

## Symbolic Numbers in the Bible

In the East, Asia, China, Egypt and India to mention but a few, we find that numbers play a significant part in the logic and reasoning of natural culture. In God's universal order numbers play an enormous part in the strategy of everything.

### **Matthew 10 v 30**

*But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.*

## The Number Three

There are three dimensions in space; length, width and breadth = one space.

There are three persons in the Godhead; Father, Son and Holy Spirit = one God.

Time has three parts to it; past, present and future = one time.

The number three is God's divine *signature* of completion. Here are some Biblical examples:

### **Genesis 18 v 2**

*When he lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, three men were standing opposite him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth...*

Three Angels appeared to Abraham.

### **Numbers 6 v 24-26**

*The Lord bless you, and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace.'*

The Benediction (God's blessing) on Aaron was threefold.

### **Numbers 24 v 10**

*Then Balak's anger burned against Balaam, and he struck his hands together; and Balak said to Balaam, "I called you to curse my enemies, but behold, you have persisted in blessing them these three times!*

The blessing of Israel through Balaam was threefold.

### **Deuteronomy 16:16.**

*Three times in a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses, at the Feast of Unleavened Bread and at the Feast of Weeks and at the Feast of Booths, and they shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed.*

God's people were to come before the Lord three times a year.

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### **Isaiah 6 v 3**

*And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory." The Seraphim declared "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts."*

### **Matthew 9 v 23-26**

*When Jesus came into the official's house, and saw the flute-players and the crowd in noisy disorder, He said, "Leave; for the girl has not died, but is asleep." And they began laughing at Him. But when the crowd had been sent out, He entered and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. This news spread throughout all that land.*

### **Luke 7 v 12-15**

*Now as He approached the gate of the city, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a sizeable crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her, and said to her, "Do not weep." And He came up and touched the coffin; and the bearers came to a halt. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak. And Jesus gave him back to his mother.*

### **John 11 v 43-44**

*When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth.*

Christ raised three people from the dead while He was on the earth.

### **Matthew 16 v 21**

*From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.*

### **Matthew 17 v 22-23**

*And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men; and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day." And they were deeply grieved.*

### **Matthew 20 v 18-19**

*Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify Him, and on the third day He will be raised up."*

Three times He mentions to His disciples that He will rise from the dead, and on the third day.

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### **John 14 v 6**

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*

Christ is three things, *The Way, The Truth and The Life.*

### **The Number Four**

The number four is God's signature for nature.

### **Genesis 2 v 10-14**

*Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers. The name of the first is Pishon; it flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. The gold of that land is good; the bdellium and the onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is Gihon; it flows around the whole land of Cush. The name of the third river is Tigris; it flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.*

There were four rivers flowing out of Eden.

### **Psalms 107 v 2-3**

*Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the adversary and gathered from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.*

### **Ezekiel 37 v 9**

*Then He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life.'"*

### **Daniel 7 v 2**

*Daniel said, "I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.*

### **Zechariah 2 v 6**

*"Ho there! Flee from the land of the north," declares the Lord, "for I have dispersed you as the four winds of the heavens," declares the Lord.*

### **Matthew 24 v 31**

*And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.*

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## Symbolic Numbers in the Bible

### **Luke 13:29**

*And they will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God.*

### **Isaiah 11 v 12**

*And He will lift up a standard for the nations and assemble the banished ones of Israel, and will gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.*

### **Ezekiel 7 v 2**

*"And you, son of man, thus says the Lord God to the land of Israel, 'An end! The end is coming on the four corners of the land.*

The earth has four corners. No wonder folk were afraid of falling off the edge!

### **Ezekiel 1 v 5-9**

*Within it there were figures resembling four living beings. And this was their appearance: they had human form. Each of them had four faces and four wings. Their legs were straight and their feet were like a calf's hoof, and they gleamed like burnished bronze. Under their wings on their four sides were human hands. As for the faces and wings of the four of them, their wings touched one another; their faces did not turn when they moved, each went straight forward.*

### **Ezekiel 10 v 9-14**

*Then I looked, and behold, four wheels beside the cherubim, one wheel beside each cherub; and the appearance of the wheels was like the gleam of a Tarshish stone. As for their appearance, all four of them had the same likeness, as if one wheel were within another wheel. When they moved, they went in any of their four directions without turning as they went; but they followed in the direction which they faced, without turning as they went. Their whole body, their backs, their hands, their wings and the wheels were full of eyes all around, the wheels belonging to all four of them. The wheels were called in my hearing, the whirling wheels. And each one had four faces. The first face was the face of a cherub, the second face was the face of a man, the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle.*

These amazing descriptions contain many references to the number four.

