

REVELATION

*The CHURCH TRIUMPHANT
Through CHRIST
(the LAMB of GOD)*

Based upon Jim McGuigan's work on the book of Revelation

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Lesson Eight

Numbers and Their Message

LESSON PLAN

1. Past, Present, or Future?
 2. The Old Testament
 3. Rome and God's People
 4. A Woman, A City, and Witnesses
 5. The Serpent and The Christ
 6. Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls
 7. Armageddon, New Jerusalem
 8. Numbers and Their Message
 9. Chapters 1-10 (Two Lessons)
 10. Chapters 11-22 (Two Lessons)
- Basic Background**
- Major Characters**
- Major Images**
- Putting it Together**

What We will Learn

- **In Revelation, Numbers have symbolic meaning**
- **They are used to give messages or to help describe the character of a thing**
- **Numbers take on significance based on a culture's background and experience**
- **We do something like this ourselves**
- **Not everything about Revelation's use of numbers is known by us today**

Numbers and Their Message

- **Seven**
 - **Speaks of completeness, perfection, fullness**
 - **The most prominent number in Revelation (20 times more than the rest of the NT)**
 - **A possible combination of the divine perfection number "3" and the perfect world number "4"**

Numbers and Their Message

- **Three and a half “3 1/2”**
 - **Seen as half of seven**
 - **Therefore, that which is incomplete, imperfect**
 - **Also 1260 days; 42 months;**
“time, times, & half a time”

Numbers and Their Message

- **Six**

- **Seen as approaching perfection, but failing**
- **Man was created on the sixth day**
- **Therefore, in a Hebrew's mind, six designated Man**
- **“666” then, is Man emphatically, exemplified in Rome**

Numbers and Their Message

- **Twelve**
 - **Twelve tribes, twelve spies, etc. in Old Testament**
 - **Also four multiplied by three**
 - **Designates organized religion**
 - **More specifically, God's chosen people as symbolized by nation of Israel**

Numbers and Their Message

- **One-thousand**
 - **Multiple of ten ($10 \times 10 \times 10$)**
 - **Completion to the nth degree**
 - **Something done totally and completely**
 - **Without limit, all encompassing**

More Numbers in Revelation

- **Man saw “1” and thought of unity or independent existence**
 - It came to mean that which was unique and alone
- **Man found strength or courage in companionship**
 - Two were stronger & more effective
 - Mosaic law required two witnesses

More Numbers in Revelation

- **The number “3” has come to signify divine perfection**
 - The three persons of the Godhead
 - The three OT patriarchs
 - Our Lord raised on the third day
- **Man saw his town with four corners & the four winds blowing, so “4” came to refer to the world in which man lived**

More Numbers in Revelation

- **Ten**
 - **A perfect man was one who had all his fingers and toes**
 - **Ten fingers/ten toes = complete human body**
 - **Human completeness**
 - **Could also refer to fullness of power or rule**
 - **Multiples of ten refer to ultimate completeness or fullness to an unlimited degree**

What We Learned

- **In Revelation, numbers have meaning**
- **They are used to give messages or to help describe the character of a thing**
- **Numbers take on significance based on a culture's background and experience**
- **We do something like this ourselves**
- **Not everything about Revelation's use of numbers is known by us today**

What We Learned

- **One: unique, independent existence, unity**
- **Two: strength, redoubled energy**
- **Three: divine perfection**
- **Three & 1/2: incomplete, imperfect, temporary**
- **Four: the world in which men lived**

What We Learned

- **Six: approaching perfection but failing, the number of Man**
- **Seven: completeness, perfection, fullness**
- **Ten: human perfection
or fullness of power**
- **Twelve: organized religion, God's people**
- **One-thousand: ultimate completeness, completeness without limit**

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Next Lesson:

Part One of Lesson Nine

Revelation Chapters One - Five