

August 24, 2010

## The Apocalypse of St. John

What is meant by “Apocalypse?”

A) The end of the world; B) Greek word for “Revelation;” C) Zombies rising from the dead, feasting on the living; D) Super-villain in the comic book series: X-Men; E) An ancient genre of literature

My personal pet peeve: It’s Revelation NOT RevelationS

Why does Revelation have more weight than the *Left Behind* series?  
Revelation, like all of Scripture, has \_\_\_\_\_

### Principles of an **AUTHOR**ized Interpretation

- 1- Scripture interprets Scripture → The simple texts help interpret the difficult texts (not vice versa)
- 2- The Rule of the Faith (cannot come up with an interpretation that disagrees with this)
- 3- Jesus Christ is the center of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation
- 4- Different literary genres require different readings: Letters, poetry, prophecy, Apocalyptic
- 5- Understanding literal, symbolic and apocalyptic forms of speech
- 6- The use of the Old Testament to understand the meaning of numbers/symbols in the New Testament (saturated with the language and content of the Old Testament and apocalyptic imagery)
- 7- The intended meaning by the inspired author is the proper interpretation
  - +Eschatology, end-times are now: from Jesus’ ascension till his return
  - +Revelation cannot be put into a neat chronological order
  - +Context is crucial- verse- paragraph- chapter- book
- 8- The proper distinction between Law and Gospel
- 9- The new Israel from Romans chapter 9-11 is the Christian Church - Jewish and Gentile
- 10- Humility - when we don’t know what a verse means, admit it and move on to the next verse!

### Basic Info

Writer: the Apostle John (1:1,4, 9; 22:8), the son of Zebedee (Mt. 10:2)

The date: 95 A.D. the latter part of the emperor Domitian’s reign (81-96 A.D.)

The occasion: The Christians were being pressured to give in to the cult of emperor worship- they would only say, “Jesus is Lord” NOT Caesar is Lord.

The purpose: Satan tries to destroy the Church, but Christ’s and the Church’s victory is assured.

The nature of apocalyptic literature: Highly symbolic (1:20; 17:1,5,18; 21:9-10)

The symbolism of numbers: 7 = reunion with God in his covenant of grace - Sabbath rest  
(3=The Triune God 4=the world 3+4=7)

3 ½ = evil forces opposing the church, broken covenant, half of 7

10 and its cube- 1000 (10 X 10 X 10) = completeness

12 = the church in the OT and NT

OUTLINE (See back side)

**Franzmann** To understand the symbols in Revelation, one must go through at least 3 “doors” : 1. The gospel of Christ and him crucified. 2. The Old Testament [especially Daniel, Ezekiel, and Zechariah]. 3. Some knowledge of the 1<sup>st</sup> century life of the church in the pagan Roman empire. pp. 25-27 All through the book, note the use of Jesus as the LAMB which connects us to Isaiah 53 and also to Exodus 12 the paschal passover lamb. pp. 19 ,20