

Handout 1: Revelation Lesson 6

An Important Key to Interpreting the Visions of John

The Old Testament books of the sixth century BC prophets Ezekiel, Daniel, and the fifth century BC post-exile prophet Zechariah provide keys to unlocking the meaning of St. John's extraordinary visions. Parallels between the visions in the Book of Revelation and those of the prophet Ezekiel in the Old Testament Book of Ezekiel:

The Vision	Ezekiel	Revelation
1. The throne vision	Chapter 1	Chapter 4
2. The book opened and eaten	Chapters 2:9-3:3	Chapter 5:7-10; 10:8-9
3. The four plagues	Chapter 5	Chapter 6:1-8
4. Those slain under the altar	Chapter.6	Chapter 6:9-11
5. The wrath of God	Chapter 7	Chapter 6:12-17
6. The seal on the Saint's foreheads	Chapter 9	Chapter 7
7. The coals from the altar	Chapter.10	Chapter 8
8. The 1/3 destruction	Chapters 5:1-4 and 12	Chapter 8:6-12
9. No more delay	Chapter 12	Chapter 10:1-7
10. The eating of the book	Chapter 2	Chapter 10:8-11
11. Prophecy against the Nations	Chapters 25-32	Chapter 10:11
12. The measuring of the Temple	Chapters 40-43	Chapter 11:1-2
13. Comparing Jerusalem to Sodom	Chapter 16	Chapter 11:8
14. The cup of wrath	Chapter 23	Chapter 14
15. The vine of the land	Chapter 15	Chapter 14:18-20
16. The great harlot	Chapters 16 and 23	Chapters 17-18
17. The lament sung over the city	Chapter 27	Chapter 18
18. The scavenger's feast	Chapter 39	Chapter 19
19. The resurrection	Chapter 37	Chapter 20:4-6
20. The Battle of Gog and Magog	Chapters 38-39	Chapter 20:7-9
21. The New Jerusalem	Chapters 40-48	Chapter 21
22. The River of Life	Chapter 47	Chapter 22
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Parallels between the visions in the Book of Revelation and those of the prophet Daniel in the Old Testament Book of Daniel:

THE VISION	DANIEL	REVELATION
1. Three-and-a-half time period (a time, 2 times and ½ a time)	Chapter 12:7	Chapter 11:9, 11
2. The ten horns	Chapter 7:8	Chapters 12:3, 13:1; 17:3, 8
3. The Leopard, the Bear, and the Lion	Chapter 7:4-6	Chapter 13:2
4. The Beast mouthing boasting and blasphemies	Chapter 7:8,11	Chapter 13:5
5. The war against the Saints	Chapter 7:21	Chapter 13:7
6. The worship of the Beast's statue	Chapter 3:5-7, 15	Chapter 13:15
7. The Son of Man coming on the	Chapter 7:13	Chapters 1:7 and 14:14

Glory-Cloud		
8. The everlasting kingdom	Chapter 2:44-45	Chapters 21:1-22:5
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Seven of Zechariah's eight visions find counterparts in the Book of Revelation:

Zechariah's Visions	The Link Between Zechariah's Visions and the Book of Revelation
The man on a red horse with three other horses among myrtle trees (1:8)	The four riders on white, red, black, and pale horses (Rev 6:1-9)
The man with a measuring line (2:1)	John receives a measuring line and the command to measure the Temple (Rev 11:1). An angel measures the walls and gates of the Messianic Jerusalem (21:15).
The cleansing of the High Priest Joshua (3:4)	The spotless Bride of the lamb (Rev 19:8)
The golden lampstand with seven eyes and the two olive trees (4:2-3)	The seven golden lampstands (Rev 1:12, 20) and the two olive trees (Rev 11:4)
The flying scroll (5:1)	The small scroll (Rev 11:8-11)
The woman of wickedness in a barrel/basket (5:6-7)	The wicked woman riding a scarlet beast (Rev 17:3-7)
The four chariots (6:1)	The four horsemen (Rev 6:2-8)

