Unlocking the Codes

The Book of Revelation uses symbolism to share a hopeful message to persecuted people. Let’s explore some symbols you’ll encounter in the passages of this lesson and see what they mean.

Numbers:

3: Signifies greatness

4: Symbolizes universality (as in the four directions on a compass or map)

6: Stands for imperfection and failure, because it is one short of 7

7: Stands for perfection, fullness, or totality

10: Also symbolizes perfection

12: Completeness. It’s 3 times 4. Also the number of Apostles and Tribes of Israel

24: Perfection of God’s people: The 12 tribes (Old Testament) and 12 Apostles (New Testament)

666: Three sixes means extreme imperfection, complete failure, superlative evil.

1,000: Means an incalculable or eternal amount

144,000: 12 times 12 times 1,000 means limitless or complete, the new People of God

Colors:

White: victory, joy, glory

Black: suffering, death, famine

Red: war, violence, vengeance

Green: death and decay

Purple: royalty, luxury

Things:

Eye: wisdom, knowledge

Horn: strength, power

Trumpet: alarm, message

Sword: war, judgment

Crown: royalty, power, victory

Creatures:

Lion: brave, noble

Dragon: evil, Satan

Beast: Roman Empire and the false prophets

Lamb: animal of sacrifice

Horse: might, invasion, speed

What’s Your Number?

The number 666 is said to stand for Nero, emperor at the time of the first persecution of Christians. This is based on the letters in his name and the values assigned to them in other alphabets. By adding the values assigned below to the letters in your first and last name, calculate a number to represent you.

A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10, K=11, L=12, M=13, N=14, O=15, P=16,Q=17, R=18, S=19, T=20, U=21, V=22, W=23, X=24, Y=25, Z=26.

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Maddening Mad-Lib

Create a crazy story by inserting a number, color, thing or creature from the columns above onto the lines of the following paragraph. On the lines that say “your number,” use the number you came up with in the “What’s Your Number?” section on this handout.

There once was an awesome \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ named \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who rode a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*creature* *your number* *color* *creature*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on its head, and used them to defeat the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*your number* *number* *color* *things number*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ on its nose that hides in the depths of its backpack.

*color* *creature* *number* *things*