar language applies to earlier “comings.”**
- ❑ **Earlier judgments anticipate the great judgment.**
- ❑ **Hence, Second Coming is included.**

Look for  
his Coming!





# 7 Cycles

1. "What you have seen," 1:9-20
2. "What is," 2:1-3:22

\*3. "What is to be," 4:1-22:5

7 cycles of  
judgment leading to  
Second Coming

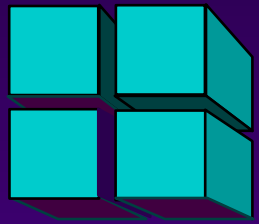
culmination in new Jerusalem



# *What Are the Cycles?*

1. 7 seals 4:1-8:1
2. 7 trumpets 8:2-11:19
3. Symbolic figures 12:1-14:20
4. 7 bowls 15:1-16:21
5. Judgment of Babylon 17:1-19:10
6. White horse judgment 19:11-21
7. White throne judgment 20:1-21:8

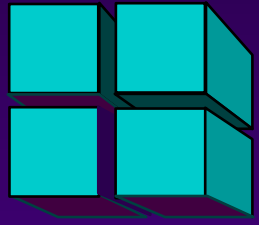
Culmination: new Jerusalem 21:9-22:5



## *Cycle 1: Rev 6:12-17*

# *Is It the Second Coming?*

- ❑ 6:12-17 based on Jesus' Olivet discourse.
- ❑ "The great day of wrath," (6:17) (cf. 1 Thess. 5:2,3, Mal. 4:1, Joel 2:10,11).
- ❑ 7 (or 6?) nature catastrophes
- ❑ 7 categories of affected people
- ❑ "Wrath" of the Lamb
- ❑ Removal of sky (6:14) corresponds to 20:11.

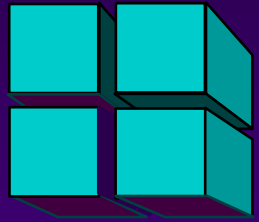


# *Second Coming in Each Cycle*

2. Trumpets: 10:7, 11:15-18 (“judged”).
3. 14:14-20: “son of man” appears with ripe harvest.
4. Bowls: “wrath is completed,” 15:1.
5. 19:1-10: fall of Babylon and marriage supper of the Lamb.
6. 19:11-21: last battle.
7. 20:11-15: Last Judgment.



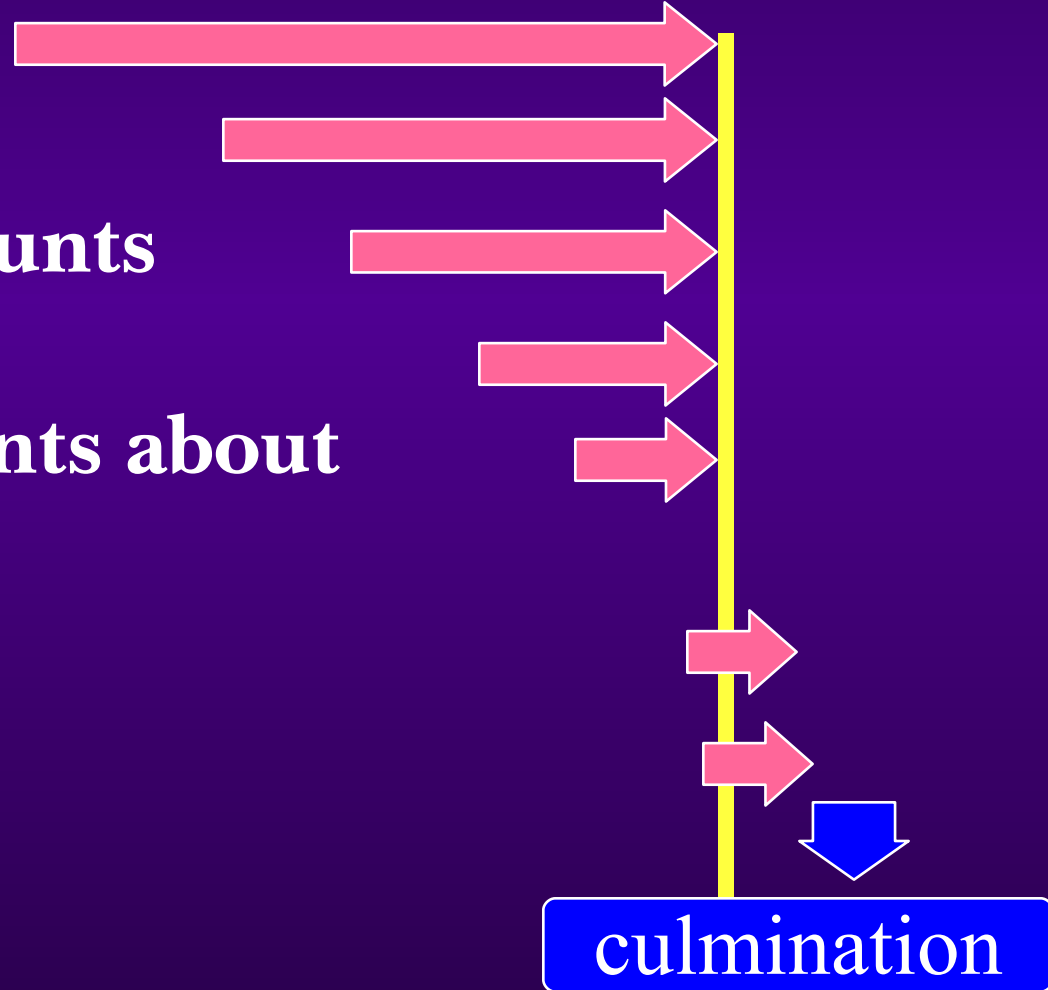
All are  
Second  
Coming!



