

Bible Numbers 7 & 8

Numbers in the Bible

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Bible Text: Genesis 2:1-4

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Please turn in your Bibles to the second chapter of the book of Genesis. We want to begin reading at the first verse.

“1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.
2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. 3 And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made. 4 These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.”

Let's bow our heads in prayer.

Our Father, we do thank thee and praise thee for this, another opportunity to come to look into thy Word together. Yet, we realize that we must come to thee with the prayer of the Psalmist upon our lips, "Lord, open thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." We know, Father, that we're coming to things that must be revealed to us, to things that cannot be learned by human wisdom and how we do thank thee for the Spirit of God who has promised to lead us and to guide us into all truth. We ask thee, Lord, that as we understand these things that they might be that which would instruct us in the way of your righteousness, that we might teach others also. We pray for thy blessing upon our lives as individuals, that day-by-day we might become more like the Lord Jesus, that others might see him in us and might be drawn to a knowledge of the truth of salvation. We pray these things in our Savior's precious name. Amen.

We're moving on tonight with our study in Bible numbers as we attempt to understand the significance of the usage of some of the primary numbers here in the Word of God. We've discovered so far that the number one is the number of singular importance. We found that the number two is the number of contrast. We've seen how the number three is the number of completion. The number four is the number of revelation. The number five is the number of grace. The number six is the number of man. Tonight, we want to go a little further as time permits and we want to begin with number seven, the number of perfection.

For the sake of those of you who might be here for the first time, I want to repeat a very critical point: just as in the case of the types and the symbols of the Bible, these numbers that we're studying are not for the purpose of building doctrine. They are given by the Lord here in his Word for the edification of his people. At the same time, they are things that are extremely important because as we've seen there are many hundreds of verses that are just cold, boring, historical facts until they come alive in a marvelous way by an understanding of the numbers of the Bible.

We've learned, for example, why Genesis is the first book in the Bible. We've learned why God requires two witnesses to decide a matter. We've learned why God is revealed in three persons. We've discovered why the Bible uses four gospel writers to give us the story of the Lord Jesus while he was here on earth. We've taken a look at why David chose five stones when he went out to meet Goliath in battle and why there were six water pots involved when the Lord Jesus turned the water into wine. And, of course, a great deal more. Dare I say that there aren't too many people in the world who know why those things are so that makes you very special. After that message Sunday morning, I'd better boost your ego a little bit.

Seriously, if we believe in the verbal inspiration of the Bible, we ought to know that every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God is important. We ought to want to know every reason why everything is in this book and why it's forever settled in heaven. If God tells us that the pool of Bethesda had five porches, there's a reason for it, not simply because it happened to be on there on the scene at the time when the impotent man was healed but because the number five is the number of grace. He tells us that Nebuchadnezzar's image was 60 cubits high and 60 cubits broad. There are valid and valuable reasons why it was like that. God phrased it in just that way to emphasize the number six being the number of man and the fact that this image was simply another manifestation of the best that man could do on the human scene.

Let's consider the number seven tonight because to my mind, it's one of the most interesting. It's found over 600 times in the Bible and I believe it's God's favorite number. I say that because he always does things by sevens. Not only the Bible but much of God's creation has this number of perfection stamped upon it. We've read tonight here in Genesis 2, the first mention of the number seven. We've talked often about the rule of first mention in Bible study, how it tells us that the first time we find a person or a place or a thing in the Word of God, it's usually the key to the understanding of it throughout the rest of the Bible. And we see that that is true here in the case of the number seven. "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made."

You see, it was on the seventh day that God perfected his week. There are seven days in the perfect week. There have been times in history when man tried to disprove this: the Greeks, the Romans, others have tried ten day weeks and 14 day weeks and many other experiments but they've all failed because God declared that there were seven days in a

perfect week as far as he was concerned. It's a medical fact that for six days, the human pulse is fast in the morning and slow in the evening but on the seventh day, it is slow in the morning and fast in the evening. That's because God intended for human beings to operate on a seven day cycle. Seven days in the week because that's the way he made it. Six days to labor, six the number of man, coming short of God's rest. The seventh day, the one of singular importance because it pictures the rest of our salvation and the finished work of God himself, the Lord Jesus Christ. That's not at all strange in the light of these things that there are seven basic colors in the spectrum because this is a perfect manifestation of the beauty that God has given to this world. There are seven notes in the musical scale, a perfect foundation for all the millions of songs that have been composed since God perfected that scale so long ago.

