

## Things Are Not as They Seem

The book is called “Revelation”.

However, it actually starts saying,

“**The Revelation of** \_\_\_\_\_.”

*If you keep that one phrase in mind it will keep you from losing your way through the rest of the book.*

Literally, revelation is the Greek word “\_\_\_\_\_.”

Which simply means “\_\_\_\_\_”

**Central theme:** \_\_\_\_\_.

*The irony of Revelation is that the very thing that makes it hard to understand, the \_\_\_\_\_, is what gives it its power.*

Chapter 12 – the centre of the book –

tells not of a \_\_\_\_\_ event –

but of something that has \_\_\_\_\_.

Satan was defeated at the cross.

The seven churches of Asia that the book is addressed to in verse 4 were facing various degrees of persecution but the greatest danger they faced WAS NOT THE PERSECUTION ITSELF BUT RATHER \_\_\_\_\_.

Notice three things about the genre:

1. It is a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. It is a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. It is a \_\_\_\_\_.

Because of the imagery this is a book about seeing and hearing.

40 times John says, “I \_\_\_\_\_,” and

32 times he says, “I \_\_\_\_\_.”

John’s primary command here is not trust and obey but

“\_\_\_\_\_” and “\_\_\_\_\_”

*Rev. 1:7 – look, he is coming with the clouds*

*1:18 – look, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades*

*4:2 – look, a throne and one sitting on it.*

*5:5 – look, the lion has overcome.*

*14:1 – look, the lamb standing on Mt. Zion.*

*19:11 – look, a white horse, and he who sits upon it is called Faithful and True.*

*21:3 – look, the Tabernacle of God is among people, and he will dwell with them.*

**Key verb:** \_\_\_\_\_.

John uses the verb four times and uses it to divide the book into five major sections. 4:1, 11:19, 15:5, and 19:11.

We can’t take the book as a \_\_\_\_\_ text.

We need to ask “what did John \_\_\_\_\_?”

NOT “what \_\_\_\_\_.”

### Three realities of the present that are unseen:

First, Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_:

Second, \_\_\_\_\_.

Third, \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Things Are Not as They Seem**

### **Symbolism in the Book of Revelation**

a. **Light versus Darkness** represents Good versus Evil

b. **Colors:**

- i. White = Purity and goodness
- ii. Red = Blood and War
- iii. Pale = Famine and Death
- iv. Gold and Purple = Royalty
- v. Silver or White = Wisdom, agelessness
- vi. Black = injustice, evil
- vii. Bronze = strength already tested by fire

c. **Numbers**

- i. 1 = Prime – stands alone
- ii. 2 = Witness (always two witnesses required at a trial)
- iii. 3 = Balance, Harmony, Rightness (Complete)
- iv. 3 ½ = Incomplete – usually an undetermined length of time
- v. 4 = Earth, Creation, flesh (the four corners, the four winds)
- vi. 6 = Imperfect (one less than 7)
- vii. 7 = Wholeness, perfection
- viii. 10 = Goodness, completeness
- ix. 12 = Unity (12 tribes of Israel, 12 Apostles, the Church)
- x. 1000 = Huge, great amount

d. **Symbols**

- i. Head - symbol of authority
- ii. Eyes – wisdom and discernment
- iii. Feet – foundation
- iv. Voice – Power
- v. Sword – Truth
- vi. Face – blessing, approval
- vii. Horn – strength
- viii. Crown - wealth
- ix. Stars – Angels or messengers

x. Lamp stands - churches

**Breaking the Code:** Numbers and colors have specific meanings in apocalyptic literature. This is a generalized guide of their meaning.

It is important as you read the Book of Revelation to keep in mind that the descriptions are not literal, but figurative images. These images are not meant to convey appearance, but to convey character. A number is rarely taken as a factual number, but rather as a symbol rich with meaning.

Notes:

