

# Study Notes for Discover Revelation 4-22

## Study Guide pg. 40

*Study Note:* The images here draw from several Old Testament prophets, as well as the judgment cycles in Revelation.

- Fire – Elijah and Jeremiah (2 Kings 1; Jeremiah 5:14; 23:29)
- Shut up the heavens – Elijah and a drought of three and a half years, and the seals (1 Kings 17-18; Revelation 6:5-6)
- Waters into blood – Moses, and the trumpets and bowls (Exodus 7:20-21; Revelation 8:8; 16:3-4)
- Strike the earth with plagues – Moses and Aaron, and the trumpets and bowls (Exodus 7-12; Revelation 6:8; 9:18, 20; 16:9, 21)

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## Study Guide pg. 50

*Study Note:* 666 is a widely debated number. Here are a few thoughts from scholars on interpretation.

- The NIV’s “number of a man” could be translated as “man’s number” (NET), or “a human total number” (ISV); thus it can refer to humanity in general or a specific person. Some see it thus as referring to all of humankind’s attempts at power and independence, rather than one individual.
- Ancient Hebrews often used letters for numbers (gematria), and so this may refer to a name that is added up to 666. Nero Caesar is one possibility but with significant challenges. However, people can probably make any name add up to 666 if they try hard enough.
- 666 is a triangular number of 36, which 36 is in turn a triangular number of 8. Scholars who look at these triangular numbers then see 666 as another reference to the eighth king (Revelation 17:11).
- With seven being the number of perfection, six is an incomplete number. Three is also a number of emphasis. Thus, it is a number showing complete imperfection, completely falling short of God’s perfection.
- Some follow the last point with the thought that humankind was created on the sixth day, but imperfect and incomplete until entering God’s seventh day of rest in communion with him. Thus, 666 represents humankind apart from God.

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## Study Guide pg. 73

*Study Note:* There are many different perspectives on the thousand years of Revelation 20. The three main positions are outlined below.

- Postmillennial: God’s gospel will bring a time of peace on earth before Christ’s second coming. Christ is usually seen as reigning from heaven, rather than literally on earth. Then there will be a new heavens and new earth.
- Premillennial: Christ will return to earth, destroy his enemies, and reign on earth for period, or a thousand years. There will be a final rebellion of Satan, and his final destruction. Then there will be the new heavens and new earth. Some think this thousand year reign will happen before the tribulation; others see it after the tribulation.
- Amillennial: Christ is reigning now, Satan is bound now, and the millennium of Revelation 20 is during this age. Christ will come again and bring in the new heavens and new earth.