

The Sign Language of the Savior

Chapter 16 New Testament Audio Lesson #88



Objective: To understand the importance of the signs and symbols in the Revelation



To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

—Revelation 1:5b-6

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

—Isaiah 11:1-2

When studying the Revelation, we need keys to help us unlock the mysteries inside. The Holy Spirit is the master key Who reveals to us the things to come.

The second key to this book is its symbols, because they are all used elsewhere in the Bible. One set of symbols is the seven spirits of God. Seven is the number of perfection or completeness, so these spirits are thought to be a composite or a complete and perfect expression of God. Isaiah 11:1-2 lists them. This passage refers to the Messiah to come, Jesus, who would be the complete expression of God. Similarly, Revelation 4 says that the seven lamps before the throne are the seven spirits of God.

The Lamb that looks like it has been slain has seven horns, which represent power, and seven eyes, which represent wisdom. This Lamb, Jesus, is the composite expression of the Spirit of God, with perfect wisdom and complete power. Jesus Christ is the only one who is always Spirit-filled.

Another symbol in the book of Revelation is the voice like a trumpet, which reminds us of the trumpet blast that will sound all over the world before the Rapture. The sea of glass refers to the laver used in the tabernacle for cleansing. The sea is solidified, meaning that because Jesus' blood cleansed us, in heaven we will not need to be cleansed again.

John sees a book perfectly sealed with seven seals, but no one is qualified to open it. This refers to the book of Ruth, which tells that the woman's debts were sealed up until after the kinsman-redeemer agreed to pay them by buying her back or redeeming her. In the Revelation, no one is willing or able to break the seal and pay the debt, so John weeps. Then the Lion of Judah, Jesus, steps up and breaks the seal. He paid our debt by His death.



1. True or False: When we break the code in the Revelation, we will know exactly what will happen when.
2. True or False: Jesus often calls Himself the Alpha and Omega, which are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.
3. True or False: The Revelation should come right after Genesis, because they are both revelations from God.
4. True or False: It is possible to always be Spirit-filled.

Choose all answers that apply.

5. How can we understand the symbols in the Revelation?
 - a. Find where they occur elsewhere in Scripture and study them.
 - b. Use our imaginations.
 - c. Ask for help from the Holy Spirit.
 - d. Just accept what others think they mean.
6. In the Revelation, why is Jesus the complete expression of God?
 - a. He has the voice of a mighty trumpet.
 - b. We do not know either of them well enough to know.
 - c. He perfectly displayed the seven spirits of God.
 - d. His physical qualities echoed those of God in heaven.

7. Which of these spirits are among the seven spirits of God?
- Counsel
 - Love
 - Forgiveness
 - Knowledge
8. The Lamb who looked like it had been slain had seven horns and seven eyes. Which of the seven spirits might they represent?
- Protection and vision
 - Stubbornness and foresight
 - Power and wisdom
 - Weapons and knowledge
9. What is a Spirit-filled person?
- Someone who speaks in tongues
 - Someone who demonstrates the seven spirits of God
 - Someone who acts very spiritual
 - Everyone who says he is a Christian
10. In this study, what might the trumpet signify?
- A call to worship
 - The Rapture
 - The voice of God
 - The wrath of God
11. What might the sea of glass represent?
- The beauty of heaven
 - The reminder that we do not need spiritual cleansing in heaven
 - The living water
 - The Sea of Galilee
12. Why does John weep at first over the book with seven seals?
- He wants to see what is inside but the angel will not let him.
 - No one could pay the debt owed to God because of man's sin.
 - He tries to open it but cannot.
 - It is incredibly beautiful.



Who is found worthy to open the book of the seven seals? Why?

The 24 elders who surround the throne of God are worthy to be near the throne. They have their own thrones, wear white robes and crowns, and hold harps and bowls of incense. They seem to hold a position of honor. Does your life honor God? What can you do today, this week, to honor Him?



Thank God for this vision of His glory in heaven. Thank Him that His Word is filled with symbols that tie the Old and New Testaments together and fill Bible study with mystery and discovery. Ask God for a passion to study and to know His Word. Pray that His Holy Spirit will reveal what He wants you to know about this book and how to apply it to your life. Pray for humility as you study it and share it with others.

NOTES



Going Deeper

1. How do you personally apply and teach others the way the symbols of the opening verses of chapter 4 describe God directing all of the worship taking place in heaven away from Himself and to His Son? _____

2. How does the reference to the carnelian, jasper and emerald jewels factor into that question? _____

3. In what ways do these seven lamp stands represent the seven spirits of God moving out into the world? _____

4. How can you personally apply and teach others a detailed account of the way the seven spirits of God applied to Jesus when He was here and to the risen, living Christ as He desires to live His life through us today? _____

5. What do the harps, crowns of gold, white robes and vials filled with incense tell us about the Elders around the throne who represent the leadership of the people of God? _____

6. What does the crystal sea of glass say about the state of our forgiveness on earth and in heaven? _____

7. In what ways do the four living creatures present an overview of the work of God in this world? _____
