

# **SEVEN SIMPLE KEYS**

## **MAKING THE BOOK OF REVELATION EASY TO UNDERSTAND - COREY STARK**

---

### INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF REVELATION

A. Clearly two of the most controversial books in the Bible are the Song of Solomon and the book of Revelation. Why? Both books *reveal the glory of Jesus* (Song 5:10-16; Rev. 1:10-18), as the means to *transform* the Church into her bridal identity and *prepare* her for mature partnership.

B. In the final chapter of both the Song and Revelation we see the Church emerge as a mature Bride in identity, who functions as a House of Prayer in partnership with Her Bridegroom (Song 8:14; Rev. 22:17).

***Rev. 22:17 The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!"***

***Song 8:14 Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.***

C. A common misconception is that the book of Revelation is impossible to understand. This is simply a deception from the evil one to keep the Church from receiving greater insight into the *person* of Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:1) and His *end-time plan* (2 Cor. 4:3; 11:3). Satan reasons that if the Church doesn't know the true Jesus of the Bible, then we can never *mature* to become like Him (2 Cor. 3:18). Likewise, if we don't know His end-time plans, we can never *partner* with Him to release those plans through prayer (Mt. 16:18-19), thus bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to the earth in the restoration of all things (Mt. 6:10; Acts 3:21)!

D. Therefore, we shouldn't be surprised that a great battle rages around the book of Revelation to *dismiss* it as invalid, *confuse* it with various interpretations or cause the Church to *fear* its contents, imagining that the events in the book happen *to* them, instead of being released against the kingdom of darkness *through* them!

E. The LORD desires this particular book to be understood so much that it is the *only book* in the Bible that promises a special blessing to all who read, hear and respond to its contents in faith.

***Rev. 1:3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep [respond to] those things which are written in it; for the time is near. (Rev. 22:7)***

F. Likewise, the book of Revelation is so dear to the LORD and vital to the maturity of the Church that in the final chapter of the book of Revelation, Jesus clearly warns all those who hear it's contents to never alter the simplicity or significance of it. If they do, He promises that God will remove His blessings from them and release His judgments upon them (Rev. 22:18-19).

***Rev. 22:18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;<sup>19</sup> and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.***

G. Don't naively accept others views without thinking for yourself. We must "come to Jesus" (Jn. 5:39-40), while being like the Bereans who consistently *searched the Scriptures* (Pr. 25:2) with a *teachable spirit* (Mt. 5:3) and *asked questions* (Ps. 27:4; Acts 17:10-11). *Truth is never hurt by scrutiny, rather it is confirmed.* Therefore, be *eager* to learn new things, but *refuse* any ideas you cannot clearly see in Scripture yourself.

***Acts 17:11 These [Bereans] were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.***

# SEVEN SIMPLE KEYS

## MAKING THE BOOK OF REVELATION EASY TO UNDERSTAND - COREY STARK

---

### KEY I. THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS ALL ABOUT UNVEILING THE GLORY OF JESUS CHRIST!

A. The book of Revelation is the *most comprehensive* description of who Jesus is found anywhere in Scripture. The title of the book is, “*the Revelation of Jesus Christ*” (Rev. 1:1), because its *primary purpose* is to unveil the infinite beauty and transcendent majesty of Jesus to *transform* the Church into a *mature* Bride (Eph. 4:13-16; 5:27; Rev. 19:7). We are progressively transformed by what we behold (2 Cor. 3:18).

***Rev. 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God [Father] gave Him [Jesus] to show His servants...***

***Rev. 19:7 Rejoice... for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.***

B. Revelation also gives more insight and specific information on the end-times, including the brilliance of God’s unfolding battle-plan to *prepare* the Church to transition the earth in mature *partnership* with her Bridegroom (Jer. 23:20; 30:24). As we grow in the knowledge of the Person of God and His plans, we are strengthened, encouraged and prepared to *not only* endure, but to prevail *because of* the unique dynamics and unprecedented events of the end-times in great victory. Noah was saved *by* the judgment (1 Pet. 3:20)!

C. The word “revelation” literally means “to unveil,” and occurs when the Holy Spirit takes the unsearchable things of God—previously hidden from man’s understanding—and reveals them to us by His grace (Jn. 14-16; 2 Cor. 2:9-11). Therefore, the book of Revelation could literally be called “The unveiling of the beauty and glory of Jesus Christ,” because it gives us unprecedented insight into the perfection of His *heart* (how He feels), His *mind* (how He thinks) and His *leadership* (how He acts) in preparing the nations for the glory of God (Hab. 2:14; Num. 14:21; Ps. 72:19; Isa. 11:9). The book of Revelation reveals the *glory of a Man*, the *wisdom of His plan* and the *power of His hand*!

