



Keys to Bible Numbers

Many of the numbers in the Bible have deeper prophetic or spiritual significance. Both in the Old and New Testaments, numbers reveal hidden concepts and meanings that commonly escape the casual reader. And throughout history, men with great minds, like Augustine, Isaac Newton, and Leonardo Da Vinci, showed more than just a passing curiosity regarding the importance of biblical numbers. Once more, Jesus said, “The very hairs of your head are numbered” ([Matthew 10:30](#)). So obviously, Bible numbers should be carefully considered.

At least 12 numbers in the Bible stand out in this regard: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 40, 50, and 70. In order to express this truth, one or two biblical examples have been given below. However, much more can be said on this subject, so these examples serve merely as an introduction and are not exhaustive by any means.

1 – Represents absolute singleness and unity ([Ephesians 4:4–6](#); [John 17:21, 22](#).)

2 – Represents the truth of God’s Word; for example, the law and prophets ([John 1:45](#)), two or three witnesses ([2 Corinthians 13:1](#)), and a sword with two edges ([Hebrews 4:12](#)). See [Mark 6:7](#) and [Revelation 11:3](#). It is also used 21 times in the books of Daniel and Revelation.

3 – Represents the Godhead/Trinity. The angels cry “Holy” three times to the triune God ([Isaiah 6:3](#)). See also [Matthew 28:19](#) and [1 John 5:7, 8](#).

3 ½ – Represents rejection and apostasy. It is the dissection of seven, the perfect number. For 3-½ years, Elijah fled from persecution. Jesus was crucified at the end of a 3-½ year period. Stephen was the first Christian martyr, stoned at the end of 3-½ years of the apostles preaching amid persecution. There were 3-½ prophetic years when the church went underground during the Dark Ages, from 538 to 1798.

Three

The third day] "As the number SEVEN," says Mr. Ainsworth, "is of especial use in Scripture because of the Sabbath day, Gen 2:2, so THREE is a mystical number because of Christ's rising from the dead the third day, Mt 17:23; 1Co 15:4; as he was crucified the third hour after noon, Mark 15:25: and Isaac, as he was a figure of Christ, in being the only son of his father, and not spared but offered for a sacrifice, Ro 8:32, so in sundry particulars he resembled our Lord: the third day Isaac was to be offered up, so it was the third day in which Christ also was to be perfected, Lu 13:32; Isaac carried the wood for the burnt-offering, Gen 22:6, so Christ carried the tree whereon he died, John 19:17; the binding of Isaac, Gen 21:9, was also typical, so Christ was bound, Mt 27:2.

"In the following remarkable cases this number also occurs. Moses desired to go three days' journey in the wilderness to sacrifice, Ex 5:3; and they travelled three days in it before they found water, Ex 15:22; and three days' journey the ark of the covenant went before them, to search out a resting place, Numbers 10:33; by the third day the people were to be ready to receive God's law, Ex 19:11; and after three days to pass over Jordan into Canaan, Joshua 1:14; the third day Esther put on the apparel of the kingdom, Es 5:1; on the third day Hezekiah, being recovered from his illness, went up to the house of the Lord, 2Ki 20:5; on the third day, the prophet said, God will raise us up and we shall live before him, Ho 6:2; and on the third day, as well as on the seventh, the unclean person was to purify himself, Numbers 19:12: with many other memorable things which the Scripture speaks concerning the third day, and not without mystery. See Gen 40:12, 13; 42:17, 18; Jon 1:17; Joshua 2:16; unto which we may add a Jew's testimony in Bereshith Rabba, in a comment on this place: There are many THREE DAYS mentioned in the Holy Scripture, of which one is the resurrection of the Messiah."-Ainsworth. I may just conclude that it is day of acceptance because on this day, something remarkable associated with restoration and acceptance happened and in fact it was this day that Jesus ascended to heaven and His infinite sacrifice accepted. Hope it helps. Be blessed and Happy Preparation Day

4 – Represents universal truth, as in the four directions (north, south, east, west) and the four winds ([Matthew 24:31](#); [Revelation 7:1](#); [Revelation 20:8](#)). In acts 10:11, a sheet with four corners symbolizes the gospel going to all the gentiles.

5 – Represents teaching. First, there are the five books of Moses. Second, Jesus taught about the five wise virgins and used five barley loaves used to feed the 5,000.

6 – Represents the worship of man, and is the number of man, signifying his rebellion, imperfection, works, and disobedience. It is used 273 times in the Bible, including its derivatives (e.g, sixth) and another 91 times as “threescore” or “60.” Man was created on the sixth day ([Genesis 1:26, 31](#)). See also [Exodus 31:15](#) and [Daniel 3:1](#).

The number is especially significant in the book Revelation, as “666” identifies the beast. “Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six” ([Revelation 13:18](#)).

7 – Represents perfection, and is the sign of God, divine worship, completions, obedience, and rest. The “prince” of Bible numbers, it is used 562 times, including its derivatives (e.g., seventh, sevens). (See [Genesis 2:1–4](#), [Psalm 119:164](#), and [Exodus 20:8–11](#) for just a few of the examples.)

The number seven is also the most common in biblical prophecy, occurring 42 times in Daniel and Revelation alone. In Revelation there are seven churches, seven spirits, seven golden candlesticks, seven stars, seven lamps, seven seals, seven horns, seven eyes, seven angels, seven trumpets, seven thunders, seven thousand slain in a great earthquake, seven heads, seven crowns, seven last plagues, seven golden vials, seven mountains, and seven kings.

10 – Represents law and restoration. Of course, this includes the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20. See also [Matthew 25:1](#) (ten virgins); [Luke 17:17](#) (ten lepers); [Luke 15:8](#) (healing, ten silver coins).

It means an indefinite number in other parts of the sacred writings, is evident from Le 26:26: TEN women shall bake your bread in one oven. Ec 7:19: Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than TEN mighty men the city. Nu 14:22: Because all these men have tempted me now these TEN times. Job 19:3: These TEN times have ye reproached me. Zec 8:23: In those days-TEN men shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew. Re 2:10: Ye shall have tribulation TEN days.

12 – Represents the church and God’s authority. Jesus had 12 disciples, and there were 12 tribes of Israel. In [Revelation 12:1](#), the 24 elders and 144,000 are multiples of 12. The New Jerusalem city has 12 foundations, 12 gates 12 thousand furlongs, a tree with 12 kinds of fruit 12 times a year eaten by 12 times 12,000 or the 144,000. (See Revelation 21.)

40 – Represents a generation and times of testing. It rained for 40 days during the flood. Moses spent 40 years in the desert, as did the children of Israel. Jesus fasted for 40 days.

Forty

Forty days] this period became afterwards sacred, and was considered a proper space for humiliation. Moses fasted forty days, De 9:9, 11; so did Elijah, 1Ki 19:8; so did our Lord, Mt 4:2. Forty days' respite were given to the Ninevites that they might repent, Jon 3:4; and thrice forty (one hundred and twenty) years were given to the old world for the same gracious purpose, Gen 6:3. The forty days of Lent, in commemoration of our Lord's fasting, have a reference to the same thing; as each of these seems to be deduced from this primitive judgment.

"This number forty the Scripture uses sundry times in cases of humiliation, affliction, and punishment. As Moses twice humbled himself in fasting and prayer forty days and forty nights, De 9:9,18. Elijah fasted forty days, 1Ki 19:8; and our Saviour, Mt 4:2. Forty years Israel was afflicted in the wilderness for their sins, Nu 14:33,34. And forty years Egypt was desolate for treacherous dealing with Israel, Eze 29:11-13. Forty days every woman was in purification for her uncleanness for a man-child that she bare, and twice forty days for a woman-child, Le 12:4,5. Forty days and forty nights it rained at Noah's flood, Ge 7:12. Forty days did Ezekiel bear the iniquity of the house of Judah, Eze 4:6. Jonah preached, Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown, Jon 3:4. Forty years' space the Canaanites had to repent after Israel came out of Egypt, and wandered so many years in the wilderness, Nu 14:33. And thrice forty years the old world had Noah preaching unto them repentance, Ge 6:3. It was forty days ere Christ ascended into heaven after his resurrection, Ac 1:3,9. And forty years' space he gave unto the Jews, from the time that they killed him, before he destroyed their city and temple by the Romans.

50 – Represents power and celebration. The Jubilee came after the 49th year ([Leviticus 25:10](#)), and Pentecost occurred 50 days after Christ’s resurrection (Acts 2).

70 – Represents human leadership and judgment. Moses appointed 70 elders ([Exodus 24:1](#)); The Sanhedrin was made up of 70 men. Jesus chose 70 disciples ([Luke 10:1](#)). Jesus told Peter to forgive 70 times 7.

666 – As mentioned, six represents the number of man; 666 represents the kingdom of man in opposition to God. 666 is a “triangular number,” as 36 is both its square and a triangular number ($12 + 12 + 12 = 36$). Moreover, 222 times 3 equals 666. Thus, 666 also symbolizes a counterfeit trinity. Some are very superstitious about the number 666 and have refused phone numbers, license plates, and credit cards containing it. This phobia is known as hexakosioihexekontahephobia. But we don’t have to be afraid of the number 666 itself. It is simply a natural number that follows 665 and proceeds 667. However, Revelation says, “Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred and sixty-six” ([Revelation 13:18](#)). Visit www.666truth.com to learn more.

144,000 – Represents the last-day apostles. As Jesus had 12 leaders who shared the gospel at the time of His first coming, an army of 12 times 12,000 will be baptized in the Spirit to prepare the world for the second coming of Christ. Another interesting clue related to

the 144,000 is found in 1 Chronicles 27: David's army was comprised of 12 sets of 24,000, totaling 288,000; that was two armies of 144,000 who would alternate their service throughout the year. In 1 Chronicles 25, a literal group of "24 times 12" (288) Levities led in praise music of the temple (one for the day, one for the night) — half of 288 is 144.

Number	Meaning
One	Beginning, one
Two	Witness, separation
Three	The Trinity (Godhead)
Four	Earth, creation, world
Five	Grace, cross, atonement, life
Six	Man, beast, Satan
Seven	Perfection, completeness
Eight	New beginning
Nine	Completeness, finality, fullness
Ten	Law, government, restoration
Eleven	Incompleteness, disorganization, disintegration
Twelve	Divine government, apostolic fullness
Thirteen	Rebellion, backsliding, apostasy
Fourteen	Passover
Seventeen	Spiritual order
Twenty-four	Priestly courses; governmental perfection
Thirty	Consecration; maturity for ministry
Forty	Probation, testing, closing in victory or judgment
Fifty	Pentecost, liberty, freedom, jubilee
Seventy	Prior to increase
Seventh-five	Separation, cleansing, purification
One Hundred Twenty	End of all flesh, beginning life in the Spirit
One Hundred Forty-four	God's ultimate in creation
One hundred fifty-three	Revival, the elect
Three hundred	Faithful remnant
Six hundred sixty-six	Antichrist, Satan, the damned Triplicate 666