

## (SERMON 4/30/23 SS "Seven Seven Seven in Revelation")

### Revelation 1:4

**SEVEN:** This is the first of many times that the number seven appears in the book of Revelation. The number seven is common to the book of Revelation and throughout the Bible. For comparison, study the sevens in Leviticus chapter 23 and Proverbs 30. The following is a list of items in Revelation that occur in sevens. These are only first-time occurrences. Many of them are mentioned several times.

1. Seven churches (*Revelation 1:4*).
2. Seven Spirits (*Revelation 1:4*).
3. Seven golden candlesticks (*Revelation 1:12*).
4. Seven stars (*Revelation 1:16*).
5. Seven lamps (*Revelation 4:5*).
6. Seven seals (*Revelation 5:5*).
7. Seven horns (*Revelation 5:6*).
8. Seven eyes (*Revelation 5:6*).
9. Seven angels (*Revelation 8:2*).
10. Seven trumpets (*Revelation 8:2*).
11. Seven thunders (*Revelation 10:3*).
12. Seven thousand men (*Revelation 11:13*).
13. Seven heads (*Revelation 12:3*).
14. Seven crowns (*Revelation 12:3*).
15. Seven plagues (*Revelation 15:6*).
16. Seven golden vials (*Revelation 15:7*).
17. Seven mountains (*Revelation 17:9*).
18. Seven kings (*Revelation 17:10*).

Seven frequently means perfection or completion. We can understand it as 100% so sending the letters to the seven churches indicates that the book is intended for all of the churches, even throughout time.

**ASIA** is not what we know as Asia today or Asia Minor (Turkey). The seven churches that received and read the book were in a Roman province in the First Century. The book may be predominantly applied to a future group, but John initially penned it to First Century Christians.

**GRACE BE UNTO YOU:** God has always expressed Himself as gracious (*Genesis 43:29; Exodus 22:27*). Even with all the terrible

judgments in Revelation, the preface to the book is GRACE. The recipients of the awful judgments choose to reject the saving grace that would enable them to miss the calamity.

**WHICH IS, WHICH WAS, AND WHICH IS TO COME:** (Past, present and future). While many teachers mistake this phrase as a reference to the Son, it is a phrase that refers to God the Father. In the text, all three members of the Trinity are identified (with Jesus identified at the beginning of verse 5). This phrase is used again in verse 8.

The book of Revelation repeatedly emphasizes the eternal nature of Christ. You can distinguish between the Father, Son (or the Word), and the Holy Ghost, but you cannot separate the three as one God.

*1 John 5:7 For there are **three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.***

One God manifested in three persons. Then we read about the Holy Ghost, which could manifest Himself in seven parts.

**SEVEN SPIRITS:** Collectively, these spirits are “*the Holy Ghost.*” The Bible clearly states that there is only one Spirit (***Ephesians 4:4***). The Holy Ghost performs seven functions and manifests Himself in seven different ways. ***Isaiah 11:2*** offers greater insights with His first function as a person.

*Isaiah 11:2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;*

The other six are manifestations of the personage of the Holy Ghost. Each of these operations of the Spirit is threefold in nature. You can be born with them, learn them through experience, and receive them supernaturally from God. Here is a simple definition of these functions in light of how they seem to be used in the life of the believer:

**Wisdom:** This is the ability to make the right decision based on the information available. The decision will be correct even when forced to make it without ample time to think it through.

**Understanding:** This is the “innate” ability to perform a particular function. We generally refer to it as a “gift.” For instance, a person who understands music can play it naturally, while others struggle even after much intense practice. This same understanding is *often* found in men, who generally possess a more natural understanding of geography than women. It is, you might say, the ability to do something without thinking it through. (I wish this were true of me, but I am geographically challenged).

**Counsel:** This is, in basic terms, the ability to bring order out of chaos. When people seek counsel, it is because they have a combination of problem-solving possibilities that cannot be assembled in any logical

order. A person who has the Spirit of counsel can do this for them.

**Might:** This general term means endurance, strength, and “stick-to-itiveness.” It is the ability to keep going when most others wish to quit. It is the foundation of strong homes, kingdoms, and personal character composition.

**Knowledge:** Knowledge is the information in your mind. It can come from any source and be good or bad. When the Spirit of knowledge rests upon an individual, it is, of course, good knowledge.

**Fear:** This one is unique. It seems to be a foundational Spirit upon which others can be built (*Job 28:28*—“*the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom*”). It seems to deal with feelings of insecurity. When relationships are severed, it leads to insecurity. This point is true in our relationship with a man and with our relationship with God. Fear seems to relate to not having someone to look after you in a time of need.

God’s Spirit has been manifested in various forms throughout the Bible. Some of these manifestations include:

(1) **Dove:** In the New Testament, God’s Spirit descended upon Jesus like a dove at His baptism (*Matthew 3:16, Mark 1:10, Luke 3:22, and John 1:32*).

(2) **Wind:** Acts describes God’s Spirit as a mighty, rushing wind that filled the house where the apostles were gathered on Pentecost (*Acts 2:1-4*). The new birth and the indwelling Spirit manifest themselves by wind (*John 3:8*).

(3) **Tongues as of fire:** On the Pentecost in *Acts 2:1-4*, the Holy Ghost appeared like tongues of fire resting on each apostle.

(4) **Water:** The water represents God’s Spirit (*John 7:38-39*).

(5) **Wine:** Ephesians likens a person filled with the Holy Ghost to a drunk filled with wine (*Ephesians 5:18, Acts 2:15*).

(6) **Oil:** Candlestick made of pure gold with seven branches (*Exodus 25:31*) with oil to light it that it would always burn (*Exodus 27:20*). Personification of “his.”

(7) **Breath:** a manifestation of the Spirit by breath *Ezekiel 37:5* putting His Spirit in them that they should live (*Ezekiel 37:14*). Jesus breathed on His disciples, and they received the Holy Ghost (*John 20:22*).

See also *Revelation 3:1, 4:5*.