

The Significance of Eight

- We have seen that SEVEN represents finality, closure, and completeness.
- Therefore, it is natural to view EIGHT as symbolic of a new beginning, a new order of things, a new birth, a new creation.

- Leviticus 8:31-36; 9: 1

- *³¹ Moses then said to Aaron and his sons, “Cook the meat at the entrance to the tent of meeting and eat it there with the bread from the basket of ordination offerings, as I was commanded: ‘Aaron and his sons are to eat it.’ ³² Then burn up the rest of the meat and the bread. ³³ Do not leave the entrance to the tent of meeting for seven days, until the days of your ordination are completed, for your ordination will last seven days. ³⁴ What has been done today was commanded by the LORD to make atonement for you. ³⁵ You must stay at the entrance to the tent of meeting day and night for seven days and do what the LORD requires, so you will not die; for that is what I have been commanded.”*

- *³⁶ So Aaron and his sons did everything the LORD commanded through Moses.*

- *1 On the **eighth** day Moses summoned Aaron and his sons and the elders of Israel. ² He said to Aaron, “Take a bull calf for your sin offering^[a] and a ram for your burnt offering, both without defect, and present them before the LORD.*

- In order to prepare for their duties, Aaron and his sons were consecrated SEVEN days.

- After their period of complete consecration, they begin their new priestly duties on the eighth day.

- Leviticus 14:8-11

- ⁸ *“The person to be cleansed must wash their clothes, shave off all their hair and bathe with water; then they will be ceremonially clean. After this they may come into the camp, but they must stay outside their tent for seven days.*

- ⁹ *On the seventh day they must shave off all their hair; they must shave their head, their beard, their eyebrows and the rest of their hair. They must wash their clothes and bathe themselves with water, and they will be clean.*

- ¹⁰ *“On the **eighth** day they must bring two male lambs and one ewe lamb a year old, each without defect, along with three-tenths of an ephah^[b] of the finest flour mixed with olive oil for a grain offering, and one log^[c] of oil. ¹¹ The priest who pronounces them clean shall present both the one to be cleansed and their offerings before the LORD at the entrance to the tent of meeting.*

- After waiting outside the camp seven days, on the eighth day a cleansed leper would present himself to the priests marking a new beginning, for he once was dirty, but now he is clean!

- Leviticus 15: 13-15

- ¹³ ““When a man is cleansed from his discharge, he is to count off seven days for his ceremonial cleansing; he must wash his clothes and bathe himself with fresh water, and he will be clean. ¹⁴ On the **eighth** day he must take two doves or two young pigeons and come before the LORD to the entrance to the tent of meeting and give them to the priest. ¹⁵ The priest is to sacrifice them, the one for a purification offering and the other for a burnt offering. In this way he will make atonement before the LORD for the man because of his discharge.

- When a man was cleansed from a discharge, he was to wait seven days. On the eighth day his sacrifice provides purification and atonement.
- The same is true for a woman. See Leviticus 15:28-30.

- 1 Samuel 16:10-13

¹⁰ Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these." ¹¹ So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep."

Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

¹² So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one."

¹³ So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

- We see that seven sons of Jesse passed before Samuel, none of which were chosen.
- David, the eighth son was then anointed to be the NEW king of Israel, signifying a new beginning, a new tribe to be placed on the throne, one from which even the Messiah would come from.
- When the people of Israel asked for a king, he came from Benjamin(Saul).
- But God sought out His own man David, a man after His own heart from Judah to start a new beginning, a dynasty that would last forever!

- Even Israel (Jacob) prophesied that Judah would be the tribe of kings.
- Genesis 49:8-10
 - *“Judah,^[b] your brothers will praise you;
your hand will be on the neck of your enemies;
your father’s sons will bow down to you.*
 - ⁹ *You are a lion’s cub, Judah;
you return from the prey, my son.
Like a lion he crouches and lies down,
like a lioness—who dares to rouse him?*
 - ¹⁰ *The scepter will not depart from Judah,
nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet,^[c]
until he to whom it belongs^[d] shall come
and the obedience of the nations shall be his.*
- Is it not amazing that Jacob prophesies about the Messiah at the end of verse 10!

