Visual	Definition	Explanation
Lampstands	**Christ’s churches and their witness**	The seven lampstands represent the whole church under the sevenfold Holy Spirit. The two lampstands in Revelation 11 shows the Church carrying out its vocation as a witness of Christ.
Book / scroll	**God’s prophetic revelation of history under Christ**	The seven-sealed scroll contains the course of events from Christ’s victory to the End. The little open scroll emphasizes the prophetic message John receives and proclaims. The Book of Life records those belonging to the Lamb.
Seal	**Security, authentication, ownership and protection**	Seals on the scroll secure and conceal its contents. God’s seal on believers identifies them as his property and assures his spiritual protection through tribulation.
Trumpet	**A divine announcement calling attention to judgment and salvation**	The trumpet judgments also function as calls to repentance. A trumpet-like voice can represent the commanding voice of Christ.
Eyes	**Complete knowledge and watchful presence**	The Lamb’s seven eyes signify that Christ sees and knows all through the sevenfold Spirit of God.
Horns	**Power and authority**	The Lamb’s seven horns signify his complete and supreme power. The beast’s horns represent earthly rulers and powers.

Revelation



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2. Numbers
    a) 4 - (*the created world or the whole earth*)
    b) 7 - (*divine completeness or fullness*)
    c) 10 - (*totality or the complete extent of something*)
    d) 12 - (*the people of God*)
    e) 6 - (*humanity apart from or opposed to God; less then divine completeness*)
    f) 3 - (*Trinity holy or unholy; fully or complete)*
    g) 3½ - (*a divinely limited period of suffering, persecution, or opposition*) (*a broken, incomplete, limited period*)
    h) 24 - (*both the Old and New Covenant people of God*)

The number 6 needs more attention. Revelation 13:18 gives the number as 666

Six	Counterfeit figure	What it imitates
First 6	The dragon	God the Father
Second 6	The beast from the sea	Christ and His authority
Third 6	The beast from the earth the false prophet	The Holy Spirit's testimony

Together they form an unholy or counterfeit trinity:

- The **dragon** gives authority to the beast.
- The **sea beast** imitates Christ, even appearing to recover from a mortal wound.
- The **earth beast/false prophet** directs worship toward the sea beast, counterfeiting the Spirit's work of bearing witness to Christ.

The number 6 needs more explanation. It can represent Humanity: created on the sixth day. In 666, the three sixes represent the dragon, the political beast, and the religious beast: an unholy counterfeit trinity that imitates God but always falls short.

The meaning of a number is intensified when it is squared or cubed. When one number is multiplied by another, both meanings are included.

3. Images/Visuals

An Outline of Revelation

1. Introduction (chapter 1)
2. The Seven Letters to the Seven Churches (chapters 2-3)
3. The Vision of the Seven Seals (chapters 4:1-8:5)
4. The Vision of the Seven Trumpets (8:6-11:19)
5. The Seven Visions (chapters 12-15)
6. The Vision of the Seven Bowls (chapter 16)
7. The Victory over Antichrist (chapters 17-19)
8. The Victory over Satan (chapters 20:1-22:5)
9. Conclusion (22:6-21)

Revelation's Symbols



The symbols and images in the book of Revelation can be divided into three basic categories:

1. Colors
   a) White *(victory, righteousness, holiness, or purity)*
   b) Red *(warfare, aggression, and bloodshed)*
   c) Black (*famine, scarcity, and economic deprivation*)
   d) Pale gray/Ghostly Green/Pale greenish-gray (*death*)

What Shall Be

A Study of Revelation

Introduction

About Revelation



In the book of Genesis we are shown the beginning of God's grace. In the book of Revelation we are shown the fulfillment of God's grace. God's plan of salvation (Genesis 3:15; John 3:16) is brought to eternal completion, conquering all of its worldly and spiritual enemies.



The record of this book is truly "the revelation of Jesus Christ.[1]" It comes from Him and centers on Him. It tells of His glory, His wisdom, His power, His authority, His righteous wrath, and His return to judge the world with all the host of heaven. He will receive all who believe in Him through God's grace into eternal comfort in a new Jerusalem, a new heaven, and a new earth.

> We can profit by this book and make good use of it...We can rest assured that neither force nor lies, neither wisdom nor holiness, neither tribulation nor suffering shall suppress Christendom, but it will gain the victory and conquer at last.[2]

1 Revelation 1:1

2 Martin Luther, Luther's Works, volume 35, p. 409

The Author of Revelation

The writer identifies himself as "John" four times[3] in this book. He was a Jew, well versed in the Scriptures, a church leader who was well known to the seven churches of Asia Minor, and a deeply religious person fully convinced that the Christian faith would triumph over the demonic forces in the world.

Scholars have suggested this "John" could be:

1. John, the son of Zebedee, the apostle
2. John the Presbyter, a leader in the church (but not the apostle John)
3. Most likely, the author of Revelation was John the Apostle, based on the following:
    a) References to this author are to "the elder John," that is, to the aged John (the apostle). If there were a second John, the form of his name would have been "John the elder" (as in "John the Baptizer") to distinguish him from John the apostle.
    b) Justin Martyr, an early church father in the second century, held the author of Revelation was John the son of Zebedee.
    c) There is unique grammar and style in writing found in both the Gospel of John and Revelation

The Date of Revelation

Revelation was written at a time when Christians were entering a time of persecution on a wide scale. The would be in the latter part of Emperor Domitian's reign (81-96 A.D.) Most scholars date Revelation at about 95 A.D.

The Purpose of Revelation

Roman authorities were beginning to enforce the cult of emperor worship (the belief that Caesar was a god and was to be worshiped). Christians, believing Christ, not Caesar, was to be worshiped as God and Lord, were facing increasing hostility.

3 Revelation 1:1, 1:4, 1:9, 22:8

John, having been exiled to the island of Patmos (a Roman penal colony, similar to Alcatraz) for his activities as a Christian missionary, writes his letter to encourage the faithful to resist the demands of emperor worship.

The final showdown between God and Satan is coming. Satan will increase his persecution on believers, but they must stand firm, even if it means physical death (martyrdom). They are spiritually safe and secure in Christ, and will be vindicated when Christ returns, the wicked are condemned forever and God's people enter an eternity of glory and blessedness.

The Literary Form of Revelation

Revelation is a type of "Apocalyptic (hidden, shadowed) literature," a form of writing using many symbols, picture language and hidden meanings. The people for whom this letter was intended fully understood these symbols.

Today don't have the same privilege. While the book provides some clues we must be careful in interpreting some of the symbolic and poetic language.

Ways to Interpret Revelation

1. Preterist: view book exclusively in terms of its first-century setting, claiming that most of its events have already taken place.
2. Historicist: the book describes a long chain of events from the first century to the end of history (the New Testament era).
3. Futurist: the book primarily describes the end times that are yet to come.
4. Idealist: the book contains symbolic pictures of timeless truths. For example: the victory of good over evil.
5. My preference: The images of Revelation are not chronological. Each major vision describes a different aspect of the same period in history. That being the New Testament era (the time from the first New Testament Pentecost (50 days after Jesus' resurrection) to His second coming on power).