Again tonight, for the sake of time, I'll try to give you some quick examples and then we'll turn to some as well. It takes a long time if you have to look up all seven instances of each thing when we get this high up into the numbers. A couple of years ago, when I preached last on the numbers of the Bible, it took 14 messages to do what I thought was a quick study so I'm trying to condense a great deal of that for you so we can move through them more quickly this time. And many times here in the pages of the Old Testament, we find that when we run into the works of God, the instructions of God, the number seven is there. It's always the mark of perfection. And I think I'd better explain as we proceed in this thing that here, again, as in the case of other Bible numbers, you'll find a great variation of teaching among Bible teachers on these things. Some people say that the number seven is the number of completion. They say that in order for something to be complete, it must be perfect and to be perfect it must be complete and vice-versa. Now, I wouldn't argue about words that try to prove things on that basis but, again, I just say that I'm giving you the terms that I have found personally to be a help to me.

This word "seven" comes from a root word that means "to be satisfied" and when I speak of perfection, that's exactly what I'm talking about. There is a great difference in God's economy between perfection and completion. For example, when we talk about the fact that there are seven colors in the spectrum, certainly that's not a complete listing of all the colors. There are many thousands of shades of color that are to be found in the universe and yet the seven basic colors, the seven that God placed in the spectrum are a perfect foundation for all the rest. From these seven, all the rest of them can be drawn. At the same time, the seven notes in the scale are not complete by any means. There are flats and sharps and majors and minors and all those things but the perfect basis on which all these things are built are the seven notes to be found in the scale.

Now, we see this as we go along in our study of these other sevens here in the Word of God. We find in Romans 12:6-8 that we have seven gifts of the Spirit listed there. This is not all of them, by any means, but it's a perfect representation of the fact that God gives gifts unto man. We find in the New Testament that the Apostle Paul wrote letters to seven churches. He wrote to Rome, to Corinth, to Galatia, to Ephesus, to Philippi, to Colossi, to Thessalonica. Now, this is by no means a complete list of all the churches that were in existence in New Testament time but it is a perfect representation. These seven represent

in a perfect way, God's truth, as it needs to go to all churches in that day and in this day in which we're living. As I say, always here in the Old Testament and in the New as well.

When we come to these many instances of God using this number seven, we find the mark of perfection on it. The seventh day was a holy day as well as the end of the week. It was the Sabbath as we were talking about just a few weeks ago. The seventh month was the month of sacred festivals. The times of many of the occasions that God set aside in a very special way to be used as an observance to represent the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. The seventh year was a sabbatic year, a rest for the land when all farming had to cease to allow the land to rest. When we come to Leviticus 25, we find seven times seven or 49 years to the year of Jubilee, the time of redemption of the land and the people. You see all these things are still picturing the perfect work of the Lord Jesus Christ that he would one day accomplish. There remaineth therefore a rest for the people of God and it's in the Lord Jesus Christ. And all these Sabbaths having to do with these seventh days and seventh month and seventh year and seven times seven years, all these things are picturing our rest in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We mentioned last time that the royal line through Solomon picturing the Lord Jesus Christ as a man has 66 names in it because six is the number of man. And the Lord Jesus was man as God intended man to be, but when we examine his genealogy through Nathan, we find that it contains 77 names to show us that not only was he man but he was the perfect one, he was God manifest in the flesh as well. We saw also in our last message how the food of Egypt as mentioned in six particulars there in Numbers 11:5, though it comes short of God's best as mankind and his works always do. But the perfect food of God's provision, the food of Canaan as we find it in Deuteronomy 8:8 are to be found in seven particulars. There were seven miracles worked by the Lord Jesus on the Sabbath day. The perfect proof that he's Lord even of the Sabbath day.

