

Interpretive Notes

“Though St. John saw many strange monsters in his vision, he saw no creature so wild as one of his own commentators.” - G. K. Chesterton

Introductory Considerations:

To Read the Book Right Guidelines to help you read the book of Revelation By Ron Courter
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Revelation is a book to reveal.2. Revelation is a book to be seen, a book of symbols depicting the battle of good and evil.3. Revelation is understood by realizing the meaning of the symbols originate in the Old Testament.4. Numbers count in Revelation, but it is symbolically not statically.5. The book of Revelation entertains the church under attack and notes how the church must respond in such circumstances to be faithful.6. Revelation is dealing with what was about to befall the churches written to at that time.7. Revelation declares to us the overall story of the Bible and how the victory belongs to God and to Christ.8. The book had to mean something to the people it was written to, so they could be encouraged.

Interpretation Versus Application By George Battey
<p>The book of Revelation applies to each generation in its respective situation. We need to distinguish between <u>Interpretation</u> and <u>Application</u>.</p> <p>Interpretation: Asks the question “What did Revelation mean to the people who received the Revelation in their situation?”</p> <p>Application: Asks the question “What does Revelation mean to me in my situation?”</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Does the book of Revelation apply to the Medieval Catholic church which oppressed the Lord’s church? Yes. Was the book of Revelation predicting the Medieval Catholic church? No.2. Does the book of Revelation apply to Christians who lived in Nazi Germany under the Nazi regime? Yes. Was the book of Revelation predicting the rise of Nazi Germany? No. <p>If the book of Revelation, correctly interpreted, was predicting future events, it meant nothing to the first-century church.</p>

Methods of Interpretation:

Alternative Methods of Interpretation		
Method	Summary	Objections
Futurist	Interprets the book of Revelation as though it deals only with end-time events. Sees Revelation as a book of unfulfilled prophecies. None of the book has been fulfilled. All events in book expected to occur sometime in the future. Mostly interprets Revelation literally.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inconsistent with John's statement in Revelation 1:1. 2. Removes any meaning in Revelation applicable to its initial recipients. 3. Incompatible with much of the symbolism in the book. 4. Views the church as "Plan B." 5. Goes to absurd lengths to assign meaning in every detail.
Historist (A.K.A. Continuous-Historical)	Looks at Revelation as a forecast in symbols of the history of the church. Sees Revelation as a detailed prophecy of the Apostasy of the Roman Catholic church. Most events believed to have already occurred in the Apostasy.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revelation understood from this viewpoint is totally out of touch with those who received the letter. 2. Attaches undue importance to the apostasy of the Roman Catholic church. 3. Scope of the method is too narrow. Countries unaffected by Roman Catholicism find no meaning in the book. 4. Leads to calculations of numbers and times which prove false and damage the kingdom. 5. Goes to absurd lengths to assign meaning in every detail.
Idealist (A.K.A. Philosophy of History)	Views the book as a discussion of forces which underlie events but not the events themselves. Deals with "ideals" rather than realities. Sees Revelation as an expression of God's principles of government as observable in any age.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removes the book too far from the situation in which it was originally written. 2. The book holds no meaning for its initial recipients. 3. Narrows the meaning of the book too much, takes away specific prophecies leaving only generic forces or tendencies in interpretation.
Preterist (A.K.A. Contemporary-Historical)	Essentially the opposite of the Futurist method. Claims all the book of Revelation was fulfilled in the days of the Roman Empire. Two schools of thought within this interpretive method. The differences between the two are: One views the book simply as an uninspired apocalyptic history book fully fulfilled in the past, the other sees it as an inspired book mostly fulfilled in the past except the prophecies concerning end-times.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One school in this view completely disregards this book as a legitimate part of God's word. 2. Finds no application of the book for any time period other than John's day and time.

