

Taken from *Conversations with Scripture: Revelation*

Frederick Schmidt

Pre-millennialists: those who believe that Christ will return before the millennium

Post-millennialists: those who believe that Christ will return after the millennium

A-millennialists: those who believe that the reign of Christ will be manifested in the hearts of those who are faithful

Apocalypse: a word with three meanings. 1) reference to the end of the world, and the salvation of the righteous 2) a type of literature emphasizing an “unveiling” of divine mysteries 3) a specific book written that form such as the Book of Revelation

The writer relies from the very beginning on vivid imagery. **Seven** messages are sent to **seven** churches (Rev. 2:1-3:22); **seven** beatitudes are pronounced in the course of the book as a whole Rev. 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7,14; **seven** words of praise are spoken (Rev. 5:12); **seven** kinds of people are described (Rev. 6:15); **seven** references are made to the altar (Rev. 6:9;8:3, 5: 9:13; 11:1; 14:18; 16:7); the final return of Christ is described **seven** times (Rev. 2:16; 3:11; 16:15; 22:7, 12, 17, 20); **seven** seals, **seven** trumpets, and **seven** bowls are served as the centerpiece of the book’s visions (Rev. 6:1-18:24); and **seven** scenes describe God’s triumph (Rev. 19:11-22:20a).

Numerical Symbolism in Revelation

- One:** represents unity...stands for that which is unique and alone...does not occur symbolically in Revelation
- Two:** represents companionship, added courage, and increased strength
- Three:** Divine number...signifies the Trinity
- Four:** Cosmic number...North South, East, West...represents the four corners of the earth
- Six:** A sinister number for Jews symbolizing evil
- Seven:** A predominant number in Revelation...combination of 3, the divine number, and 4, the cosmic number which results in seven...symbol of perfection/completeness
- Twelve:** 4 multiplied by 3...the Old Testament has 12 tribes of Israel, and the New Testament there are 12 Disciples/Apostles