

Zechariah Lesson 2

July 16, 2017

Ten Rules for Interpreting Apocalyptic Language

1. We should use easily understood verses to help us understand verses that are harder to understand.
2. We should interpret apocalyptic language figuratively unless we are forced to do otherwise.
3. Similarity of symbol does not imply identity of subjects. (The same image can be used to depict different subjects.)
4. Dissimilarity of symbol does not imply distinctness of subjects. (Different images can be used to depict the same subject.)
5. We should always carefully study how the same symbols are used elsewhere in the Bible, while keeping Rules 3 and 4 in mind.
6. We should pay careful attention to the context.
7. We should not add symbols to the text.
8. We should pay careful attention to any explanations that are given in the text.
9. Sometimes a *literal* person, place, or thing is later used as a *figure* for a similar person, place, or thing.
10. Sometimes a *literal* number is also a *figurative* number.

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