

REVELATION

Study Guide by Paul Richmond

Suggested number meanings:

One = All, Origin, God

Three = completion of things of God

Four = completion of things of man

Six = one short of seven, less than perfect

Seven = 4+3, completion of all perfection

Ten = completion of nations

Twelve = Completion of Man with God

Multiplying numbers together heightens their meanings

Multiplying by 100 or 1000 heightens their impact

GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT REVELATION

1. Which John wrote this book?
2. What is Apocalyptic Literature?
3. When was this book written?
4. Where is the island of Patmos?
5. What is the meaning of the word Revelation?

Questions for Chapter 1:

1. What is the meaning of the phrase "Things which must shortly take place?"
2. What are the seven spirits spoken of in verse 4?
3. Is Christ's coming going to be hidden and secret or visible and obvious?
4. What are Alpha and Omega, anyway?
5. What are the Old Testament references to lampstands?
6. What is Hades?
7. What are the angels of the seven churches?

The Letters to the Seven churches

Revelation 2:1 - 3:22

Titles of Jesus:

The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand
The One Who walks among the seven golden lampstands
The First and the Last, who was dead, and has come to life
The One who has the sharp, two edged sword
The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze
He who has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars
He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens.
The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God.

Faults Found with the Churches:

You have left your first love
You have some who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balaam to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit acts of immorality
You also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans
You tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bondservants astray, so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.
I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.
I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot.
You say "I am rich and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing" and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.

Virtues for which the Churches are Commended:

I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.
This you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich)
You hold fast My name and did not deny My faith, even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells
I know your deeds, your love, and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first
You have a little power, you have kept the word of My perseverance

Promises to Individuals

To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.

To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.

He who overcomes and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from My father, and I will give him the morning star.

He who overcomes shall thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.

He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.

He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My father on His throne.

Outline of a typical letter:

(a) Statement of attributes of Christ

(b) Commendation as appropriate

(c) Chiding as appropriate

(c) Advice for the church

(d) Advice for individuals in the church

(e) Insert phrase "He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

(f) Promises for individuals in the church

The Heavenly Court: Revelation 4:1-11

1. What promise is made to John as he is "beamed up" into heaven?
2. Was John literally in heaven, was it a vision, or is it an extended parable?
3. What precedents for visions of God the Father exist in scripture?
See Exodus 24:9-11, Exodus 33:19-23, Ezekiel 1:26-28, Isaiah 6:1-5, Acts 7:56, 2 Corinthians 12:2-4
4. Certain numbers seem to predominate in heavenly visions. What are they? What does this mean?
5. We see twenty four elders, seven lamps, four living creatures, all proclaiming - what? Suggested identity of twenty four elders: Twelve patriarchs plus Twelve apostles.

Worthy Is the Lamb: Revelation 5:1-14

1. What is the nature of the book in 5:1?
2. Why does the question of worthiness come into the picture?
3. Who is found worthy, and how did He become worthy?
4. As the heavenly court sings the praises of the lamb, we hear the phrase "Thou has made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God". Where has this phrase appeared in scripture before? (See Exodus 19:6)
5. Who joins in the chorus of praises to the Lamb?

The Seven Seals: Revelation 6:1 - 8:1

First Seal: White Horse

Great Crusader, the false dream of military might

Second Seal: Red Horse

Third Seal: Black Horse

Fourth Seal: Pale Horse

They are the four horsemen of the Apocalypse - we endure them in our tribulation

Fifth seal: The souls under the altar

What does God say He is waiting for?

Sixth Seal: The End of the World

As seen by the bad guys: Revelation 6:12 - 17

As seen by the good guys: Revelation 7:1-17

Note the heavy emphasis on the fate of the good guys

Seventh Seal: Silence for about half an hour

Hey - what's left? Haven't we worked our way already to the judgement day?

Why not jump to Revelation 21:1 and following and have a nice, complete book?

Traditional View of time in Revelation:

From the Beginning of Christianity Revelation 6:1	Seven Seals	Seven Trumpets	Woman in Heaven - Beast out of the Sea	Seven bowls	Fall of Babylon	Thousand Years of Binding Satan	To the End of the World Revelation 20:15
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PROPOSED VIEW OF TIME IN REVELATION: PARALLEL CYCLES

From the Beginning
of Christianity
Revelation 6:1

To the End of the
World
Revelation 20:15

THE SEVEN SEALS - Revelation 6:1 through Revelation 8:1

Emphasis: From the point of view of Christians

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS - Revelation 8:2 through Revelation 11:19

Emphasis: From the point of view of the lost

THE SIGNS OF THE NATIONS - Revelation 12:1 through Revelation 14:20

Emphasis: From the point of view of nations

THE SEVEN PLAGUES - Revelation 15:1 through Revelation 19:21

**Emphasis: Judgement on Rome/ all who think they are mighty
said to be "the last"**

THE THOUSAND YEAR IMPRISONMENT - Revelation 20:1 through Revelation 20:15

Emphasis: the unseen, spiritual world, especially the demonic

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS - Revelation 8:2 through Revelation 11:19

Emphasis: From the point of view of the lost (?)

The trumpets are God's answer to prayer (8:2-6)

First trumpet: Hail and Fire (8:7) destruction due to war on earth

Second trumpet: (8:8-9) destruction at Sea - war? Catastrophe?

