

In-House Wednesday Night Bible Study, 6:00 PM

“FOUNDATIONS FOR THE STUDY OF PROPHECY” REVELATION CHAPTER 1

August 12, 2026

Symbolism Found in the Book of Revelation

Scripture teaches us to always be expecting Christ. The Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ discloses the triumph of Christianity over all enemies. It is filled with encouragement, admonition, and consolation; a final and eternal victory over all enemies. We need to study this book for encouragement in the faith and hope of the Christian, and find comfort in times of suffering and discouragement.

The following are the meaning of Colors and animals which will be helpful in your study of the book of Revelation.

Red - for bloodshed and war

Purple - for imperial luxury and pomp

Emerald Green - for patient winning grace

Black - for calamity and distress

Lamb - a symbol of Jesus' Christ as He once suffered, and is now enthroned

Eagle - indicating swift movements in the region of thought and opinion

Horses - representing movements on earth.

Seven heads of the beast – Seven Hills of Rome

Wild Beast - cruel troubling power

Frogs - unclean spirits

Locusts - all things that devastate and torment

One of the unique characteristics of Revelation is its use of four, twelve, and seven. Thus, we find four living creatures, four horsemen, and four angels; twelve elders, twelve gates to the city of God, twelve foundations, and twelve varieties of fruit on the tree of life; and seven churches, seven spirits of God, seven thunders, seven seals, seven trumpets, seven bowls, and seven beatitudes. In Apocalyptic literature these numbers represent completeness and perfection. Conversely, 3 ½ is a number frequently associated with Satan (11:2; 13:5; 42 months or 3 ½ years); this number symbolizes a fracturing and diminishing of God's unity.

The number seven, occurring 54 times in the book, appears more frequently than any other number. In the Bible it is associated with completion, fulfillment, and perfection (Gen. 2:2; Ex. 20:10; Lev. 14:7; Acts 6:3). In Revelation there are:

- a. Seven churches and seven spirits (1:4),*
- b. seven lampstands (1:12),*
- c. seven stars (1:16),*
- d. seven seals on the scroll (5:1),*

- e. *seven horns and seven eyes of the Lamb (5:6),*
- f. *seven angels and seven trumpets (8:2),*
- g. *seven thunders (10:3),*
- h. *seven heads of the dragon (12:3),*
- i. *seven heads of the beast (13:1),*
- j. *seven golden bowls (15:7),*
- k. *and seven kings (17:10).*

“Blessed” is *makairos*, “happy, blessed” (Matt. 5:3). This is a promise of the happiness, spiritual blessing, and joy that will come from knowing and responding to the truth of the book. There are seven beatitudes, the word “blessed” appearing 7 times in the book of Revelation. Lehman Strauss defines them as:

- a. The Blessed Challenge (1:3),
- b. The Blessed Comfort (14:13),
- c. The Blessed Cautiousness (16:15),
- d. The Blessed Calling (19:9),
- e. The Blessed Conquest (20:6),
- f. The Blessed Cherishing (22:7),
- g. The Blessed Conformity (22:14).

The central figure in the Army of God is Jesus the Christ. The Book of Revelation begins with the words, “The Revelation of Jesus Christ,” (1:1). John’s first vision of Christ standing in the midst of His churches is:

- a. with eyes like fire (all seeing),
- b. feet like fine brass (all powerful),
- c. hair like wool, white as snow (eternal and all knowing),
- d. and with a two edged sword coming out of His mouth (the word of truth).

Through the Book of Revelation Christ appears in various images, each illuminating a special function or characteristic. He appears:

- a. As a lion (5:5), representing royal power.
- b. As a root (5:5, 22:16), representing the Davidic lineage.
- c. As the rider on a white horse (19:11),
- d. He symbolizes victory over evil.
- e. Most important is the symbol of the lamb who was slain (5:6). By His sacrifice on the cross, Christ has redeemed humankind (1:5).

Chapter 1 of John’s Revelation teaches many important points for spiritual living such as:

Reverence for Christ - Recognize the holiness and majesty of Jesus, which should lead us to a posture of humility and worship. Jesus' words, "Do not be afraid," remind us of His constant presence and comfort in times of fear and uncertainty.

Christ's Eternal Nature - Jesus is the "Living One," emphasizing His divine nature and eternal existence. Believers can find assurance in His unchanging presence. Jesus' resurrection is the cornerstone of Christian faith, providing hope and assurance of eternal life for believers. Understanding Jesus as the "First and the Last" affirms His sovereignty over all time and history, encouraging trust in His eternal plan.

Christ's Sovereignty - Jesus holds the stars in His right hand, symbolizing His authority and care over the church and its leaders. Holding the keys of Death and Hades signifies Jesus' ultimate authority over life and death, offering believers confidence in His sovereign control.

Empowerment for Witness - Understanding Christ's victory over death empowers believers to share the gospel boldly, knowing that death has been defeated. Like John, believers are called to faithfully bear witness to the truth of the Gospel, regardless of circumstances. The imagery calls believers to be vigilant in maintaining their witness and faithfulness, as the lampstands are under Christ's watchful eye.

Living in the Present with an Eternal Perspective - The instruction to write about past, present, and future events encourages believers to live with an awareness of God's eternal plan.

Hope in Christ's Return - The promise of life forever with Christ encourages believers to live with an eternal perspective, focusing on heavenly rather than earthly concerns. The promise of future events should inspire hope and perseverance, knowing that Christ will return to establish His kingdom.

Understanding Symbolism - Recognize the importance of symbols in Revelation. The stars and lampstands are not literal but represent spiritual truths about leadership and the church's role.

The Importance of Revelation - Understanding the book of Revelation is crucial for grasping the full account of Scripture, from creation to the consummation of God's kingdom. Prophecy serves to edify, exhort, and comfort believers, providing assurance of God's ultimate victory and justice.