

BIBLICAL NUMEROLOGY, PART 2

We are in the process of preaching through the book of Revelation. We have just begun that journey. Today is our sixth introductory message to the book of Revelation, in which we are covering issues that are foundational to our understanding of the book as we begin to proceed with our exposition of it. We have not yet begun to expound chapter 1 and verse 1 and following; rather, what we're doing is laying the framework that will help us to understand why we are expounding the book in the fashion that we are.

In our foundational series to the book of Revelation, we have been most recently looking at the subject of numerology. We have said that the book of Revelation is a book that is saturated with numbers, and therefore it is important for us to understand how to approach and to utilize these numbers. So as we continue our introduction to the book of Revelation, we want to return to the study of numerology that we began last week, and we hope to bring it to a completion.

Last week, we began to explore the issue of biblical numerology, and as we said, we saw that Revelation is a book that is saturated with numbers and it uses these numbers a great deal. We discovered last week that these numbers are to be understood symbolically, not literally, because the book of Revelation itself is a symbolic book, written in symbolic language. It is not ordinary prose, but rather it is a book of verbal pictures, and these verbal pictures are symbolic in their nature, so that while they convey a very specific message, they convey it in symbolic form rather than in literal form.

We said in our previous messages that the rule for the interpretation of Revelation is that we are to interpret it symbolically unless there are compelling reasons to interpret it literally. We saw this rule applies to numbers, as well. Numbers are to be taken symbolically unless there are sound reasons to take them literally.

The question arises then, what is the symbolic meaning of the various numbers that are used in the book of Revelation? It's really, really, important to get the answer to that question right, because if we do not properly understand the symbolic meaning of the numbers in the book of Revelation, if we wind up literalizing those numbers in the book of Revelation, then we come up with all kinds of heresies—such heresies as:

- God is not a Trinity, but rather a “nineity”, because the book of Revelation tells us repeatedly that there are seven spirits of God. So if you have seven spirits of God, plus the Father, plus the Son, God has nine persons in the godhead instead of just three.
- Or, that only 144,000 people are ever going to be saved, because that's the total number that were sealed with the seal of God—no more, no less.
- Or, you'll start setting dates for the second coming of Christ, like so many have done throughout history.

It's really important, then, for us to understand properly the use of numbers in the book of Revelation so we don't come up with unbiblical and even heretical interpretations and applications of the book.

Last week, we looked first of all at the general nature of numerology, and we began by discussing what numerology is *not*, and we said biblical numerology does not consist of some kind of a hidden code in the Scriptures, in particular in the Hebrew Scriptures, where meanings are discovered by some kind of mathematical formulation or sequence or algorithm. Biblical numerology has nothing to do with secret codes in the Bible, based on some numerical pattern that looks for some kind of a hidden meaning, especially prophetic meanings.

We then discussed what biblical numerology *is*, and we said that biblical numerology has to do with the Bible's use of numbers that are plainly stated in the text itself—numbers like forty or twelve or seven or four, or other numbers that are used plainly in the text of the Bible itself.

We then went on to say that most of the numbers plainly stated in the text of Scripture throughout the Scripture are simply used literally. They're just numbers that describe quantities of things or people. However, in a few of the passages where these numbers are used literally, we are also given an indication as to the symbolic meaning of those numbers. Therefore, by a careful examination of how the Bible itself uses the numbers that it plainly states in the text, we can gain an understanding of their symbolic meaning as well, and then apply that symbolic meaning in passages where numbers are used symbolically.

That's a very brief overview of the general nature of numerology in the Scripture, which we looked at last week. We then we began to look at the outline I handed out to you and talk about the meaning of numbers used in Revelation.

Notice the first page of your handout talks about the primary numbers used in the book of Revelation. I said last week that we're not looking at every number in the Bible. For example, we're not looking at the number seventy, or the number forty, because those numbers don't appear in Revelation. We're confining ourselves to the eighteen or so numbers that do occur in the book of Revelation, and we're just looking at the symbolic meaning of those numbers.

So numbers have a literal meaning and they have a symbolic meaning. The vast majority of time in the Bible, they're used literally. But in certain books that are written in symbolic form—books like Ezekiel, Daniel, Revelation, and in particular, books that are written in those literary genres of symbolism—numbers are frequently are used symbolically.

We began, first of all, to look at primary numbers used in the book of Revelation. Primary numbers are simply uncompounded numbers. We saw last week that the number **one** conveys the concept of unity. We listed a number of verses that would indicate that. Notice John 10:30, "I and my Father are one." So *one* conveys the idea of unity between those things that could be seen as separate from each other. "Here, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord." Acts 17:26,

“and hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth.” So *one* is used to convey the idea of the unity of a variety of separate things.