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## **Revelation 5 v 9**

*And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.*

There are four classes of people on the earth; "tribe and tongue, people and nation".

## **Exodus 30 v 22-25**

*Moreover, the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Take also for yourself the finest of spices: of flowing myrrh five hundred shekels, and of fragrant cinnamon half as much, two hundred and fifty, and of fragrant cane two hundred and fifty, and of cassia five hundred, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and of olive oil a hin. You shall make of these a holy anointing oil, a perfume mixture, the work of a perfumer; it shall be a holy anointing oil.*

## **Exodus 30 v 34-35**

*Then the Lord said to Moses, "Take for yourself spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, spices with pure frankincense; there shall be an equal part of each. With it you shall make incense, a perfume, the work of a perfumer, salted, pure, and holy.*

There were four ingredients in the Holy oil and the sacred incense.

## **Exodus 27 v 1-2**

*And you shall make the altar of acacia wood, five cubits long and five cubits wide; the altar shall be square, and its height shall be three cubits. You shall make its horns on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it, and you shall overlay it with bronze.*

The bronze altar had to be square, and so had four corners.

To sum up: The number three displays the signature of God in Divine power and authority. The number four shows the signature of God in and through Creation. These two numbers combined display symbolically His complete work.

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## The Number Seven

Four plus three equals seven, seven is a number that represents completion or perfection. Seven represents not only completion, God and the Creation. Seven signifies union and harmony in spiritual or religious terms.

### **Genesis 2 v 2**

*By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.*

By the seventh day, the work was finished and God rested.

### **Genesis 2 v 3**

*Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.*

### **Ezekiel 20 v 12**

*Also I gave them My sabbaths to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord who sanctifies them.*

God made the seventh day holy.

### **Genesis 9:13**

*I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth.*

God made His covenant with Israel and gave us the rainbow that has seven colours.

### **Numbers 23:1**

*Then Balaam said to Balak, "Build seven altars for me here, and prepare seven bulls and seven rams for me here."*

### **Numbers 23 v 14**

*So he took him to the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah, and built seven altars and offered a bull and a ram on each altar.*

### **Numbers 23 v 29**

*Balaam said to Balak, "Build seven altars for me here and prepare seven bulls and seven rams for me here."*

### **2 Chronicles 29 v 21**

*They brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven lambs and seven male goats for a sin offering for the kingdom, the sanctuary, and Judah. And he ordered the priests, the sons of Aaron, to offer them on the altar of the Lord.*

Seven was the number for sacrifice.

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## Symbolic Numbers in the Bible

### **Genesis 4:15**

*So the Lord said to him, "Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord appointed a sign for Cain, so that no one finding him would slay him.*

Seven was used as a judicial act in the judgement of Cain.

### **Genesis 41:29-30**

*Behold, seven years of great abundance are coming in all the land of Egypt; and after them seven years of famine will come, and all the abundance will be forgotten in the land of Egypt, and the famine will ravage the land.*

There were seven years of plenty and seven years of famine.

### **Joshua 6 v 4-5**

*Also seven priests shall carry seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark; then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. It shall be that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people will go up every man straight ahead."*

Seven priests, seven trumpets, marched round Jericho seven times.

### **2 Kings 5 v 10**

*Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you and you will be clean."*

Seven times Naaman has to wash in the water before his healing was completed.

### **Daniel 4 v 16**

*"Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let a beast's mind be given to him, and let seven periods of time pass over him.*

### **Daniel 4 v 25**

*...that you be driven away from mankind and your dwelling place be with the beasts of the field, and you be given grass to eat like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.*

There were seven interludes of time before Nebuchadnezzar was returned to sanity.

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## Symbolic Numbers in the Bible

### **Genesis 21 v 30-31**

*He said, "You shall take these seven ewe lambs from my hand so that it may be a witness to me, that I dug this well." Therefore he called that place Beersheba, because there the two of them took an oath. So they made a covenant at Beersheba; and Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, arose and returned to the land of the Philistines.*

Seven is the number used to signify an oath, there were seven ewe lambs given at Beersheba, which means 'The well of the oath'.

In the New Testament we can see the same significance in the number seven.

### **Matthew 5:1 -12**

*When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

There are seven beatitudes.