When it comes to God's overall dealings with man, again the number seven is prominent in the Word of God. There are seven dispensations: innocence, conscience, human government, promise, law, grace and the Kingdom. Seven dispensations that present to us God's perfect plan for testing man under every conceivable condition here in this world. The seven parables of Matthew 13 that we're going to be studying very soon on Sunday nights, outline for us a perfect pattern of a course of the Kingdom of the heavens in mystery form in this age in which we're living. The seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3 picture for us the perfect prophecy of the history of the church from the day of Pentecost to the rapture. And if we're reading tonight in the Hebrew language, we could turn to Daniel 9:24 and we'd read there, "Seventy sevens are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city." Seventy weeks of years or 490 years of God's perfect dealings with Israel as a nation from the days of Nehemiah to the end. Of course, as any student of prophecy knows, there is still one seven left: the seventieth week of Daniel; the seven years of tribulation described for us so graphically in the book of Revelation.

There are a great many more that we could mention. There are the seven sayings of the Lord Jesus Christ as he hung on the cross. There are the seven unities of the Spirit mentioned in Ephesians 4. The seven characteristics of wisdom mentioned in James 3:17.

There are seven mentions of the last times of the seven years of tribulation here in the Word of God. There are seven sprinklings of blood that took place on the Day of Atonement. All these things emphasizing the fact that God always does things by sevens.

Let's turn for just a moment, if you will, to Luke 4. This is a very familiar prophecy that we've look at many times and yet it is interesting to notice that the number seven, again, is to be found here in this prophecy. The Lord Jesus chose out of all the writings in the book of Isaiah to read these words that are before us here in Luke 4:18. Let's begin at verse 16, "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

Now, there we have the outline in seven particulars, the perfect fulfillment of the Messiah as he's promised in the Old Testament Scriptures. And all these things are fulfilled in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord." This is something that we find over and over where the number seven is not even mentioned but seven times there'll be this manifestation of the perfection of God's revelation of truth in any given instance.

For example, there are seven men called Man of God in the Old Testament Scriptures. The only way to know that is to go through there and count them. It's not because you're told anywhere that they are there seven times. There are seven appearances of angels during the time that the Lord Jesus was here on the earth. The only way to know that is to go through and count them. And yet, these are seven that are implicit in the Word of God and we find them over and over and over again. We were talking last week or the week before, I guess it was, about the fact that there are seven signs in the gospel of John testifying to the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. He turned the water into wine; he healed the nobleman's son; he healed the impotent man at the Pool of Bethesda; he fed the 5,000; we see him walking on the sea; we see him giving sight to the man who was blind from his birth; we see him raising Lazarus from the dead. Seven signs. And when we go through there and read Luke's gospel it's an interesting thing that there should be always seven. But John is testifying to the perfection of the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. That's all he needed. He wasn't seeking to give all of the things as he tells us so clearly but this is only a sampling, this is only the beginning and yet it's all that we need because it's a perfect representation of God's truth to testify to the deity of the Lord Jesus.

In the Old Testament, again, when we're reading about Joshua and the Battle of Jericho, we read about seven priests; we read about seven trumpets; we read about seven days; we read that there were those seven times around the city on the seventh day for no other

reason than because God liked to do things by sevens. There are seven mysteries in the New Testament: the mystery of the Kingdom; the mystery of the blindness of Israel; the mystery of the church; the mystery of the rapture; the mystery of the purpose of God; the mystery of iniquity; and mystery Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth. Again, because God always does things by sevens.

In Leviticus 23 we find the seven feasts of Jehovah. A perfect picture of the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ as he laid down his life there on Calvary's cross. The meaning behind the sacrifice that was made for our sake and the representation of the prophetic implications for these things is set forth in those seven feasts of Jehovah.

I want you to turn with me for a moment to Revelation 1. It's here in the book of Revelation that we get a great deal of insight into why I believe the number seven is God's favorite number because the number seven is here in this book from beginning to end. As God is perfecting his dealings with this universe in which we live, he's working among the nations; he's working in Israel; he's working among the church. He's finishing up his dealings here in this world and he gives us a perfect manifestation of a great deal of truth time and time again here in the last book of the Bible. In fact, the number seven is found in the book of Revelation seven times seven which is 49.

Here in verse 3 we read, "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." This is the first of seven blessings or seven beatitudes that are to be found here in the book of Revelation and each one of them is extremely significant and only if we had time to look up each one. But each one of these sevens is a study in itself. This is a special blessing that is pronounced upon the readers, the hearers, the preservers of the things that are written here in the book of Revelation. That's worth a sermon in itself, just to preach on that one verse and yet this is just one of seven blessings that are to be found here in the book of Revelation.