- Genesis 17:9-14

- ⁹ Then God said to Abraham, “As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. ¹⁰ This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹ You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹² For the generations to come every male among you who is **eight** days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner—those who are not your offspring. ¹³ Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴ Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

- Leviticus 12:1-3
 - The LORD said to Moses, ² “Say to the Israelites: ‘A woman who becomes pregnant and gives birth to a son will be ceremonially unclean for seven days, just as she is unclean during her monthly period. ³ On the eighth day the boy is to be circumcised.
- When a male was born, on what day was the circumcision performed?
- What was the purpose of this circumcision?

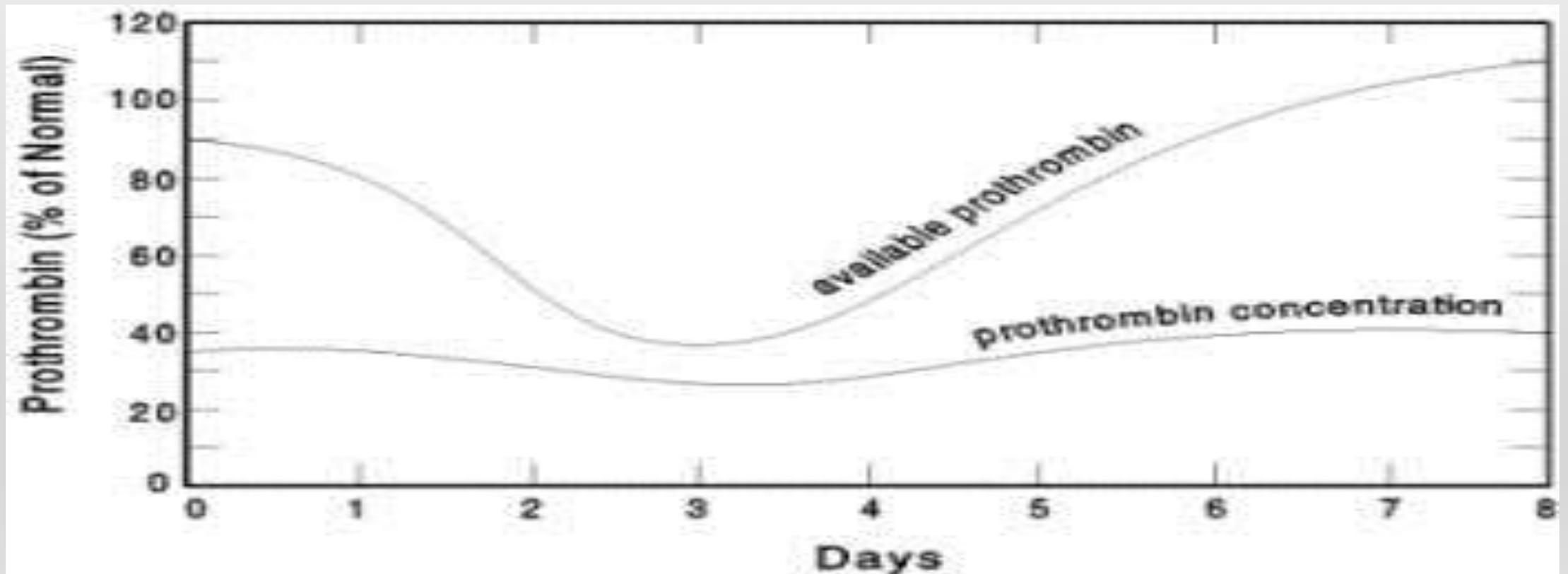
- Luke 2:21
 - ²¹ On the **eighth** day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.
- Acts 7: 8
 - ⁸ Then he gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. And Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him **eight** days after his birth. Later Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs.
- Philippians 3:5
 - *If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the **eighth** day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.*
- Even in the New Testament, circumcision was still being performed on the eighth day.