Preferred Method of Interpretation		
Method	Summary	Strengths
<p>Eclectic (A.K.A. Historical Background, Progressive Parallelism, Spiritual Method)</p>	<p>Definition of Eclectic: (Adjective) deriving ideas, style, or taste from a broad and diverse range of sources. (Philosophy) denoting or belonging to a class of ancient philosophers who did not belong to or found any recognized school of thought but selected doctrines from various schools of thought.</p> <p>This method is preferred when approaching the book of Revelation as it avoids the weaknesses and objections of the alternative views while maintaining their strengths. This method borrows the strong aspects from the others and combines them into one interpretive method, hence the term “eclectic.”</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This view respects the letter’s original application to its initial recipients. 2. This view looks for the correct interpretation of the book in its historic context and then makes application to the reader’s situation in any age. 3. This view interprets the symbolism of the book from a Biblical perspective. 4. This view understands Revelation as an inspired book from God intended to be read and understood by people of all ages. 5. Due to its eclectic nature, it is not tied to a rigid system of interpretation. Does not require the reader to see everything as either a “future” or “past” event. Recognizes there is a mixture within the book and allows for application of truth in any time period.

A Note on Interpretive Methods:

“The safest policy is to find the central truth and let the details fit in the most natural way.” - Ray Summers

The charts above give a quick summary of the primary methods of interpreting the book of Revelation. However, you will likely find in your studies some variations in interpretation between men who use the same interpretive method. Do not let this worry you too much, just remember the basic principles of interpreting God’s word and look for the best fitting interpretation for each passage in relation to the message of the Bible as a whole. When you’re having trouble, especially when dealing with symbols in the book, determine the primary message or truth of the passage and work through the details as best you can. It is possible to come to the correct general interpretation without being able to discern what all the details mean in on sitting or in your first study session on a passage.

Structural Notes:

To correctly interpret the book of Revelation, you will need to be able to correctly recognize and identify structural elements in the book. Often, these divisions will mark a shift in perspective, a new vision, or some other important change. You will find in your studies general agreement that there are two large divisions in the book which themselves can be divided into smaller sections. However, there are is a wide variety of opinion as to how many smaller sections there are within the book. One of the more widely help positions is that there are seven smaller segments within the book. Brothers George Battey and Don McCord both hold this position.

Two Great Sagas or Pageants:

“A Bird’s-Eye View of Revelation” By Albertus Pieters	
The Great Book Sealed	The Little Book Opened
God’s secret counsel regarding judging a sinful world. “Sealed” - Secret, known to no one, read by no one, revealed to no one except Jesus Christ. Larger scope involving the fortunes of all mankind. Everything seen from a “transcendent” viewpoint focusing on things determined in Heaven and sent down upon the earth.	God’s revealed counsel regarding the Church and her conflict with her foes. Everything seen from the viewpoint of the Church: Her glory, her foes, her sufferings, her conflicts, and her eventual triumph.
A.K.A. Two Pageants or Dramas:	
The Solemn Pageant of the Divine Judgements The Lamb is the dominant figure	The Drama of the Woman and the Dragon The chief characters are the Woman and the Dragon
Revelation 4-11	Revelation 12-22
The two sections are finally seen to be two parts of one whole when, the Dragon and his allies being overcome, the Lamb marries the Woman and lives with her in a beautiful home for evermore.	

Brother George Battey also recognizes these two larger sections of the book of Revelation. This understanding can assist your understanding of the book. He explains it simply as follows:

Two Large Divisions in Revelation Both tell the same story By George Battey	
Revelation 1-11	Revelation 12-22
Presents General Concepts .	Presents Details left out in the first telling.

Seven Smaller Segments:

While brothers George Battey and Don McCord both recognize seven smaller structural segments, they divide the chapters into these segments slightly differently. Brother Don McCord adds additional “Prologue” and “Epilogue” sections. Brother George Battey also recognizes the larger break in the book where chapters 1-11 constitute one larger section and chapters 12-22 constitute the second section (see previous comments for additional details). In your studies, pay attention to these suggested structural divisions and study them for yourself.

“The Music of Revelation” By George Battey † → 2 nd Coming						
Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Section 6	Section 7
Revelation 1-3	Revelation 4-7	Revelation 8-11	Revelation 12-14	Revelation 15-16	Revelation 17-19	Revelation 20-22
Churches	Seals	Trumpets	Dragon Woman Man-Child Sea Beast Land Beast	Bowls	Babylon Sea Beast Land Beast	Reign of Christ
	(1/4) Destroyed	(1/3) Destroyed		(Everything) Destroyed		
Asia 1 st Century						
(Threatened with a bad outcome on Judgement Day if they did not repent)	Judgement Day 1. Lost 2. Saved	Judgement Day	Judgement Day 1. Saved 2. Lost	Judgement Day 1. Babylon	Judgement Day	Judgement Day 1. Lost 2. Saved

It is worth noticing that though George and Don’s structural diagrams are slightly different, they agree on the divisions of chapters 1-16 into their respective sections.

