

January 18, 2011

The Apocalypse of St. John

FIRST! A REVIEW



What does "Apocalypse" mean?

There is One End of the World, described in Revelation through seven distinct yet interrelated scenes.

Dr. Franzmann's "Three Doors" that you must go through when interpreting SYMBOLS in Revelation

1. The Gospel of Christ and him Crucified
2. The Old Testament (especially Daniel, Ezekiel, and Zechariah)
3. Some knowledge of the 1st century life of the church in the pagan Roman Empire

What does it mean to have an AUTHORIZED interpretation? Why is this important?

How do we arrive at an AUTHORIZED interpretation?

Major Symbolic Numbers

3 = _____ 4 = _____ 7 = _____

3 ½ = _____ 6 = _____ 12 = _____

10 and it's Cube (10 x 10 x 10) = _____

The Fourth Vision of the End Times

Revelation 15

¹*And I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, the last ones, for with them the wrath of God is finished.* ²*And I saw what appeared to be a glassy sea mingled with fire— and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands.* ³*And they sing the song of Moses, the slave of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,*

"Great and amazing are your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!

Righteous and true are your ways,
O King of the nations!

⁴*Who will not fear, O Lord,
and glorify your name?*

For you alone are holy.

All nations will come
and worship in your presence,

for your righteous acts have been revealed."

⁵*After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened, ⁶and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests.* ⁷*And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden censers full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever, ⁸and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.*



1 Seven indicates what?

Seven angels with seven plagues- Rev 2 – 3, 8:1-6, and 15 – 16 may be the same 7 angels

“The wrath of God is finished”- still more plagues to come. This shows that Rev. is not a timeline, but multiple scenes of the one End Times that stretches from the Ascension till Christ returns.

- 2 “glassy sea”- (4:6 is before heaven’s throne) here it is portrayed as a battlefield
“mingled with fire”- remind us of the Lord punishing Pharaoh at the Red Sea (Ex 13 – 14)
“and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass”- the Greek is either bad grammar, a mistranslation from Hebrew to Greek, or the only time these words are used together in this way... making it difficult to translate with confidence.
Beast, image, # of it’s name- recall from Rev 13-14. First, these conquer the Church (11:7, 13:7)
If ESV is correct, How do those who conquer do it? Rev 12:11
“harps of God in their hands”-

Brighton: Throughout the whole time period of suffering, from Christ’s ascension up to the End at his return, the church exhibits this victorious faith by confidently singing the hymn of salvation, even as she goes into death. (p 400)

- 3 “they sing”- this is the first time the heavenly chorus has been referred to as a song!
“The song of Moses”- Exodus 15:1-21, song celebrates past, future, and eternal deliverance
“The song of the Lamb”- compare this with Exodus 15

- 4 All nations will come- contrasts the Red Sea which was Israel, now it’s all nations
“and worship you”- Psalm 86:9, Philippians 2:6-11 (also a hymn!)

- 5 “The sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven”- following the Red Sea, the nation of Israel communed with God through the Tent of Witness (Exodus 26) also known as the Tabernacle
Why is it in Heaven? (11:19) It symbolizes God’s holy presence as the center and core of the eternal life of the saints in heavenly glory.

- 6 “clothed in pure, bright linen”- similar to the priests’ garments in Exodus 28 and the angels at Jesus’ empty tomb (Mt 28:3; Mk 16:5; Lk 24:4)
“golden sashes around their chests”- Who wore this last time we saw it? Rev 1:13

With their appearance resembling the Son of God, what are we told about the source of their actions?

- 7 “four living creatures” first seen in 4:6-8 reflecting Is. 6:1-8 and Ezek. 1:4-28, 10:1-8
“seven golden censers”- only the 24 Elders in Rev 5:8 are seen with censers there it is incense/prayers. Here it is wrath and punishment, an answer to the prayer of the saints of heaven in 6:9-10

- 8 “sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God”- like the Shekinah, cloud of glory that led Israel through the wilderness and filled the Tabernacle (Exodus 33:10 and **40:34-38!!!**)
“and from his power”- the power of God goes hand in hand with his revealed glory (Ex 19:18)
“and no one could enter the sanctuary until...”- perhaps reminiscent of Ex 40:34-35 where Moses could not enter while God’s glory rested there. More allegorically it could mean that God’s righteous actions taking place in the judgment are so inscrutable that no one can enter God’s presence (understand or judge God’s actions) until after it is completed and the End has come.

Brighton: The purpose of the third earthly vision (15:1 – 16:21) is similar to that of the second (8:6 – 11:19), namely, to show God’s wrath and judgment against the enemies of his church. (p 400)

Next Week:
The Censers Are Poured!