### **Matthew 13 v 3-8**

*And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, "Behold, the sower went out to sow; and as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. And others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear."*

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## **Matthew 13 v 24-30**

*Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!' The slaves said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?' But he said, 'No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.'"*

## **Matthew 13 v 31-32**

*He presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; and this is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."*

## **Matthew 13 v 33-34**

*He spoke another parable to them, "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened." All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables, and He did not speak to them without a parable. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things hidden since the foundation of the world."*

## **Matthew 13 v 44**

*The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*

## **Matthew 13 v 45-46**

*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.*

## **Matthew 13 v 47-50**

*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering fish of every kind; and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away. So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

There are seven parables.

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## Symbolic Numbers in the Bible

### **Matthew 14 v 19-21**

*Ordering the people to sit down on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food, and breaking the loaves He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds, and they all ate and were satisfied.*

There were seven pieces of food to feed the five thousand.

### **Acts 6 v 5**

*The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.*

Seven Deacons were appointed.

### **James 3 v 17**

*But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.*

There are seven characteristics of wisdom.

### **John 21 v 2**

*Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.*

Seven Disciples saw Jesus prior to His ascension.

### **2 Peter 1 v 5-7**

*Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.*

There are seven virtues in our Christian walk.

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The book of Revelation has many references to seven. Seven Spirits, seven churches, seven candlesticks, seven angels, seven stars, seven seals, seven trumpets, seven vials, seven horns, etc.

The Jews recognised half of seven to be the time of the tribulation, i.e. three and a half days; three and a half years.

### **Daniel 9 v 27**

*And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."*

### **Luke 4 v 25**

*But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land...*

### **James 5 v 17**

*Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.*

Seven then is also a number that is to be broken; Rev 11 through to chapter 13 reveals this to us.

A Jewish calendar year is made up of 354 days, multiply this by three and a half and you will arrive at the 1260 days mentioned in Revelation 11.

### **Revelation 11 v 1-3**

*Then there was given me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, "Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it. Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months. And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."*

This event takes place in Jerusalem before the return of Jesus.

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## The Number Six

Six is an incomplete number and is therefore a deficient figure, yet six plus six makes a complete or perfect number!

### **Exodus 28 v 9-10**

*You shall take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel, six of their names on the one stone and the names of the remaining six on the other stone, according to their birth.*

Six is the symbol of human rule and power; the way of the world that at present is ruled by satan.

### **Genesis 1 v 26**

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

Man was given this authority on the sixth day of Creation. The significance of this is seen in Revelation 6; after the sixth seal is opened we see six catastrophic events take place.

1. A single earthquake occurs.
2. The sun is blackened.
3. The moon is reddened.
4. There was a mighty meteorite fallen on the earth which caused devastation.
5. Heaven will be opened up and men shall see God on His Throne.
6. Every mountain and island shall be moved out of place.

Then comes an interlude and the seventh seal is opened, seven angels are given trumpets and they begin to fulfil their role. Then the last trumpet appears in Revelation 11. Six is therefore a number that signifies the judgement of the world.

### **Revelation 13 v 18**

*Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.*

In this scripture we see the threefold appearance of the number six; this is the number of the beast and all his disciples.

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## The Number Twelve

This is the number that regulates the universe. There are twelve chief stars; there are twelve signs of the Zodiac. (They exist but we are NOT to worship them.) There are twelve months in the year; there are twelve hours in the day and twelve hours in the night.

### **Numbers 1 v 47**

*These are the ones who were numbered, whom Moses and Aaron numbered, with the leaders of Israel, twelve men, each of whom was of his father's household.*

Jacob had twelve sons, a divinely appointed number. The arrangement of the camp in the desert also shows that God was very particular as how the camp was to be set out; three tribes were to be placed on four sides, 4 times 3 = 12. 4 plus 3 = 7. Twelve and seven are numbers that represent God's perfect will.

### **Revelation 21 v 13**

*There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west.*

God's chosen people (Israel) are related to and completed according to the number twelve. There were twelve tribes of Israel.

### **Matthew 4 v 18-22**

*Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.*

There were twelve Apostles of Christ. He started with four and finished with twelve.

### **Matthew 26 v 53**

*Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?*

There were twelve throngs of angels.

### **Revelation 12 v 1**

*A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars...*

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### **Revelation 4 v 4**

*Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.*

There will be twenty four elders around the throne.

### **Revelation 21 v 10-13**

*And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west.*

Finally there are to be twelve gates on the New Jerusalem, inscribed with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.

I hope that you will find these numbers of some help to you.

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