“Parallel Episodes” By Don McCord								
Prologue	Episode 1	Episode 2	Episode 3	Episode 4	Episode 5	Episode 6	Episode 7	Epilogue
Chapters 1-3	Chapters 4-7	Chapters 8-11	Chapters 12-14	Chapters 15-16	Chapters 17-18	Chapter 19	Chapter 20	Chapters 21-22

Symbolic Notes:

General Notes on Symbolism:

“The meanings of the symbols in the book of Revelation rest on a ‘three-legged stool’: **1. The Old Testament** (Biblical symbolic references), **2. Things in Nature**, **3. Historical Places and Events** (Not geographical in importance, but what these places and events are associated with).” - **Evangelist Ron Courter**

Interpreting the Meaning of Symbols in Revelation “A Three-Legged Stool” By Ron Courter		
Symbol: Something that stands for or represents something else, especially an idea, quality, or condition. Symbol: Object used to represent another object because of resemblance or analogy.		
The Old Testament Biblical symbolic references. See what the symbol meant or how it was used in other portions of scripture. The fundamental root or meaning of the symbols is often found in the Old Testament.	Historical Places and Events Not a reference to the geographic location of the place or event. See what meaning is attached to the place or event, what did it come to symbolize? Historic places and events are frequently used because they suggest specific characteristics. (Examples: Egypt = slavery, Babylon = worldliness.)	Things in Nature When symbols in revelation are not closely connected with the Old Testament, they are drawn from the most familiar objects in nature and history.
Remember: Symbols are utilized not because they are unknown or mystical, but because they are well-known and can communicate to the audience due to familiarity. The symbols of Revelation are well-known, like the prophets and the Lord’s use of symbols. “The seer of the Apocalypse lives entirely in holy scriptures.” “The Book hardly ever refers to anything that is not Biblical.” Symbols in Revelation are typically exaggerated, extravagant, and out of keeping with probability.		

General Notes on Numerical Symbolism:

In the following section on **Numbers in Revelation**, you will notice that each of the men who explain the meanings of the numbers provide very similar, yet different, definitions. These excerpts, though they may seem confusing, are provided to help you see the general usage of numbers as symbols and their meaning. The simplest answers and definitions are best. When dealing with a symbolic number, compare what each of these men had to say and try to look for a clear Biblical usage of the number to help determine its meaning.

Numbers in Revelation:

“In Revelation numbers count, but you don’t use numbers in Revelation to count.” - Ron Courter

Symbolism of Numbers [excerpt]

By Ray Summers

Multiples of numbers - Represent a magnification or absolute fullest extent of the number’s meaning. Numbers most often multiplied by 10, by themselves, or consist of multiple of themselves (example: 666)

1 - Unity or independent existence.

(Not used as “1” in Revelation, but used as a multiple)

2 - Companionship, strengthening, redoubled courage or energy, and confirmation.

(Examples: 2 witnesses, 2 Wild Beasts, “Twofold” instrument of warfare [conquering Christ and sickle of judgement])

3 - Symbol of the Divine, the Trinity.

4 - The Cosmic number, represents the world, all creation.

(Examples: 4 winds, 4 sides of the earth, 4 corners of the earth, 4 angels to govern the winds, 4 living creatures [symbolic of the 4 divisions of animal life], 4 horsemen [symbolic of the destructive powers of the world at war])

5 or 10 - Related to “10” as its double, Human completeness, Complete world power, Complete governmental power.

(Examples: 10 commandments [whole duty of man], 10 horns [The Dragon, the first beast, the scarlet beast], 10 kings)

Used as a multiple represents ultimate completeness

(Examples: 1000 years [fulness of time from cross to Christ’s second coming], 70, etc.)

6 - Fell short of “7” and failed, the charge that met defeat, ability to be great but failed.

7 - Combination of perfect world number (4) and perfect divine number (3), Completeness through union of earth and Heaven.

(Examples: 7 Spirits, 7 churches, 7 golden candlesticks, 7 stars)

12 - Organized religion in the world.

