

SYMBOLISM IN REVELATION

Numbers

- 3 Trinity
- 3 1/2 half of 7), a definitely limited period of time
- 4 indicates the created world
- 6 means imperfection (i.e. wanting to be like 7 - God's number - but not able to)
- 666 is an intensification of 6 equaling the worst evil there can be
- 7 means the works of God alone can do, and either does or has done
- 10 stands for all of
- 1,000 means really, absolutely all of
- 12 is used for the people of God - 12 tribes in Old Testament, 12 apostles in New Testament
- addition of two numbers tells you to combine the interpretation of each number
- squaring or cubing a number intensifies its meaning (if 10 means all of then 1000 means really absolutely all of)

Colors

- Black is famine or starvation
- Pale gray is death
- White is victory

Objects

- Book or scroll refers to the heavenly record
- bowls carry things from heaven to earth or vice versa
- dragon is the devil
- eye symbolizes knowledge
- harlot or fornicators - people who should be faithful but aren't (i.e. false prophets)
- horns represent power such as an animal's horn or horns
- incense is prayer
- jewels represent glory
- lamp stands are churches
- land represents organized non-Christian religions
- flowing water represents life and truth
- sea represents evil human government
- seals designate something as private property
- trumpets announce an event

Creatures

- If description of creature is other worldly - no example in nature than it is referring to supernatural - demonic realm. (See Rev 9:7)
- If creatures have characteristics as seen in nature today, they are natural forces and powers like government. (see Rev 13)