

**1st: The Symbolic Use of Numbers**

1. Rv is composed of symbols - #s are symbolic too. Convey qualitative rather than specifically quantitative meaning.
2. Rv 1:4 - 7 Spirits? The # 7 is telling us something about the HS.
3. Caution: Gematria - each letter = # & Bible bec/s a "Code Book".
4. #s in Bible are usually literal #s. Some #s acquire greater signif [cf 7,12] & inform our understanding of symbolic use of #s in Rv.
  - i. 7 => creation
  - ii. 12 sons of Jacob -> tribes of Israel -> apostles.

**2nd: Significant Numbers Used Revelation**

1. #1 - identifies a single person/thg - concept of unity [Jn 10:30]
2. #2 - quantity: 1+1; complementarity - Rv 11 & legal validity [Dt 19:15]
3. #3 - completion: Jonah, Jesus, Trinity - Eccl 4:12; 1C 13:13
4. #4 - entire world - 4 rivers [Gn 2:10]; 4 corners & winds [Jer 49:36] Rv 7:1; 2Q:8 = entire globe & whole population of earth.
5. #6 - man created on 6th day. Rv 13:18 "666" has to do w/ man.
6. #7 - Sab Rest on 7th day => perfection, attain God-designed goal; also holiness
7. #8 - salvation of next age. 8 in Noah's ark; circum & purification rites on 8th day; 8th day of festival of Booths - pts to resurrection
8. #10 - completion: 10 commandments; ten plagues.
9. #12 - God's chosen people - 12 tribes, apostles.

**3rd: Significant Numbers Increased or Decreased**

1. #s can be multiplied, added, repeated for emphasis: Ptr - forgive 7x? Jesus says 70 x 7 [7 x 10 x 7 = perfection x completion].
2. #s can be subtracted, divided => decrease, diminish symbolic signif. Symbolic signif of # increased or decreased.
3. #s derived from #2 - Rv 9:16 - Grk = 2 myriads of myriads = #2 & #10. Myriad = 10,000 [10 x 10 x 10 = 10<sup>4</sup>]. 2 x 10,000 x 10,000 = 200,000,000 [NASB]. KJV - *two hundred thousand thousand*
4. #s derived from #3. Completion. Divided in Rv - 1/3. Trumpets destroy 1/3 of parts of creation & mankind: partial, not total.

## SYMBOLIC NUMBERS

091320S

5. #s derived from #4 => worldwide - Rv 14:20 [NASB *two hundred miles*] - KJV *a thousand and six hundred furlongs* = 1,600 i.e.  $4 \times 4 \times 10 \times 10$ . Total encompassing of globe intensified by doubling the #s
6. #s derived from #6 - # of man. Rv 13:18  $666 = 600 + 60 + 6$ .
  - i. 6 repeated 3x => the highest to wh/ man, as man, can attain.
  - ii. Mark on head & hand - think & do. cf. Rv 14:1. \_
  - iii. Dt 6:6-9 Literal or figurative?
7. #s derived from #7 - completion; divine sanctity. 3 #s in Rv -  $3 \frac{1}{2}$  yrs = 42 months = 1260 days. 3 ways of describing the same period of time.  $3 \frac{1}{2} = \text{time, times \& half a time}$  [Rv 12:14]. Derivatives of 7
  - i. Rv 12:6 1260 days = v14 time, times, & 1/2 time =  $3 \frac{1}{2}$  yrs = period of time when seed of wmn is persecuted by Dragon
  - ii. Why  $3 \frac{1}{2}$ ? History divided into B.C. [creation to Christ] & A.D. [Christ to consummation] [recently C.E. common era].
8. #s derived from #10. 1000.  $10^3 = \text{millennium}$ : Rv 20:1-7.
  - i. Rv 5:11 - *myriads of myriads, & thousands of thousands* \_
  - ii. Rv 9:5 scorpions torment for 5 mons - v10.
9. #s derived from #12. Tribes & apostles - Rv 4:4 *24 elders*
  - i. 144K sealed w/ mark of G [ $12 \times 12 \times 1000$ ] - Rv 7:4 then v5ff 12K from each of the 12 tribes [curious listing...]
  - ii. Rv 21 Jeru w/ 12 fndtns [tribes] & gates [apostles] - v16 [square = 4 sided] but cubed: length, width, height are equal. NASB miles: misses symbolic #s: KJV 12K furlongs. 21:3
10. The symbolic use of #s will affect how we interp #s in Rv.