The Revelation of St. John

While exiled on the isle of Patmos, John received a revelation from God concerning the Church in his day and the future of the Church in the last days. When he recorded the revelation, he used a variety of symbolic images found in the Old Testament and which his reader would have been familiar with. Moses' Tabernacle as the stage and backdrop. The revelation can be viewed as a play in seven acts with each act having seven scenes. Each act begins with a description of the stage setting from Moses' Tabernacle. The following is an outline of John's Revelation that views the revelation as a play on the stage of the Tabernacle.

Introduction and salutation to the seven churches, 1:1-8

ACT 1: The Church in John’s Day, 1:9 - 3:22

Setting: The high-priest standing in the midst of the seven-branched candleabra (menorah) 1:9-20. (The candleabra represents the seven churches in John’s day and the high priest represents Christ.)

Scene 1: The faithful but passionless church (Ephesus), 2:1-7.
Scene 2: The persecuted church (Smyrna), 2:8-11.
Scene 3: The tolerant-of-pagan worship church (Pergamos), 2:12-17.
Scene 5: The spiritually dead church (Sardis), 3:1-6.
Scene 7: The lukewarm church (Laodicea), 3:14-22.

ACT 2: Earth During Its Seven Thousand Years of Existence, 4:1 - 8:1

Setting: The throne of God (Ark of the Covenant), 4:1-8; the twenty four elders (faithful elders from the seven churches who were now in their celestial state - the elders sit in choir seats extending from the holy of holies, twelve on each side, typical of a Greek play) 4:4,10,11; the sea of glass or laver (the earth in its future sanctified and immortal state), 4:6; the four beasts (cherubim), 4:6-9; the book with seven seals (the book that answers how the earth became celestialized), 5:1; a Lamb as it had been slain (Christ), 5:6; the altar of sacrifice, 6:9; the altar of incense (prayer), 5:8. (The setting of this act is the earth’s future celestial state. Act 1 revealed a church and world in trouble. The setting of Act 2 raises the question of how the world was saved and celestialized when it had been in so much trouble? The answer is found in the book sealed with seven seals!)

Scene 1: The white horse (the first thousand years), 6:1-2.
Scene 2: The red horse (the second thousand years), 6:3-4.
Scene 3: The black horse (the third thousand years), 6:5-6.
Scene 4: The yellow horse (the fourth thousand years), 6:7-8.
Scene 5: The prayers of the early Christian martyrs (the fifth thousand years), 6:9-11.
Scene 6: Catastrophic events associated with last days before Christ's second coming (the wicked are being destroyed), 6:12-17. A brief intermission of hope (the restoration of the gospel with its power to save the righteous from a world doomed to destruction), 7:1-17.
Scene 7: Silence in heaven at the beginning of the seventh thousand years (the silence before the final storm), 8:1.

ACT 3: Judgments Against the Wicked in the Beginning of the 7th Seal, 8:2 - 11:18

Setting: The altar of incense before the veil of the Tabernacle; seven angels sound seven trumpets that bring destruction, 8 2-6. (These judgments are designed to humble mankind and cause them to return to God - one last final chance!) Note: the first four judgments are directed towards nature (but nature also effects man!), destroying only a third part - meaning the judgments are partial and incomplete! The last three are against man himself.

Scene 1: Hail and fire burn a third of the grass, 8:7.
Scene 2: A burning mountain falls into the sea and a third becomes blood, 8:8-9.
Scene 3: A star fall on rivers and springs causing them to become bitter, 8:10-11.
Scene 4: Heavenly bodies become darkened and an angel announces three woes against mankind, 8:12-13.
Scene 5: (Woe 1) Locusts crawl out of the pit of the abyss and destroy only the wicked (the great and abominable church begins to destroy itself - cf. 1 Nephi 22:13-14), 9:1-12.
Scene 6: (Woe 2) The four angels (cf. Rev. 7:1) are released and destroy a third part of men; however, even after all these destructions, mankind does not repent and turn to God, 9:13-21. John is told of his commission, 10:1-11.
Jerusalem sieged and two prophets are slain, 11:1-14.
Scene 7: (Woe 3) The 24 elders announce that the kingdoms of the world are now to become the kingdoms of the Lord - the end is near! - 11:15-18.
ACT 4:   **Judgments Pronounced Against the Church of the Devil and Salvation for the Church of the Lamb, 11:19 - 15:4**