***Eph. 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,<sup>18</sup> the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,<sup>19</sup> and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe . . .***

D. In Rev. 1, Jesus highlights 52 *distinct aspects* of His eternal majesty, strategically given in 14 *titles*, 10 *attributes* (inherent qualities) and 28 *descriptions* that were meant to *transform* John (2 Cor. 3:18), giving him perspective to interpret, pray and prophesy the following events (Rev. 10:10-11). These words are not random truths, but very strategically reveal the glory of who Jesus is. They equip our hearts to *respond to Him* in very specific ways. If we respond correctly to Jesus according to the truths given throughout the book of Revelation, we can be confident that we are prepared for what lies just ahead of us in the end-times!

***Rev. 1:10 I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,<sup>11</sup> saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last . . .”<sup>12</sup> And having turned I saw . . .<sup>13</sup> One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.<sup>14</sup> His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;<sup>15</sup> His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;<sup>16</sup> He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.<sup>17</sup> And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.<sup>18</sup> I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”***

# SEVEN SIMPLE KEYS

## MAKING THE BOOK OF REVELATION EASY TO UNDERSTAND - COREY STARK

---

E. The Church will partner with Jesus, having a *vibrant spirit* (Dan. 11:32; Jn. 7:38; Eph. 3:16-19), being *victorious over darkness* and having *authority in intercession* only to the degree that we understand the revelation of Jesus Christ, who is fully God and fully Man (Dan. 7:13-14; Mt. 16:13-19; Rev. 1:13; 14:14).

**Mt. 16:13** “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”<sup>14</sup> So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”<sup>15</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ [humanity], the Son of the living God [divinity].”<sup>18</sup> And... on this rock [of truth] I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.<sup>19</sup> And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

**Jn. 7:38** He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.

F. Someone might say, “I’m not really into the book of Revelation or the end-times scriptures.” If understood correctly, the end-times are really *all about Jesus!* Just as the four gospel accounts (totaling 89 chapters) give us a record of Jesus’ beauty, power and leadership at *His first coming*, so the end-time scriptures (over 150 chapters) describe Jesus’ beauty, power and leadership at *His second coming* to fulfill what He began over 2000 years ago. The book of Revelation describes the final, unfolding gospel storyline in which the Kingdom of God collides with the kingdom of darkness, and God delivers His people, along with the planet from the power of Satan—forever! The four gospels AND the end-time scriptures both reveal the *same Jesus*, operating in the *same power* of the *same Holy Spirit*, using the *same wisdom*, under the *same authority* of the *same Father*, recorded in the *same Bible*. The book of Revelation is all about unveiling the beauty and glory of Jesus Christ!

**Heb. 13:8** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Ps. 102:27; Mal. 3:6; Heb. 1:12)

### KEY II. REVELATION WAS SIMPLY WRITTEN TO BE EASILY UNDERSTOOD BY EVERYONE

A. All Scripture was given to mankind by God so that everyone may *know* Him, *believe* that Jesus is the Christ and *respond* to Him in loving faith and obedience, thus receiving eternal life (Jn. 12:48; 17:3; 20:31; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Pet. 1:19-21; 1 Jn. 2:25; 5:11, 20). This includes the book of Revelation (Rev. 1:3; 22:7).

**2 Tim. 3:16** All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**Jn. 20:31** These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. (Jn. 17:3)

B. Since the majority of people throughout history have been poor and uneducated, the Bible was written in common, everyday language with them in mind. In other words, God intended and directed the Scriptures to be written in such a way that it transcends age, gender, socio-economic status, culture and generation. This way, everyone from least to greatest can understand it clearly and respond to it in genuine faith (Mk. 12:37; 2 Pet. 1:20-21). We know that Scripture assumes its message is clear and straightforward because everyone is universally held responsible to respond to its content in faith or suffer the consequences of its rejection (Lk. 16:27-31; Jn. 3:36; 2 Thes. 1:6-10). This includes Revelation (Rev. 1:3; 21:5-8, 27; 22:7, 15).

