

Key Meanings in Revelation

INTRODUCTION:

Chapter 1

Verse 20 –

- **Mystery** - Does not mean something that cannot be understood, but rather, something that is secret, hidden, or will not be understood until its meaning is revealed.”
- **“Seven stars in my right hand”** - Represents the seven angels of the seven churches.
- **“Seven golden candlesticks”** - Represents the seven churches.

Chapter 4

Verse 4 –

- 24 elders on 24 thrones - Representing 12 from the Old Testament (Patriarchs) and 12 from the New Testament (Apostles) to indicate God’s organized religion.

Verse 6 –

- “A sea of glass” - represents populations of the earth.
- **“The four living creatures”** - As in the book of **Ezekiel 10:20** - “This is the living creature I saw under the God of Israel by the River Chebar, and I knew they were cherubim.

Chapter 5

Verse 5 –

- “The Lamb” is Christ.

Verse 8 –

- “Having each one a harp” - The harp here is purely symbolic, not of mechanical instruments, but of singing.

Verse 9 –

- “They sing a new song” - The new song of redemption in Jesus’ name. The new song prophesied by the prophet Isaiah in **Isaiah 42:10** - “Sing to the LORD a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth . . .”

Chapter 6

Verses 1-2 –

- **1st Seal**: Rider on white horse - Christ going forth conquering through the gospel. Conquest is implied. Note: Nowhere in Revelation is white used otherwise than as symbol of purity, holiness, glory, etc.

Verses 3-4 –

- 2nd Seal: Ridder on red horse - Represents persecution and war. Once a person obeys the gospel, persecution will follow. **2 Timothy 3:12** - “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”

Verses 5-6 –

- 3rd Seal: Ridder on a black horse - represents economic discrimination and famine.

Verses 7-8 –

- 4th Seal: Ridder on a pale horse - represents death. Note: What would happen to a Christian who was:
 1. Conquered by Christ (1st Seal).
 2. Persecuted by others (2nd Seal).
 3. Discriminated against and starved (3rd Seal).
 4. He would eventually die (4th Seal)

Verses 9-11 –

- 5th Seal: Souls slain for the word - represents Christians killed on the earth but alive with God.

Verses 12-17 –

- 6th Seal: The great day of God’s wrath - represents judgment . . . God’s judgment that is about to fall on Rome.

Chapter 7**Verses 1-8**

- (especially verse **4**) - • The 144,000 - Symbolic of all the Christians on earth at any one time. **Psalms 50:10** - “For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.” 1,000 meant “all there was.”

Verse 4 –

- “Sealed” - Means protected. God will protect all His people on the earth.

Chapter 8**Verse 3 –**

- “Much incense” - represents the many prayers of the saints.

Chapter 9**Verses 1-12**

- 5th trumpet and the 1st woe (Hellish locusts) - represents internal decay.

Verses 13-21

- 6th trumpet and the 2nd woe (Hellish army) - represents external enemies.

Chapter 10

Verses 8-11 –

- John eating the little book - John must continue to prophesy (inspired preaching).

Chapter 11

- The reed like unto a rod - represents the Word of God.
- Measuring the temple - means to draw a distinction between God's people (the holy) and the sinners (the profane). Sealing the saints?
- The temple, altar, etc. - represents the Church.
- The 42 months (1,260 days, or 3.5 years) - represents the whole Christian dispensation of time.
- The two witnesses - God's messengers (preachers).
- The beast out of the abyss - represents Satan.
- The slaying of the witnesses - represents the world's rejection of their testimony.
- The resurrection of witnesses - represents a resurgence of truth.
- The unburied bodies - "Operations" of dead churches (Congregations).
- The calling of the witnesses to heaven - The resurrection and final judgment.

END OF THE 1ST HALF OF THE REVELATION

Chapter 12

- A "great sign" - refers to a symbol.
- The dragon - refers to the Devil (Satan) Revelation 12:9 tells us that the Dragon is the Devil.
- The Dragon cast out of Heaven - Jesus said in **Luke 10:18** - "... I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven"
- The woman represents Israel that brought Christ (gave birth) into the world. The "Israel of God" now is the church.
- The child is the Lord Jesus.
- Seven heads - complete authority, world dominion.
- Ten horns - complete or total world power.
- Seven crowns - symbolizes rulership.
- Eagles' wings represent strength from God.
- The 3.5 years is a symbol of persecution. Daniel 7:25

Chapter 13

- The sea beast - represents Rome

- The earth beast - represents false religion and emperor worship. (False prophets)

Chapter 14

- Zion - represents both the church and Heaven.
- The 144,000
 - The 144,000 in chapter 7:1-8 represents **all the saved on earth at one time.**
 - The 144,000 in chapter 14 represents **pure, faithful Christians purchased out of the earth.**
- Sickles - symbolizes judgment.
- Wheat - a symbol of righteous men. Matthew 3:12; 13:20
- Grapes - a symbol of the unrighteous being crushed in the wine press of God.
- The amount of blood - a symbol to show the awesome scope of God's judgment upon the wicked.

Chapter 16

- Armageddon - The classic battle of good and evil wherein Rome would be defeated.
- "The great city" - refers to Rome.

Chapter 17

- The "Harlot" - refers to Rome.
- Sitting on many waters - refers to Rome being over many nations.
- Review:
 1. The **Harlot, Babylon, the great city** - represents Rome.
 2. **Babylon** - the great city represents the worldliness of Rome.
 3. The **Sea Beast** - represents the civil persecuting power of Rome (Emperor worship)
 4. The **Earth Beast** - represents the false prophet (Made people worship the Sea Beast.)
 5. The **Dragon** - represents Satan (the Devil).

Chapter 19

- **9:7-8** - The Marriage Supper - refers to the marriage feast at the Lord's second coming when the Church is gathered up to the Father.
- **Verses 11-16** • The Victorious Christ
 - 11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

12 His eyes were like a flame of fire (piercing), and on His head were many crowns (diadems, symbolic of His universal rule). He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood (His own because of Calvary, or His enemies), and His name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses (Those faithful unto death).

15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword (the Word of God), that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God (Judgment on Rome).

16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Chapter 20

- The abyss - the present abode of Satan on the earth.
- The key - the angel's authority from God.
- The chain - the Word of God.
- The dragon and serpent - Satan.
- Gog & Magog - Enemies of God's people. Ezekiel 38:2 - Enemies of God in the Old Testament.
- The 1,000 years - is the gospel age, the Christian dispensation.
- Deceiving the nations no more - means that the availability of truth shall not fail from the earth.
- The binding of Satan - refers to the limitations imposed upon the devil regarding his hurting the
- righteous. **Matthew 12:29** - "Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house."
- The loosing of Satan "a little while" - refers to the ravages of Satan when all men at least finally reject the truth. **Luke 18:8** - ". . . Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"