Setting: The ark of the covenant (throne of God) is exposed and lightenings, thunderings, and earthquakes (judgments of God) are heard, 11:19. (*The Lord is about to pronounce judgment upon the church of the devil and save the church of the Lamb.*)

Scene 1: The woman (church of the Lamb) and the Dragon (the devil) at war, ch. 12.
Scene 2: The beast rising from the sea (an earthly political power used by the devil), 13:1-10.
Scene 3: The beast rising from the land (an anti-Christ influence used by the devil), 13:11-18.
Scene 4: The Lamb with his 144,000 (an immense priesthood influence), 14:1-5.
Scene 5: Salvation is preached to all those who will not worship the beasts destruction is pronounced upon Babylon (the church of the devil), 14:6-13.
Scene 6: The son of man reaps the harvest of his gospel and destruction of the wicked, 14:14-20.
Scene 7: Those saved from the beast praise God, 15:1-4.

ACT 5: **Judgments of God Rendered Against the Wicked, 15:5 - 16:21**

Setting: The Tabernacle is opened and out come seven angels having seven plagues. One of the four beasts gives the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, 15:5-8. (*The judgments rendered upon the world at the beginning of the seventh seal, recorded in Act 3, failed to cause the world to repent. So now the Lord sends his final judgments upon the world to destroy the wicked. Also, unlike the judgments rendered at the beginning of the seventh seal which only hurt a third, these judgments destroy all that is wicked.*)

Scene 1: Plague of grievous sores upon those which worshiped the beast, 16:2.
Scene 2: Plague which turns sea into blood killing everything therein, 16:3.
Scene 3: Plague which turns rivers into blood, 16:4-7.
Scene 4: Plague which causes the sun to scorch the earth with great heat, 16:8-9.
Scene 5: Plague of darkness and sore pain upon the throne of the beast, 16:10-11.
Scene 6: Plague upon the Euphrates drying it up and thus opening the way for the armies to descend upon Jerusalem in the battle that is called Armageddon - a battle in which many of the wicked are killed, 16:12-16.
Scene 7: Plague upon the air - unlike the other plagues which were upon the earth, the final plague is upon the air effecting the whole earth through the all-encompassing atmosphere, 16:17-21. The time for God's final triumph over the wicked has finally arrived!

ACT 6: **Judgment of God Rendered Against the Church of the Devil, 17:1 - 20:3**

Setting: Angel comes from the Tabernacle and talks to John, 17:1-2.

Scene 1: The woman on the scarlet beast (a portrayal of the church of the devil), 17:3-5.
Scene 2: The woman and beast (church of the devil) established throughout the world; fight against the Lamb; John is promised that she shall be overcome, 17:6-18.
Scene 4: A heavenly oratorio of victory and praise, 19:1-10.
Scene 6: The beasts (great and abominable church) is destroyed, 19:19-21.
Scene 7: The millennial reign of Christ and Satan bound a thousand years and then loosed, 20:1-10.

ACT 7: **The Final Judgment and the Earth in the Millennial and Celestial Age, 20:11 - 22:5**

Setting: The throne of God (ark of the covenant), 20:11.

Scene 1: The final judgment of all mankind, 20:12-15.
Scene 2: The new heaven and the new earth (the earth in its millennial and celestial state), 21:1-8.
Scene 4: The temple of the millennial and celestial state, 21:22.
Scene 6: The water of life gives life to all in the millennial and celestial age, 22:1-5.
Scene 7: The closing scene: A testimony of the truth of the things portrayed in this vision is given to John, 22:6-21.