And then the number **two** conveyed the concept of a complementary and interdependent union. Notice Matthew 19:5: “For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh.” So the idea of *two* is the concept of a complementary and an interdependent union.

Then we looked at the number **three**, and we saw that it conveys the concept of perfection, completion, and finality. And of course, the number three describes the number of persons in the Trinity. The Trinity is certainly perfect, complete, and final. We saw that Jesus was three days and three nights in the heart of the earth, just like Jonah was in the whale. So we see that the number three is used frequently in the Bible for perfection, completion, and finality.

Then we looked at the number **four**. We saw that it conveys the concept of the entire world, or the created earth, if you will. Notice Jeremiah 49:36: “And upon Elam will I bring the four winds from the four quarters of heaven.” The four quarters of the earth are the north, south, east, and west. So the Bible uses *four* and four quarters to describe the whole world.

Then we looked at the number **six**, and we saw that it conveys the concept of man. Of course, man was made on the sixth day of creation, and man has six days to work, and he’s supposed to rest on the Sabbath day. In Revelation, it specifically says “the number of man” is 666. Therefore, pretty clearly, the number six conveys the concept of man.

Then we looked at the number **seven**, and we saw that *seven* conveys the concept of completeness. God took seven days to complete the creation. Genesis 2:1, “Thus the heavens and the earth were finished ... ³ And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it.” Jacob served Laban for Rachel seven years. The number seven is the most frequently used number in the Bible—it occurs over 500 times—and it everywhere and always conveys the idea of completeness.

Then we looked at the number **eight**. We saw the number eight conveys the concept of salvation. There were eight people on the ark that were saved. We see that the children of Israel were to circumcise their sons on the eighth day, when they were ceremonially and symbolically brought into the kingdom of God, picturing salvation.

Then we looked at the number **ten**. We saw that it conveys the concept of perfection. There are, of course, Ten Commandments, Deuteronomy 4:13, and the Ten Commandments reflect the perfection of the law of God. We saw that there were ten plagues brought upon Egypt by Moses, which of course resulted in the redemption of the children of Israel. So time and again, the number ten is used to convey the idea of perfection.

Then finally, we looked at the number **twelve**, and we saw that the number twelve conveys the concept of the chosen people of God, because there are twelve tribes of Israel, there are twelve apostles, and these twelve from the old dispensation and the twelve from the new dispensation equal twenty four. We see the twenty four elders, for example, sitting on thrones in the book of Revelation.

That then, very briefly summarizes what we have done up to this point in time, and we come to our new material today.

We looked previously at primary numbers used in Revelation—the number one, the number two, the number three, the number four, the number six, the number seven, the number eight, the number ten, and the number twelve. These are primary, uncompounded numbers.

In our new material today, which we didn't cover previously, we want to look at *multiples* and *divisions* of these primary numbers in the book of Revelation. What I am saying is that the numbers one, two, three, four, six, seven, eight, ten, and twelve are primary numbers. The book of Revelation takes those numbers and sometimes it multiples them, either by themselves or by some other primary number, and sometimes it takes those primary numbers and it divides them.

What we have to understand is that the multiplication of these primary numbers, or the division of these primary numbers, conveys to us information. I want you to listen or follow along as I read the next three paragraphs on the outline.

The multiplication or addition or repetition of primary numbers in various passages represents increased degrees of the intensification of the meaning of those numbers. For example, when Peter asked if he should forgive someone up to seven times for sinning against him, Jesus replied, No, you must forgive him seventy times seven; that is, to a much higher level than that represented by seven. So we see Jesus doing multiplication of numbers: Seven times seventy.

The idea that the Bible would take numbers and multiply them, or add them, or divide them is established in many passages in which those numbers are handled in precisely that fashion. So when you multiply these primary numbers, or add them together, or repeat them in a series, it just represents an intensification of the idea, or the concept that that primary number conveys.

Conversely, the division of a primary number represents a diminished level of the meaning of that number. So if you take seven, which is the number of completeness, and you divide in half, what do you have?—something less than what's complete, right?

Third paragraph (of outline): Multiples and divisions of primary numbers represent either an intensification or a diminishing of the meaning of the primary number. So we don't have to come up with brand new meanings for numbers like one hundred forty four thousand, or numbers like twelve thousand, or numbers like twenty four. Those numbers are just

multiplications of primary numbers. We don't have to come up with new meanings for a division of a primary number.

As long as we get the meaning of the primary numbers right, when we run into the multiplication or the division of those numbers, we just have to understand that there's an intensification of the idea behind the primary number, or there's a diminishing of the idea behind the primary number. That's all. So once you get the primary numbers right, all the numbers are easy.

