

Numbers In The Bible

You can never find anywhere in scripture where individual numbers mean certain things. In other words, no verse says, "The number 7 means 'perfection'." If a number is used enough times, and a pattern forms, we can then assign meanings to it.

Number	Meaning
1	<p>A. The oneness of God. (Deut 6:4)</p> <p>B. The unity of the Father & Son. (John 10:30)</p> <p>C. All of the commandments rest on the 1st one.</p>
2	<p>A. Agreement, verifying of facts. (Deut 17:6; 2 Cor 13:1; 1 Tim 5:19)</p> <p>B. Union, as in Adam & Eve's marriage union.</p> <p>C. God's testimony is in the Old and New Testaments.</p>
3	<p>A. God's number (Father, Son & Holy Spirit) It signifies holy completeness.</p> <p>B. The three righteous patriarchs after the Flood were Abel, Enoch & Noah.</p> <p>C. There were three righteous "fathers": Abraham, Isaac & Jacob.</p> <p>D. $3 \times 3 \times 3 = 27$ The number of books in the NT.</p> <p>E. Jesus prayed three times in the garden of Gethsemane.</p> <p>F. Jesus was nailed to the cross at the "3rd hour." ($3 \times 3 = 9$ A.M.) He died on the 9th (3×3) hour (3 P.M.).</p> <p>G. 3 hours of darkness covered the land at Jesus' crucifixion.</p> <p>H. There are three heavens. (2 Cor 12:2 – 4)</p>
4	<p>A. The number of Creation. The first four days of the Creation established the sun, moon, stars, and earth.</p> <p>B. The 4 Living Creatures are symbols of the Creation. (Rev 5:6)</p> <p>C. The earth is sometimes referred to as having four corners. (Isa 11:12; Ezek 7:2)</p> <p>D. 4 world kingdoms have risen from the earth. (Dan. 7:3, 17)</p> <p>E. The earth is divided into north, south, east, & west.</p> <p>F. In the book of Revelation, the Creation honors God with four distinct blessings: blessing, honor, glory, and dominion. (Rev 5:13)</p> <p>G. 4 horsemen are loosed upon the earth. (Rev 6:1 – 8)</p> <p>H. The first four seals wreak havoc upon the Creation: conquest, war, famine, & death. (Rev 6:1 – 8)</p>

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5	Symbolizes God's grace. The 10 Commandments consist of 2 sets of 5. The first five commandments deal with our relationship with God. The last five deal with our relationship with other people.
6	<p>A. Man's number. Adam was created on the 6th day. (Gen 1:23 – 26)</p> <p>B. Gathering of the fields (man's work) was done on the 6th day. (Exo.16:22; 23:10)</p> <p>C. The Passover feast lasted six days, to remember God's redemption of people from Egypt. (Deut 16:8)</p> <p>D. The number '6' falls short of perfection (or completion), symbolized by the number '7.' Having been created on the 6th day, man falls short. He is only complete (perfect) when he is in Christ. (Gal 2:20)</p> <p>E. The number 666 is "the number of man." Translators have added the word 'a' (the number of <i>a</i> man), an erroneous translation. It refers to what happened when Adam & Eve ate the forbidden fruit, and they "became like God." Since '3' is God's number, and '6' is man's number, '666' just means "man acting like God."</p>
7	<p>A. Used in scripture more than any other number. It means 'completeness,' 'maturity,' or 'perfection.'</p> <p>B. The 7th day <i>completes</i> the week. (Gen 1)</p> <p>C. Seven days after filling the ark, the Lord brought rain. (Gen 5:4)</p> <p>D. Jacob worked seven years to marry Rachel, thus <i>completing</i> the agreement between him and Laban. (Gen 29:18)</p> <p>E. The years of feast and famine in Egypt each lasted seven years. (Gen 41)</p> <p>F. Joseph's mourning was completed seven days after his father's death. (Gen 50:10)</p> <p>G. Many of the Mosaic laws required a 7-day period to complete. (Exo.13:6; 29:35; 34:18)</p> <p>H. Leviticus is full of instructions where things were done in 7's before they were determined to be <i>complete</i> or finished.</p> <p>I. Israel had to wipe out seven nations before they could inherit the Promised Land. (Deut 7)</p> <p>J. God's words are refined seven times, (Psa 12:6) making them <i>perfect</i>.</p> <p>K. There are seven things that God hates. (Prov 6:16)</p> <p>L. <i>Complete</i> wisdom is built on seven pillars. (Prov 9:1)</p> <p>M. Seven abominations fill (<i>complete</i>) a man's heart. (Prov 26:25)</p> <p>N. After <i>completing</i> seven days of sacrifice, God promised to accept Ezekiel. (Ezek 43:27)</p>

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8	<p>A. Signifies a new beginning or resurrection.</p> <p>B. Infant boys were circumcised on the 8th day since it meant a renewal of God's covenant with Israel. This now points to our "circumcision of the heart," which is brought about when we become Christians. It is a renewal into the New Creation. (2 Cor 5:17; Gal. 6:15)</p> <p>C. After the seven weeks of the spring harvest, the next day—the 50th day—is Pentecost. This day is also the eighth day of the seventh week. This 8th and 50th-day combination pictures the first resurrection when the saints will be raised from the dead and made immortal (1 Cor 15:20 – 23, John 3:3 – 12).</p> <p>D. After the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles, there is an 8th day, called the Last Great Day—a new beginning begins.</p>
9	<p>A. Divine completeness, or finality.</p> <p>B. Jesus died on the 9th hour, finalizing God's plan of salvation.</p> <p>C. There are nine fruits of the Holy Spirit, thus finalizing everything it takes to become a complete and mature person in Christ. (Gal 5:22 – 23)</p>
10	<p>A. Another number symbolizing completeness.</p> <p>B. The Israelites tested God 10 times, indicating a sufficient (complete) number of times that should have brought about their repentance. (Num 14:22)</p> <p>C. God gave Jeroboam 10 tribes, completely removing the kingdom from Solomon's hand. (1 Kgs 11:31)</p> <p>D. Israel argued their superiority against Judah, saying they had "10 parts of the king." (IE, ten tribes as opposed to Judah having only Simeon) (2 Sam 19:43, 44)</p> <p>E. The number is, therefore, a euphemism for self-sufficiency. For example, "Wisdom strengthens a wise man more than ten rulers who are in a city." (Ecc 7:19)</p> <p>F. Elkanah said to his wife, "Am I not better than ten sons?" (1 Sam 1:8) Today, we use similar expressions to denote sufficiency ("I've told you ten times not to slap your sister!")</p> <p>G. "Your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times." (Gen 31:7) In other words, Jacob's wages were frequently changed, or many times.</p> <p>H. "Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs, which I performed in Egypt and the wilderness, yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice." (Num 14:22) In other words, Israel completely tested God.</p> <p>I. As for every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king</p>

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	<p>consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and conjurers who were in all his realm. (Dan 1:20)</p> <p>J. The most apparent reference to self-sufficiency is seen in the 10 Commandments, which summed up the Law and <i>ultimately</i> condemned sin.</p> <p>K. The other significant use of the number was in the ten plagues God poured out on Pharaoh. They were considered sufficient to show God's mighty hand to the Egyptians. (Exo.7:3-5)</p>
11	<p>You can perhaps claim that if '10' means completeness (seen in the 10 Commandments), then '11' could mean "going beyond what is written." (1 Cor 4:6) However, this is very speculative.</p>
12	<p>A. The number of national sufficiency (completeness).</p> <p>B. Jacob had 12 sons, which made up the nation of Israel.</p> <p>C. The Arab nations came about as a result of Ishmael's blessing by God. (Gen 17:20)</p> <p>D. The 12 apostles represent the foundation of the Christian nation, a nation in heaven where we have our citizenship. (Phil 3:20)</p> <p>E. The New Jerusalem has 12 gates, where nations bring their glory and also enter for healing. (Rev 21:21 – 24)</p>
14	<p>A. A multiple of 7; so 14 is double that number, implying a double measure of spiritual perfection or completeness. The genealogy of Jesus Christ is divided up and given in sets of 14 (2x7) generations, two being associated with incarnation.</p> <p>B. There are three sets of 14 generations between (and including) Abraham to Joseph (husband of Mary).</p>
24	<p>A. The number for the OT priesthood, focusing on the orderly worship of God. David divided the priests into 24 groups. (1 Chron 23 – 24)</p> <p>B. The 24 elders (Revelation 4) signify a heavenly priesthood and highly structured order of worship.</p>
40	<p>A. The number of testing or judgment.</p> <p>B. The rains (in Noah's day) fell for 40 days and nights (Gen 7:4).</p> <p>C. Israel ate Manna for 40 years (Exo. 16:35).</p> <p>D. Moses was with God on the mount, 40 days and nights (Exo. 24:18).</p> <p>E. Moses was again with God 40 days and 40 nights (Exo. 34:28).</p> <p>F. Moses fled Egypt at age 40. At 80, he led Israel from Egypt (2x40), and after 40 years in the wilderness, died at 120 (3x40; Deut 34:7).</p> <p>G. The spies searched (surveyed, tested, and judged conditions in) the land of Canaan for 40 days (Num 13:25). In God's judgment, therefore, He made</p>

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40	<p>Israel wander for 40 years (Num 14:33-34).</p> <p>H. 40 stripes were the maximum whipping penalty/judgment (Deut 25:3).</p> <p>I. God allowed the land to rest for 40 years 3 times (Judges 3:11; 5:31; 8:28).</p> <p>J. Abdon (a judge in Israel) had 40 sons (Judges 12:14).</p> <p>K. Eli judged Israel for 40 years (1 Sam 4:18).</p> <p>L. Goliath tested Israel for 40 days (1 Samuel 17:16).</p> <p>M. Saul reigned for 40 years, thereby testing Israel's obedience while under their first earthly king (Acts 13:21).</p> <p>N. David reigned over Israel for 40 years (2 Samuel 5:4, 1 Kings 2:11).</p> <p>O. Solomon reigned 40 years (1 Kings 11:42).</p> <p>P. The holy place of the temple was 40 cubits long (1 Kings 6:17).</p> <p>Q. 40 baths (measurement) was the size of wash basins in the temple (1 Kings 7:38).</p> <p>R. The sockets of silver are in groups of 40 (Exo. 26:19 & 21).</p> <p>S. Elijah had one meal that gave him strength 40 days (1 Kings 19:8).</p> <p>T. Ezekiel bore the iniquity of the house of Judah for 40 days (Ezekiel 4:6).</p> <p>U. Jehoshaphat (Joash) reigned 40 years in Jerusalem (2 Kings 12:1).</p> <p>V. Egypt was to be laid desolate for 40 years (Ezekiel 29:11-12).</p> <p>W. Ezekiel's (symbolic) temple is 40 cubits long (Ezekiel 41:2), while the courts in were each 40 cubits long (Ezra 46:22).</p> <p>X. God gave Nineveh 40 days to repent (Jonah 3:4).</p> <p>Y. Jesus fasted 40 days and nights (Matthew 4:2).</p> <p>Z. Jesus was tempted 40 days (Luke 4:2, Mark 1:13).</p> <p>AA. Jesus remained on earth 40 days after the resurrection (Acts 1:3).</p> <p>The number '40' is typically used in scripture to represent a period of testing or judgment (the length of time necessary to complete a significant part of God's plan in his dealings at various times with humanity). The 40 days of rain in the days of the flood were the judgments of God. The 40-day periods of fasting, testing, and communing with God that were faced by Moses and Jesus were a form of God's judgments. The 40 years the Israelites spent in the wilderness were also judgments of God. Various leaders in Israel who reigned for 40 year periods were put there by God according to His Will and Judgments. Egypt was left desolate for 40 years because of God's judgments. I could go on and on, but I think these examples should suffice.</p> <p>The maximum number of "stripes" allowed for punishment was 40. "Stripes" have to do with judgment (including God's). See Luke 12:47-48.</p>

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40	<p>When God brings judgment upon His people, it may be rightly termed, "stripes." When Peter states (about Jesus) "by whose stripes you were healed," (1 Pet 2:24), he is quoting from Isaiah 53:5, a prophecy concerning <i>spiritual</i> healing. In other words, Jesus bore the main force of the judgments that should come upon you and me as sinners. Isaiah's prophecy shows the judgments of God were poured out upon Jesus for our healing.</p> <p>There were ten wash basins in Solomon's temple, and each one contained 40 "baths" of liquid volume (over 350 gallons each). Do these have anything to do with judgment? Yes, because the water in the basin was symbolic of the word of God, which "washes" followers of Christ today (Eph 5:26, Rev 22:1-2).</p>
70	<p>A. A combination of two perfect numbers, seven (representing perfection) and ten (representing completeness and God's law). As such, it symbolizes perfect spiritual order carried out with all power. It can also constitute a period of judgment.</p> <p>B. 70 elders were appointed by Moses (Num 11:16).</p> <p>C. After reading the covenant God gave him to read to the people, Moses took 70 elders, along with Aaron and his sons, up Mount Sinai to have a special meal with God himself! (Exo.24:9 – 11)</p> <p>D. Israel spent a total number of 70 years in captivity in Babylon (Jer 29:10).</p> <p>E. The number '70' is also especially connected with Jerusalem. The city kept 70 years of Sabbaths while Judah was in Babylonian captivity (Jeremiah 25:11).</p> <p>F. Seventy sevens (490 years) were determined upon Jerusalem for it to complete its transgressions, to make an end for sins and for everlasting righteousness to enter into it (Daniel 9:24).</p>
1000	<p>A. A period, known only to God. It also means eternity in some verses. To God, 1,000 years is insignificant. (Psa 90:4; 2 Pet 3:8) To man, however, it seems like a long time. (Ecc 6:6) This number is the Bible's way of describing something <i>indefinite</i> or <i>countless</i>. It speaks to fullness and inclusiveness wherever you find it in the bible. It uses <i>quantity</i> to describe <i>quality</i>.</p> <p>B. Believers will reign with Christ 1,000 years. (Rev 20:6) However, it is later qualified to mean they will reign forever. (Rev 22:5)</p> <p>C. Satan is chained for 1,000 years (a very long time). (Rev 20:2)</p> <p>D. In Revelation, it says that 144,000 are God's chosen. Remember that '12' represents nations. There are 12,000 from each tribe. If '1,000' means "a</p>

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	<p>HUGE number known only by God,” then we see $144,000 = 12,000 \times 12$. These folks represent all of the saved from the human race, which is a HUGE number. Abraham’s descendants (which includes all Christians—Rom 4:16; Gal 3:7) are as numerous as the sand on the seashore or stars in the sky. (Gen 22:17)</p>

Numeric interpretation serves to reinforce the Bible's accuracy, since numbers show the same patterns throughout the **66 books**, written by **40 authors**, on **3 continents**, over a period of **2,000 years**. Good judgment and knowledge of the scriptures are critical when looking at these things.