When we come to verse 4, notice what we read, "John to the seven churches which are in Asia." Notice what we read in verse 11, "I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea." Again, as in the cases of the churches addressed here in the New Testament, not because there were only seven churches in Asia, there were a great deal more than that. But these seven are representatives of all the rest. This is God's perfect prophecy of truth that is to come. That's exactly what we find as we come to chapters 2 and 3 of the book of Revelation. We find here a picture for us in these seven letters to these seven churches, God's revelation concerning the church age in which we're living. From the day of Pentecost to the rapture, God says there's going to be seven distinct periods of time, seven distinct periods of church history in which various things are going to be happening as we see them revealed here in chapters 2 and 3.

But you'll notice there in verse 20 of the first chapter of the book of Revelation, "The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches." Over and over again, we find this number seven. Here in chapters 2 and 3, seven times the Lord Jesus describes himself in a special way at the beginning of each letter. Seven times he says to these churches: "I know thy works." Seven times he says: "he that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the church." Seven times he gives his promise to the overcomer. Seven times here in the book of Revelation, it is stated that the Lord Jesus will come. Seven times we find the word "prophecy" used, the word propheteia in the Greek, here in this great book of prophecy.

We've been studying a great deal in the last few months about the seven seals and the seven trumpets and the seven vials and these things make up God's perfect judgment here in the seven years of tribulation and all these things are coming out of a seven sealed book. So the whole thing is sevens from beginning to end.

There is another point that we can learn here in the book of Revelation about the number seven if you will turn to the 12th chapter. We read in the first verse, "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon," notice this, "having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads." Now, we find out who the dragon is there in verse 9, "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world." Here we see that seven is not always giving us a manifestation of that which is perfect in the good sense, but also in the evil. Here we see a perfect manifestation of the power of Satan under these seven heads of these seven crowns upon them as we come down to the seven years of tribulation.

Now, we find the same thing again here in chapter 13, "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy." When we studied this not too long ago, we saw that here in the 13th chapter we have the unholy trinity. We have Satan's counterfeit of the Holy Trinity. We see the Antichrist which is the Devil's counterfeit of the Lord Jesus. We see the Dragon which is the Devil's counterfeit of God the Father. And we see the False Prophet which is the Devil's counterfeit of God the Holy Spirit. But here is where reading about the Antichrist, we see him rising up having seven heads. Again, a manifestation of his wicked power, the political and religious headships that he's going to have here during the seven years of tribulation in these last days.

Now, let me give you a quick example of how thoroughly all these things are woven into the narrative. Let's turn, if you will, to the 18th chapter of Revelation. What I'm trying to do as we move along in these studies in the numbers, is not only to give you the examples of how the numbers are used but at the same time to move along progressively to show

you the different ways in which the numbers are worked into the truth that's here in the Word of God. When we come here to Revelation 18:12, we're talking about the wealth of Babylon; we're talking about economic Babylon and the circumstances that are going to exist in the tribulation period. The great riches that Babylon has are brought before us here when we come to Revelation 18:12, "The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, and cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men." Now, if you'll count that up, you'll find that we have listed there 28 items, 4 x 7 or fourfold revelation of the perfection of Babylon's riches.

But you see, this is the first list, this is the one of singular importance to the people of this world. People know all about what it is to gain the whole world and lose your soul by lusting after these riches, by coveting all these many things that the world has to offer pictured here by this 4 x 7 manifestation of these things. Alright, notice what the word is there in verse 14, "And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing." Notice this in verse 16, "And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!" There are only six in that list, not 4 x 7 but 6 because as we see there in verse 17, "For in one hour so great riches is come to nought." Man says, "I'm rich and increased with goods, having need of nothing." God says, "No, you're not. You're number six. You're still the number of man. You come short of the glory of God. You're wretched and miserable and poor and blind in spite of all these earthly riches and treasures that you've saved up for the last days."

Now we want to take just a few minutes to look at number eight. Although it is found over 100 times in the Bible, there are only a few of them that we can trace out because most of them are in connection with a larger number which we'll be talking about in a couple of weeks. Thirty and eight years for example or forty and eight cities. That's a different thing altogether. But this is another thing, we're confining our thoughts to the primary numbers, we're seeking to understand the basic use of these primary numbers here in the Word of God and the number 8, I believe we'll discover, is the number of new beginnings.

Now, if you have that Bible study sheet there on the numbers you'll notice that out from that I have the word "resurrection" because sometimes when we find the number 8 here in the Word of God in a more limited sense, it's the number of resurrection. For example, the Lord Jesus arose from the dead on the first day of the new week. That perfect week of seven days had come to an end, that God has ordained, but it was on the first day of a new week, it was on the eighth day that the Lord Jesus arose. Now that makes good sense because the number 8 being the number of new beginnings is also the number of resurrection. Resurrection is a new beginning if there ever was one, to be coming back

from the grave, to becoming the newness of life is a new beginning, indeed. When we say that the number eight is the number of resurrection, we're putting it in the sense that's too limited, but if we say that it's the number of new beginnings, then we know that it's also at times in a more limited sense as the number of resurrection.

Many of the uses of the number eight, in fact, most of them, I believe, in the Old and the New Testaments have to do with circumcision. Let's turn, if you will, to Acts 7:1, "Then said the high priest, Are these things so? And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran." Now move on down to verse 6, though we just read that to understand that we're talking about Abraham, "And God spake on this wise, That his seed," that is, Abraham, "should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil four hundred years. And the nation to whom they shall be in bondage will I judge, said God: and after that shall they come forth, and serve me in this place. And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day." As I say, that's a common statement there in connection with the number eight. You'll find that many times. Abraham begat Isaac and circumcised him the eighth day because it was on the eighth day that God said that babies were to be circumcised. Apart from medical implications of that, that's just what he said and the spiritual implication is what is so important.

Let's turn, if you will, to the book of Romans, the next book over, Romans 2. Notice what we read in verse 28, "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God." You see, circumcisions was just a type or a symbol of salvation. What God is interested in is not in us being one of the chosen people outwardly, not that we be a Jew after the flesh but that we'd be a Jew inwardly. Not that we have circumcision in the flesh but that we have a circumcised heart in the spirit and not in the letter. That we come to know the Lord Jesus Christ in a personal way.

It was not at all strange that circumcision took place on the day of new beginnings because salvation, of course, is the most important new beginning of all. "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he's a new creature. Old things are passed away, behold all things are become new." And so when we see this symbol of circumcision taking place on the eighth day, we see in it a picture of salvation, a new beginning in the life of everybody who comes to know the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, one of the places that's bothered me for years was cleared up perfectly in my mind just the other night. Take a look, if you will, at Galatians 5. You might not lose any sleep thinking about things like this but I do once in a while. It's a lot better than worrying about who the Mod Squad is going to whip up on. I was listening to an old man preaching, well up in his 80s. He's been studying the Bible for about 55 or 60 years and he made a statement that clicked in my brain just like a key turning in a lock because he said something about a passage here that I wondered about for a long time. Galatians 5:22, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness,

faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” There are nine words there: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Now, I never have been able to figure out why there should be nine. It doesn’t fit anything else. The number nine in the Bible is the number of judgment and what in the world does that have to do with the fruit of the Spirit? Nothing at all. But what that man said was this: he said the word there is “fruit” in the singular; it doesn’t say the fruits of the Spirit, it says the fruit of the Spirit is love. He said there is only one fruit of the Spirit and that’s love and the other eight tell us how love manifests itself.

The thing that confirmed that for me when I began to think about it and wonder if he was telling the truth was a couple of things here in this passage. Look at the last phrase there in verse 23, “against such there is no law.” He’s talking about these things being the end of the law. Now look at verse 14, “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” You see, the law is fulfilled in one word and that word is “love.” Love, the Bible tells us, is the fulfilling of the law. It’s not love and joy and peace and longsuffering and gentleness and goodness and faith and meekness and temperance. There is one fruit of the Spirit and all the law is fulfilled in one word and that word is “love.” The love of God is shed abroad in our heart by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us. And there is only one way to get that and that’s to get saved and when that happens, we can understand the truth of what is represented here. The fruit of the Spirit, the one fruit, the one of singular importance, is love because it encompasses all the rest.