Well, let us proceed. Numbers derived from **two**. You remember from our study last week, the meaning of the number two conveys the idea of a complementary and interdependent union. So we run up with a number in Revelation 9:16 of "two hundred thousand thousand." I want you to look in your Bibles at these numbers. In Revelation 9, beginning at verse 15, it says:

"¹⁵ And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. ¹⁶ And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them."

Now if you do the math, that's twohundred million. You have two times a hundred times a thousand times a thousand. What is one thousand? Well it's ten times ten times ten. So what you have is the multiplication of these numbers—the number two intensified dramatically by the number ten, which is completion and perfection. So it represents the vast, collective, transnational coalition of persecutors that will be gathered together to persecute the people of God that will take place when Satan is loosed to deceive the nations, as it says in Matthew 24:9 and Revelation 20, verses 7 to 9.

What I've done here is I've talked about numbers derived from two, and you notice **two** is in bold. Then I give the number, two hundred thousand thousand is twohundred million, Revelation 9:16. Then I give the interpretation in *italics*. That represents this number, 200,000,000, the vast collective transnational coalition. That's a big number, right? The number is a symbolic number. Are there going to be exactly 200,000,000 million soldiers, not 200,000,001 or 200,000,002?

We read in the Bible that "ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake," in Matthew 24:9, talking about the coming transnational persecution of believers that's going to take place in the Great Tribulation. That's going to be the result of Satan being loosed so he can go out and deceive the nations.

Remember how we talked about from the time of Genesis until the time of Jesus, the Gospel was confined to very small part of the earth, basically to Israel. Then Jesus bound Satan at the cross, and what happened to the Gospel? It spread over the whole world. Why was it able to spread over the whole world, when before it was just confined? Because when Satan was loosed, he was able to deceive the nations and keep the Gospel from spreading, but when he was bound, he could no longer deceive the nations and the Gospel spread throughout the whole world. And at

the end of the age, he's going to be loosed again and he's going to then deceive the nations and get them all to form a transnational coalition to persecute the believers and virtually wipe them from the face of the earth.

This number 200,000,000 just represents the complementary and interdependent union of the nations of the earth as they gather together in a coalition under the unleashed Satan to try to destroy Christianity and Christians from off the face of the earth. So we're not looking for a giant army from China of exactly 200,000,000 people to come across; rather, what we're recognizing is that this a complementary and interdependent union of all of those who have the mark of the beast, who are gathered together under the deception of Satan in order to attack and assault the kingdom of God. Does that make sense?

The number **three**. The number three, of course, is the number of perfection, completion, and finality. The number three is divided, and the number onethird is used repeatedly in the book of Revelation. Turn back if you will to chapter 8, verses 7 to 12.

“⁷ The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and”—notice—“the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up. ⁸ And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; ⁹ and the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

“¹⁰ And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; ¹¹ and the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters—” and it just goes on and on with “the third part” of this and “the third part” of that and “the third part” of the next thing. We run across this throughout the book of Revelation.

What does this “one third” then represent? Well, it's got to represent a diminishing of the meaning of the primary number, because it's the division of a primary number. The number three represents perfection, completion, and finality, so whatever onethird represents, it represents a diminishing of that concept, because it's a division of it.

So onethird represents God's partial judgment on the wicked; not perfect, not complete, not final, but partial, incomplete, imperfect, not final. God's partial judgment on the wicked. They will be punished for their evil works on this earth, but only in an incomplete fashion. Perfect, complete, and final judgment will occur at the end of the world.

So as he describes what's happening between the first and the second coming of Christ and these judgments of God that fall on the wicked, they're just partial judgments. You know, when you look at the tsunami that took place in the Indian Ocean and 200,000 people were killed, not everybody in the whole world was killed. It was a partial judgment. So we have these partial judgments of God that fall on various areas of the earth. He talks about the sea and the land and

the sky and different areas which men inhabit, and judgments fall upon them—there's no place to go to escape these partial judgments of God.

What is being said here is, not only is there going to be complete, perfect, and final judgment at the end, but along the way, God is going to be bringing His temporal judgments on the wicked. And those temporal judgments are going to be imperfect, they're going to be incomplete, and they're not going to be final. That's what's being said by the number onethird.

Then we have the number **four**, which refers to the entire world; that's the primary meaning. In Revelation 14:20, we have the number one thousand six hundred. "And the winepress was trodden without,"—or outside—"the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs." A furlong would be like our mile. One thousand six hundred miles long and as deep as a horse's bridle. How deep is that blood? About four feet to a horse's bridle?

Revelation 14 talks about the second coming of Christ. It talks about the final outpouring of the wrath of God on the wicked, and it talks about the treading of this winepress and this vast volume of blood that comes out.

Well, look at your outline. One thousand six hundred is simply four times four times one hundred. What is one hundred? Ten times ten. The number of perfection. What we have here is perfect judgment over the whole world.

So the wrath of God will extend to every corner of the earth. Remember there's the four corners of the earth: north, south, east, and west. No place will be exempt from His judgment. So we have four times four, which is the four corners of the earth multiplied and then multiplied by one hundred, which is ten times ten, which is the number of perfection. So we have the world perfectly covered with the wrath and the judgment of God. In other words, when Jesus comes back, there's not going to be any place on the earth you're going to be able to hide from the wrath of God. There's no place you're going to be able to escape or go to escape.

Then we have the numbers derived from **six**, and of course, we said six was the number of man. Man was created on the sixth day of creation. Six days he has to labor. Now turn please, if you will, to Revelation 13, verse 18. Here we have the number six hundred sixtysix, the infamous mark of the beast. It says: "Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore"—a score is twenty, so threescore is three times twenty, which is sixty—" Six hundred threescore and six."

Go to the next page in our outline: Six hundred sixty six represents what? Well, it represents perfection, because the six is repeated three times. You have three sixes, not just one six. And then the number six itself represents humanity, mankind, men. So you have perfect humanism represented by the three sixes. Three's the number of perfection and six is the number of humans, or men. So you have perfect humanism.

These people with the mark of perfect humanism think. There's a mark in the forehead, and symbolically what is in your forehead represents what you think; what is in your hand represents what you do. You remember in Deuteronomy chapter 6, God said to the children of Israel, "6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 8 . . . and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. . . And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand." The idea is not that you would make little boxes with scriptures in them and tie them to your head and tie them to the back of your hand; the idea is that Scripture would guide all your thinking and all your actions, all your doing, because you think with your head and you do with your hand.

The idea here is that these people with the mark of the beast, with the mark of perfect humanism, think and act according to the will of sinful rebellious man, personified in the beast. The mark of the beast isn't some computer code that's going to get tattooed into your forehead or into your hand. It's not something that has yet to come. It's been around for the last 2,000 years. Everyone who's unsaved has the mark of the beast, because they think like Satan and they act like Satan. They think like unsaved man; they act like unsaved man.

The notion of some computer chip implanted into your forehead or your hand isn't what this passage is teaching. What it's teaching is that you have people who have the seal of God in their foreheads. That's all over the book of Revelation. For example, chapter 14 and verse 1 says, "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him a hundred fortyfour thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads."

So believers have the seal of God in their forehead, and unbelievers have the seal of the beast in their forehead. The idea is, we think according to God's mind and word, and the ungodly think according to Satan's mind and word. So when we get to "666", what we're going to realize is that this isn't something that is to come, this is something that's been around since the time of Jesus. You either have the mark of the beast or you have the mark of God—everyone does have one or the other. How do you tell who's got it? By how they think and how they act.

That leads us to numbers derived from **seven**. This is really, really helpful. This is going to rock your world if you're into prophecy and have always wondered about these funny numbers. Seven, of course, is the number of completeness. What we have in Revelation is three and a half years, which is spoken of as a time and times and half a time. We have forty two months spoken of. Then we have one thousand two hundred sixty days spoken of. Since a Jewish year is three hundred sixty days—twelve months of thirty days each, because they operate on a lunar calendar—these numbers are all equal to each other. Notice the equal signs I put between them. Three and a half years, forty two months, and one thousand two hundred and sixty days are all precisely the same length of time. They're exactly equivalent.

Turn in your Bible, please, to Revelation chapter 11. We'll start out at verse 1: "1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. 2 But the court which is without the temple

leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot”—now here it is—“forty and two months”—three and a half years. ³ And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.” And that’s exactly forty two months.

Notice chapter 12 and verse 6: “And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there”—that same number again—“a thousand two hundred and threescore days.” Notice verse 14: “And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time,”—singular—“and times,”—plural—“and half a time, from the face of the serpent.”

So as you look at these passages, what you realize is that these numbers: time, times, and half a time, which is three and a half years; forty two months; and one thousand two hundred and sixty days, all refer to three and a half years. Now notice the italics. If you were to choose a number to represent the complete time of human history, you might choose the number of completeness, which is seven. Seven’s the number of completeness, isn’t it? What’s three and a half? It’s half of completeness, isn’t it?

If human history is divided into equal symbolic halves, the old and the new dispensation, the time before and the time after the coming of Christ, then the last half of human history would be half of seven, which is three and a half. Thus, three and a half years, forty two months, and one thousand two hundred and sixty days all represent the time *after* the coming of Christ. We divide all of time into two halves, B.C. and A.D. B.C. is before Christ, A.D. is after Christ. So three and a half represents the second half of time, the A.D. period, the church age, the time from the first to the second coming of Christ.

A lot of people take this number, three and a half, and say it refers to the last half of the sevenyear tribulation, when in fact, it refers to the last half of God’s history—the time between the first and the second coming of Christ. You have creation to Christ, then you have Christ to the consummation, right? If seven represents complete history, then three and a half would represent half of that history. These three and a half numbers don’t have anything to do with the timeline for the tribulation. In fact, I’m going to assert that we don’t know how long the tribulation’s going to be. All we know is that it’s going to be less than a generation.

But I’m going to give you a little hope now, because notice the next line under that italicized paragraph, “Three and half days.” Turn to Revelation 11. We’ve been talking about three and half years, now we’re going to talk about three and a half days. Revelation 11 and verse 9, after the two witnesses go out and they prophecy, it says in verse 9:

“⁹ And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies,” these two witnesses are overcome and finally killed. How long will they see them? “three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. ¹⁰ And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because

these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. ¹¹ And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. ¹² And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.”

And of course, that’s talking about the second coming of Christ, the resurrection, the rapture into heaven, all of which occurs at the second coming. So the rapture and the second coming occur right together, there’s not a sevenyear gap between them.

Notice what’s in italics there. Three and a half days is the very short period of time the great tribulation will last compared to the long period of time, which is one thousand two hundred sixty days, between the first and second coming of Christ. So three and a half days compared to one thousand two hundred and sixty days is less than one third of one percent of that time. When you look at the proportions—the time between the first coming and the second coming of Christ—if that’s three and a half years, then three and a half days is less than one third of one percent of that time.

In relationship to the time between the first and second coming of Christ, the tribulation’s going to be really short—less than one third of one percent of the time. I’m not saying that absolutely, I’m just saying they’re using these numbers to talk about timeframes, in a nonliteral fashion.

So instead of trying to literalize these numbers and say, Well, it’s got to be exactly three and half years, what we need to understand is these numbers are used symbolically, and they’re not to be seen literally, and they’re not to measure literal timeframes.

Let us plunge forward: the number **ten**, the number of perfection. What do you run across in Revelation about the number one thousand—that wonderful millennial number? In Revelation 20, verses 2 to 7 it’s used repeatedly. Revelation 20:

“¹ And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, ³ and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

“⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ⁵ But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. ⁷ And when the thousand years are expired...” It’s used five or six times there.

Now the number one thousand is simply what? Ten times ten times ten. The number is simply perfection cubed—perfection raised to the third power. The number three is the number of perfection, right? And the number ten is the number of perfection. So you have perfection times perfection times perfection. This represents the perfect duration of the time allotted by God between the first and second coming of Christ.

We're in the millennium right now, because when was Satan bound for a thousand years? Well the answer is, he was bound at the cross. Jesus Himself asked—after casting out a demon and people saying, Oh, you're doing that by the power of Satan!—How can Satan be divided against Satan? If you're going to spoil a strong man's house, you've first got to go in and bind the strong man, and then you can spoil his house.

Satan's house was the world, right? He's the god of this world. Jesus bound him, and what has He been doing for the last two thousand years? Spoiling his house, taking his people and bringing them into His own kingdom. Satan's kingdom has been ravaged by billions of his people being brought out of his kingdom and into the kingdom of Jesus. When did the millennium begin? When Satan was bound. When was Satan bound? At the cross.

When is Satan going to be loosed? At the end of this period, when it's time to bring things to the consummation. Once again, he's going to deceive the nations, they're all going to gather together in a transnational coalition to persecute the believers, as Matthew 24 verse 9 says: "Then ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake." So this number represents the perfect duration of the time allotted by God between the first and second coming of Christ.

Then we have this other interesting number, ten thousand times ten thousand. That's one hundred million. Turn to Revelation 5:11, please. This is a picture in heaven, and it says "And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them," that is, the number of the angels, "was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands," however many that is—thousands of thousands.

The idea here is of thousands and thousands and thousands and thousands and thousands and thousands, and a bunch more thousands. These are not literal numbers. He's not counting here. This represents the perfect number of angels in heaven, just like a thousand represents the perfect duration of time allotted by God between the first and second coming of Christ, ten thousand times ten thousand represents the perfect number of angels in heaven. However many angels were up there was all there was supposed to be there. What we have is perfection times perfection times perfection. Perfection intensified is the idea in these multiples of tens, whether it's a thousand, a million, millions of millions—Intensification of the idea of the number ten.

Then we have the number **five**. Interesting. That's onehalf of ten. It talks about all these locusts that come out of this pit, and they're herding the men who don't have the seal of God in their foreheads. Let's turn to Revelation 9, starting at verse 3.

“³ And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. ⁴ And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.”

You know, it’s interesting. Everybody chatters about the mark of the beast, but nobody talks about the mark of God. Have you ever noticed that? And the mark of God is just as prevalent in the book of Revelation as the mark of the beast.

Revelation 9:5: “⁵ And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented”—now here’s our number—“five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.” Let’s skip down to verse 10: “¹⁰ And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men”—here’s our number again—“five months.”

Now the number five is used in the same way as the number onethird, that is, it’s used as a partial torment, as opposed to a perfect torment. If the number ten is the number of perfection, then half of ten is something less than perfection, right? It’s just a diminution of the idea, because it’s divided. So it’s a partial torment, as opposed to a perfect torment. This represents something less than the worst possible suffering—a partial suffering, as it were, not a complete or a perfect one. So the number five is used in the same way the number onethird is, and that is that God is doing something partial here, not something perfect.

The last page of the outline, the last number—numbers derived from **twelve**. We said that twelve was the number of the chosen people of God, because there were twelve tribes and twelve apostles. They represent the Old Testament church and the New Testament church, Old Testament believers and New Testament believers.

In the book of Revelation, we have this number twentyfour, which occurs repeatedly. Notice if you will Revelation 4 and verse 4. This is the vision of the throne of God. It says, “And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.” Of course, this twentyfour number, of these elders sitting around the throne, occurs several other times.

This represents the church of God of the old and the new dispensations combined—the twelve tribes plus the twelve apostles. The number twelve is the number of God’s chosen people. What did God do? He chose the twelve tribes to be His people, right? He chose Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and then the twelve. And in the same way, He chose twelve apostles.

These represent, then, the chosen people of God. That’s why, when you look at the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21, it’s all multiples of twelves, in terms of its dimension—a perfect cube, perfection of the number of people of God. As it says in italics in the outline, this

represents the church of God of the old and new dispensation combined—the twelve tribes plus the twelve apostles.

Then we have the number twelve thousand, and that's in Revelation 7. Turn there please, to verses 5 to 8. It says: ⁵Of the tribe of Judah were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. ⁶Of the tribe of Asher were sealed twelve thousand.” And it goes on and talks about all the tribes, and every one has twelve thousand sealed.

So we have twelve thousand, which is twelve times ten times ten times ten—twelve multiplied by the number ten repeatedly. The idea here is that this represents the large number of the chosen people of God, twelve, in various locations and various identity groups that are saved.

Now people try to literalize this and say, Well, twelve thousand in the tribe of Judah. So if you're not of the tribe of Judah and you're not of the twelve thousand, then you can't be sealed with the seal of God. (It's only the people with the seal of God that show up in heaven, by the way.) So when you literalize it, you say, Well, I'm not a Jew. And there's certainly been twelve thousand people saved before I ever came along. So I'm toast!

Well you remember the tribes in Israel were in different regions—up north, south, in the middle—and they represented regional groups, didn't they. So this represents the large number of the chosen people of God in various locations and in various identity groups that are saved. Judah was an identity group, Asher was an identity group. And if you're of Asher, you sure weren't of Judah, right?

So we have identity groups, we have races, we have nationalities, we have language groups, we have cultural groups, and the idea is that God is going to save the perfect number of people out of every one of those groups, in every one of those locations, and every one of those diverse identities, in every age. He's going to save the perfect number of people out of all places and regions and peoples and identity groups.

Then we have the number one hundred forty four thousand—twelve times twelve times a thousand, which is ten times ten times ten, right? Notice Revelation 7:4: “And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.”

We have this number once again in Revelation 14. Turn there, please. Revelation 14:1: “And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand,”—there's our number again—“having his Father's name written in their foreheads.” Notice verse 3: “and they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.”

Previously we had twelve thousand from each group. Now we have one hundred and forty four thousand, representing all of them. That number is just twelve intensified, the chosen people of God intensified—twelve times twelve, and then intensified by perfection, ten times ten times ten. So it comes out to one hundred and forty four thousand. This represents the full number of the chosen people of God, all of God's elect of all the ages.

Okay, we're done. This is not how I usually preach. I don't do this, but we had to do this, people. This is technical, this is teaching, this isn't preaching. We're going to start preaching next week. But we have to get this right, and if we don't, we wind up making a mess out of the interpretation of the book, because as you can see, the book is saturated with numbers. And we didn't even look in the book of Revelation at the primary numbers, we're just looking at the compound numbers—the multiples and divisions of the primary numbers.

What this little handout I gave you is going to be is our guide as we come to these numbers. I'm going to be asking you to recall the meaning of these numbers, and I'm going to move on. I'm not going to reprove this stuff again. You can look at the Scripture passages and the reasoning, you can examine it, and if you have any questions about it, feel free to ask me about it.

