

Handout one
7 Keys to Understanding Revelation

↳ Borrowed/paraphrased from Charles Massegee

1. It is in sign language, using symbols, numbers, and names.
2. It is a book of prophecy with many flashbacks in history, using OT
3. Ask the question, is it literal or figurative? How can we know? When Christ speaks in symbols:
 - a. The meaning is obvious,
 - b. Or he tells us what the symbol means,
 - c. Or there is an OT explanation or example,
 - d. Or it should be taken literally.
4. The Book **isn't** entirely in chronological order. There are 8 explanatory chapters in the book 7/10/11:1-14/ 12/13/14/17/18
5. There are parallel chapters. Chapters 15 & 16 are a parallel repeat and completion of chapters 8&9.
 - ↳ The 7 bowls are an intensification and completion of the 7 trumpets mentioned in chps. 8&9.
 - ↳ Each time a trumpet sounds a partial judgment comes, immediately followed by a bowl of wrath that completes the judgment.
 - ↳ Chapters 12-19:15 is a rerun of the tribulation in chapters 6-11.
6. It is a book of visions, to be interpreted like a parable. In other words, look for the main point, the big picture, not the details.
7. Ask the question when reading the context, is the viewpoint from heaven or earth? Is the activity taking place on earth or in heaven?