



UNDERSTANDING
THE BOOK OF
REVELATION

• **The book of
Revelation is also
shaped by the use of
the numbers
three & four.**

· **There are**

3 woes

3

**unclean spirits
like frogs**

3 divisions of Babylon

**3 gates
on each side
of the
heavenly city.**

- 4 living creatures
round about the
throne

**4 angels at the
4 corners of the
earth, holding the
4 winds;**

New Jerusalem
is foursquare.

**Authority is given
to Death to kill
over the
fourth part
of the earth,
and he employs
four agents.**

From Him

which is,

and which was, and

which is to come

(1:4)

**John is making
a reference to
the name
Jehovah.**

- The phrase **“which is to come”** would not express the future eternity of the Divine Being.
- The dominant conception in the title is rather that of **permanence.**

The name emphasizes

**His permanent
covenant relation**

to His people.

- **From him**
who is everlasting
embracing all duration,
past, present, and to come.
- **No expression could more**
strikingly denote eternity
than this.

- **Jehovah**

- He **now** exists;

- He has existed in the **past**;

- He will exist in the **future**.

- **Jehovah** -- has reference merely **to the fact of existence.**
- The word has **no variation of form,**
 - And has **no reference to time,**
 - And embraces **all time:**
 - That is, it is **as true at one time**
as another that he **exists.**

- By the phrase **"who is, and who was, and who is to come,"**
- God the **eternal** and **uncreated one,**
- And as the **original creator** of all being.

“which is to come”,
is to be explained in
accordance with the
key-note of the book,
which is the
second coming of the Son
(Rev. 1:7;22:20).

• Hence the Holy Spirit is called the “Seven Spirits”

• Perfect being –
Perfect number

• Not the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit are meant, but the divine Personality who imparts them;

Isaiah 11:2

And the spirit of the LORD shall
rest upon him, the spirit of
wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge
and of the fear of the LORD;
Isa 11:3 And shall make him of
quick understanding
in the fear of the LORD:

- **Wisdom**: We see God at work in our lives and in the world.
- **Understanding**: We comprehend how we need to live as a follower of Christ.
- **Counsel** (Right Judgment): We know the difference between right and wrong, and we choose to do what is right.
- **Fortitude** (Courage): A person with courage is willing to stand up for what is right in the sight of God, even if it means accepting rejection, verbal abuse, or even physical harm and death.
- **Knowledge**: Is more than an accumulation of facts.
- **Piety** (Reverence): Recognizing our total reliance on God and comes before God with humility, trust, and love.
- **Fear of the Lord** (Wonder and Awe): Puts our mindset in its correct location with respect to God: we are the finite, dependent creatures, and He is the infinite, all-powerful Creator.

- **Symbolic** representation of the Holy Spirit here on a par with **God** and **Christ**

- A conclusion borne out by the **symbolic use of the seven spirits** in **Rev 3:1**; **Rev 4:5**; **Rev 5:6** (from **Zec 4:2-10**).

v. 4b “Grace to you and peace,
from him who is and who was and
who is to come; and from the
seven Spirits
that are before his throne.”

- The Holy Spirit in
His perfect power and
completeness.

V. 5 “And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.”

- The blessings bestowed upon the Church are “grace” and “peace”.

V. 5 “Faithful witness”

- A faithful witness, because He gave faithful testimony concerning all things which were to be testified to by Him in the world.

A faithful witness

**because whatever He heard
from the Father,**

- **He faithfully made known
to His disciples.**

(Ephesians 3:5)

• **A faithful witness**

because

He taught the
way of God

**in truth, neither did He care
for any one nor regard the
person of men.**

A faithful witness

because

He announced

condemnation

to the reprobate

• **and salvation**

to the elect.

A faithful witness

**because He confirmed
by miracles the truth
which He taught
in words.**

• A faithful witness
because He
denied not,
even in death,
the Father's testimony
to Himself.

A faithful witness

because He will give
testimony in the day of
judgment concerning
the works of the
good and of the evil."

V. 5 *The first-begotten of the dead*

- Not the first who rose from the dead,
- But the first who so rose that death was thenceforth impossible for Him (Romans 6:9);

Paul also says that Jesus
"was declared to be the
Son of God with power
by the resurrection
from the dead"
(Romans 1:4).

**5b “Unto him that loveth
us, and loosed us
from our sins
by his blood.**

• **V. 5** **“Unto Him that loved.”**

• **The true reading is**
“that loveth”

• **Christ 's love is**
ever present

The tense is present, reminding us that the Redeemer's love is continuous & unbroken.

- “Having loved his own that were in the world, he loved them unto the end.”
(John 13:1)

2. Because of what He did for us.

**“He loosed us from our
sins by His blood.”**

(v.5)

- **We have obtained not only pardon for sins...**
- **But deliverance from the power of its penalty.**
- **“Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers:.”**

(Psalms 124:7)

• And not only does *He love us*
but the verse says

• "He loosed us" (A.V.)

• "He freed us from our sins"
(R.S.V.).

- Not only has Jesus **WASHED**
away the
GUILT of our sins,
- But grander still He has
FREED US from
the power of sin.

•3 **Because of what he
has made us:**

- **To be a kingdom,
to be priests,**

ASV

(Revelation 1:6)

To understanding
this passage
(Revelation 1:6)
get rid of the two verbs
(“to be”)
in the future tense
that have been added
to the passage
by some translations.

