

A STUDY OF REVELATION

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PART I PREPARATION

Introduction: though highly fascinating, Revelation is also a difficult book to interpret. It is the end, the culmination of millenniums of time and prophecies. Consequently, every little bit of Bible knowledge one can possibly acquire will help in the proper interpretation and understanding of this book. There are many interpretations of the same passages which seem feasible. More than one interpretation may be preferred, or they may all be wrong. It is certain that no prophecy of scripture is of private interpretation, 2 Peter 1:20. Opinion must be understood for what it is – just that!

As a result, the question may arise as to whether such a study is truly worthwhile. The answer is yes. We may not understand it all, but we will understand much more each time we prayerfully endeavor to learn God's Word. It appears most discouragement lies in the erroneous human tendency to speculate in details not given. Revelation is understandable as to the general events of the future. Much detail is simply not given.

In preparation for the study of Revelation, it seems appropriate to think first about the magnificent intelligence of God, and the fact that He does every thing in good, perfect order. Mathematics, one of the chief tools of order is seen in every phase of the universe. Consider the following:

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF MATH IN CREATION.

A. God creates according to mathematical law.

1. Isa 40:12 "Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?"
2. Psalm 111:2 "The works of the LORD are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein."

B. The significance of various mathematical numbers.

1. = Unity, God.
2. = Division, alternative, choice, evil.
3. = Solid, substantial, veal trinity, divine perfection.
4. = 3 + 1, God + creation, the material number.
5. = Grace.
6. = Man, imperfection, an addition to 5, but a subtraction from 7.
7. = Spiritual perfection.
8. = Super abundance, to make fat, first cube number, 2x2x2.
9. = Last of digits, the end, judgment.
10. = Perfection number, new order.
11. = Like 6 only disorder, imperfection.
12. = Governmental perfection.

II. THE IMPORTANCE OF NUMBERS IN THE VEGETABLE KINGDOM.

A. Exogenes, the number 5 is predominant.

B. Indogenes, the number 3 is predominant.

C. Leaf designs in trees.

1. Apple – every 5th stands in line with first.
2. Oak – every 4th

3. Peach - every 6th.

III. THE IMPORTANCE OF NUMBERS IN GESTATION.

- A. Mouse is 21 (3 X 7) days.
- B. Rat and rabbit 28 (4 X 7) days.
- C. Dog 63 (9 X 7) days.
- D. Cat 56 (8 X 7) days
- E. Lion 98 (14 X 7) days
- F. Sheep 147 (21 X 7) days.
- G. Hen 21 (3 X 7) days
- H. Duck 28 (4 X 7) days
- I. Human 280 (40 X 7) days.

IV. THE IMPORTANCE OF NUMBERS IN CHRONOLOGY

- A. To appreciate this, one must definitely consider the difference between cardinal and ordinal time.
- B. Man's number in relationship to the earth, as a created being, is four.
- C. It will be seen that God deals with His people on earth in four periods of time before a new order is established. These four periods are 490 years each or 70 X 7 years.
- D. The four periods of 490 (70 X 7) years:

1. Period One: The birth of Abraham to the Exodus.

- a. Abraham at the promise Gen. 12:4, 75 yrs old.
- b. Abraham at Isaac's birth, Gen. 21:5 100 yrs old.
- c. Isaac at Jacob's birth, Gen. 25:26 60 yrs old
- d. Jacob at entering of Egypt, Gen. 47: 8,9 130 yrs old
- e. Total time from promise to the entering of Egypt, 215 years
- f. Total time from promise to the Exodus Gal 3:17 430 years
- g. Total time Israel was in Egypt 215 years
- h. But 430 years from promise to Exodus 430
- plus 75, the age of Abraham at promise 75
- 505 505 years
- i. Subtract the time God withdrew while Ishmael was supplanted as heir 15
- 490

2. Period Two: Exodus to dedication of the Temple.

- a. Again, the difference between cardinal and ordinal time must be considered to clear a seeming contradiction between I Kings 6:1 and Acts 13:20.
- b. Consider the time as follows:
 - Israel in : wilderness wanderings 40 years
 - Judges 450 years
 - Saul 40 years
 - David 40 years
 - Solomon 03 years
 - 573 years
- c. But, consider the time God withdrew from Israel because of their sin and allowed gentile nations to rule them.
 - Israel served: Cush, Judges 3:8 8 years
 - Eglon, Judges 3:14 18 years

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| | Jabin, Judges 4:3 | 20 years |
| | Midianites, Judges 6:1 | 7 years |
| | Philistines, Judges 13:1 | <u>40 years</u> |
| | | 93 years |
| | 573 years minus 93 years leaves | 480 years |
| d. | Add the following: | |
| | Temple in construction | 7 years |
| | Temple being furbished | <u>3 years</u> |
| | | 490 years |
3. Period Three: Dedication of the Temple to the return of Nehemiah from Babylonian captivity
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| a. | Actual cardinal time | 560 years |
| b. | Subtract the time of captivity | <u>70 years</u> |
| | | 490 years |
4. Period Four: Return of Nehemiah to the Second Coming of Christ.
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| a. | Note the seventy weeks of Daniel 9:24-27 | |
| | This is 70 X 7 and refers to years. | |
| b. | Return of Nehemiah to Messiah = 69 weeks | |
| | <u>X 7</u> | |
| | 483 years | 483 years |
| c. | Time intervening because of death of Christ, near Two thousand years already. | |
| d. | Time left for God to work with His people | |
| | Before a new order begins | 1 week |
| | <u>X 7</u> | |
| | 7 years | <u>7 years</u> |
| | | 490 years |
| e. | This is the seven years of Jacobs trouble, of tribulation, the great, described in Revelation | |