

God's Use of Numbers in the Scriptures

Anyone who has read the Holy Bible to any extent has most likely noticed that it contains certain numbers, which occur many times over, between Genesis and Revelation. Careful examination of any of these will reveal a very definite pattern of meaning for each such number, a pattern that is consistent throughout. Some are easily identified. Others require greater discernment in order to recognize their intended meaning. Students of the Bible have long recognized the consistency and precision of meaning of certain words, as they occur in the original Greek or Hebrew. However, it is far less evident that anywhere near that amount of attention has been given to the numbers, or to the reasons for certain numerical arrangements, or to the actual mathematics that the Holy Spirit has applied in His word-for-word use of the Holy Bible.

God did not write this Book with His finger on stone as He did with the 10 Commandments. He used some 40 pen men allowing them each to express their own style and phraseology, yet He guided the choice of every word that was written. Most of the world scoffs at, and severely rejects such a claim. Yet it is irrefutably provable to those who are willing to examine the evidence. Those who merely profess to believe, and even some of those who are genuine believers in our Savior, doubt the absolute accuracy of this statement. To this latter group I would ask why an almighty God who chose to convey to us a written message would do so failing to make it impeccably accurate, and then also fail to see to it that it would survive throughout the ages for the edification of all of His creation that would ever choose to examine it? Careful study of Scripture as we have it today, reveals that it is accurate, and that He did so preserve it. One of the ways we can be certain that He did, may be found in the supernatural and varied ways He wove into it certain numerics and other mathematical evidences, some of which are so subtle that their full relevance couldn't be discovered until this age of computer technology.

In His foreknowledge, He knew that in these times, Satan would fully equip his armies of attackers of the Scripture with every "modern" argument and device at his disposal to undermine belief in God's Holy Word. I believe that because of the divine insertion of

the many subtle numerical / mathematical evidences of supernatural authorship, God has provided the means by which Satan's efforts can be rendered futile for those who are genuinely seeking to know God's Truth. This has been provided for us amid the horrible darkness, confusion and deceit now being so successfully perpetrated these last days by false teachers, purveyors of half truths, advocates of evolution, and godless scholars engaged in the so-called "higher criticism". Collectively, they and other agents of Satan have turned much of the world away from the one true God and from His sacred writings.

There are at least five ways in which God has used numerics to add even greater meaning to His Word and to convincingly authenticate their divine origin. The first one we will consider is the well-known heptatic structure, which permeates all of Scripture. That seven is a number of completeness is evidenced everywhere, and readily observable to all who have read Scripture. Many hundreds of "sevens" have been observed and none of the 66 books is deficient in this structure. Actually, the number '7' is used over 700 times in the Bible and 54 times in Revelation. All life seems to revolve around the number. There are seven bones in the neck and seven in the face, as well as seven in the ankle. There are seven holes in the head. Most births occur in multiples of seven. Hens set for 21 days, pigeons for 14 days. Human birth usually takes 280 days. The list goes on and on. The surficial evidence of this greatly impressed a young Harvard Student named Ivan Pivin as he studied the Bible about a century ago. This in part led him to Jesus and to salvation. He spent the rest of his life researching and studying Scripture, and primarily its heptatic structure. He left over 40,000 pages of notes identifying and describing just this one incredible supernatural aspect of our precious God-Authored Book.

The fact that this structure flows so consistently and effortlessly interlocking all 66 books consisting of both the Old and New Testaments, speaks compellingly of a single Author. This is even more significant when one realizes that the Holy Bible was written over a period of at least 1550 years, and many of the writers knew little or nothing about what earlier contributors had been given to write. While many of "sevens" appear as simple lists, such as the seven churches, the seven candlesticks, the seven-fold spirits of God,

etc. There are many not so evident, which Pivin discovered. It is a fact that in the Greek Gospels there are words in each which do not appear in any of the others, and that their total numbers are always divisible evenly by seven. The total number of words in each Gospel is divisible by seven as are the total number of verbs and of nouns. This goes on and on so many ways that one can only conclude that some super intelligence must have orchestrated this for a purpose. What purpose? To provide proof of the Godly origin of the Scripture! Some of my earlier papers provide more detail about this structure, however, for a very comprehensive study of this, the book “Cosmic Codes” by Dr. Chuck Missler is recommended.

