

The “Secret Codes” of the Book of Revelation

According to Dr. James L. Blevins, Ph.D.

Number Code:

- TWELVE: is the number of wholeness, especially in reference to people, thus the number 144,000 in Revelation 7 is twelve times 12,000, suggesting the *whole* people of God.
- TEN: is a complete number. The thousand year reign of Christ in Chapter 20 is 10 X 10 X 10, implying a *complete* reign.
- SEVEN: is a divine number. In many apocalyptic works the code number for God is 777; many Jews added up the number of their name according to the Hebrew alphabet and this would be their code number in days of persecution. Revelation makes great use of sevens: seven trumpets, seven churches, seven bowls of wrath, etc.
- SIX: stands for imperfection or extreme evil. In Revelation, 666 is the code number for Caesar Domitian, who was persecuting Christians and putting them to death.
- FIVE: is the number of penalty. All major punishments and penalties are given in series of fives; the locusts that come up out of the pit torture people for five months.
- FOUR: represents the World (angels stand at the four corners of the earth).
- TWO: is for witnessing (two witnesses appear in Revelation 11).
- ONE: of course, is for unity.
- FRACTIONS: represent incompleteness. In chapter 8, for example, a third of the earth is burned up.”

John says, “The second code which I use in my book is the **color code**. Colors carry symbolic meanings.”

- PALE GREEN: represents death. The fourth horse in my book is a pale green horse and Hades follows behind.
- DARK GREEN: stands for life (around the throne of God in chapter 4 is an emerald rainbow symbolizing life).
- WHITE: represents purity or conquering.
- RED: is for warfare.
- BLACK: is for famine (one of the four horses of the Apocalypse is the black horse of famine).
- GOLD: stands for worth or value.
- BRONZE: is for strength.
- SCARLET: equals sin.

“In chapter 1 of my book I describe the Son of Man in color codes. I was in prison for preaching Christ, I could not openly speak about him, so I set forth a living sermon in colors. The Son of Man is described with bronze feet, depicting strength, white robes of conquering, white hair of purity, a gold band around his chest, representing his worth or value, a sharp, two-edged sword

coming from his mouth, representing truth. All the Christians hearing this passage read aloud would have known immediately the one of whom I was speaking.

“The third code in Revelation is the **animal code**.

- FROG: The meanest, vilest animal in my world was considered to be the frog; anytime the frog appears, evil is right behind it. In Revelation 16:13, *three* frogs appear and then the last battle between good and evil. Watch out for the frog!
- EAGLE: Next to the frog, the eagle always brings bad news. In the midst of the seven trumpets, the eagle appears to announce that the last trumpets will be far worse than the first trumpets. The eagle’s cry, in Greek, *ouai*, sounds like the English word *woe*. Thus, the last three trumpets in Revelation are announced by the eagle’s cry, by three ‘woes.’
- MONSTER BEASTS: Many of you have been concerned about the monster beasts in my book. Please bear in mind that monster beasts represent monstrous persons or forces. They are constructed from bits and parts of wild animals to represent extremely evil persons.
- BEAST FROM THE SEA: A symbol for Caesar Domitian or political power. It is composed of the three symbols of the major world powers in my day: bear’s feet for Medea, leopard’s spots for Persia, and lion’s head for Rome. There was no animal mean enough to represent Caesar, who had put so many Christians to death.
- SEA SERPENT: Satan is depicted by this monster beast, a red sea serpent with seven heads. My Jewish people feared the ocean and the sea serpents in it, so what could be better to depict Satan than this horrible creature from the sea?
- LOCUSTS: Monster locusts came up out of the bottomless pit. They have men’s faces, women’s hair, scorpion tails, and are the size of horses. They represent the sin and decay of the Roman Empire or any society that opposes God.
- LION: Often symbolizes all wild creatures.
- OX: Often symbolizes all domesticated creatures.
- SEVEN-HORNED LAMB: Jesus, himself, is depicted by an animal, a lamb with seven horns (divine power) and seven eyes (divine seeing.) Because I was in prison I could not openly speak of Christ, so I used this coded animal to symbolize my Lord.”ⁱ

ⁱ James L. Blevins, *Revelation as Drama* (Nashville: Broadman, 1984), pp.12-15.