

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

A Commentary by David J. Riggs and John Cripps

THE THREE “C’s” OF REVELATION –

Rev 2:10



CONFLICT
COMFORT
CONQUEST

Lesson # 4
Introduction –
Cont.

SYMBOLS & NUMERALS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- IMPORTANT SYMBOLICAL NUMBERS IN REVELATION
- **ONE** : Symbolizes unity or independent existence - not actually used in Revelation, but stands behind several others.
- **TWO** : Symbolizes strengthening, confirmation, redoubled courage and energy.
 - > Two witnesses confirm the truth of God --- **Rev. 11:3-12.**
 - > Two wild beasts supporting each other oppose the truth --- **Rev. 13:1ff.**
 - > Note **Eccl. 4:9-12** for the strength and power of two.
 - > God has a twofold instrument of warfare:
 - The conquering Christ and the sickle of Judgment.
 - These defeat the beasts.
 - Symbolism teaches triumph of good over evil.

SYMBOLS & NUMERALS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- **THREE:** Man found in his primitive home the divines thing life could offer --- father love, mother love, filial love. He found God in the interplay of love and kindness in his home. Thus, "3" became the symbol of the Divine. For us today it is easier to see since there are three in the God Head - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
 - > **GOD** --- Revelation 1:4 -- "... Him who is and who was and who is to come..."
 - > **JESUS CHRIST** --- Revelation 1:5 -- "and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth."
 - > **BELIEVERS** --- Revelation 1:5c-6 -- " To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (6) and has made us kings and priests..."
 - > **THREEFOLD DIVISION OF BOOK** --- Revelation 1:19 -- "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this."
 - > **THREE EVENTS** --- Revelation 4:1 "... and behold, a door {standing} open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard {was} like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

SYMBOLS & NUMERALS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- > **OCCUPANT ON THE THRONE** --- Revelation 4:3 -- "And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and {there was} a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald."
- > **TWENTY FOUR ELDERS** --- Revelation 4:4 -- "Around the throne {were} twenty four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads."
- > **OUT OF THE THRONE PROCEEDED** --- Revelation 4:5 -- "And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices..."
- > **FOUR LIVING CREATURES CHANT** --- Revelation 4:6b,8,9 -- "... and around the throne, {were} four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. (8) ...saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" (9) Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,"

SYMBOLS & NUMERALS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- > **GOLD CROWNED ELDERS ASCRIBE HIM** --- Revelation 4:11 -- "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."
- > **THREE WOE TRUMPETS** --- Revelation 8:13 -- "And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"
- > **THREE FROG LIKE SPIRITS issue from the mouth of** : --- Revelation 16:13 -- "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs {coming} out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet."
- > **THREE PLAGUES UPON BABYLON** --- Revelation 18:8 "... death, mourning and famine..." Three classes of men wail over Babylon's fall : **KINGS** (vrs 9), **MERCHANTS** (vrs. 11), **SEAMEN** (vrs. 17) --- See **Ezek. 27**.

SYMBOLS & NUMERALS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- **FOUR** : Cosmic number! The world in which men lived, worked, died! Supposed to be the number of creation. Usual reference made to the "four corners of the earth."
 - > **FOUR LIVING CREATURES with four faces** --- **Revelation 4:6-8**
--- "four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. The first living creature {was} like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature {was} like a flying eagle. And {the} four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"
 - > **FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH** --- **Revelation 7:1** -- "After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree."

SYMBOLS & NUMERALS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- ◎ **FOUR ANGELS at river EUPHRATES.** They watch --- **Revelation 9:14-15** -- "saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates. So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind."
- ◎ **TRODDEN WINEPRESS** --- **Revelation 14:20** -- "And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs."
 - > a) This is the square of 4 X 100.

SYMBOLS & NUMERALS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- **FOUR SEALS** --- **Revelation 6:1-8** -- "Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." And I looked, and behold, a white horse. And he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." And another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that {people} should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword. When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." And I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine." When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see. And I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth."
 - > a) Four horses go forth at the call of four living creatures.
- **EIGHT descriptive EPITHETS** touching the wicked : --- **Revelation 21:8** --"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."
 - > a) 4 X 2 or 2 X 4

SYMBOLS & NUMERALS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- **FIVE :** Number on hands and feet (five fingers and toes). Frequently cut-off or maimed and crippled through disease, accident or warfare!
 - > "A perfect, full-rounded man was one who had all his members intact" (Ibid. p.23)
 - > "Five doubled to ten --- human completeness". (ie Parents look at baby's hands and feet!)
 - > "Whole duty of man" --- Ten Commandments!
 - > "Complete authority or power in government" --- beasts with ten horns.
 - Dragon , **chp 12** ; First beast, **chp 13** ; Scarlet beast **chp 17** --- all have ten horns.
- **TEN :** Used in Combinations with other single numbers.
 - > **70** --- sacred number --- Numbers 3 added to 4 = 7 multiplied by 10
 - > Symbolizes God with His Creation is Completeness.
 - > **1000** --- this symbolizes ultimate completeness, nth degree.

SYMBOLS & NUMERALS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- **SIX** : A sinister meaning! Six fell short of seven and failed!
 - > "The charge that met defeat, with success just in its grasp" --- represented by six (Summers p. 24) This represents doom! Just as 13 does to many today.
- **SEVEN** : Combination of perfect world number and perfect Divine number, therefore it was the most sacred number to the Hebrews!
 - > "The number of completeness, of perfection, and of dispensational fullness." EARTH CROWNED WITH HEAVEN:
 - Seven Churches (2-3)
 - Seven Candlesticks.
 - Seven seals (5-8:1)
 - Seven Spirits (1:4)