

Symbolism within the Book of Revelation

NUMBERS:

1	Primacy of God (1:17,2:8, 22:13)
2	Two witnesses needing to judge a crime (Rev 11:3; 2 Cor 13:1)
4.	Cosmos, creation, creatures, four animals, four winds, four corners (Rev 4:6,7:1-9,9:14, 20:8)
6.	Imperfection (Rev 13:18)
7.	Completeness, covenant (Rev 1:4, 1:12, 2:1 3:1, 4:5, 5:1, 8:2)
10	Shortness, incompleteness, limitation (Rev 2:10, 9:16, 12:3, 13:1, 17:3, 17:12, 17:16)
1,000	As the product of 10x10x10, 1,000 represent a long time, but still a finite time, (Rev 5:11,9:16, 11:13,20:2-3)
12	Continuity with the twelve tribes of Israel (for example, the twelve apostles as representing the New Israel (Rev 7:5-8, 12:1, 21:12, 21:14, 21:16, 21:21, 22:2)
144,000	As the product of 12x12x1000, the number 144,000 represents all of God's people in union with him (Rev 7:4, 11:2, 13:5, 14:1, 21:17)

COLORS:

Black	Death, disaster, distress (Rev 6:5, 6:12)
Red	Bloodshed, violence (Rev 6:4, 9:17, 12:3)
Green	(Literal translation is "pale") impending death (Rev 6:8)
Purple/scarlet	Immorality (Rev 17:4, 18:12, 18:16)

SYMBOLS

Babylon	Place of exile, the greatest threat to Israel and its freedom to worship (Rev 14:8)
Beasts	Foreign nations opposed to God's people (Rev 11:7, 13:11, 14:9, 14:11)
Crowns	Authority (Rev 4:4, 4:10, 6:2, 9:7)
Dragon/Serpent	Satan (Rev 12 and 13)
Eyes, full of...	All seeing, all knowing power (Rev 4:6, 4:8)
Egypt	Oppressor of God's people (Rev 11:8)
Eagle, Ox, Lion, Man	The Four mightiest creations (Rev 4:7, 8:13, 9:17)
Horns	Power (Rev 5:6, 12:3, 13:1, 13:11)
Jewels	Unique, rare, and precious (Rev 4:3, 21:11, 21:19)
Key of David	Power to open or shut God's kingdom (Rev 3:7)
Palm branches	Joy, victory (Rev 7:9)
Right hand	Power, authority (Rev 1:16-20, 5:1, 5:7)
Seals, trumpets, bowls	Liturgical images used in Revelation to call for repentance, to announce and dispense God's judgment (Rev 1:10, 4:1, Chapters 5, 6, 8, 16)
Sodom	Immorality (Rev 11:8)
Spirits	Angels (Rev 1:4, 3:1, 4:5, 5:6)
Thunder	God's voice (Rev 4:5, 6:1, 8:5, 10:3-4; 14:2)