

SUMMARY

REVELATION

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REVELATION 4:1-16:22 (Central Part)	
Structure Markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The central part of Revelation 4:1-16:22 consists of three sections. These are marked by the following words: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder (Revelation 4:5) ◦ there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake (Revelation 8:5) ◦ There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail (Revelation 11:19) ◦ And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake - And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe (Revelation 16:18-21)
Main Paragraphs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revelation 4:1-7:17 • Revelation 8:1-11:14 • Revelation 11:15-16:21

REVELATION 4:1-16:22 (Central Part) – Second Paragraph 8:1-11:14					
Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revelation 8:1-5: The prayers of the saints The trumpets are Gods answer to the prayers of the saints • Revelation 8:6-12: The first four trumpets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Revelation 8:13: Announcement of the woes • Revelation 9:1-11: The fifth trumpet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Revelation 9:12: The first woe • Revelation 9:13-21: The sixth trumpet • Revelation 10: The commission to John to prophecy again • Revelation 11:1-13 The persecution of the prophets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Revelation 11:14: The second woe 				
A comparison	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: left;">Revelation 4-7</th> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: left;">Revelation 8-11</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scene in Heaven (4-5) • 4 seals (horses – war) • 2 seals (2 groups – questions) • 2 visions of the saved </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scene in Heaven (8:1-5) • 4 trumpets (fire from heaven) • 2 trumpets (2 kinds of devastating animals) • 2 visions of prophecy </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Revelation 4-7	Revelation 8-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scene in Heaven (4-5) • 4 seals (horses – war) • 2 seals (2 groups – questions) • 2 visions of the saved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scene in Heaven (8:1-5) • 4 trumpets (fire from heaven) • 2 trumpets (2 kinds of devastating animals) • 2 visions of prophecy
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	REVELATION 4:1-16:22 (Central Part) – Second Paragraph 8:1-11:14
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both parts (chapter 4-7 and chapter 8-11) of the vision have a comparable structure

	REVELATION 8:1-5
Revelation 8:1-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scene in heaven. The tabernacle. The censer, standing in front of the most holy place. The smoke is a symbol of the prayers of the saints. The saint are praying for justice, because of persecution. God will answer their prayers.
Old Testament background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tabernacle The seven trumpets refer to the fall and conquest of Jericho.

	REVELATION 8:6-12
Revelation 8:6-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first four trumpets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st: the earth 2nd: the sea 3rd: the fresh waters 4th: the heavenly bodies The whole of creation will suffer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The effects of the first four trumpets might refer to the outburst of the Vesuvius, one of the most dangerous volcanoes in the world. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The outburst AD 79 covered two complete (small) Roman cities with mud and ashes. The top of the mountain was blown away and the effects of the outburst were felt as far as Egypte, perhaps even farther away. It had a strong impact in the world of that day. The spiritual meaning is: natural disasters are not just natural disasters. They show the anger of God with this unjust world.
Extra information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1/3 does not mean 33% of the earth, but it is a reference to the vertical axis – these thing will come from heaven

	REVELATION 8:13-11:14
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revelation 8:13 Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, “Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The eagle introduces the three woes: Revelation 9:1-12 (the fifth trumpet; the first woe) Revelation 9:13-11:14 (the second woe) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revelation 9:13-21 (the sixth trumpet) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revelation 10 (the commisson to prophecy) Revelation 11:1-14 (the fate of the prophets)

REVELATION 8:13-11:14	
Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revelation 10 (1) and Revelation 11:1-14 (2) form one part of Revelation just as Revelation 7:1-8 (1) and Revelation 7:9-17 (2) formed one part of Revelation together with the sixth seal. • The main theme is prophecy as a call to repentance, because: <p style="margin-left: 20px;">9:20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk,</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">21 nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.</p>

REVELATION 9	
Remarkable features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fifth and the sixth trumpet resemble each other, just as it was the case with fifth and sixth seal (two groups of people). Now John describes animals which look very strange to us and are terrifying. • The number of words used to describe these animals is far higher than any other description found in the six seals, six trumpets and the seven bowls. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ This might mean that John is describing things which were happening at that time. • John uses many similes and metaphors in this description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The possible meaning of the two trumpets is found at the conclusion of Revelation 9:20-21 <p style="margin-left: 20px;">20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This also explains why the plagues didnot harm the believers, “but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.” (9:4)
Revelation 9:1-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A star falling from heaven opening a bottomless pit. This might refer to crater of a volcano, because of the smoke coming out of it. • The image of the smoke turns out to be a thick cloud of locusts. • John uses a lot of similes to describe these locusts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ These similes refer to aspects of war: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the locusts were like horses prepared for battle: on their heads were what looked like crowns of gold; their faces were like human faces • Very important: it is a combination of two images: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ locust – scorpion
Greek-Roman Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Abbadon means “destruction”

	REVELATION 9
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Apollyon means little Apollo. Apollo was a very important Greek god. He was the god of many things, but especially the god who could avert disaster and could cause disaster <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One of emblems was the locust.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are not sure about the meaning of this image. It probably has to do with idol worship and disasters, with severe results: people are seeking death over a period of five months. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The disasters show that idol worship is idleness. But people did not repent.
Revelation 9:13-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are four angels standing at the river Euphrates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ready to wage war: <p>15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind.</p> <p>16 The number of mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand; I heard their number.</p> ○ There is a similarity in description of the “animals” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ horses – serpents ▪ locusts – scorpions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both serpents and scorpions use venom as a weapon.
Historical Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Euphrates. This river protected the city of Babylon, until the Persian armies came and diverted the river, so they could take the city
Extra information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/3 does not mean 33% of the earth, but it is a reference to the vertical axis – these things will come from heaven
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The same meaning as with the fifth trumpet. ○ It is a final warning and a last call to give honor and glory to God, the Creator alone

	REVELATION 10-11
Main theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both visions are about prophecy and the prophets
Revelation 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John gets the commission to prophesy again - <p>11 And I was told, “You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings.”</p>
Old Testament Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eating the little scroll – Ezekiel 3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ John is commissioned by an angel resembling Christ to prophesy again. ○ The message of the gospel is sweet: a call to repentance. But the result will be bitter: persecution
Revelation 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John measures the temple – the spiritual place of worship. It will be a

	REVELATION 10-11
	<p>safe place, although the world will persecute Christians for 1260 days = 42 months = 3 ½ years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After this period the prophets send out into this world are killed. And humanity will think: this will be the end of the power of their witness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ But there will be a resurrection of the prophets ◦ People become terrified because of the accompanying signs ◦ Many are killed, the rest of them will give honour to God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Because of the numbers mentioned, it might be a reference to the destruction of Jerusalem
Old Testament background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number 42 is equal to the number of camping sites, after Israel left Egypt and entered the promised land – Numbers 33 • The prophets are referring to Moses and Eliah, the prophets of the Old Testament. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Eliah went to heaven; the grave of Moses has never been found • Sodom, Egypt, The city where they crucified Jesus Christ, i.e. Rome and Jerusalem
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ All the time the church is in this world – there is the need to prophecy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the gospel of Salvation ▪ the message of the Lord's Day as a Day of wrath