

Apocalypse [Revelation] Numerology and Meanings Deacon Collins

It is important to have a working knowledge of the Jewish testament. Of great importance is Genesis, Exodus, Isaiah, Daniel, and Roman history. A knowledge of Semitic symbolism and tradition are of considerable importance. Numerology in scripture has significance. The history of persecution begins at the time of Nero. Apocalypse is closely aligned with the gospel of John and the book of Daniel. They carry closely the same message: an exhortation to remain faithful to God through the trial of persecution.

The title of the book of Revelation [or Apocalypse] is slightly misleading. It might well be titled the book of "Exhortation," to encourage the faithful not to give in to the paganism of the time. It reminds them of the history of the trials of the persecution suffered by the Jews; it was meant to provide consolation and encouragement. This was accomplished by means of symbolism with which they were familiar, to avoid accusations of sedition. The symbolisms told of the persecutions of the past and the future reward for those who held fast to the faith. The fullness of the symbolism meanings are not well understood in the modern world; it is much easier to take things in a literal context.

The use of symbolism connects this book with the Semitic traditions. John presents himself as part of a group persecuted for his faith. The dating of this book is approximately 80-85 A.D., at the end of the reign of the Roman emperor Domitian, a fierce persecutor of Christians. It was created well before the Gospel by John, which was written approximately 100 A.D. A connotation is taking place between the Roman Empire and the Christian Church. John's general purpose was to encourage the martyrs of his day; the same concept of the book of Daniel for the Jews who were persecuted by the Greeks and the Romans. It is also to prioritize a spirit of repentance through the virtues of patience and long suffering.

The Apocalypse is not a prophetic history of the Church, and its symbolism is not to be sought in contemporary history. Every generation has its own calamities which people relate to as being the end of the world.

The greatest trial of our generation is the denial of sin, which is a denial of God. This is more of a calamity than earthquakes, droughts, floods and all other natural events. This is a culture of death. The real end of the world can be found in Matthew 24: 1-35 & 26: 31-46 or Luke 21: 5-19 / 25-28. We should worry about the death of the soul; the death of the body comes one way or another. Apocalypse is a book for encouragement to be faithful to truth, and a reminder of the consequence of sin and persecution. Be not afraid; if God is for us who can stand against us.

If Christians truly believe that Jesus is the Son of God, then He can only tell the truth and His words are true. Matthew 24: vs. 36-39, clearly states: "...as for the exact hour, no one knows it, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son but the Father ONLY." This should be good enough for us to perceive that this book is not a prediction of the end time but only to inspire us to be virtuous to the end of our individual lives. Do not worry about tomorrow; today has enough challenges.

SYMBOLS USED IN APOCALYPSE

- EYES = knowledge. / insight
- WINGS = mobility
- TRUMPETS = divine voice
- PALMS = triumph
- CROWNS = domination / kingship
- WHITE ROBES = world of glory
- WHITE = joy / victory
- PURPLE = luxury
- BLACK = death
- SHARP SWORD = word of God / judgment / punishment
- THE LAMB = Jesus / son of God
- ROME = apostate/ John's concept of the whole world
- SEVEN HILLS = City of Rome. Also represents the seven heads, or the seven persecuting Emperors of Rome
- HARLOT = Babylon / Rome
- SMOKE = symbol of God's glorious presence / also power and wrath
- BEAST = the Roman empire. The first beast from the sea

- FALSE PROPHET = the second beast from the land. Out of the land refers to Asia minor
- HAILSTONES = symbol of God's anger
- WILDERNESS = Any place God isn't / desolation / hard hearts / desert
- SICKLE = Shows the role of a person as a judge
- VIRGINITY = A metaphor for fidelity to God
- WOMAN = represents the Church
- THE WATERS = The multitude of peoples over whom Roman domination extends
- GREEN = Symbol of a dead and decaying body
- FOUR = represents universality / four corners of the world
- SEVEN [7] = fullness / perfection
- TWELVE [12] = tribes of Israel / apostles / people of God
- ONE THOUSAND [1,000] = uncountable / multiples / long time
- FOLLOWERS OF THE LAMB = $12 \times 12 \times 1000 = 144,000$ / followers of : 12 tribes of Israel X 12 apostles X uncountable = 144,000 [suggestion of predestination is a false literal interpretation]
- 666 = number representing the beast
- TWO WITNESSES = Moses and Elijah [transfiguration] the need for valid testimony

SEVEN BOWLS [recall the plagues on Egypt]

- 1st bowl; reminds us of the 6th plague in Egypt
- 2nd bowl: changes the sea into blood. also frogs
- 3rd bowl; fresh water turned into blood
- 4th bowl; hardness of hearts; as of Pharaoh of Egypt
- 5th bowl: reminds us of the 9th plague; refers to Rome
- 6th bowl; a call to battle
- 7th bowl; preparation for the judgment upon Babylon [lightning and thunder]
- The calamities that announce the final judgment. They affect the entire universe.

SEVEN CHURCHES

These seven churches refused to worship the Roman emperors. Christ is present in the midst of these churches. The Holy Spirit is manifestly present. They are encouraged to remain faithful.

SEVEN STARS

Universal domination.

SEVEN SEALS

The first four seals that are broken refer to the four horsemen and the evil that followed. Each rider has a different mission [horses of different colors] War, famine, pestilence are God's punishment for the persecutors of his Church.

- 1st seal: rider upon a white horse
- 2nd seal: rider upon a red horse
- 3rd seal: rider upon a black horse
- 4th seal: rider upon a green horse
- 5th seal: justice for the martyrs
- 6th seal: violent earthquakes
- 7th seal: the completion of the trial / the day of wrath. Judgment. Glory for the faithful, encouragement to persevere to the end

SEVEN TRUMPETS

[each blast is followed by a natural catastrophe; the final is awakening to the resurrection.]

- 1st trumpet: plagues affecting nature on dry land
- 2nd trumpet: plagues affecting nature on the sea
- 3rd trumpet: plagues affecting nature's fresh water
- 4th trumpet: plagues affecting nature in the heavens
- 5th trumpet; reminiscent of 8th plague on Egypt

- 6th trumpet: an attack on the pagan world. A worldly military peril causing great suffering.
- 7th trumpet: the kingdom of the world belongs to God. Final triumph.

OTHER

- dried up it's waters = parting of red sea / the drying up of river Jordan
- four living creatures represents the whole of creation. The splendor of animated life. The lion= nobility; the bull = strength; man = Wisdom; the eagle = swiftiness. These same symbols represent the four writers of the gospels. They all have six wings which recall swiftiness.
- Sea of glass mingled with fire = the infinite distance that separates God from all creation.