

APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE

Self-contained Visionary Units

Current Age

Recent history of persecution is retold symbolically, giving comfort to the faithful. God knows what's going on and hasn't abandoned them

End of the Age

Day of the Lord is predicted: God triumphantly intervenes to defeat, judge, and punish the oppressors

Future Age

Following the judgement, God's faithful are vindicated and enjoy a time of peace and communion

The Self-contained Visionary Units in Revelation

Visions of Sevens

- Chapter 4-8
 - Seven seals
- Chapter 8-11
 - Seven trumpets
- Chapter 15-19
 - Seven plagues from the seven bowls of wrath

Other Visions

- Chapter 12-14
 - Woman, dragon, beasts
- Chapter 20-22
 - 1000 years, New Jerusalem, Coming of Jesus

APOCALYPTIC SYMBOLOLOGY

Numerology.

3 = Spirit world

4 = Created world

10 = Inclusiveness

12 = People of God

7 = Something completed or fulfilled

3 1/2 = Something not completed or fulfilled

- Length of time God allows evil to reign
- 3 1/2 years = 42 months = 1260 days = "a time, two times, and half a time"

Combination Examples

- 144,000 = 12x12x10x10x10 = all the people of God
- 1600 stadia = 4x4x10x10x10 = all the world

Creatures

Beasts = nations

Heads or horns = leaders

Used to retell familiar history

Acts of Nature

Earthquakes = God at work

Lightning = God at work

Thunder = God at work

Floods = God at work

Wind = God at work

Hail = God at work

Colors

White = victory

Red = war

Black = absense of something

Pale (or green/gray) = death