# SEVEN SIMPLE KEYS

## MAKING THE BOOK OF REVELATION EASY TO UNDERSTAND - COREY STARK

---

**Rev. 21:5 Then He who sat on the throne said . . . “Write, for these words [Revelation] are true and faithful.” . . . <sup>7</sup>He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. <sup>8</sup>But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”**

C. A common misconception is that the book of Revelation is impossible to understand unless you’re an elite scholar who has been well educated in the original languages. This is simply a deception from the evil one to keep the Church from receiving greater insight into the person of Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:1) and His end-time plan (2 Cor. 4:3; 11:3). Satan reasons that if the Church doesn’t know the true Jesus of the Bible, then we can never *be saved* (Jn. 17:3) and *mature* to become like Him (2 Cor. 3:18). Likewise, if we don’t know His end-time plans, we can never *partner* with Him to release those plans through prayer (Mt. 16:18-19), and bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth in the restoration of all things (Mt. 6:10; Acts 3:21)!

**2 Cor. 4:3 If our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup>whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.**

D. I believe that *anyone* can learn the main storyline of the book of Revelation in less than *one hour* and be able to explain it to someone else in less than *one day* if they want to! Of course, we will continue to gain greater insight into the book of Revelation forever, but we don’t have to wait until the age-to-come to begin growing in the knowledge of God. The LORD desires this particular book to be understood so much that it is the *only book* in the Bible that promises a special blessing for all who read, hear and respond to it in faith.

**Rev. 1:3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep [respond to] those things which are written in it; for the time is near. (Rev. 22:7)**

E. The LORD promised that in the decades leading up to His return, the saints will understand the end-time plan of God “perfectly” or in a mature way (Jer. 23:20; 30:24). An angel told Daniel, that although none of the wicked would understand God’s plans, the wise would not only *understand* them and *partner* with the LORD to release them, but they would *instruct many* about His plan’s as well (Dan. 11:32-33; 12:10).

**Jer. 23:19 For who has stood in the counsel of the Lord, and has perceived and heard His word? <sup>20</sup>The anger of the Lord will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart [His plans]. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly [in a mature way]. (Jer 30:24)**

**Dan 11:32 the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. <sup>33</sup>And those of the people who understand shall instruct many... (Dan. 12:9-10)**

F. In the final chapter of the book of Revelation, Jesus clearly warns all those who hear the contents of the book to never alter the simplicity or significance of it. If they do, He promises that God will remove His blessings from them and release His judgments upon them (Rev. 22:18-19).

**Rev. 22:18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; <sup>19</sup>and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.**

# **SEVEN SIMPLE KEYS**

## **MAKING THE BOOK OF REVELATION EASY TO UNDERSTAND - COREY STARK**

---

### KEY III. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR TEACHER IN UNDERSTANDING THE BOOK OF REVELATION!

A. Many begin confused and end up frustrated when trying to learn the book of Revelation for themselves. Surprisingly, we were never meant to learn the Bible that way. In fact, we can actually learn nothing about God by ourselves, but we all need the LORD's help. That's right, *it takes God to know God*. The Bible is explicitly clear on the point that *without* Him, we can do absolutely *nothing* (Jn. 15:5)!

***Jn. 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.***

B. The very fact that you desire to know more about God is certain evidence of His divine influence upon your heart. The truth is that without His inspiration, we would *never* desire to seek Him in the first place, since our carnal mind is literally at war with Him continually (Rom. 8:7). However, you can be certain that if God gives you the *desire* to seek Him, the same God will give you the *power* to follow through on that desire (Phil. 2:13). In His good pleasure, the LORD wants you to know Him—even more than you want to know Him yourself. We aren't convincing Him to do anything; rather He is convincing us He wants to!

***Phil. 2:13 It is God who works in you both to will [inspire] and to do [empower] for His good pleasure.***

C. For this reason, Jesus said that when He ascended back to heaven, He would send His people the Helper who would be our teacher forever. Say 'hello' to the Holy Spirit who was sent to teach us all things, remind us of everything that Jesus said, testify about Jesus (what He thinks, feels, does), guide us into all truth, tell us things to come and glorify Jesus (Jn. 14:16, 19-21, 26; 15:26; 16:12-15; 1 Cor. 2:9-12; 1 Jn. 2:20, 27).

***Jn. 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.***

***Jn. 15:26 But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.***

***Jn. 16:13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth . . . and He will tell you things to come.<sup>14</sup> He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you."***

D. Immediately following Jesus' invitation to ascend into heaven, John was escorted by the Spirit.

***Rev. 4:1 Behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."<sup>2</sup> Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.***

E. The Spirit, like a divine "search engine," is our escort into the deep things of God's heart. I've heard it said, "I wish I could see what the angels see." In reality, we've been given divine eyes that see far beyond!