If you’ll go back in the 13th chapter of 1 Corinthians, the great love chapter, you’ll find that love does all these things that are listed here: has joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control. And it makes sense. Love is the thing you’re looking for and when you get that one of singular importance, you have this new beginning in your life and it’s manifested in these eight things that we see right here in Galatians 5. That’s a little bit complicated but it’s the truth just the same.

Abraham also had eight sons. Seven of them born after the flesh but the eighth, the one that marked the new beginning in the life of Abraham, was Isaac, the son of promise. Let’s look at another one here, there are two close together. 2 Peter 2. I try not to make these messages on numbers too long because you talk about numbers too much and you begin to go into a mental tailspin but there is an awful lot to be said about it. 2 Peter 2:5. We see here that God “spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly.” That’s interesting, indeed, that we should find that number eight. Why should we care that Noah was the eighth person? Because you see he was the one who marked the new beginning. He was God’s man, the preacher of righteousness, set aside outstandingly according to the faith chapter, that condemned the world by taking his stand for the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. It was through Noah that this new beginning was going to come on the earth.

But it was not Noah by himself. Notice what we read in 1 Peter 3:20, “Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while

the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.” There again you see God had eight people come through that flood riding on that ark. Everybody else in the whole world was destroyed, everybody that lived and breathed on the earth. But God saved eight because he was going to have a new beginning when those people came out on dry land after the waters of the flood were gone.

There are eight people raised from the dead here in the Word of God, where human agency is involved. In 1 Kings 17, we read about Elijah and the raising of the widow’s son. In 2 Kings 4, we read about Elisha and the Shunammite’s son. In 2 Kings 13, we read about the bones of Elisha, the man that was put down into his tomb and how he came back to life again. In Matthew 9 and Luke 7 and John 11, we read about the three that the Lord Jesus raised while he was here: the daughter of Jairus, the young man, the son of the widow of Nain and Lazarus. In Acts 9, Peter raised Dorcas. In Acts 20, the Apostle Paul raised Eutychus. Again, because eight is the number not only of new beginnings which is what resurrection is, but of resurrection itself. Eight people raised where human agency was involved here in the pages of the Word of God.

Now, there are so many more things that we can talk about but the really important thing is this: did you know that there came a time in your life when you’ve had this new beginning in your life that is pictured by this number eight? A time when you knew that your sins had been put away in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ? When you knew that all those things of the old life were gone and you had a new start? You had a completely new beginning in the Lord Jesus Christ? The only way Noah and his family could have that was by going in through the one door in the side of the ark of faith, the one of singular importance. It was a picture of the Lord Jesus who said, “I am the door. By me, if any man enter in, he shall be saved.” That’s what every one of us needs tonight. We need to know that we’re safe in the Lord Jesus Christ, that we’re on our way to spend eternity in heaven not because there’s anything in us but because there’s everything in our Savior, the Lord Jesus. He’s the one who has the power to raise the dead. He’s the one who has the power to bring the spiritually dead to life again. What we need is to know beyond question that we have repented of our sins, that we’ve put our faith and trust in him and we have God’s gift of eternal life.

Let’s bow our heads in prayer.

Our Father, we do thank thee and praise thee for this portion of thy Word that we’ve seen tonight. We thank you that throughout the pages of Scripture we can see the fabric of inspiration. We praise thee and thank thee that even though in this unbelieving world around us, there are those who doubt and deny the Word of God, but we’ve seen even this night, many dozens of examples of how from Genesis to Revelation you have used these things as a testimony to those who have come with open hearts to thy truth, that this is indeed the Word forever settled in heaven. We thank you tonight that in spite of our weakness, we can trust in thy strength. We can know that in spite of our sin, we have a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, the perfect one, the one who offers us a new beginning in our life if we’ll put our faith and trust in him, the one who is soon coming, the one who is coming to take us to be with himself throughout all the ages of eternity to come. And,

Lord, we just pray that you'll help each of us to be conscious of the lateness of the hour, of the need to be witnesses for thee and should there be one here who is outside the Savior, we pray that they might understand that desperate need to trust in that blessed sacrifice at Calvary, that they might know that they have eternal life. We pray these things in Jesus' precious name. Amen.