What I'm teaching you isn't something I came up with all by myself. This is how reformed orthodoxy has interpreted and understood numerology in the Bible forever. One of the problems with literalizing it, of course, is that everybody thought Jesus was coming back in one thousand A.D., because there was a thousand years. Every time you start literalizing these numbers, you wind up coming up with false datesetting, you wind up coming up with heresies, and you wind up coming up with all kinds of aberrant concepts that were never intended to be taught. This book is a symbolic book of symbolic pictures, and when you understand the meaning of the symbolism, then the meaning comes through. But the meaning is not a one-for-one correspondence with the symbol. You don't take the symbol and literalize it.

As I said previously, it's like interpreting a political cartoon. They're all caricatures, they're all symbols of the reality. When you look at them, you immediately recognize it's not literal, but it conveys an idea that's literal and genuine.

I used an illustration last week with some people in the back of the church. I saw a picture of a guy sitting in a chair in front of a television. The television's on, and there's a guy leaping out of the television. His feet are still inside the screen, but he's leaping out and he's opened the top of this guy's head, and he's got garbage in his hand and he's pouring it into the top of his head.

Is it literally true? No. It's a symbolic picture of how television pours garbage into children's minds, and when you look at the picture, you instantly get it. You never for one second think that a guy really does come out of the TV and he really does take the tops of kids' heads off and he really does pour literal garbage into their heads. It never crosses your mind, right?

Well, you've got to read the book of Revelation that way. You don't look at this stuff and instantly go to the literal. You start with the symbolic and ask, What's this a symbol of? And when you understand how the Bible itself explains the symbols that are contained in the book, then you get the meaning.

The problem is, a lot of people try to read modern technology into the book of Revelation, or modern headlines into the book of Revelation to try to understand it, instead of reading the Old Testament and see what it has to say about the meaning of these symbols. When you look in the Old Testament and see how it uses these symbols, then you understand what John is doing when he's writing these symbols to convey these ideas. So it's a symbolic picturebook; it's not meant to be taken literally, though it does convey very literal truths. Well, let's pray together.

Our Father, we're so grateful for this book. And Lord, it has been a puzzlebook to many. But Lord, we recognize it isn't a puzzlebook, it's a picturebook. Help us, Father, to rightly understand the pictures and to understand the symbolic meaning of those pictures, the meaning that these symbols are intended to convey.

Lord, you have said in James 1:5 that if any man lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men liberally and upbraids not, and it shall be given him. And Lord, I pray that you would give me and us wisdom to rightly understand and rightly expound and rightly apply the meaning of the book. Deliver us, Father, from the error of our day that is so rampant and pervasive that it's almost accepted without question. Help us, rather, to understand the book *by* the book and in light of the book, and what the rest of the Book has to say about the book of Revelation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

BIBLICAL NUMEROLOGY

PRIMARY NUMBERS USED IN REVELATION

ONE - conveys the concept of unity.

KJV Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD:

KJV Acts 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

KJV Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

KJV John 10:30 I and *my* Father are one.

KJV John 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

TWO - conveys the concept of a complementary and interdependent union.

KJV Matthew 19:5 ...For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they two shall be one flesh.

KJV Genesis 7:9 There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah.

KJV Joshua 2:1 And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there.

KJV Mark 6:7 And he called *unto him* the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

KJV Luke 10:1 After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

THREE - conveys the concept of perfection, completion, and finality.

KJV Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

KJV Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

KJV Ecclesiastes 4:12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

KJV 1 Corinthians 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.

FOUR - conveys the concept of the entire world.

KJV Genesis 2:10 And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.

KJV Jeremiah 49:36 And upon Elam will I bring the four winds from the four quarters of heaven, and will scatter them toward all those winds; and there shall be no nation whither the outcasts of Elam shall not come.

KJV Daniel 7:2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. 3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

KJV Revelation 7:1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

KJV Revelation 20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom *is* as the sand of the sea.

SIX - conveys the concept of man

KJV Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them... 31.. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

KJV Exodus 20:9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10 But the seventh day *is* the jubilee of the LORD thy God...

KJV Revelation 13:18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number *is* Six hundred threescore *and* six.

SEVEN - conveys the concept of completeness.

KJV Genesis 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them...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.

KJV Genesis 29:18 And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter.

KJV Leviticus 25:3 Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof; 4 But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the LORD: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard.

KJV Leviticus 25:8 And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years... 10 And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout *all* the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.

KJV Joshua 6:2 And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, *and* the mighty men of valour... 4 And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. 5 And it shall come to pass, ...the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.

EIGHT - conveys the concept of salvation

KJV 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.