***1 Cor. 2:9 "eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."<sup>10</sup> But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God...<sup>12</sup> Now we have received... the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.***

# SEVEN SIMPLE KEYS

## MAKING THE BOOK OF REVELATION EASY TO UNDERSTAND - COREY STARK

---

F. This is great news because it means that as long as we are hungry, humble and willing to learn, the Holy Spirit will teach us everything in a way that we can easily understand. This includes the book of Revelation.

***1 Jn. 2:27 The anointing [Holy Spirit] which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but... the same anointing teaches you concerning all things . . .***

G. God promised that *everyone* who asks receives, he who seeks finds, and to him that knocks the door would be opened (Lk. 11:9-13). Therefore, our confidence in learning the book of Revelation rests upon the Holy Spirit's abilities as a great teacher and not because we are such great learners.

***Lk. 11:9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. <sup>11</sup>If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup>Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit [and His help] to those who ask Him!"***

H. Jesus corrected the "spiritual" of His day for seeking eternal life through a purely academic study of the Word apart from cultivating a present-tense relationship with Him by "coming to Him" (Jn. 5:39-40). We do this by consistently searching the Scriptures with a teachable spirit (Pr. 25:2), while asking Him questions about what He thinks, feels and does by the power of the Holy Spirit. As we receive greater insight into the Revelation of Jesus Christ for ourselves, we benefit from the eternal life that flows from Him as we learn!

***Jn. 5:39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.***

I. On the road to Emmaus, Jesus opened up the understanding of two disciples that they might comprehend *all of the Scriptures*. Later, He did the same for the other disciples as well (Lk. 24:27, 32, 44-45).

***Lk. 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in ALL the Scriptures the things concerning Himself... 32 They said... "Did not our heart burn within us... while He opened the Scriptures to us?" 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.***

J. David asked God to "open his eyes" to His Word (Ps. 119:18). Paul prayed for a spirit of revelation (Eph. 1:17-19). Jesus exhorted the Laodicean church to *anoint their eyes* with eye salve to see (Rev. 3:18).

***Ps. 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.***

***Rev. 3:18 I counsel you to... anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.***

K. After studying the Scripture diligently for decades, Daniel was given "skill to understand" what is noted in the "Scripture of Truth" (Dan. 7:15-16; 8:16-17, 19; 9:1, 20-23; 10:11, 14, 21; 11:2, 32-33, 35; 12:9-10). Why would God give us more insight if we neglect the treasure that He's already spoken in the Word?

***Dan. 9:22 And he [Gabriel] informed me... and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand... 10:21 I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth.***

# **SEVEN SIMPLE KEYS**

## **MAKING THE BOOK OF REVELATION EASY TO UNDERSTAND - COREY STARK**

---

### **KEY IV. THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS MEANT TO BE UNDERSTOOD LITERALLY!**

A. Since the book of Revelation was written for the majority of those on earth to understand and not just a few scholars, it is meant to be understood using an everyday, common sense approach. We call this the “*literal*” method of scriptural interpretation (also the *historical-grammatical method*), wherein we seek to understand the plain meaning of the text that the author originally intended for his readers to have (Rev. 1:11, 19; 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14; 14:13; 19:9; 21:5). Revelation *says what it means and means what it says*.

***Rev. 1:19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.***

***Rev. 21:5 And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”***

B. In using the literal method of interpretation we do not deny other literary aspects, genre or figures of speech, such as parable, allegory, simile or metaphor. We acknowledge the use of symbols throughout the book; yet we understand that *nothing* in the book is meant to be taken symbolically unless the text specifically indicates it as such. An example of this would be the “*mystery*” of the seven stars (Rev. 1:20), the “*mystery*” of the seven lampstands (Rev. 1:20), the “*sign*” of the woman clothed with the sun (Rev. 12:1), the “*sign*” of the great fiery red dragon (Rev. 12:3) or the “*mystery*” of the woman and of the beast that carries her (Rev. 17:5, 7).