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The Synoptic Gospels Versus Revelation—The Judgment on Jerusalem

REVELATION Chapter 6	MATTHEW Chapter 24	MARK Chapter 13	LUKE Chapter 21
1. Wars (Rev 6:2)	Wars (Mt 24:6)	Wars (Mk 13:7)	Wars (Lk 21:9, 20, 24)
2. International Strife (Rev 6:4)	International Strife (Mt 24:7a)	International Strife (Mk 13:8a)	International Strife (Lk 21:10)
3. Famine (Rev 6:5b-6)	Famine (Mt 24:7b)	Famine (Mk 13:8b)	Famine (Lk 21:11b)
4. Disease/pestilence (Rev 6:8)			Disease/pestilence (Lk 21:11)
5. Persecution (Rev 6:9-11)	Persecution (Mt 24:9)	Persecution (Mk 13:9-13)	Persecution (Lk 21:12-19)
6. Earthquakes and cosmic chaos (Rev 6:12-17)	Earthquakes and cosmic chaos (Mt 24:7b, 29)	Earthquakes (Mk 13:8b, 24-25)	Earthquakes (Lk 21:11a, 25-26)
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Handout 2: Introduction Part 1

There are four “perfect numbers” in Scripture: three, seven, ten, and twelve.

The List of sevens in Revelation

Churches	1:4; 2:1-3:22
Letters	2:1- 3:22
Spirits	1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6
Golden lampstands	1:12, 20; 2:1; 4:5
Stars	1:16, 20; 2:1; 3:1
Lamps of fire	4:5
Seals	5:1; 5:5; 6:1
Horns	5:6
Eyes	5:6
Angels	8:2, 6; 15:1, 6, 7; 15:8; 16:1; 17:1; 21:9
Trumpets	8:2, 6
Thunders	10:3, 4
Thousand people	11:13
Heads	12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 9
Crowns	12:3
Plagues	15:1, 6, 8; 21:9
Golden bowls	15:7; 16:1; 17:1; 21:9
Hills	17:9
Kings	17:10, 11
Last seven visions	Chapters 20-21
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The Symbolic Significance of Numbers in the Bible

Number	Symbolic Significance
One	Unity, primacy, sovereignty, divine completeness: Christians saw this number as symbolic of God the Father.
Two	Difference, division: on the second day God created light and darkness. Christians saw this number as a symbol of the second person of the Trinity, God the Son (see Jesus’ comment in Mt 10:34-36).
Three	Three is one of the “perfect” numbers symbolizing that which is real, solid, substantial, complete and of importance or significance. It always signifies some important event in Salvation History, and Christians saw this number as symbolic of the Trinity.
Four	Four is a number that signifies God’s creative works in association with the earth (four seasons, four cardinal directions, four winds, etc.).
Five	This number is symbolic of God’s grace and power.
Six	The number six represents man, created on the 6 th day, and is a symbol of

	man in rebellion against God (especially in multiples of six, i.e. “666” in Rev 13:18).
Seven	Seven is the second “perfect” number signifying perfection and fullness, especially spiritual perfection. It is the number of the Holy Spirit.
Eight	Eight is the number symbolizing salvation, rebirth, resurrection and regeneration (i.e., Jesus rose from the dead on the 8 th day).
Nine	This number signifies God’s divine judgment.
Ten	Ten is the third “perfect” number which signifies perfection of divine order (i.e., the Ten Commandments).
Eleven	It is the number that symbolizes disorder, disharmony, imperfection and disintegration.
Twelve	Twelve is the fourth “perfect” number signifying divine government = the people of the Sinai Covenant (founded by 12 tribes) and the Church (founded by 12 Apostles).
Thirteen	The number thirteen and its multiples signify ill omen, hostility, rebellion, apostasy, defection and corruption (i.e., see Gen 14:4; 17:25).
Fourteen	Fourteen is a double seven and the number signifying a double blessing of spiritual perfection.
Forty	Forty is the number signifying trial or consecration (i.e., the series of 40 days in the Flood narrative, Moses’ 40 days on Mt. Sinai, and Jesus’ 40 days of testing in the wilderness).
Fifty	Fifty is the number symbolizing divine deliverance or mercy (i.e., the celebration of the Jubilee Year every 50 th year; 50 days from the Resurrection to Pentecost).
Seventy	Seventy is the number that signified spiritual perfection times divine order (10 x 7) in God’s plan of salvation (i.e., the 70 nations in Gen 10, the 70 men of Jacob-Israel’s family who migrated to Egypt, the 70 elders of Israel, and Jesus’ 70 disciples).