# *Starting Point of Each Cycle* ★

Second Coming  
of Christ

1. 7 seals
2. 7 trumpets
3. 7 symbolic accounts
4. 7 bowls
5. 7 pronouncements about  
Babylon
6. white horse
7. white throne



culmination





# *Progression of 7 Cycles*

## □ Commission

1. 7 seals: **scouts**

## □ Prosecution of war

2. 7 trumpets: **effects on earth**

3. 7 symbolic accounts: **characters**

4. 7 bowls: **more effects on earth**

## □ Elimination of evil

5. 7 messages about Babylon: **seductress**

6. white horse: **power source**

7. white throne: **all evil**

**culmination**



# *Remembering the Cycles:*

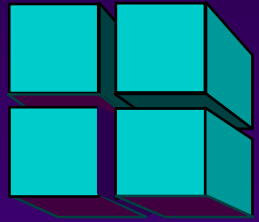
## *Jericho*

Remember!



1. 7 seals
  2. 7 trumpets
  3. Symbolic accounts
  4. 7 bowls
  5. Words on Babylon
  6. White horse
  7. White throne
- ❑ send spies
  - ❑ march and blow trumpets
  - ❑ keep from “devoted” things
  - ❑ shout of judgment
  - ❑ the walls fall
  - ❑ kill (but not Rahab)
  - ❑ dispose of the spoil
  - ❑ construct new city

new Jerusalem



# *Detail of Cycle 1: 7 Seals*

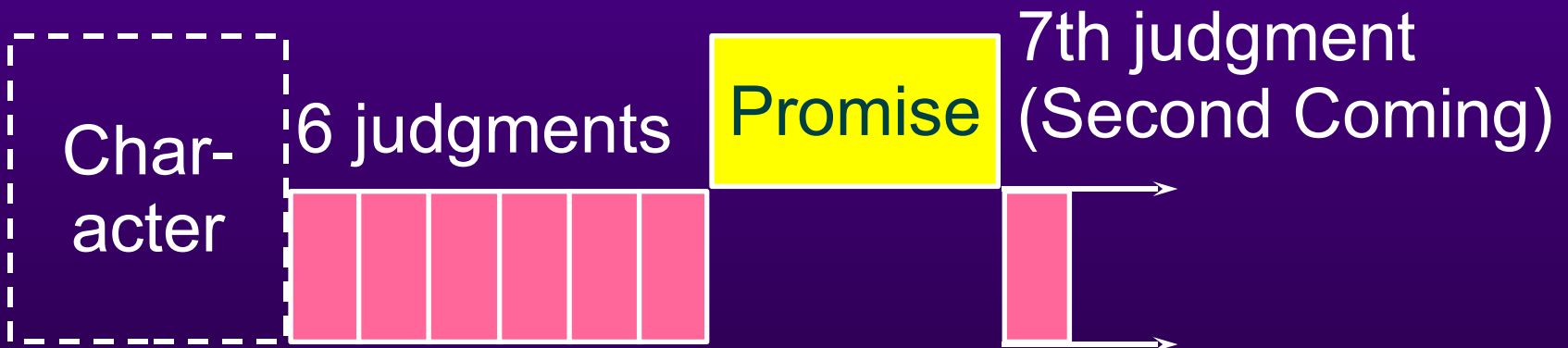
**Cycle 1: 7 seals 5:1-8:1**

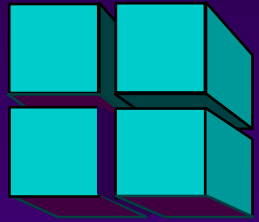
**a. Character: the Lamb 5:1-14**

**b. 6 judgments 6:1-17**

**a'. Promise for the church 7:1-17**

**bb. 7th and final judgment 8:1**





# *Detail of Cycle 2: 7 Trumpets*

**Cycle 2: 7 trumpets 8:2-11:19**

**a. Characters: 7 angels 8:2-6**

**b. 6 judgments 8:7-9:21**

**a'. Promise for the church 10:1-11:14**

**bb. 7th and final judgment 11:15-19**