***Rev. 12:1 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars...<sup>3</sup> And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.***

C. Understanding that everything in the book of Revelation is to be understood literally, unless the text specifically indicates it as symbolic, makes learning the main storyline of the book so much easier. We can now simply interpret all *personalities, numbers and events* in their plain, common sense meaning, such as:

***Rev. 20:4 And they lived and reigned with Christ for 1000 years...<sup>6</sup> They shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a 1000 years.***

1. The millennial reign of Christ, which is literally one thousand years long (Rev. 20:2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)
2. The testing of the church in Smyrna for literally ten days (Rev. 2:10)
3. The sealing of one hundred and forty-four thousand Israelites, literally comprised of twelve thousand from each tribe (Rev. 7:1-8)
4. The fifth trumpet in which unbelievers are literally tormented for five months (Rev. 9:5, 10)
5. The sixth trumpet in which four literal angels are released to literally kill one-third of the human race through a literal army of two hundred million (Rev. 9:15-16, 18)
6. The war in heaven when Satan and all of his angels are literally cast down to the earth for 1260 days.
7. The Lake of Fire in which the rebellious will literally be tormented forever (Rev. 14:9-11; 20:7-15)

D. Understanding the literalness of this book can “literally” remove much of the pointless debating and endless confusion that comes from using other broad-stroke, symbolic interpretations in which even the best and brightest scholars are in hopeless disagreement. Revelation is simply meant to be understood literally!

# SEVEN SIMPLE KEYS

## MAKING THE BOOK OF REVELATION EASY TO UNDERSTAND - COREY STARK

---

### KEY V. THE MAIN SYMBOLS OF REVELATION ARE INTERPRETED WITHIN THE BOOK ITSELF!

A. Revelation is a book that contains multiple symbols. Surprising to most is the fact that there are only a few *main symbols* in Revelation that are sufficient to understand the main storyline of the book. The LORD has made it so simple that not only are these symbols *indicated* within the book, but they are *interpreted* within the book as well (Rev. 1:20; 5:6; 11:8; 12:1, 3, 9; 17:7, 9, 12, 15-18)! See the following examples.

1. In Revelation 1, Jesus tells us plainly that the *mystery* John saw of the “seven lampstands” (Rev. 1:12-13) is symbolic of the “seven churches” and that the “seven stars” in His right hand (Rev. 1:16) are symbolic of the “seven angels” of the seven churches (Rev. 1:20).

***Rev. 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars . . . and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.***

2. In Revelation 12, the *sign* of the “dragon” (Rev. 12:3) is interpreted a few verses later as the “Devil and Satan” (Rev. 12:9) and again in chapter 20 using the same language (Rev. 20:2). It also clarifies that he is the “serpent of old” that was found in the Garden, tempting Adam and Eve (Gen. 3).

***Rev. 12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan . . .***

3. In Revelation 17, which is one of the most symbolic passages in all of Scripture, the *mystery* of the “woman” (Rev. 17:1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7), the “beast” (Rev. 17:3, 7), the “seven heads” (Rev. 17:3, 7), the “ten horns” (Rev. 17:3, 7) and the “waters” where the woman sits (Rev. 17:1, 7) are *all* interpreted within the very same chapter (Rev. 17:8-18)!

***Rev. 17:7 But the angel said to me, “Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery [symbols] of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. <sup>9</sup>The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. <sup>10</sup>There are also seven kings. <sup>11</sup>The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth [king], and is of the seven, and is going to perdition. <sup>12</sup>The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. <sup>15</sup>. . . the waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. <sup>18</sup>And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”***

4. To arbitrarily or haphazardly call something symbolic when God didn’t intend it to be symbolic is not only biblically reckless, but deceptive and brings unnecessary confusion to many sincere believers.

B. Another principle related to symbols is that *the Bible interprets the Bible*. This means that if the book of Revelation indicates that something is symbolic and it doesn’t interpret that symbol in the immediate text of the book itself, you can be sure that you will find its interpretation somewhere else in the Bible. For example, the “sword” proceeding from Jesus’ mouth (Rev. 1:16; 2:12, 16; 19:15, 21) is symbolic of the “Word of God,” which is interpreted in the books of Ephesians and Hebrews (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12).

***Eph. 6:13 Take up the whole armor of God... <sup>17</sup> and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...***

***Heb. 4:12 The word of God is living and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.***



# SEVEN SIMPLE KEYS

## MAKING THE BOOK OF REVELATION EASY TO UNDERSTAND - COREY STARK

---

C. By identifying the few primary symbols, you can clearly understand the main storyline of the book of Revelation. In addition to the *few main symbols* found within the book of Revelation, there are multiple *secondary symbols* as well. The 7 main symbols are:

1. Dragon: is always symbolic of “Satan” (Rev. 12:3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17; 13:2, 4; 16:13; 20:2).
2. Beast: is symbolic of the “Antichrist,” who is called the “Beast” 36 times in the book of Revelation (Rev. 13; 14:9-11; 17:3-17; 19:19-21; 20:4, 10) and 4 times in Daniel (Dan. 7:7, 11, 19, 23).
3. Another Beast: is symbolic of the “False Prophet,” who is called “another Beast” just once (Rev. 13:11). Every other time he is identified as the False Prophet (Rev. 13:11-17; 16:13; 19:20; 20:10).
4. Seven Heads: are symbolic of the “7 historical Gentile world empires” that persecute Israel: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome and the future Antichrist empire (Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3-16). The majority of commentators agree with this interpretation, as confirmed by history and biblical text. The combined strengths of their wickedness will increase and emerge again under the Antichrist’s rule in the end-times (Rev. 13:1-2).
5. Ten Horns: are symbolic of a future “confederation” that receives governmental authority to rule with the Antichrist (Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7, 20, 24; 11:36-45; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16).
6. Harlot Babylon: is symbolic of a “global religious and economic system” that is demonically-inspired and empowered from the center of the rebuilt city of Babylon on the Euphrates River, 50 miles south of Baghdad, Iraq. This ancient city will be restored and used as a command post for the Antichrist to seduce many to sin, while persecuting Israel and the saints (Isa. 13-14; Jer. 50-51; Rev. 17-18).
7. Woman with Male-Child: is symbolic of the “faithful remnant of ethnic Israel” throughout history that “gave birth” to “Jesus, the Male-Child” who will “rule all nations with a rod of iron” (Mt. 1:1-17; Rev. 12:1-5). Satan wars with the “rest of her offspring” who are Gentile believers (Rev. 12:17).

D. Some might ask, “If Jesus meant Revelation to be simple, then why did he make things symbolic?” First, simple is *not* the opposite of symbolic. *Symbols can be simple*. A symbol that represents an object can say much more with less language than a detailed verbal or written description of it. For example, Jesus holding the “7 stars” in His right hand says much more in a symbolic way than listing each individual truth about His tenderly upholding, directing and protecting His apostolic messengers of the seven churches.

E. Jesus used symbols like parables, to hide divine truth from the proud and unbelieving, while giving deep insight to the humble and hungry. He understood that those who are sincerely seeking would always search out the truth for themselves, regardless of the personal cost, resistance or embarrassment (Mt. 13:10-13; Lk. 1:52-53; Jn. 6:68-69). Knowing this, He would often *offend the mind* for the purpose of *revealing the heart*.

**Mt. 13:34 Jesus spoke . . . in parables; and without a parable He did not speak.<sup>35</sup> . . . I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world.” (Mt. 13:10-17)**

F. God didn’t hide the meaning of the symbols *from us*, but *for us* to find (Pr. 25:2)! Searching out the interpretation of the symbols found in the book of Revelation is exhilarating—and our kingly glory!

**Pr. 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.**

# **SEVEN SIMPLE KEYS**

## **MAKING THE BOOK OF REVELATION EASY TO UNDERSTAND - COREY STARK**

---

### **KEY VI. THE MAIN THEME OF REVELATION IS NOT PERSECUTION, BUT VICTORY!**

A. Contrary to popular belief, the *main theme* of Revelation isn't Satan's persecution of the saints. Rather, it is Jesus' victory over the enemies of God when He returns on the Day of the LORD to establish His Father's Kingdom over the nations of the earth forever (Dan. 7:13-14, 18, 22, 27; Jude 14-15; Rev. 1:7; 11:15-19)!

***Rev. 11:15 The 7<sup>th</sup> angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"***

***Ps. 72:8 He shall have dominion from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth... 11 Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him...***

B. The emphasis on the Day of the LORD throughout Revelation (Rev. 6:17) refers to the unique dynamics and unusual events, both *great* and *terrible*, surrounding Jesus' victorious return (Joel 2:11, 31; Mal. 4:5).

***Joel 2:11 For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; who can endure it? (Joel 2:31; Mal. 4:5)***

C. The Day of the LORD is "*His Day*" or the "*Day that the Lord has made*" (Ps. 118). It will be a great day for the responsive who will experience the greatest revival in human history (Acts 2:17-19; Rev. 12:10). At the same time, it will be a very terrible day for the rebellious who experience twenty-one of God's most severe judgments in world history, during the 3½ years of the Great Tribulation (Mt. 24:21; Rev. 7:14).