(Examples: 12 tribes of Israel, 12 apostles, 12 gates to the Holy city)

144,000 - Perfect number representing all true believers sealed from the wrath of God.

3 ½ - The incomplete, that which was not finished.

(Examples: A time, times, and half a time; Forty-two months, 1,260 days, 3 ½ years)

Symbolism of Numbers [excerpt]

By H. B. Swete

7 - Completion.

3 - Limited plurality.

4 - The visible creation.

10 - The round number, suggestive at once of indefiniteness and of magnitude.

(Example: 1,000 - A great period of time but of unknown length.)

3 ½ - The age of persecution, whatever its duration

666 - Each digit falls short of the completeness and perfection of “7” fitly representing the failure of Antichrist to reach the goal to which he aspires

Symbolism of Numbers [excerpt]

By G. K. Beale

7 - Number of completeness.

Apparent from the seven days of creation in Genesis 1. Likewise, the Hebrew notion of a full week being seven days enhanced the association of seven with completeness. The Old Testament uses seven repeatedly for the figurative notion of completeness (Genesis 4:15, Genesis 4:24, Psalm 79:12). Note also an observation that there are seven colors in a full rainbow further associating seven with completeness.

4 - Another number of completeness especially indicating something of universal or worldwide scope.

12 - Represents completeness as well as the accompanying idea of unity in diversity.

As in the one nation Israel is composed of twelve tribes. The twelve apostles mirror the same reality for the people of God in the New Testament period. There are also twelve months in one year and two sets of twelve in a day of twenty-four hours.

10 - Also represents completeness.

4, 7, and 12 - Also figuratively convey the notion of God's ordering of the world and His sovereignty over it.

The numbers point to the reality that God's will guides every event.

Observations on Numbers

By George Battey

7 - Symbolic of perfection, completeness, Deity

7 Spirits of God (The Holy Spirit)

7 Eyes (all seeing)

7 Horns (all powerful)

6 - Symbolic of man, not Deity

Compare the number of the Beast (666)

To Nebuchadnezzar's image (60 cubits by 6 cubits) (Daniel 3:1)

42 months - Refers to the 42 encampments in the wilderness (Numbers 33:3-49)

The forty-two encampments refer to the entire journey from bondage in Egypt to the promised land of Canaan. This journey symbolizes the Church's journey from bondage in sin to salvation in the promised land of Heaven. The journey in the wilderness, referred to as "Forty-two months" represents the entire time period from the Cross to the Second Coming of Christ. This time period is referred to by several symbolic references to time in the book of Revelation:

Forty-two months, 1,260 days, Three and a half years, A time, times, and half a time, 1,000 years, A short time

Some Symbols in Revelation (Generic Meanings):

In the following chart, you will find concepts and uses associated with these common symbolic elements. These descriptions should not be considered the final word on these symbols as **specifically** used in Revelation. You will need to determine what meaning fits best in the context of the passage where they are used. Don't attempt to assign more meaning than fits the passage. If something doesn't fit, perhaps it was not intended to be understood from the passage. Use of this chart (as well as the "Points of Contact" Cross-Reference) should be guided by good interpretive methods, especially Ron Courter's advice on symbolism.

