

## Revealing In Signs Revelation 1:1-3

### Revelation

Often wrongly associated with destruction of Apocalypse.

Greek term apokalupsis transliterated to apocalypse

Actually means "to uncover"

Leads to some of the confusion regarding understanding this book.

When we consider the introduction, it seems plain that God intended this book to reveal by way of vision and symbol what would soon happen to these early Christians.

Overall message is "God Wins!"

### Consider some things about Apocalyptic writing

Concealing the message in symbols to protect both reader & writer

Ezekiel, Daniel and Zechariah are of a similar nature

Jesus used such tactics in much of his teaching

Parables hid message from enemies while showing Truth to others - **Matthew 13:13-15**

Much apocalyptic writing between 3 BC and 2 AD

Allowed deal with oppression of government without fear of retribution

Required reader to understand symbols in order to glean the message

Many symbols in Revelation

Don't claim to understand all that are found in this book.

Still can glean message of victory through Christ.

The intended audience would have been familiar with these symbols and thus understood the message and received great comfort and encouragement from reading it.

### Consider the number symbols

Important to avoid misunderstandings

Much of false teaching regarding return of Christ is result of seeing numbers in Revelation as literal rather than understanding their symbolic use in this type literature.

Seek to see the number's symbolic meaning first

**ONE** - Unity, unique and alone

Not in Revelation but necessary to understanding some others

**TWO** - Strength

Twice one, redoubled courage and energy

Two confirm Truth of God Revelation **11:3-12**

**THREE** - Divine

Father, Son, Holy Spirit

**FOUR** - World in which we live, work, and die

References four corners of earth: North, South, East, West

**SEVEN** - Perfect divine number

Indicating that which is whole

Combining Four & Three giving most sacred number among Hebrews

Many sevens in this letter

These just in reference to the audience for this letter

churches - **1:4,11,20**

golden candlesticks – **12,13,20,2:1**

stars - **16,20,2:1,3:1**

Spirits of God - **3:1,4:5**

lamps - **4:5**

**SIX** - Failure

Falls short of seven and represents doom and failure

Almost but not hardly quite

**THREE AND ONE HALF** - Broken or Incomplete

Seven cut in half

Time, times, and half a time ( $1+2+1/2$ ); forty two months; 1260 days

An indefinite period of time, but certainly less than the complete time

**TEN** - Completeness

Ten fingers, Ten toes, base Ten number system

**ONE THOUSAND** - Complete or full period of time

$10*10*10$  or 10 to the 3rd power

Nothing will interfere with this period until it is complete in God's sight

**TWELVE** - God's people

12 tribes, 12 apostles

This number had great religious significance to early Christians as a representation of those who belong to God

**ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR THOUSAND** - The full number of God's people at any given time

Completeness and God's people ( $10*10*10$ )\*( $12*12$ )

### **Revealed in Symbols**

Need to recognize the importance of symbols in study of this letter

Many words and concepts are used as symbols

Consider them as we find them in our study

Keep in mind the need to see the overall picture or vision rather than finding a match for each and every detail

Rarely look for message in color of furniture in a play

Understand it is just a part of what is needed to give the full picture

Don't miss the forest because of the trees.

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