***Rev. 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. 11 And they [saints] overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. 12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time [3½ years]."***

***Mt. 24:21 Then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world... nor ever shall be. <sup>22</sup>And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved... (Dan. 12:1)***

D. We need not fear God's judgments *happen to us as helpless victims* of Satan, but rather, are *released through us as active participants* under Jesus' leadership (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:17-19). As Jesus opens the scroll, the judgments contained within it are released on earth against the kingdom of darkness through the global unified prayers of the end-time Church (Ps. 149:6-9; 2 Chr. 20:21-22; Is. 24:14-16; 42:10-13; Jl. 2:28-32; Mt. 16:18-19; Acts 2:17-21; Rev. 5:8; 6:9-11; 8:3-5; 9:13; 10:6; 14:18; 16:7; 19:2; 22:17).

***Ps. 149:6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth... 7 To execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples... 9 To execute on them the written judgment- this honor have all His saints.***

***Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions... 30 And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. 32 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.***

# SEVEN SIMPLE KEYS

## MAKING THE BOOK OF REVELATION EASY TO UNDERSTAND - COREY STARK

---

E. The Day of the LORD has both a *narrow* and *broad* application. The “narrow day” is a literal 24 hr. day in which Jesus returns to Jerusalem in great victory (Zech. 14:1-9; Mt. 23:39). The “broad day” refers to the time when Jesus begins to manifest His power openly, culminating at the end of the Millennium when He delivers the Kingdom to God the Father with a fully restored earth (Ps. 90:4; 1 Cor. 15:24-28; 2 Pet. 3:8).

***1 Cor. 15:24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power... 28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.***

F. On His Day, Jesus will take legal dominion of the earth (Gen. 1:26-28) in partnership with the saints. His kingdom is comprehensive, everlasting and incorruptible (Dan. 7:13-14, 18, 22, 27; Rev. 11:15-19).

***Dan. 7:13 Behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. <sup>14</sup>Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed. (Rev. 1:7)***

***Zech. 14:5 The LORD will come, and all the saints... 7 It shall be one day which is known to the LORD - neither day nor night... 9 And the LORD shall be King over all the earth.***

G. Jesus will literally “make war” in order to establish everlasting peace. The conflict that began in ages past during Satan’s rebellion will physically manifest on the earth between two literal armies: the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness (Rev. 17:14; 19:11, 14-15, 19-21). Jesus will violently confront and destroy everything that stands in opposition to His Kingdom and His will (Ps. 2:1-12; Rev. 19:11-21).

***Rev. 19:11 Behold, a white horse. He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup>His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns... <sup>13</sup>He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood... <sup>14</sup>And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. <sup>15</sup>Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron... <sup>16</sup>And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. <sup>19</sup>And I saw the beast [Antichrist], the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. <sup>20</sup>Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet... <sup>21</sup>These two were cast alive into the lake of fire... <sup>21</sup>And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.***

H. The *secondary theme* of the book of Revelation is the persecution of the Jewish people and the saints by the Antichrist and his empire. However, we must keep this in clear perspective. Out of a total of 404 verses in the book of Revelation, only 12 of those verses (less than 3%) speak directly about persecution (Rev. 6:9-11; 11:7; 12:17; 13:7, 15; 16:6; 17:6; 18:24; 19:2; 20:4). The other 392 verses in the book of Revelation (over 97%) describe Jesus’ and our victory over Satan and the kingdom of darkness (Rev. 1-3; 4:9-11; 5:8-10; 7:1-17; 9:4; 11:3-6; 12:6, 10-11; 13-14, 14:1-5, 14-16; 15:2-4; 19:1-8; 20-21). Great news - we win!

***Rev. 15:2 And I saw... those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. <sup>3</sup>They sing . . . “Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!”***

# **SEVEN SIMPLE KEYS**

## **MAKING THE BOOK OF REVELATION EASY TO UNDERSTAND - COREY STARK**

---

### KEY VII. THE KEY JUDGMENT EVENTS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION ARE YET FUTURE

A. Understanding the timing in which Jesus begins to break the seals and open the scroll, releasing the twenty-one judgment events in the book of Revelation is one interpretive key to understanding the book.

***Rev. 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals... 5 Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals... 7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.***

B. The twenty-one judgment events in the book of Revelation are considered as the “*three numbered judgment series*” because they are simply *three unique sets* of God’s judgments that are *numbered sequentially* in the order they unfold 1-2-3-4-5-6-7, as seen in 7 seals (Rev. 6), 7 trumpets (Rev. 8-9) and 7 bowls of wrath (Rev. 15-16).