Third trumpet: (8:10-11) Bitter Pollution (Wormwood or Chernobyl)

Fourth trumpet: (8:12) Political Turmoil (darkening of sun/moon/stars)

THE EAGLE CRIES WOE, WOE, WOE!

This distinguishes the last three trumpets from the first four, last three = last times

Fifth trumpet: The pit is opened, the powers of evil are unloosed (Compare Rev 20:3)

Reference of the "locusts" is to armies loosed on people

Sixth trumpet: More war. The great and final war?

INTERLUDE: elements of "cycles within the greater cycle"

seven thunders - little book - "time shall be no more" (10:1-10)

The Tale of the Two Witnesses (Revelation 11:1-14)

Court outside the temple given to the gentiles

Authority given to the witnesses

The clues to the identity of the witnesses: 11:4-5

See Zachariah 4:1-6

Conclusion: The witnesses are the scriptures, identified as "The law and the Prophets"

The DEATH OF THE WITNESSES - in the latter days Scripture is no longer revered

The RESURRECTION OF THE WITNESSES - in the very last days Scriptures gain respect - also note their "bones" are apparently the dead sea scrolls

THE SOUNDING OF THE SEVENTH TRUMPET:

JUDGEMENT DAY AGAIN - The cycle of the Trumpets has covered the period from the beginning of Christianity to the judgement day.

THE SIGNS OF THE NATIONS - Revelation 12:1 through Revelation 14:20
Emphasis: From the point of view of nations

Israel, Jesus and the Dispersion: Revelation 12:1-6 Who is the dragon?

12:7-10 The Dragon thrown down: See 20:2

12:10-13 The Beginning of the Christian Era

12:14-17 A Summary of the Christian Era

It is in the context of the overall Christian Era that we have the Beast arise.

13:1-10 The Kingdom of Rome, ruling all the world, requiring worship. Christians refuse and suffer persecution.

13:11-18 The provincial government of Asia Minor, enforcing the law of emperor worship even more strictly than was done around Rome

The number of the beast is that of a man - 666

Check your number! Simply add the letter values of your name and see what the total is. Use these values, according to the usual ancient formula.

A = 1	J = 10	S = 100
B = 2	K = 20	T = 200
C = 3	L = 30	U = 300
D = 4	M = 40	V = 400
E = 5	N = 50	W = 500
F = 6	O = 60	X = 600
G = 7	P = 70	Y = 700
H = 8	Q = 80	Z = 800
I = 9	R = 90	

Nero Ceasar, written in Hebrew, equals 666 according to this scheme and he is often nominated to be our "man of the beast".

In Chapter 14 note the following:

- 144 thousand now represent, in some fashion, all the redeemed**
- Babylon the great falls on judgement day - obviously Rome**
- Two kinds of people, those who worship Christ, those who worship the beast**
- Judgement day is like a great harvest, the lost are harvested with a sickle and crushed**

THE SEVEN PLAGUES - Revelation 15:1 through Revelation 19:21

**Emphasis: Judgement on Rome/ all who think they are mighty
said to be "the last"**

This time the introduction takes in the recognition of what has been said before. We have reference in verse 2 to "those who had come off victorious from the beast"

Conclusion: This means these plagues all represent the final days alone, all seven of them.

Plague one: Sores upon those who had the mark of the beast.

Plague two: Every living thing in the sea dies. (Note: not one third, every one!)

Plague three: Rivers and Springs become blood (Just an advance of plague 2)

Plague four: Scorching men with heat from the sun

Plague five: The "throne of the beast" becomes darkened

Plague six: Three unclean spirits come out from the Dragon, the Beast, and the false prophet (equals the "other beast" of 13:11).

Plague seven: The final wrap up of the age - but with the interlude of a discussion about Rome.

In chapter 17: What evidences do you see that identify the woman with Rome?

Chapters 17 and 18 describe the fall of Rome. This was a subject that was, perhaps, more interesting to the Christians of the first century than it is to us today.

Chapter 19: Resumes the final wrap up of the age.

Celebration: verses 1-10

The armies of Christ take on the forces of evil: Verses 11-21

THE FAMOUS MILLENNIUM

THE THOUSAND YEAR IMPRISONMENT - Revelation 20:1 through Revelation 20:15

Emphasis: the unseen, spiritual world, especially the demonic

Could be construed as another "interlude" to the bowls OR as its own cycle

BINDING OF SATAN - equals message of salvation proclaimed by the church

RELEASING OF SATAN - equals the loss of power of Christianity

The end of the world verses 20:10 - 15

GLIMPSES OF ETERNITY: THE FINAL DESTINY OF MANKIND

Revelation Chapters 21 and 22

Why is there no more sea?

What happens to our knowledge of evil?

What is it to overcome, in the sense of 21:7?

Who or what is the bride of Christ?

Why is there no need for a temple, for sun, or for the moon?

What is the significance of the gates never being closed?

Compare the river of 22:1 with the river of Ezekiel 47:1 and following

What is the curse that is no longer in verse 22:3? (See Genesis 22:17)

Contrast the instruction of 22:10 with the instruction of Daniel 12:9

A Few Last Remarks:

The last declaration of Alpha and Omega - 22:13

The Last description of reward and punishment - 22:14-15

The Last declaration of inspiration - 22:16

The Last invitation - 22:17

**The Last warning against tampering with the word of God -
22:18-19**

The Last claim "Yes I am coming quickly" - 22:20

The Last Requests:

"Amen, Come Lord Jesus"

"The Grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen"