

Mysticism And Mystic Elements Found in The Book of Revelation**Ms. Belcy Sheeba G**

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This paper, titled *The Mysticism and Mystic Elements Found in The Book of Revelation*, unfolds a series of vivid and symbolic visions, through mysticism and the components of mystic elements. It reveals God's plan for humanity's redemption and the ultimate triumph of good over evil. Rich in imagery and symbolism, *The Book of Revelation* has been interpreted in countless ways throughout history. Mysticism, characterized by an experiential and often symbolic connection with the divine, plays a significant role in *The Book of Revelation*, the final book of *The New Testament*. This apocalyptic text, which is traditionally written on the basis of the vision given to *John*, one of *Jesus' Twelve Apostles*, during his exile at the Patmos island, is rich in mystical elements, including visions, angelic encounters, divine revelations and symbolism.

The Book of Revelation employs mystical imagery—such as the Seven Seals, the Lamb of God, the New Jerusalem, and the Beast, in order to depict cosmic battles between good and evil, the end of the present age, and the ultimate restoration of divine order. This text also contains numerology (e.g. the repetition of number 7, the number 666), prophetic messages, and celestial journeys, which align with mystical traditions found in Jewish apocalyptic literature and Christian esotericism. The mystical aspects seen in *The Book of Revelation* contribute to its theological depth, spiritual symbolism, and its impact on mystical Christian traditions throughout history.

Keywords: Mysticism, cosmic signs, symbolism, numerology.

The Book of Revelation explores themes of mysticism, judgment, redemption, and

restoration, as God's wrath is poured out upon a corrupt and rebellious world. Yet, amidst the chaos and destruction, the book offers a message of hope and promise. This book is a apocalyptic literature, which is a prophetic writing of events, where the genre of writing deals with the details of the authors' visions of the end times or the end of the age as revealed by an angel or other heavenly messengers. The best example for such kind of literature is the description of rapture or the great tribulation.

Unveiling mysticism

The word 'revelation' means simply 'unveiling' or 'revealing something hidden'. The word also gives meanings such as 'to reveal, to uncover and to make manifest'. It also gives the English word apocalypse, which unfortunately, means a synonym for chaos and catastrophe. Revelation is an open book in which God reveals His plans and purposes to His church.

John wrote this book to encourage first-century Christians who were experiencing great suffering. In every age of the church, Revelation has brought comfort and hope. Why? Because its symbols are timeless and may be understood by believers in any period of history; because its promises are eternal and may be trusted by all saints. When Daniel finished writing his prophecy, he was instructed to "**shut up the words, and seal the book**" (**Dan. 12:4 KJV**); but John was given opposite instructions: "**Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book**" (**Rev. 22:10 KJv**), remarks the mystery behind the vision given to John the Prophet.

Chapteral Description of events

In Revelation 1-3, Christ is seen as the exalted Priest-King ministering to the churches. In Revelation 4-5, He is seen in heaven as the glorified Lamb of God, reigning on the throne. In Revelation 6-18, Christ is the Judge of all the earth; and in Revelation 19, He returns to earth as the conquering King of Kings. The book closes with the heavenly Bridegroom ushering His bride, the church, into the glorious heavenly city. *The Book of Revelation* can be classified accordingly, into three sections as: The Greetings to The Seven Churches in Asia, The Vision Given to Prophet John and The Formation of New World, New Jerusalem.

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The Book of Revelation begins with letters to seven churches in Asia, urging them to remain faithful and warning them of the consequences of turning away from God. Jesus Christ commands John to write to the churches, commending them for their faithfulness and urging them to repent and return to their first love. Chapters 4-20 describes the apocalypse, a series of events that will bring human history to the close. Jesus Christ opens seven seals, unleashing judgments upon the world. Seven trumpets sound, signaling further judgments, and seven bowls are poured out, representing God's final wrath. The Whore of Babylon, symbolizing corruption and idolatry, is judged and destroyed, and Babylon, symbolizing the corrupted world system, falls from its mightiness. And ends with Jesus Christ establishing His kingdom on earth. The final two chapters describe the formation of a new heaven and a new earth, where God dwells with His people. The New Jerusalem, a heavenly city, descends from heaven, and God wipes away every tear, eliminating suffering, sin, and death. The river of life flows, and the tree of life bears fruit, symbolizing eternal life and abundance. According to *The Book of Revelation*, Jesus commands,

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,"

This proclamation emphasises God's eternal nature and His ultimate triumph over evil which is unveiled in the book.

Mystic elements found in Revelation

Visions and dreams are woven throughout the narrative, offering glimpses into the divine and the ultimate destiny of humanity. Symbolic language is used to convey spiritual truths, with images, numbers, and colors holding deep significance. Angels, spirits, and other supernatural beings play a crucial role, serving as messengers, agents of judgment, and guides. Cosmic imagery is employed to describe the heavens, the sun, moon, and stars, and the ultimate transformation of the universe. Fantastical creatures like the Lamb, the Beast, and the Dragon symbolize different aspects of human nature and the divine.

Colors like white, red, and gold are used symbolically, representing purity, sacrifice, and divine glory. The throne room vision, where John sees the divine throne, the four living creatures, and the 24 elders, is a classic example of mystic literature. The image of the Lamb taking the scroll from God's right hand is a powerful symbol of redemption and salvation.

The New Jerusalem, a heavenly city, is a mystical vision of the ultimate union of heaven and earth. The River Of Life, flowing from the throne of God, is a symbol of eternal life and spiritual nourishment. The Tree Of Life, bearing fruit and leaves for healing, is a symbol of eternal life and spiritual growth. These mystic elements combine to create a rich tapestry of spiritual symbolism, inviting us to explore the deeper meanings and mysteries of *The Book of Revelation*. The magic and wonder of the spiritual realm, and the ultimate destiny that awaits shows the enigma of embedded mysticism that lies behind the book.

Symbolism

The Book of Revelation is a museum of mystical and symbolic language, inviting the readers and the believers to embark on a spiritual journey. The Lamb mentioned in *The Book of Revelation* refers to Jesus Christ, which is a potent symbol of redemption and sacrifice. His blood is the key to unlocking salvation, and His presence is the source of comfort and strength for believers. The four living creatures, with their lion, ox, face of a man, and eagle, represent the attributes of God's power, strength, wisdom, and swiftness. They're a reminder of God's majesty and sovereignty over creation.

The Whore of Babylon, on the other hand, symbolizes corruption and idolatry, reminding us of the dangers of spiritual adultery and the importance of remaining faithful to God. The New Jerusalem, a heavenly city, descends from heaven, representing the ultimate union of heaven and earth. Its gates are made of pearl, symbolizing the preciousness of salvation, and its streets are paved with gold, representing the richness of eternal life. The Dragon & Satan, represents the ultimate enemy of God, while the Lamb represents the ultimate victor. This book is a testament to the power of mystical and symbolic language conveying spiritual truths. It invites us to enter into a world of wonder and awe, where the boundaries between heaven and earth are blurred, and divinity is revealed in all its glory.

Numerology in the book of Revelation

The Book of Revelation has incorporated various numerological patterns and its hidden meanings, which closely contributes to the mysterious nature that lies behind and connects to the symbolism of events that are yet to take place. The number 7 is woven throughout the narrative, symbolizing completeness, perfection, and divine election, as it comes in seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls, each representing a different aspect of God's judgment and redemption. This repetition of 7 emphasizes the importance of spiritual completion and the fulfillment of God's plan. The number 12 is another significant numeral, representing divine government and perfection. We see 12 apostles, 12 tribes of Israel, and

gates in the New Jerusalem. This repetition of 12 emphasizes the importance of divine order and the establishment of God's kingdom.

The number 144,000 is a fascinating numeral, representing the redeemed from earth. This number is derived from 12 multiplied by 12,000, emphasizing the completeness and perfection of God's redemption plan. The number 666 is infamous, symbolizing the antichrist and the ultimate rebellion against God. This number is often seen as the opposite of 7, representing incompleteness and imperfection which leaves its profound nature emphasizing the usage of the number by evil. The number 1000 is significant, representing the millennial reign of Christ. This number emphasizes the importance of divine timing and the establishment of God's kingdom on earth.

Throughout *The Book of Revelation*, numbers are used to convey spiritual truths and emphasize the importance of divine order and completeness. By understanding the numerological significance of these numbers, we can gain a deeper appreciation for the mystical and symbolic language used in this sacred text.

Conclusion

The Book of Revelation is a deeply mystical and symbolic text that has captivated readers for centuries. As we delve into its pages, we meet with a kaleidoscope of visions, dreams, and supernatural encounters that transport us to a realm beyond the mundane. The book is an invitation to embrace a spiritual journey, peer into the very fabric of existence, and to glimpse the divine. At its core, Revelation is a book about the human condition, about our deepest fears and desires, and about the ultimate destiny that awaits us. It's a book that speaks to our souls, awakens our imagination, and challenges us to confront the mysteries of the universe. These mystical elements that are mentioned in the book are a testament to the profound spiritual experience of its author, Prophet, the John. His visions of the Lamb, the Beast, and the Dragon are not just fantasy creatures, but symbolic representations of the eternal struggle between good and evil, light and darkness.

Revelation is a book that defies easy interpretation, a book that requires us to enter into its mystical world, to immerse ourselves in its symbolism, and to allow ourselves to be transformed by its vision. It's a book that invites us to see the world with new eyes, to hear the whispers of the divine, and to experience the thrill of the unknown. Ultimately, *The Book of Revelation* is a testament to the human spirit's capacity for mysticism, wonder, and awe. It's a reminder that, despite our concerns and worldly worries, we're all part of a larger cosmic drama, a drama that's unfolding before our eyes, and one that invites us to participate

in

its grand narrative.

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