Symbols in the Study of Revelation [excerpt from Don McCord's commentary on Revelation] (author unknown)	
<p>Abyss: Lower depths of obscurity or oblivion; outside of mortal environs; a place or condition of restraint and abeyance. Revelation 9:1-2, Revelation 20:1-2</p>	<p>Islands: Smaller provinces of political government; isles of the sea. Revelation 6:14, Revelation 16:20</p>
<p>Angel: A messenger; one sent on a divine mission. Revelation 1:1, Revelation 22:16</p>	<p>Jerusalem: Embodiment of the "Old Covenant," its people, laws, ceremonies, and worship, etc. "New Jerusalem": Primarily, New Covenant, Christianity, the church, new worship, the Gospel system. Revelation 17:18, Revelation 21:2, Matthew 23:27</p>
<p>Babylon: Civil or ecclesiastical powers that hold God's people as captives or punish or destroy them; also "Confusion". Revelation 18:4, Revelation 17:5</p>	<p>Keys: Symbol of authority to unlock, open something; admit entrance into or release from, as captives. Revelation 1:18, Revelation 3:7, Matthew 16:19 - [Matthew 18:18]</p>
<p>Balances: Symbolizes food scarcity - famine; rations issued by measure. Revelation 6:6, Amos 8:5</p>	<p>King: Supreme ruler; sometimes stands for kingdom. Revelation 19:16, Revelation 9:11, Revelation 17:10</p>
<p>Black: Trouble, sorrow, mourning, etc. Revelation 6:6 Spiritual and intellectual light withdrawn. Revelation 6:12</p>	<p>Lamb: Symbol of sacrifice - Christ. Revelation 5:6, Revelation 14:1, John 1:36</p>
<p>Blood: Symbolizes the carnage of literal wars. Revelation 6:12, Revelation 8:8</p>	<p>Lion: Strong, kingly power; a conqueror - Christ. Revelation 5:5, Revelation 13:2</p>
<p>Beast: Vicious civil and/or ecclesiastical power; savage, tyrannical. Revelation 11:7, Revelation 13:1, Revelation 13:11, Revelation 17:3, Revelation 17:8</p>	<p>Locusts: Devouring pests, marauders and robbers, following in the wake of armies. Revelation 9:3, Revelation 9:7, Isaiah 33:4</p>
<p>Book: A divine record; a written document. Revelation 5:1, Revelation 10:2</p>	<p>Moon: Reflected light, or reflector of light - primarily the Jewish theocracy. Revelation 6:12, Revelation 8:12, Revelation 12:1</p>

<p>Bound: Power restrained or curtailed; limited in activity by divinely appointed means. Revelation 20:2, 2 Timothy 2:9</p>	<p>Mountain: Great, high government; mighty political power; exalted nation or kingdom. Isaiah 2:2, Revelation 6:14, Revelation 16:20</p>
<p>Bow: Weapon of ancient warfare, symbolizes combat. Revelation 6:2, 2 Samuel 1:18</p>	<p>Pale Horse: Symbolizes death from wars; famine, pestilence, etc. Revelation 6:8</p>
<p>Bride: Symbol of the spouse of Christ. Revelation 19:7, 2 Corinthians 11:2</p>	<p>Red Horse: Signifies bloodshed; carnal wars. Revelation 6:4, Zechariah 6:7</p>
<p>Candlestick: A church - holder of spiritual light. Revelation 1:20, Philippians 2:16</p>	<p>Reed: (Measuring rule) God's word; that which prescribes worship and conduct; measures God's temple - church. Revelation 11:1, Revelation 21:15</p>
<p>Chain: Symbol of bondage; something that proscribes, holds, hinders. Revelation 20:1, Acts 26:29, Acts 28:20</p>	<p>River: Overflowing or flooding, as rushing waters. Revelation 12:15 River of Life: Source of eternal life. Revelation 22:1, Revelation 22:17</p>
<p>City: An institution or a system, incorporating a people and their religious and/or civil government. Revelation 18:21, Revelation 21:10</p>	<p>Rod: Symbol of rule, guide, and direction of people. Revelation 2:27, Revelation 12:5, Revelation 19:15</p>
<p>Clouds: Indicates exaltation, majesty, and glory. Revelation 1:7, Acts 1:9, Daniel 7:13</p>	<p>Scarlet: Symbolizes riches gained by wars; red from shedding blood. Revelation 17:3-4, Revelation 18:16</p>
<p>Crown: (1) Diadem denotes kingly authority. (2) Crown [stephanos]: Symbolizes a victor. Revelation 13:1, Revelation 19:12, Revelation 3:11, Revelation 14:14</p>	<p>Sealed: (Book): Closed to the understanding; veiled; meaning mysterious or unknown. Revelation 5:1 (Servants): Means marked; given assurance. Revelation 7:3</p>
<p>Day: Symbolically, a year (Ezekiel 4:6); time of an important event. 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 2 Peter 3:10, Acts 2:20 *Seldom used figuratively.</p>	<p>Seven: Complete cycle; perfect number - number of completeness. Revelation 1:4, Revelation 3:1, Revelation 12:3 *Not always symbolic</p>
<p>Death: Decay; separation or dissolution. Second death, eternal separation. Revelation 6:8, Revelation 20:13</p>	<p>Stars: High lights, politically or religiously; notable persons. Revelation 1:20, Revelation 6:13, Revelation 12:4</p>
<p>Dragon: Satan - the devil, power that motivates ungodly and anti-Christian activities in men and nations. Revelation 12:9, Revelation 13:2</p>	<p>Sun: Source of spiritual and intellectual light; highest ruler of a realm, civil or ecclesiastic. Revelation 6:12, Revelation 16:8</p>
<p>Earth: All the land of Israel; sometimes the political aspect or worldly element and influences, as opposed to the religious realm. Revelation 6:4, Revelation 7:1, Revelation 12:12, Revelation 21:1, Jeremiah 4:23, Jeremiah 4:27</p>	<p>Sword: (In hand): Carnal war. Out of "mouth": The Word of God, "Sword of the spirit". Revelation 6:4, Revelation 19:15, Ephesians 6:17</p>