For a complete list of numbers and their symbolic references, see the chart “The Significance of Numbers in Scripture” at

<https://www.agapebiblestudy.com/documents/The%20Significance%20of%20Numbers%20in%20Scripture.htm>.

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OUTLINE OF THE REVELATION STUDY

I. INTRODUCTION PART I

- A. Definition of ‘apocalyptic literature’
- B. Authorship and authenticity
- C. Dating of book
 - 1. Majority view
 - 2. Minority view

II. INTRODUCTION PART II

- A. Different “schools” of thought on interpreting Revelation
 - 1. Preterist
 - 2. Futurist
 - 3. Historicist
 - 4. Spiritual/Idealist
 - 5. Progressive Parallels - repetition
 - 6. Problems with the “Secret Rapture” & the Dispensationalism theory the in *Left Behind* book series
 - 7. The Millennium theories
 - 8. Premillennial View
 - 9. Postmillennial View
 - 10. Amillennial View
- B. CCC # 677 and St. Augustine’s *City of God*

III. INTRODUCTION PART III

- A. Historical background
 - Growth of the 1st century Church
 - 1. Jewish and Roman persecution
 - 2. The 1st Jewish Revolt of 66AD – Josephus, *The Jewish War*
 - 3. The Neronian and Domitian persecutions
 - B. Biblical references to John the Apostle
 - C. Apocalyptic passages from the Gospels
 - D. Prophecies of the destruction of Jerusalem
 - E. The Covenant Treaty Format and the Format of the Covenant Lawsuit

IV. THE THINGS JOHN HAS SEEN (Rev 1:3)

- A. Preamble: St John’s Vision of the Son of Man (1:1-20)
 - 1. John’s Introduction 1:1-8 (CCC ref. 1:4 = 1403 & 2854; 1:6 = 1546,2855; 1:8 = 2854)
 - 2. Revelation of Christ 1:9-20 (CCC ref. 1:7 = 612; 1:18 = 625, 633, 635)

V. THE THINGS WHICH ARE (Rev 1:19)

- A. Historical Prologue: Letters to the Seven Churches (2:1-3:22)
 - 1. Message to Ephesus 2:1-7 (CCC ref: 2:5 = 1429)
 - 2. Message to Smyrna 2:8-11
 - 3. Message to Pergamos 2:12-17 (CCC ref: 2:16 = 1429; 2:17 = 1012, 2159)
 - 4. Message to Thyatira 2:18-29
 - 5. Message to Sardis 3:1-6
 - 6. Message to Philadelphia 3:7-13 (CCC ref: 3:7 = 303)
 - 7. Message to Laodicea 3:14-22 (CCC ref: 3:14 = 1065)

VI. THE THINGS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE FUTURE (Rev 1:19b, 4:1)

- A. Stipulations: The Seven Seals (4:1-7:17)
 - 1. Vision of “The One” and Heavenly Liturgy
 - a. The Throne of God 4:1-11 (CCC ref: 4:2 = 1137; 4:6-11 = 662; 4:8-11 = 2642; 4:11 = 295, 2855, 1107, 1130 = liturgy focused on Christ’s return)
 - b. The Sealed Book 5:1-5

