

Rock-Skipping Through Revelation **Special Numbers in Revelation**



Orlando Bible Students Special Study – Sunday April 25, 2021

We encourage everyone to prepare in advance. Doing so will help each of us get more out of the study and its lessons. “Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein.”—Revelation 1:3

Note: We will spend the majority of our study time on questions 3 and 4 below.

1. In the Bible, numbers are used to specify quantity or measurement of some kind. These may relate to individual beings, groups, conditions, objects, places, time, distance, or some other matter. In a general way, how do numbers, especially those found in Revelation, help frame certain aspects of God’s plan?
Psalm 147: 4; Isaiah 40:26; Matthew 10:30; Luke 21:18

2. Last month we considered the fact that Revelation contains much in the way of symbolic language. Generally speaking, however, the numbers related to those symbols seem to be literal. For example, Revelation 1:4 refers to the “seven churches which are in Asia.” We believe “churches” is a symbolic reference representing periods during the Gospel Age. However, “seven” we believe is literal. That is, it doesn’t mean six or eight, but seven. Why is it important to make the distinction between “literal numbers” and the “symbolic” things to which they refer? *II Timothy 2:15 (“rightly dividing,” look at other translations, such as ISV, NASB, NLT, and RVIC)*

3. The number Seven appears 54 times in the Book of Revelation, far more than any other number.
 - a. Why is the number Seven so prominent?

 - b. Select 1 or 2 “Seven” references in Revelation and be prepared to provide a brief comment on its usage in the verse you’ve selected.

4. Below are listed specific numbers referred to in Revelation. We have left out “Seven” since it is considered in the previous question. Please select 1 or 2 from the list below which are of particular interest to you, and be prepared to offer a brief comment on them. In your comment, provide at least one citation in Revelation where the number is used. Note: some numbers below may be referred to by other notations. For example, 24 is stated as “four and twenty” in Revelation.

Specific numbers found in the Book of Revelation, excluding 7:

1; 2; 3; 3½; 4; 5; 6; 10; 12; 24; 42; 144; 666; 1,000; 1,260; 1,600; 7,000; 12,000; 144,000; two hundred thousand thousand; ten thousand times ten thousand.