A second area of numerics evidenced in the Bible is the coded message found in equal-distant letter spaces within the text. The most well known is that found in the five books of Moses, as written in Hebrew. Starting with the first letter in the Book of Genesis counting 49 letters, the next letter is the first Hebrew letter in the word Torah, which name is given to these five Books. Each 49-letter space thereafter brings, one to the next letter until the word Torah has been spelled out. The same thing happens when one deals the same way with Exodus. With the Book of Leviticus it doesn't happen. However, with both Numbers and Deuteronomy it happens again, only Torah in these cases is spelled backwards! Going back to Leviticus, one finds that the Hebrew word for God is spelled out in seven letter intervals! Remember Leviticus relates to the priestly tribe of Levi, the Ark, the mercy seat, the tabernacle and the things specifically related to worship of God. The first two books, Genesis and Exodus point forward toward God, and the two books listed after Leviticus point backward toward God!

There are many many other incredible evidences of supernatural letters spacing throughout the entire 66 books. Dr. Missler describes these very well. What does this tell us if we will but listen? First, these, and the large multitude of similar equal-letter spacing messages defy coincidence or random chance as being the cause. Second, it proves the sustaining accuracy of the current copies of the original God-authored documents, because if any letters, words or phrases had been changed or copied in error

none of this would work! The whole structure and purpose of this coding would have failed!

It should be noted that when this equal spacing phenomena became well known, Satan and his agents pounced quickly to discredit it. They “scientifically” examined and wrote books seemingly extolling God’s work while adding false revelation, which were later “discovered.” so as to effectively discredit the idea in the eyes of the world, and even among Christians. But the true facts remain, and so provide clear evidence of Godly involvement, which deals with the prophetic and revealing nature of many other numbers God has used in His Books. Some are well known, while others are less evident yet surprisingly important. First we’ll merely list some of the better known, and then we’ll examine a few of the others, just to see how “clever” and consistent the Holy Spirit really is in His use of numbers.

1. The Number 1: This speaks of unity, the unity of God, and the oneness of God. Jesus said in John 10:30 “I and the Father are one.” Eph 4:4-6 speaks of one body, one spirit, one Lord, one hope, one faith etc.
2. The Number 3: This speaks of divine completeness and perfection. God’s divine completeness in the Triune Godhead. Three is the first of four perfect numbers that include the numbers, 7, 10, and 12. Three is called the divine number because it is connected so often with Holy things such as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the trinity of man, his body, soul and spirit. Examples of this are in the hundreds.
3. The number 4: This has to do with the world. The four regions, north, south, east and west. The four seasons, the four kingdoms, minerals, vegetables, animal and spiritual; the four winds, the four division of a day, morning, noon, evening, and night; the four phases of the moon, etc.
4. The Number 5: This has to do with God’s grace. The five Books of Moses are the foundations of Scripture making known the righteous requirement of God which man is obligated to obey. a) Burnt offerings, b) Peace offering, c) Sin offering, d) Trespass offering, and e) Meat offering. These are the 5 offerings at

the altar of sacrifice. There are 5 ministries through which God's grace is revealed. a) Apostles, b) Prophets, c) Evangelicals, d) Pastors, and e) Teachers. David took five stones when he went against Goliath. He trusted God's grace, taking one stone each for Goliath and his four brothers. We have two sets of commandments of five each. Five in relation to God and five in relation to our fellow man. The Psalms have five Books each closing with a doxology, these are:

- a) Psalms 1-41 concerning man
- b) Psalms 42-72 concerning nation Israel
- c) Psalms 73-89 concerning the sanctuary
- d) Psalms 92-106 concerning Israel and the gentiles
- e) Psalms 107-150 concerning God and His Word

There were 5 wise and 5 foolish virgins, Jesus fed five thousand, there are 5 Women mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus (Rahab, Ruth, Tamar, Bathsheba and Mary) all experienced God's grace in their lives, etc. The list goes on and on, for the number 5 is mentioned 318 times in the Bible always revealing goodness and grace. This is in addition to many of the five-fold listings sampled above. Could it be that by "coincidence" Romans 11:5 that grace is mentioned 5 times and not again in that chapter, while in the same verses work or works in mentioned 4 times? The works here are of man in the world while the grace is of God. One could go on and on with many more both evident and quite subtle examples.

5. The Number 6: This is the number of man, but it also represents man's incompetency, weakness, the manifestation of sin and the evils of Satan. To the early Jews this was a sinister number. As seven was the sacred number of completion, six was falling short and symbolized failure and defeat. In a comparative minor way six was to the Jew what thirteen is to us. God created man on the sixth day; His appointed days of labor were six. Six years were for sowing, the seventh for rest, for six days the Israelites surrounded Jericho, which fell on the seventh. Nebuchadnezzar's statue was 60 cubits tall and six cubits wide. The number 6 is connected with Satan's influence over man. The sixth character in the Bible is Satan. The sixth time the name Job occurs in the book of

- Job, it was Satan who used his name. When Jesus was accused of casting out devils by Beelzebub, He replied with 6 words “How can Satan cast out Satan”. The chief priest replied to Pilate with six words, “We have no king but Caesar,” The sixth time the thousand years is mentioned is in Revelation 20:1-8, and is connected with Satan. Again one could go on and on with such evidences of divine design.
6. The Number 8: We all know that this number represents new birth, new creation, or new beginning. A series is complete in seven, with eight signifying a new beginning as with the musical scale. There were eight persons carried on the ark to a new beginning. Scripture records that a total of eight persons were raised from the dead for new earthly beginnings. Circumcision, as decreed in Gen 17:12, was necessitated on the eighth day when bleeding was at the lowest level it could ever be both before and after that day. David was the eighth son of Jesse. The wilderness camp was arraigned in eight groups, four groups consisting of three tribes each, along the four directions of the compass and four divisions of the Levites around the Tabernacle of Testimony, “that there be no wrath upon the congregation...” (Numbers 1:52-55) (3:23, 35). In Jesus’ conversation with Nicodemus, the word “born” occurs eight times (John3:1-8). In Jesus conversation with the Samaritan woman, the word “water” occurs eight times, and in connection with the well (grace) five times (John 4:4-15). Again this is but a small sampling for the number eight is mentioned 80 times in the Bible. This is in addition to numerous subtle listings of eight, which suggest new beginnings. This could go on and on to become a book unto itself.
 7. The Number 10: This number speaks of testimony, law and responsibility. This is the number used under the law. Man is responsible for keeping the 10 Commandments. Ten is made up of the sum of the world-numbers 4 and 6, the number of man. This is looked upon as a complete number, as are seven and twelve. Man has 10 digits on his hands and feet. There were 10 patriarchs before the flood; there are 10 Commandments for man to bear testimony before God and man. There were 10 plagues upon Egypt. Abraham prayed for 10 righteous people within wicked Sodom. The parable of the 10 virgins, which is also the

legal number necessary to form a synagogue and for a Jewish wedding. There are 10 vices excluded from the Kingdom of God (1Cor 6:9,10). Ten powers become powerless against the Love of God (Romans 8:38, 39). The tithe is a tenth of our earnings as God proclaimed in Genesis 1. "God said" is expressed 10 times. Ten Psalms begin with Hallelujah (Psalms 106, 111, 112, 113, 135, 146, 147, 148, 149, and 150). This is the Psalmist testimony of praise to the Lord. There will be 10 kingdoms during the tribulation (Rev 13, 17). The Tabernacle boards were ten cubits long; there were 10 linen curtains, and ten pillars on the west side of the court. Again we could go on and on with just this one number, because the word ten and tenth are used a total 321 times. Additionally there are many actual listings of ten in Scripture.

