

## LESSON 2

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### INTRODUCTION (PART 2)

#### SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

To many, the Book of Revelation is unknown territory and is viewed with the same fear and trepidation that the first map-makers had about the unexplored world. Strange creatures—plus other eerie images in the book—can make the vista of Revelation look ominous for the fearful traveler. The purpose of this section is to help the reader become more comfortable with this unfamiliar imagery.

1. What does the word “symbol” mean?
2. What is the general rule for biblical interpretation, and how must it be changed when applied to Revelation?
3. How can we discover a symbol’s figurative meaning?
4. Once we have a starting place for our interpretation, what two basic principles must we follow?
5. What three steps should we go through in considering each vision?
6. What general rules of hermeneutics apply to Revelation?
7. What three types of symbols predominate in Revelation?
8. What are the three most basic numbers in Revelation, and what is the significance of each?
9. What is the significance of the number seven in the Bible?
10. What should one look for when comparing Old Testament references with the corresponding Revelation references?

11. How did Augustus' rule prepare the way for Christianity?
12. Which Roman emperors were mentioned in the New Testament?
13. Which emperors persecuted Christians?
14. For what is the emperor Titus best known?
15. Of all the unlicensed religions in existence in Rome, why was Christianity singled out for punishment?
16. Why was Parthia a thorn in the side of the Romans?
17. What factors caused the fall of Rome?

### **THE MESSAGE**

Each New Testament book has its special perspective. Νικάω (*nikaō*), the verb form of the Greek word for "victory," is found seventeen times in the twenty-two chapters of Revelation.

18. What is the three-part message of victory in the Book of Revelation?
19. How important was this three-part message to Christians in the first century?
20. How can we explain the back-and-forth, here-then-there approach of Revelation?