- Why was circumcision performed on the eighth day as opposed to some other day of a newborn male's life?
- The obvious answer is God commanding to Abraham and his descendants for it to be performed on the eighth day and so it was.
- However, two main reasons exist that support performing circumcision on the eighth day; one is biological, the other is spiritual.

Biological Reason

- Studies have shown that Vitamin K is responsible for producing the clotting factor prothrombin. Prothrombin is a necessary to have in the blood to prevent hemorrhaging and to allow blood coagulation or clotting.
- It is only on the fifth through the seventh days of a newborn male's life that vitamin K (produced by bacteria in the intestinal tract) is present in adequate quantities.
- Vitamin K, coupled with prothrombin, causes blood coagulation, which is important in any surgical procedure in order to minimize the amount of blood that is lost as a result of the surgery.
- Obviously, then, if vitamin K is not produced in sufficient quantities until days five through seven, it would be wise to postpone any surgery until some time after that.

- On the **eighth** day, the amount of prothrombin present actually is elevated **above one-hundred percent of normal**—and is the only day in the male's life in which this will be the case under normal conditions. If surgery is to be performed, day eight is the perfect day to do so. Vitamin K and prothrombin levels are at their peak!



- We should be remember that four thousand years ago, when **God initiated circumcision with Abraham**, Abraham did not pick the eighth day after many centuries of trial-and-error experiments. Neither he nor any of his family from the ancient city of Ur had ever been circumcised.
- Day eight was a day picked by the Creator of vitamin K!
- It was a day picked by God!
- We see now that God is not only a mathematician and a chemist, but also a biologist.

Spiritual Reason

In Judaism, circumcision is considered a symbol or sign of the covenant between God and the Jewish people. In fact, circumcision in Hebrew is the word “*bris*” which literally means “covenant.”

The *bris* is on the eighth day so that the newborn baby will by necessity live through a **complete** week which must include a Sabbath. Once the baby has experienced the “holiness” of the Sabbath, only then may he enter into the covenant of the Jewish people.

- Colossians 2:9-12

- *⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹ In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh^[b] was put off when you were **circumcised** by^[c] Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in **baptism**, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.*

- Notice that Circumcision, Baptism, and Resurrection all come together in verse 11.
- Paul connects baptism with circumcision, cutting off the desires the flesh to live a life new in Christ.
- Circumcision is a type of new creature and we see here that baptism is spiritual circumcision, a new beginning!
- Just like circumcision was the sign of the Abrahamic covenant, baptism is the sign of the New Covenant.

- Genesis 7:13
 - ¹³ *On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark.*
- 1 Peter 3:20-22
 - ²⁰ *to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, **eight** in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God.^[e] It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ*
- Notice that EIGHT people were saved in all, to start anew and repopulate the earth. This is symbolic of a new beginning.

- Furthermore, what is Peter comparing Noah's salvation to in verse 21?
- Baptism is representative of a new birth, a new creation just like circumcision.
- Note the following:
 - 1) eight people were saved on the Ark (symbolic of a new beginning)
 - 2) circumcision was performed on the eighth day (symbolic of a new creation, that a Jewish male was now in covenant with God)
 - 3) baptism in the New Testament is connected with both the Ark and circumcision.
- **Therefore baptism represents a new beginning and a new creation.**

- Genesis: 8: 6-12

- ⁶ After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark ⁷ and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. ⁸ Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. ⁹ But the dove could find nowhere to perch because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. ¹⁰ He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. ¹¹ When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. ¹² He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.

- Matthew 2: 16-17

- ¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”
- It is interesting to note the correlation of the baptism of Jesus, when the Spirit of God came down like a dove, which was the very animal released by Noah from the Ark as a sign of the new beginning!

- 2 Corinthians 5:17

- *¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:^[a] The old has gone, the new is here!*

- Romans 6:3-4

- *³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*