

## The Significance and Symbolism of BIBLE NUMBERS

*John M. Brown, Olive Hill Church of Christ, Sunday Bible Class, June 2014*

### ***Number One (1)***

1. A single object
2. Unity; united; single
3. Independence
4. A number describing God: Deut. 6:4

### ***Number Two (2)***

1. Strength; that which is stronger, more effective (Eccl. 4:9-12)
2. Confirmation: the Law required two witnesses (Deut. 17:6; 19:15; 2 Cor. 13:1); Jesus sent the disciples out two by two (Luke 10:1); our Bible has two parts, being the sum of God's complete revelation to man.
3. This number can also represent distinction, difference, division (Gen. 1:16-18; Gen. 2:23-24 with Matt. 19:5)

### ***Number Three (3)***

1. Divine number; Deity; the number representing GOD.
2. Father, Son, Holy Ghost: Genesis 1:1-2; Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19; 1 John 5:7
3. The creation is a reflection of this three-dimensional nature (time = past, present, future; space = breadth, length, width; man = body, soul, spirit)

### ***Number Four (4)***

1. World, earth, creation: north, south, east, west.
2. Four corners of the earth (Isaiah 11:12); four winds (Ezekiel 37:9; Daniel 7:2; 11:4; Rev. 7:1).
3. Four seasons; four points on compass; four basic elements (fire, wind, earth, water)
4. During fourth kingdom (Daniel 2) the kingdom of God shall be set up ("in earth" – Matt. 6:9 ff).

### ***Number Seven (7)***

1. Completeness ("three" for God; "four" for creation).
2. God created all in six days; seventh He rested (done!).
3. Seven spirits, churches, candlesticks, stars, vials, trumpets,
4. Seventy members of Jewish high court; Jesus sent out seventy; forgive brother seventy times seven; etc.
5. The number "seven" occurs more than fifty times in Revelation.
6. Our world reflects this seven-completion: *seven primary colors; seven notes on musical scale; "seven seas"; "seven wonders of the world"; "seven deadly sins"; etc.*

***Number Six (6)***

1. Falling short of perfection; incompleteness.
2. Six came to represent falling short of God's expectation
3. Man's number: "666" (Revelation 13:18).

***Number Eight (8)***

1. Something new or different; a new beginning.
2. Eight souls in ark (1 Pet. 3:20) from which new earth population would come; circumcision done on eighth day (Lev. 12:3; 14:10, 23; 15:14, 29)
3. "Eighth" horn; "an eighth"

***Number Ten (10)***

1. Human completeness (ten fingers, toes).
2. Rounded total: ten-horned beast (complete power in civil government); dragon, ten horns; first and last beast, ten horns.
3.  $10 \times 10 = 1,000$  – came to mean ultimate completeness. (our numerical system is based on "ten")

***Number Five (5)***

1. Half of ten
2. Incompleteness; imperfection.

***Number Twelve (12)***

1. Symbolic of religion; a "religious number" (twelve tribes of Israel; twelve cakes of shewbread; twelve apostles; twelve Gates; twelve manner of fruit for the nations; etc.).
2.  $12 \times 12 \times 1000 = 144,000$  – perfect, complete number of those sealed from the wrath of God.

***Number Three and one-half (3 ½)***

1. Broken seven – falling short, incompleteness.
2. Came to represent persecution, trial
3. Time, times, and ½ time =  
 $1 + 2 + \frac{1}{2} = 3 \frac{1}{2}$