- c. The Lamb Standing 5:6-14 (CCC ref: 5:6 = 1137; 5:9-14 = 2642; 5:9-10 = 1546; 5:9-14 = 2642; 5:13 = 449, 2855)
 - 2. Six Seals of Judgement 6:1-17 (CCC ref: 6:9-11 = 1138; 6:10 = 2642, 2817)
 - 3. The 144,000 Sealed 7:1-8 (CCC 7:1-8 = 1138); 7:2-3 = 1296)
 - 4. The Innumerable Multitude 7:9-17 (CCC 7:9 = 775, 1138; 7:10-12 = 2642)
- B. Sanctions: The Seven Trumpets 8:1-14:20
 - 1. The Seventh Seal: The Incense Altar 8:11-5
 - 2. The First Four Trumpets 8:6-13
 - 3. The Fifth Trumpet: Locusts from the Abyss 9:1-12 (CCC ref: 9:4 = 1296);
 - 4. The Sixth Trumpet: The Army of Myriads 9:13-21
 - 5. The Angel of the Oath 10:1-7
 - 6. The Little Book 10:8-11
 - 7. The Two Witnesses 11:1-14
 - 8. The Seventh Trumpet: The Kingdom comes 11:15-19 (CCC ref. 11:15 = 450)
 - 9. The Woman, the Seed, and the Dragon 12:1-6 (CCC ref: Chapter 12 = 410, 70, 489, 1138)
 - 10. Michael and the Dragon 12:7-12 (CCC ref. 12:9 = 391, 2852; 12:11 = 2853)
 - 11. The flight of the Woman 12:13-17 (CCC ref. 12:13-16 = 2853; 12:17 = 501, 757, 2853)
 - 12. The Beast from the Sea 13:1-10 (CCC ref: Chapters 13-14 = 2113; 13:8 = 677)
 - 13. The Beast from the Land 13:11-18
 - 14. The Lamb and the 144,000 on Mt. Zion 14:1-5 (CCC ref. 14:1 = 1138, 2159; 14:4 = 778, 1618)
 - 15. The Gospel and the Poisoned Cups 14:6-13
 - 16. The Harvest and the Vintage of the Land 14:14-20
- C. Succession Arrangements: The Seven Chalices 15:1-22:21
 - 1. The Song of Victory 15:11-14
 - 2. The Sanctuary is Opened 15:5-8
 - 3. The First Four Chalices: God's Creation Takes Vengeance 16:1-9
 - 4. The Last Three Chalices: It is Finished! 16:10-21 (CCC ref: 16:15 = 2849)
 - 5. Babylon the Great Harlot 17:1-5
 - 6. Babylon: The Mystery Explained 17:6-18
 - 7. Babylon is Fallen: the lament of the heavenly messenger 18:1-8
 - 8. The Triple Lament for Babylon 18:9-19 (CCC ref. 18:24 = 2642)
 - 9. The Lament of the Church 18:20-24
 - 10. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb 19:1-10 (CCC ref: 19:1 -8 = 2642; 19:1-9 = 677; 19:6 = 865; 19:7 = 1329, 1602, 1612; 19:9 = 1329, 1602, 1612)
 - 11. The Rider on the white Horse 19:11-16 (CCC ref: = 673, 830, 675, 440)
 - 12. The Feast of the Scavengers and Destruction of the Beasts 19:19-21
 - 13. The Binding of Satan 20:1-3 (CCC ref: 20:1 = 671)
 - 14. The first Resurrection and the Last Battle 20:4-11
 - 15. Prophecy of the Last Judgement 20:12-15 (CCC ref: 20:12 = 677)
 - 16. Prophecies of the Eternal State
 - a. The New Heaven and New Earth 21:1-8 (CCC ref: 21:1-4 = 1043, 765, 117, 677, 757, 1045, 2016, 2676; 21:5 = 1044; 21:6 = 694, 1137; 21:7 = 2788)
 - b. The New Jerusalem and the River of Life 21:9-22:1-5 (CCC ref. 21:9 = 757, 865, 1045, 1138; 21:10-11 = 865; 21:12-14 = 765; 21:14 = 857, 865, 869; 21:22 = 586); 21:27 = 1044, 1045)
 - 17. Come, Lord Jesus 22:6-21