To merely mention a few more numbers, which Scripture uses consistently to convey specific messages, consider the following:

8. The Number 11: This speaks consistently of judgment and disorder.
9. The number 12: This speaks consistently of government and perfection.
10. The Number 13: This speaks consistently of depravity and rebellion.
11. The Number 18: This speaks consistently of bondage.
12. The Number 20: This speaks consistently of redemption.
13. The Number 23: This speaks consistently of death.
14. The Number 40: This speaks consistently of trials, probation and testing.
15. The Number 17: This speaks of victory. While there are many other numbers not here listed which Scripture applies consistently, and with clear evidences of supernatural involvement, I find the application of the number 17 of particular interest because of its construction. It is an example of how the Holy Spirit uses slightly advanced math to bring out spiritual truths. Seventeen is the seventh prime number, that is it's an indivisible number. Therefore, if we are sensitive to Gods use of numbers, we might expect it to reveal something special. The number thirteen is the sixth prime number, since six is the number of man, especially man without God and rebellious toward Him, we might expect the seventh prime number to have some relationship to completeness and spiritual perfection.

That is exactly what we find! Seventeen is often found as a compounding of seven relating to completeness, and 10 relating to testimony. Therefore, the two speak to the completeness of testimony or complete victory in Christ Jesus. The combinations provide a greater significance than either seven or ten alone. In Genesis 5 we find Methuselah, the son of Enoch who walked with God and was translated to heaven. Methuselah was 969 years old. This number divides evenly by seventeen, as does his age of 187 when his son Lamech was born. Lamech was 182 when Noah was born and lived 595 years more, a number evenly divisible by seventeen. Only Enoch and Noah “walked with God”. Enoch was the seventh man from Adam and Noah was the tenth. We might say we got victory through the combination of these two antediluvian righteous men. When the floodwater receded, it was the 17th day of the second month. When the ark landed, it was seventeenth day of the seventh month (Gen7:11, 8:4).

This was a day of victory for the survival of mankind. It was also the 17th day of the seventh month many years later when Israel escaped from Egypt and came ashore safely on the east side of the Red Sea. Likewise our Lord and Savior rose from the dead on the 17th day of the seventh month (now changed to the first month) for the greatest victory of all time. Joseph was 17 when he was sold into slavery and Jacob lived with Joseph seventeen years in Egypt. Thus Jacob saw his beloved son for the first 17 years of Joseph’s life and the last seventeen years of his own life. In the last chapter of the Book of Joshua, God recounts all of His victories on behalf of His people Israel. The number is 17! In the Psalms, which are poems and praises to God, Jerusalem as the place of worship occurs just 17 times.

Bible scholars have noticed divisions of thought in the Psalms, which parallel the five Books of Moses. In the third portion of the Book of Psalms called the Leviticus or worship book, there are exactly 17 Psalms, (73-89) and the fourth book, the wilderness book, also has just 17 Psalms. (90-106) These depict victory through worship and walking with the Lord. The prayers of Jeremiah number

exactly 17 and Jeremiah bought land he would never use for 17 shekels, land through which his succeeding generations, 70 years later, would reap victory. Acts 2:9-11 tells us that 17 tongues were spoken on that great day of Pentecost. In Romans 8:35-39 there are 17 things listed which separate us from the Christ. Look at them carefully and you will see that they are separated into 2 groups, first, of 7 and then of 10. The 17th time the word “world” occurs is in 1John chapter 5 verse 41, when it is said in victory “Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world”. That Christ sits at the right hand of the Father is found 17 times in Scripture.

Had enough? I have!

I hope that this rather lengthy yet somewhat cursory excursion into the Biblical significance of numbers has convinced you that God takes numbers very seriously and uses them much to His glory and our edification. Anyone seeking a much more complete study into biblical numbers should read “Biblical Mathematics” by evangelist Ed F. Vallowe. This was my source of much of what is above and under this third and fourth use of numerics in the Bible.

The fourth use of numbers in the Bible has to do with Gematria, which is the use of the Greek and Hebrew alphabets in the form of their numerical values. These languages had no separate number system but assigned a number to each letter. Both the Greek and Hebrew number values of the letters went from 1 to 10 then 20, 30, etc to 100 then, 200 up to 900. Even the Romans used such a system, but they attached numerical values to only five of their alphabet letters. These we all learned in school, D=500, C=100, L=50, X=10, V=5, I=1. It is with this brief background knowledge regarding Gematria that we can now examine other numbers such as the number 666 which we are told to “understand” in Rev 13:18. It is the number of the beast, which we are to count. If what had preceded this point seems somewhat contrived and often a stretch of creditability and relevance, it is more than likely that it is new ground in ones study of Scripture. The skeptic may dismiss most of it on the basis that he sees it as coincidental rather than specifically and clearly God directed. However, here we are specifically ordered to use

Gematria, thus establishing the necessity of using God's use of numbers, and at least one place where we are directed to understand what He means by them. The numerical relationships and their meanings as here reported are but a small fraction of these which have been deliberately incorporated in Scripture for our benefit.

Throughout the centuries this issue of the 666 has drawn much attention and conjecture as to who the antichrist would be. Every generation seems to have had its suspects. In recent times such persons as Hitler, Stalin, Mao and other evil world leaders have been singled out through "innovative" use of Gematria. It seems that with enough contrivance almost any name, supplemented with initials middle names etc. can be made to suffice if spoken with assurance long enough. However, I believe that this, as with prophecy must be treated with great caution. It cannot yield reliable information until such time when the Holy Spirit has chosen to allow its being understood. Hindsight always adds clarity and validity to prophecy. When the antichrist comes there will be no need for contrivance. His identity as the 666 will be evident to all for whom Rev 13:18 is written. Pastor Vallowe lists five Greek words found in the New Testament which have the number 666. Each have direct application to antichrist or to his father Satan:

1. When Jesus and the apostles were on the Sea of Galilee and the violent storm suddenly came the apostles cried out "Lord saves us; we perish". Matthew, Mark and Luke each relate this in slightly different words except that the "we perish" is the same in all three. We perish, is a translation of the Greek word "applumentha" which has the number 666 behind it. Most commentators attribute the storm of such rare intensity, which so frightened seasoned fisherman and sailors, to have been a satanic attempt to kill Jesus. But Jesus prevailed over the storm by a simple command. The water was filling the boat which would have sunk it. So it is with the church, which consists of many small "boats" where the "remnant" and others gather to ostensibly honor God. They should be floating safely over Satan's worldly waters of spiritual toxicity. However, we see them filling with it to the point of sinking. In fact, many of the boats have already sunk! Only the Rapture will finally remove the floundering remnant.

- Thus, the first use of the number 666 is to depict the deadly peril of the church and how only Jesus can rescue it.
2. The second word which has a 666 value is “paradosis” meaning “tradition.” It occurs exactly thirteen times (the number for depravity and rebellion)! The first time is in Matt 15 where Jesus asks the Pharisees, “Why do ye also transgress the commandments of God by your tradition?” Here we see the chief peril for the church as departure from God’s own Word. This is clearly evidenced by the Roman Catholic Church with its prioritized traditions at the exclusion of clear whole and truthful Scriptural teaching. It is also true of the several other pseudo Christian religions which have developed man-made tradition to replace or reinterpret Scripture. These nominal and pseudo Christian churches have here been stamped with the terrible 666!!!
 3. The third word found representing the number 666 is “pleuran” which means “side” and is always used in the accusative case. It can be found in John 19:34, “...one of the soldiers pierced His side...”, and in John 20:20, 25, 27. is where it also speaks of Jesus’ pierced side. Except for Acts 12:7, all other times where the word “side” is used in the New Testament, a different Greek word meaning side is used.
 4. The next word which is the numerical equivalent of 666 is “euporia” which means “wealth.” It only occurs once and that is in Acts 19:25 where Demetrius the silversmith speaks to his contemporaries, “Sir, ye know that by craft we have our wealth.” This wealth came from casting graven images of idols out of silver. How many graven images do we effectually worship today? They need not be statues of Mary. What about the homage we pay to wealth, to TV, to celebrities, and to sporting events? Where we spend most of our “free” time is where our real worship may be found.
 5. The fifth and final 666 word is found in 1Peter 1:1 It is “diaspora” meaning scattered. This seems to represent the scattered saints of God down through the centuries. It would be those who love the world, their traditions, their wealth and their idols, who have and will scatter the true church up to the time of Rapture.

