

Joseph Smith's Explanations of the Revelation of John

Explanation

In March 1832, in Hiram, Ohio, at the John Johnson home, Joseph Smith was at work on the Joseph Smith Translation of the Bible. In connection with his prophetic calling to understand and elucidate the meanings behind many passages in the Bible, several questions were asked and answers were given about the images and characters who figure in the book of Revelation, chapters 4–11. This information, found in Doctrine and Covenants 77 and 88, is presented conveniently in chart 17-5.

References

Joseph Fielding Smith, ed., *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1977), 287–94.
“Book of Revelation,” *WRC*, 93–94.

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REV	IMAGE	SIGNIFICATION	D&C
4:6	The sea of glass	Immortal sanctified earth	77:1
4:6	Four beasts full of eyes	Figurative expressions of happiness	77:2
4:7	The individual beasts	Exemplars of classes of beings	77:3
4:6	The eyes and the wings	Knowledge and power	77:4
4:4	The 24 elders	Faithful early elders now in paradise	77:5
5:1	The sealed book	God's revealed will for this earth	77:6
5:1	The seven seals	Seven periods of a thousand years	77:7
7:1	The four angels	Angels with the everlasting gospel	77:8
7:2	The other angel	Elias gathering all things together	77:9
7:1	The events of the sixth seal	Events of this 6th thousand years	77:10
7:3	The sealed 144,000	Ordained high priests in all nations	77:11
8:1	The sounding of trumpets	The beginning of the end	77:12
8–9	The sounding of the seven trumpets	Calling forth the dead by groups	88:98–110
9	The events of this chapter	After the opening of the 7th seal	77:13
10:10	The little book that was eaten	Mission of John, Elias, to restore all	77:14
11:3	The two witnesses slain	Two prophets to the Jews	77:15