

Words, numbers and colors and their meanings in the Book of Revelation

Numbers

- **3** – Completeness (especially divine); reflects the Trinity.
- **4** – Universality / the whole created world (four corners of the earth, four winds).
- **7** – Perfection, fullness, completion (seven churches, seals, trumpets, bowls).
- **10** – Human completeness; earthly order.
- **12** – God’s people, Israel (12 tribes), the Church (12 apostles).
- **24** – Heavenly worship (24 elders = 12 tribes + 12 apostles).
- **40** – Testing, trial, preparation (echoes Israel’s 40 years in the desert).
- **1000** – Immensity, countless, fullness of time.
- **666** – Imperfection, incompleteness, ultimate evil (the “number of the beast”).

These numbers, as well as multiples, combination fractions of these numbers, occur throughout the book.

Colors

- **White** – Victory, purity, holiness (white robes of the saints, Christ on a white horse).
 - **Red** – War, violence, bloodshed (red horse of war, the dragon).
 - **Black** – Famine, death, sorrow (black horse of famine).
 - **Pale (ashen/greenish)** – Death and decay (the pale horse of Death).
 - **Gold** – Value, divinity, sacredness (heavenly city, altar, crowns).
 - **Purple & Scarlet** – Royalty, luxury, but also corruption and immorality (the harlot of Babylon).
 - **Blue/Crystal** (rare mentions) – Heaven, clarity, transcendence (sea of glass, sapphire imagery).
-

Key Words / Symbols

- **Lampstands** – The churches (Rev 1:20).
- **Stars** – Angels or messengers of the churches.
- **Seals** – God's decrees and hidden plans.
- **Trumpets** – Announcements of judgment or divine action.
- **Bowls** – Outpouring of God's wrath or justice.
- **Beast** – Oppressive worldly power opposed to God.
- **Dragon** – Satan, the power of evil.
- **Lion/Lamb** – Christ: strength as Lion, sacrifice as Lamb.
- **Throne** – God's sovereignty and rule.
- **Sea** – Chaos, danger, evil forces.
- **Woman clothed with the sun** – God's people (Israel, Mary, the Church).
- **Babylon** – Symbol of corrupt earthly empire (Rome in context, but also worldly powers opposed to God).
- **New Jerusalem** – God's final victory, the dwelling of God with humanity.