

LESSON 4: CRACKING REVELATION'S CODE

Opening Prayer: Holy Father, thank You for providing a book of comfort to Your persecuted children. Remind us that You will never leave or forsake us. This we ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Watch the Video: Session 4

Revelation 21:1-10, 22-27

- How did the codes you learned in the video help you unfold this passage?
- What descriptions do you find most inspiring?
- How could you use this message to comfort and strengthen someone who is going through a crisis?
- How can your knowledge of the end of the story help you witness to your friends, neighbors, and coworkers who don't know Jesus Christ?

REVELATION SYMBOLS AND THEIR MEANINGS

Numbers:

- $3\frac{1}{2}$ (half of 7), *a definitely limited period of time*
- 4 means *the created world*
- 6 means *imperfection*—i.e. wanting to be like 7—God's number—but not able to)
- 666 is an intensification of 6 equaling *the worst evil there can be* (In Revelation 12-13, John portrays an evil *anti-Trinity trio* who work against the people of God. This threesome is made up of “the dragon” (i.e. Satan) the “first beast rising out of the sea” (i.e. broad political power like that of the Roman emperors who persecuted the church) and the “second beast rising out of the land” (i.e. false prophets arising from within the church). The three-fold number—666—may represent the members of this anti-Trinity trio, each of whom seeks to be like the Holy Trinity.
- 7 means *the works God alone can do and either does or has done*

- **10** means *all of*
- **1,000** means *really, absolutely all of ...*
- **12** is used for *the people of God*—12 tribes in Old Testament, 12 apostles in New Testament
- **144,000** is a combination of 12s (12 x 12) and 10s (10 x 10 x 10) meaning *really, absolutely, totally all of God's people in the Old and New Testament times*
- **addition** of two numbers together means both numbers are assumed as the result
- **squaring or cubing** a number intensifies its meaning (i.e. if 10 means *all of*, then 1,000 means *really, absolutely all of*)

Colors:

- **black** is *famine or starvation*
- **pale gray** is *death*
- **white** is *victory*

Objects:

- **Armageddon** literally means *the mountain of Megiddo* in Revelation, symbolic for the final battleground between God and the forces of evil
- **Babylon** stands for *Rome* and its emperors who persecuted Christians
- **book** or **scroll** is the *heavenly record*
- **bowls** carry things from heaven to earth or vice versa
- **dragon** represents the devil
- **eye** is symbolic of knowledge
- **Gog and Magog** represent the entire anti-Christian world
- **harlot, prostitute, or fornicators** represent people from within the church who *should be* faithful to the Lord and His Word but are not—they're "false prophets"
- **virgin** faithful believers who refuse to worship anything but the Trinity
- **horns** represent *power*, like the horns of an animal
- **incense** is *prayer*
- **jewels** represent *glory*
- **lampstands** are *churches*
- **land** represents *organized non-Christian religions*
- **living water** equals *life and truth*
- **sea** represents *evil human government*
- **seals** designate something as *private property*. In antiquity, lumps of clay impressed with a signet ring or cylinder seal were used to indicate ownership. To seal a scroll, a lump of clay was placed over the strings that tied up the roll and then stamped.
- **stagnant water** represents *death*
- **trumpets** announce an *event*
- **winepress** portrays God's judgment and hell. In a winepress the juice or *blood* of grapes was crushed underfoot to make wine. In God's judgment, the blood of sinners is poured out in eternal death under the crushing burden of His wrath.