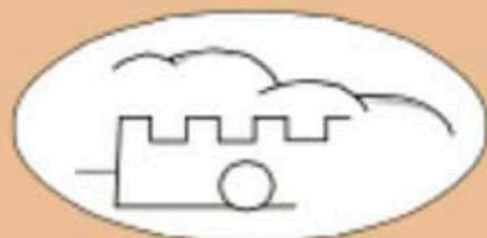


# ► ► ► REVELATION: Why should the book about OPENED things be a CLOSED book? ◀ ◀ ◀

CLUES TO THE UNVEILING OF THE GLORIES OF CHRIST IN THE APOCALYPSE



**Each separate movement of the book of the Revelation features some object from the House of God.**

Golden Lampstands  
(plural in the Temple)  
Rev. 1:1–3:22

The Throne  
(akin to the Mercy Seat)  
Rev. 4:1–7:17

The Golden Altar of  
Incense  
Rev. 8:1–11:18

The Ark  
of the Covenant  
Rev. 11:19–15:4

The Shekinah in the  
Sanctuary  
Rev. 15:5–19:10

The New  
Jerusalem  
Rev. 19:11–22:21

**After the 1st movement, the next 5 movements begin with something being “opened” “in heaven.”**

Rev. 1:1 *Apocalypse*  
means “to unveil.” It is  
the opposite of an eclipse.

Rev. 4:1 *“After this I looked,  
and, behold, a door was  
[standing open] in heaven”*

Rev. 8:1 *“When He had  
opened the seventh seal, there  
was silence in heaven...”*

Rev. 11:19 *“And the  
temple of God was  
opened in heaven...”*

Rev. 15:5 *“...the tabernacle  
of the testimony in heaven  
was opened”*

Rev. 19:11  
*“And I saw heaven opened,  
and behold...”*

**Each movement closes with a comment. These comments include or accompany praise concerning God’s great salvation.**

Rev. 2–3  
Christ is speaking at  
length to the angels of  
the 7 churches.

Rev. 7:13–17  
One of the twenty-four  
elders answers  
John’s question.

Rev. 11:15–18  
The twenty-four elders  
thank God for  
answering prayer.

Rev. 15:2–4  
The victors sing the  
song of Moses and  
of the Lamb.

Rev. 19:1–10  
John heard a great voice  
of many people  
saying, Alleluia.

Rev. 22:16–21  
Jesus speaks, and the  
Spirit and the  
Bride say, Come.

**Each movement features some overall message which contributes to the complete message of the book.**

Light characterizes God  
as He deals with His  
people and in His  
judgments of the world.  
God is seen as open,  
honest, and transparent  
about His policies and  
agenda. Unlike the  
world’s shadowy political  
intrigues, He speaks in  
the full light.

This movement lays out  
the character of God’s  
throne and the right  
that He has to bring  
judgment. Here God is  
seen obviously to be both  
just, and the justifier of  
him that believes in  
Jesus. *The throne or  
thrones* are mentioned  
24 times.

The meaning of the  
golden altar is already  
given in Revelation  
6:9–11. Here God is  
judging in answer to the  
prayers of God’s  
suffering people. God  
answers the problem of  
human sorrow and a  
silent heaven. And this  
time the answer is loud.

The Ark of the Covenant  
which has reference to  
the Law that was  
contained inside that  
Ark is affronted by  
idolatry. In this  
movement, God judges  
man’s perversion of  
power when the Man  
of Sin forces people  
to idolize him.

In this section  
of the book, the  
Beauty of Holiness is  
contrasted to the  
perversion of beauty in  
the great whore, “the  
Mother of Harlots,”  
Babylon the Great.  
God’s judgment of that  
system reinforces to us  
what real beauty is.

After such sweeping  
judgments as previously  
seen, will there be  
anything, or anyone, left?  
In the New Jerusalem,  
God presents the perfect  
Man and the perfect  
Woman in the perfect  
setting, and shows that  
happy endings are not  
just a dream.

*With special thanks for the helpful ministry of Drs. David Gooding and John Lennox on the Book of the Revelation. Chart prepared by John Bjorlie and J. B. Nicholson, Jr.*