<p>Earthquake: Political, social, and religious upheaval; convulsion in society and government. Revelation 6:12, Revelation 16:18</p>	<p>Temple: Symbolizes place where God meets or abides with His people. In the New Testament, Christ's church and kingdom. Revelation 11:1, Revelation 21:10, Revelation 21:22</p>
<p>False Prophet: Embodiment of lying prophets, especially of Judaism; mouthpieces of the anti-Christ. Revelation 16:13, Revelation 19:20</p>	<p>Thousand Years: An indefinite period, a dispensation of time. Revelation 20:2-7</p>
<p>Fire: Symbolizes both a refining and a destroying force; also, God's word. Revelation 3:18, Revelation 20:9, Jeremiah 23:29</p>	<p>Throne: Signifies kingly authority; seat of imperial rule. Revelation 13:2, Revelation 16:10</p>
<p>Forehead: The mind, seat of intellect and will. Revelation 13:16</p>	<p>Time: A year. Times: Two years. Half a Time: Half a year. Revelation 12:14, Daniel 7:25</p>
<p>Fornication: Spiritual adultery; religious intercourse with foreigners or false systems of religion. Revelation 17:2, Hosea 4:14-15</p>	<p>Trumpet: Signifies a battle call; an important event announced, either literal or figurative (spiritual). Revelation 8:6, Revelation 10:7</p>
<p>Hand: Mark on forehead, mental vow, or promise; on hand, confirmation by practice of what was purposed in heart. Revelation 13:16, Revelation 20:4</p>	<p>White: Symbol of purity and righteousness; white horse, righteous warfare or conquest. Revelation 6:2, Revelation 19:11</p>
<p>Harlot: Symbolizes an apostate religious community or nation; an idolatrous kingdom or people. Revelation 17:1, Ezekiel 23:2-9, Ezekiel 23:11-18</p>	<p>White Robes: Righteousness or righteous acts of the saints. Revelation 6:11, Revelation 19:8</p>
<p>Heaven: Spiritual realm; religious center. Revelation 12:7, Revelation 21:1</p>	<p>Winds: Political or religious commotion; unrest among peoples or nations Revelation 7:1, Daniel 7:2</p>
<p>Horns: Powers of government; sometimes the individual rulers, civil or political. Revelation 12:3, Revelation 13:11, Daniel 7:7</p>	<p>Winepress: God's grinding, crushing vengeance against the perverse and impenitent kingdom of Israel. Revelation 14:20</p>
<p>Horse: Symbol of a militant company - war; not necessarily carnal war. Revelation 6:2, Revelation 19:11</p>	<p>Witnesses: Holders, bearers, of testimony; testifiers from Jehovah - the Law and Prophets - witnesses of the then future coming of Christ, His kingdom - now past. Revelation 10:7, Revelation 11:5</p>
<p>Incense: Prayers of the saints. Revelation 5:8, Revelation 8:3</p>	<p>Woman: A mother; that which brings forth; a covenant that brought forth a king and ruler; a leader and a people who follow. Revelation 12:1, Revelation 12:5-6, Revelation 12:13, Revelation 12:17 The "Woman" in Revelation 17:3-5 is an apostate religious system or community, primarily Judaism. The Woman of Revelation 12:1 is the covenant people of God.</p>

Some Symbols in Revelation as Identified by Evangelist George Battey:

The Woman, the Man-Child, and the Dragon By George Battey		
The Woman	The Man-Child	The Dragon
<p>Who is the Woman? She is God's Covenant People. She is Spiritual Israel. Revelation 12:1, Romans 9:6, Romans 2:28-29, Romans 11:23-24, Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 54:1 - [Galatians 4:27], Ephesians 5:25.</p>	<p>Who is the Man-Child? He is Jesus Christ. Revelation 12:2-5, Psalm 2:7-9, 1 Corinthians 15:25</p>	<p>Who is the Dragon? Satan. Revelation 12:9 Why does the Dragon have seven heads? The number seven is being used symbolically. Seven is often used to represent perfection or completion. He is perfectly and completely evil. Seven Crowns: Crowns represent authority. Seven Crowns represents full authority. Ten Horns: Horns represent power. Ten represents abundance. Ten Horns represents abundant power.</p>
<p>"The Woman, the Child, and the Dragon" in Revelation 12:1-17 parallels two Old Testament accounts: David facing Goliath - Revelation 12:1-12, 1 Samuel chapter 17. (The fate of God's people rests on the shoulders of someone who seems small and weak). Pharaoh chasing Israel - Revelation 12:13-17, Exodus 19:4, Revelation 12:14, John 6:31-33, Revelation 12:6.</p>		

The Beasts of Daniel and the Beast of Revelation							
Daniel 7	→	<i>Revelation 13:1 - Seven heads, Ten Horns, Ten Crowns</i>				←	Revelation 13
		Lion (one head)	Bear (one head)	Leopard (four heads)	Beast (one head) (ten horns)		
		Babylonian Empire	Medo-Persian Empire	Grecian Empire	Roman Empire		

The Unholy Trinity, Identity of the Antichrist, and Mark of the Beast		
The Holy Trinity	The Unholy Trinity (Identity Thieves) 2 Corinthians 11:13-14 Revelation 12:3-13:18, [Note: Revelation 12:12], and Revelation 16:13	Mark of the Beast (666) Revelation 13:11-18
The Father	The Dragon (Satan) Revelation 12:9	The Dragon (6) One (6) for each member of the Unholy trinity
A comparison of similar scenes involving The Father and the Dragon (Satan):		
Genesis 1:1	Revelation 13:1	
The Son of God	The Beast from the Sea (Antichrist) (Gog) Looks like the Dragon Revelation 13:1-10 (Compare Revelation 12:9, Revelation 13:1, and Revelation 20:8) References to "antichrist": 1 John 2:18, 1 John 2:22, 1 John 4:3, 2 John 1:7 The Antichrist is simply anyone who opposes Christ and His people	The Antichrist (6) One (6) for each member of the Unholy trinity
Similarities between the Son of God and the Beast from the Sea (Antichrist):		
Revelation 5:6 Revelation 19:11-12 Revelation 19:16 Isaiah 9:6	Revelation 13:1	
Matthew 28:18	Revelation 13:2	
Genesis 3:15 John 12:32	Revelation 13:3	
Exodus 15:11	Revelation 13:4	
Revelation 14:1	Revelation 13:16	
The Holy Spirit John 15:26, John 16:14, Hebrews 2:4	The Beast from the Earth (The False Prophet) (Magog) Sounds like the Dragon Revelation 13:11-18 (Compare Revelation 16:13 and Revelation 20:8) The False Prophet is corrupted Civil Government Any government that attempts to interfere with God's people	
Similarities between the Holy Spirit and the Beast from the Earth (The False Prophet):		What the Mark means: Deuteronomy 13:1-3
Daniel 7:2-7 John 15:26 John 16:14	Revelation 13:12	John 15:26 John 16:14 Hebrews 2:4 Deuteronomy 6:6-8
Deuteronomy 13:1-3 Hebrews 2:4	Revelation 13:13	Revelation 13:11-18
Matthew 7:20		

For additional information on key figures and scenes in Revelation, remember George Battey's sermons on:

The Music of Revelation

Why Symbolism in Revelation

The Mighty Angel with the Little Book

Measuring the Temple

The Two Witnesses

The Woman, the Child, and the Dragon

The War in Heaven

The Antichrist

The Mark of the Beast

The Millennial Reign

Also refer to George's Revelation Study Recap.

Also available is an eleven-part sermon series on The Book of Revelation by brother Ron Courter with accompanying handouts as well as his sermon from the 2004 Preachers Study on The Book of Revelation.

To find the sermons search "TheChristianRepository" on YouTube or visit www.TheChristianRepository.com. The website has video and audio only options for your convenience.