KJV 2 Peter 2:5 And 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;

KJV Genesis 17:11 And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. 12 And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations...

KJV Acts 9:33 And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy. 34 And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.

KJV Judges 3:8 Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia: and the children of Israel served Chushanrishathaim eight years. 9 And when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel, who delivered them, *even* Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.

TEN - conveys the concept of perfection.

KJV Deuteronomy 4:13 And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, *even* ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.

KJV Matthew 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. 2 And five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish.

KJV Deuteronomy 23:3 An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; *even* to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD for ever:

KJV 1 Samuel 1:8 Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? And why eatest thou not? And why is thy heart grieved? *Am* not I better to thee than ten sons?

N.B. There were also ten plagues brought upon Egypt by Moses.

TWELVE - conveys the concept of the chosen people of God.

KJV Genesis 49:28 All these *are* the twelve tribes of Israel: and this *is it* that their father spake unto them, and blessed them; every one according to his blessing he blessed them.

KJV Acts 7:8 And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so *Abraham* begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac *begat* Jacob; and Jacob *begat* the twelve patriarchs.

KJV Luke 6:13 And when it was day, he called *unto him* his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

KJV Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

MULTIPLES AND DIVISIONS OF PRIMARY NUMBERS IN REVELATION

The multiplication or addition or repetition of primary numbers in various passages represent increased degrees of the intensification of the meaning of those numbers. For example, when Peter asks if he should forgive someone up to seven times for sinning against him, Jesus replies: No, you must forgive him seventy times seven - that is, to a much higher level than that merely represented by seven.

On the other hand, the division of a primary number represents a diminished level of the meaning of those numbers.

So, multiples and divisions of primary numbers represent an intensification or a diminishing of the meaning of the primary number.

Numbers derived from **TWO** - complementary and interdependent union.

Two hundred thousand thousand = two hundred million Rev 9:16

Represents the vast collective trans-national coalition of persecutors that will be gathered together to persecute the people of God, which will take place when Satan is loosed to deceive the nations once again. Mat 24:9, Rev 20:7-9

Numbers derived from **THREE** - perfection, completion, and finality.

One third - Rev 8:7-12, etc.

Represents God's partial judgment on the wicked - they will be punished for their evil works on this earth, but only in an incomplete fashion. Perfect, complete, and final judgment will occur in the end.

Numbers derived from **FOUR** - the entire world.

One thousand six hundred = four times four times one hundred Rev 14:20

The wrath of God will extend to every corner of the earth. No place will be exempt from His judgment.

Numbers derived from **SIX** - man

Six hundred sixty six = the number six repeated three times Rev 13:18

Represents perfect (three) humanism (sixes). These people with the mark of perfect humanism think (mark in forehead) and act (mark in hand) according to the will of sinful rebellious man, personified by the beast.

Numbers derived from **SEVEN** - completeness.

Three and a half years = forty two months = one thousand two hundred sixty days, (since a Jewish year is 360 days - 12 months of 30 days each) Rev 11:2-3, 12:6, 14

If you were to choose a number to represent the complete time of human history, you might choose the number of completeness, which is seven. If human history is divided into two equal symbolic halves (the old and new dispensations, the time before and the time after the coming of Christ) then the last half of human history would be half of seven - three and a half. Thus, three and a half years, forty two months, and one thousand two hundred sixty days all represent the time after the coming of Christ - the time between the first and second coming of Christ. We divide all of time into two halves - BC and AD. So three and a half represents the second half of time, the church age, the time from the first to the second coming of Christ.

Three and a half days Rev 11:9,11

The very short period of time the great tribulation will last compared to the long period of time (one thousand two hundred sixty days) between the first

and second coming of Christ. (It is less than one third of one percent of the time)

Numbers derived from **TEN** - perfection.

One Thousand = ten times ten times ten Rev 20:2-7

This number is perfection cubed (raised to the third power)

This represents the perfect duration of the time allotted by God between the first and second coming of Christ

Ten thousand times ten thousand = one hundred million Rev 5:11

This represents the perfect number of angels in heaven.

Five = one half of ten Rev 9:5,10

A partial torment as opposed to a perfect torment. This represents something less than the worst possible suffering - a partial suffering, as it were.

Numbers derived from **TWELVE** - the chosen people of God.

Twenty four = twelve plus twelve Rev 4:4

This represents the church of God of the old and new dispensation combined - the twelve tribes plus the twelve apostles

Twelve thousand = twelve times ten times ten times ten Rev 7:5-8

This represents the large number of the chosen people of God in various locations and in various identity groups that are saved.

One hundred forty four thousand = twelve times twelve times a thousand Rev 7:4, 14:1,3

This represents the full number of the chosen people of God - all of God's elect of all the ages.