C. As the seals are broken and the scroll is unrolled, the judgments written in it are released upon the earth against the kingdom of darkness through the end-time prayer movement under Jesus’ leadership (Ps. 149:6-9; 2 Chr. 20:21-22; Is. 24:14-16; 42:10-13; Acts 2:17-21; Rev. 5:8; 6:9-11; 8:3-5; 9:13; 10:6; 14:18; 16:7; 19:2; 22:17). We need not fear that they *happen to us as helpless victims* of Satan, but rather, are *released through us as active participants* under Jesus’ leadership. The Church releases these in dynamic partnership with Jesus through *global unified eschatological prayers of faith* (Mt. 16:18-19; Lk. 18:7-8; Rev. 22:17).

***Lk. 18:7 And shall God not avenge [release justice for] His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily [3½ years].***

***Rev. 22:17 The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come!”***

D. As Moses “*stretched forth his rod*” to release ten of the most severe plagues of God against Pharaoh in Egypt through prayer (Ex. 7-12), so also the end-time Church, as a corporate Moses will stretch forth the “*rod of intercession*” to release twenty-one of the most severe judgments of God in human history against the end-time Pharaoh (Antichrist), during the Great Tribulation (Rev. 6-19). The “*miracles and judgments*” in the book of Exodus and the “*signs and wonders*” in the book of Acts will be *combined, multiplied* and *released in power on a global level* by the end-time Church through prayer, as seen in Revelation (Acts 2:17-19; Rev. 6-19). The miracles of Egypt will reoccur (Isa. 10:24-27; 11:11-16; Jer. 16:14-15; Mic. 7:15).

***Mic. 7:15 “As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them wonders.”***

***Isa. 10:24 Therefore thus says the Lord God of hosts: “O My people, who dwell in Zion, do not be afraid of the Assyrian [Antichrist]. He shall strike you with a rod and lift up his staff against you, in the manner of Egypt. 25 For yet a very little while and the indignation will cease, as will My anger in their destruction.” 26 And the Lord of hosts will stir up a scourge for him... as His rod was on the sea [with Moses], so will He lift it up in the manner of Egypt [against Antichrist]. 27 It shall come to pass in that day That his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, And his yoke from your neck, And the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil.***

# SEVEN SIMPLE KEYS

## MAKING THE BOOK OF REVELATION EASY TO UNDERSTAND - COREY STARK

---

E. Jesus has *not yet* opened the scroll. It wasn't opened at the time of His ascension in approximately 30 AD, but only sometime *after* His appearance and command to John to write in approximately 90 AD (Rev. 2-3).

**Rev. 4:1 After these things [7 letters in 90 AD] I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice [Jesus], which I heard, was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."**

F. All 21 events of the *three numbered judgment series* are yet *future*. They haven't literally occurred in history, although many historic events contain similar elements in part that foreshadow these ultimate future occurrences, giving us some insight into how they may unfold in the end-times.

G. The following interpretive views are *correct in part*, however the greatest application and ultimate fulfillment of these twenty-one judgment events are yet future.

1. The *Preterist view* sees much of Revelation as having been fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem and fall of Rome in 70 AD. The problem with this view is that Jesus had *not yet* revealed these to John in 70 AD, but approximately 20 years later in 90 AD *after* the destruction of Jerusalem (Mt. 24:1-2), clearly describing these events as future (Rev. 4:1).
2. The *Historicist view* interprets much of Revelation as already being fulfilled in a progressive unfolding throughout Church history.
3. The *Idealist view* does not see a unique end-time application of Revelation, but interprets it as a symbolic picture of the spiritual conflict of "good vs. evil" that has occurred throughout all history.

H. Like Moses, how can we release them except we *understand* them? Therefore a key to understanding the timing of releasing these twenty-one judgment events is the maturity of the Church. The LORD promised mature understanding of this plan in the latter days for all who desire it and search it out (Jer. 23:20; 30:24).

**Jer. 23:20 The anger of the Lord will not turn back Until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly.**

I. Jesus takes the scroll and begins to break the seals, releasing judgment *only after* the bowls of prayer are *completely full* (Rev. 5:8). In other words, the seals aren't broken until the prayer movement has matured enough to release the judgments and rule the earth with Jesus during the Millennium with the right spirit and for the right reasons – that humility and love would cover the earth as God is obeyed and adored in every nation (Lk. 9:51-56).

**Rev. 5:8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 and have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."**

# ***SEVEN SIMPLE KEYS***

***MAKING THE BOOK OF REVELATION EASY TO UNDERSTAND - COREY STARK***

---



# **SEVEN SIMPLE KEYS**

Making the Book of Revelation Easy to Understand

**7 DAY FREE COURSE!**

[www.coreystark.com](http://www.coreystark.com)