The next slide
illustrates how
scholars arrive
at this
conclusion.

<u>Strong's</u>	<u>Transliteration</u>	<u>Greek</u>	<u>English</u>
4160 [e]	epoiēsen	ἐποίησεν	He has made
1473 [e]	hēmas	ἡμᾶς	us
932 [e]	basileian	βασιλείαν	a kingdom,
2409 [e]	hiereis	ἱερεῖς	priests

Source: <http://biblehub.com/text/revelation/1-6.htm>

John was not writing of
what Christians
were to be,
but of what
they already were.

**International Standard Version
Renders it correctly**

Revelation 1:6

**and has made us
a kingdom, priests
for his God and Father,**

- He has given us kingly power
- To rule our passions and impulses.
- To rule others by godly influence.

- He has given us priestly privileges
 - – access to the throne of grace.

• V. 6 **And he made us
a kingdom,**

• priests unto his God and
**Father: to him be the glory
and the dominion for ever
and ever. Amen!”**

6. **Kings** (KJV)
(basileiv)

The correct reading is,
basileian
“**a kingdom**”.

- The term **King** is **never applied** in the New Testament to individual Christians.

- The **reigning** of the saints is emphasized in this book.

(See Rev. 5:10; Rev. 20:4,6; Rev. 22:5. Compare Dan. 7:18,22 If washed, compare Ps. 51:2; Isa. 1:16,18; Ezekiel 36:25; Acts 22:16; Eph.5:26; Tit. 3:5 . If loosed, compare Matthew 20:28; 1 Tim. 2:6 1 Pet. 1:18; Heb. 9:12; Gal. 3:13 Gal. 4:5)

- **Kingdom** describes
the body
of the redeemed
collectively.
- **Priests** indicates their
individual **position.**

- Peter observes the same distinction
(1 Peter 2: 5)
 - In the phrases living stones
(**individuals**)
 - And a spiritual house
(**the body collectively**),
 - And combines both kings and
priests in another collective term,
“royal priesthood” (**verse 9**).

· **The priesthood of
believers grows out of
the priesthood
of Christ**

(Psalms 110:4; Zech 6:13; Heb 7-10).

- This dignity was promised to Israel on the condition of obedience and fidelity to God.

- *"Ye shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation"*
(Exodus.19:6).

• **In the kingdom of Christ**
each individual is a priest.

• **The priest's work**
is not limited
to any order of the
ministry.

- **All** may offer the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving:
- **All** have direct access to the holiest through the blood of Jesus:
- **All** Christians, as priests, are to minister to one another and to plead for one another.

- **V. 6 Unto God and His Father
glory and dominion**
- **The glorious condition of Christ
after accomplishing
His earthly work,
• and of the redeemed
who share His eternal glory**

(Luke 24:26; John 17:5; Philip.3:21; 1 Tim. 3:16; Rom. 8:18,21; Rom.
9:23; 2 Cor.4:17; Col.1:27).

**V. 7 “Behold, he cometh
with the clouds; and every
eye shall see him, and they
that pierced him; and all
the tribes of the earth shall
mourn over him.”**

- **With these words the**
THEME
of the book is announced.

- **For the**
coming of Christ in glory
is the burden of the Apocalypse.
(The Revelation)

V. 7b “... Even so, Amen.”

- **In this expression we have a double (Greek & Hebrew) ratification of the prophetic utterance.**

**V. 8 “I am the
Alpha and the Omega”**

**Names of the first and last letters
of the Greek Alphabet.**

**V. 8b “..saith the Lord God, who is and
who was and who is to come,
the Almighty.”**

- “Alpha” is the first letter of the Greek alphabet.

- “Beta” is the second.

- It is from this that we get our word “alphabet”.

• Jesus Christ is
THE ALPHABET
OF LIFE.

• What the alphabet is to
language Jesus Christ is to
the business of **daily living.**

• He is the beginning –
the creator of life –
the “Alpha”.

• He is the sustainer -- and the
climax of life –
the “Omega”.

- **As the letters of the alphabet are indispensable to literature**
- **So Jesus Christ is essential to all real daily living.**

We now hear the voice of God pointing out two characteristics of His nature:

- **He is everlasting –
The Alpha & the Omega.**
- **The Beginning & the End.**

He is the Almighty

- **He commands the host of heaven and earth.**
- **He is able, therefore, to overcome the foe of the church.**
- **What a consolation for the suffering saints.**

- From the Prologue we learn:
- That the book we have opened to study is NOT a mystery, but a Revelation.
- Something that has been uncovered.
- It may therefore be understood.

**But, diligent study
is necessary.**

- **That the
ultimate triumph
of the people of God over the
forces of evil
is assured.**

Let God's people rest in peace.

- Omnipotence
is on their side.

- Let them also fear....

- For the crown is promised only
to the “faithful”.

**3) That the Redeemer is
altogether worthy of praise.**

Because He “loves us”.

Because He “loosed us”.

Because He “ennobles us”.

4) That the
saints of today
are included in the
seven churches.

- **The church is God's**
universal family.

**God's revelation is
intended for every believer,
in every nation.**

- **5) That upon every believer who delights in the words of this book and lays it to heart shall fall a blessing.**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say**

“Come”.

Revelation 22:17



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