Pastor Vallowe has blessed us with another observation. That is with some additional insights on the well-known number 888, which is the numerical value of the Greek word for Jesus. As Satan is represented by the triple value of the number 6, that of weak, sinful man, Jesus is represented by the triple value of the number 8 which represents new birth, new creation or new beginning as only our Creator God Jesus is capable of providing. Dr. Vallowe has observed that in this number, man, when he accepts God's will as his rule of life, is kept safe in hours of danger. The first place this concept is expressed is at the time of the flood, where only Noah and his family, totaling 8 persons, were saved from physical death. Of the four men, Noah, Shem, Ham and Japheth, (Noah's' drinking problem notwithstanding), Ham is recorded as having committed a curse-generating sin. The numeric value of the other three men adds up to 888. Coincidence? Too much of a stretch? Perhaps. Then again we have four incredibly righteous men found in the Book of Daniel, namely Daniel, Hananiah, Misheal and Azariah. The sum total of their numbers also adds up to 888. Here, Dr. Valowe ends his brief dissertation on numeric's, and of this impressive work. I must say AMEN and Thank You!!

And now the fifth and final example of God's use of numeric's to express His Word and to completely validate the authenticity and inerrant nature of Scripture. This one comes close to literally "blowing my mind" as it might anyone, especially those with strong technical educations. I am in awe of its profound confirmation of just who authored the Bible. It seems to me that anyone fully appreciative of what follows must place all of his or her doubts about who the Author of the Bible may be, stuff them into a coffin and seal it with super glue and a thousand nails and bury it in concrete, so that none can ever again enter the mind or heart. God is the author of both the Old and New Testament!

Dr. Missler has related a conversation which he had with some Rabbis during one of his trips to Israel. They told him of an arithmetic discovery regarding the first verse of Genesis and the first verse of the Gospel of John. He did the arithmetic himself and verified the accuracy. First it should be noted that there are but two universal constants without which science could not have developed. They are essential in almost all applications of mathematics in science and engineering. The first is called "pi" the well-

known constant necessary for any calculation regarding circles and spheres. The second is less known, yet its use is essential in almost all advanced scientific and engineering mathematical formulæ. Not much of the scientific advancement that has occurred over the past three centuries could have occurred without its use. It is designated as “e”. The numerical value of “pi” is 3.14592--- and that of “e” is 2.71828---.

What was discovered is that if one takes the numerical values of each of the letters in the first verse in Genesis times the product of the letters, and divides that total by the total number of words times the product of the words, result is the constant “pi” to the fourth decimal place. If one does the same thing with the first sentence in the Gospel of John, the result is “e” to the fourth decimal place. What can you do with this information? Probably nothing, except to get down on your knees and thank our wonderful God for having further revealed Himself in this way for those who might need that additional evidence in order to believe His divine Authorship of our Holy Bible.

Personally I cannot believe that anyone knowing this to be true, even without all of the other compelling evidence Scripture provides, could possibly deny the absolute divine, supernatural origin of Scripture! How else can this be explained? I believe that God has purposely deferred revealing these, and perhaps many more layers or evidences that prove the validity of Scripture until this last portion of the end times. For those willing to look, and see by the light, which Scripture provides regarding the worldwide preparation for the coming of the antichrist, these things should not be surprising. As the ugly net of apostasy spreads over the Christian church, God is using these additional proofs of authorship of Scripture in order to provide confused seekers of the truth, every opportunity to believe in Jesus through the supernatural origin of Scripture.

The great ecumenical movement centered in Rome is embracing all religions, except genuine Christianity, and is seeking to place them under the one umbrella of a single world religious system for delivery to the antichrist. Listen carefully to the words of some of the most popular Christian leaders and you will find that even these have been seduced into that great heresy, the so-called ecumenical movement. These false pastors whether

knowingly or unknowingly, are leading many who could have been saved, all the way to hell by their shameful compromises with the devil. This is but one more proof, a simple yet astounding proof of the authorship of the Bible.

In the secular world, we can now see clearly the irresistible forming of the structure for a one-world government, earlier and secretly known as the New World Order. The political, educational, economic, social and religious components are also advancing rapidly and exceedingly well in preparation for delivery to Antichrist. That all of this is true and certain evidence of his not too distant appearance is no surprise for those who have studied carefully the whole of Scripture. Nor is it any source of fear for those who belong to Jesus, because we know that we will all be with Him well before the Antichrist arrives. Do you have that comfort, security and lack of fear? I pray that you do, and that it is securely grounded in a genuine faith, based on a real knowledge and love of our Lord and Savior!