

The Significance of Seven

- The number SEVEN is used in the Bible to denote, completeness, closure, finality, and perfection. It also the most frequent number in the Bible (735 times in the Bible, 54 of which are in Revelation.)
- The word for SEVEN in Hebrew is the same word as to swear or put yourself under an oath.
- The number SEVEN is Hebrew (Sheba) has a three part meaning.
 - 1. Seven
 - 2. Full/Complete
 - 3. Oath/ Swear / Covenant Promise (the expression “to seven oneself” means “to swear a covenant”

- Genesis 21:27-31
 - ²⁷ So Abraham brought sheep and cattle and gave them to Abimelek, and the two men made a treaty. ²⁸ Abraham set apart seven ewe lambs from the flock, ²⁹ and Abimelek asked Abraham, “What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs you have set apart by themselves?”
 - ³⁰ He replied, “Accept these seven lambs from my hand as a witness that I dug this well.”
 - ³¹ So that place was called Beersheba, [\[d\]](#) because the two men swore an oath there.
- Beersheba can mean “well of the seven” or “well of the oath.” This is because SEVEN and oath synonymous.

- Genesis 2:2-3

- ² By the **seventh** day God had **finished** the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

- On the seventh day God rested and made the day holy. His work was complete, finished. He rested in the knowledge of the perfectness of creation.
- Notice that God appointed SEVEN days for the week.
- Does not every person, believer or atheist use a seven day a week time system that GOD established? Few people ever stop to ask why there are seven days in a week, why not six days in a week, or eight?

- We have ten fingers and use a base ten system for almost everything. Why not ten days in a week? It seems that if man were count the days of the week the number ten would be more appropriate.
- Do unbelievers give God and the Bible credit for establishing the seven day a week system?
- Revelation 16:17
 - ¹⁷ The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, “It is done!”
- What does the voice from the throne say in this verse?
- GOD does not count by tens. God counts by SEVENS.

- Genesis 4: 15

- ¹⁵ But the LORD said to him, “Not so^[e]; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him.

- If anyone was to kill Cain, he would suffer seven times over, a complete suffering.

- Genesis 5:21-23

- ²¹ When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah.

- ²² After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³ Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years.

- Enoch walked faithfully with the Lord, and God took him away. Enoch was the seventh generation from Adam.

- Adam: Seth: Enosh: Kenan: Mahalalel: Jared: Enoch

- Genesis 29:18-21

- ¹⁸ Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, “I’ll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel.” ¹⁹ Laban said, “It’s better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me.” ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her. ²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife. My time is **completed**, and I want to make love to her.”

- Following seven years of work, Jacob’s work was complete and he received his bride (Leah).
- However, he had to work another seven years for Rachel, the woman he truly loved.

- Recall God's SEVENFOLD covenant with Abraham
- 1. Make him into a great nation
- 2. Bless him
- 3. Make his name great
- 4. Bless others through him
- 5. Bless those that bless him
- 6. Curse those that curse him
- 7. In him all families of the earth will be blessed.

- Exodus 6: 16-20

¹⁶ These were the names of the sons of Levi according to their records: Gershon, Kohath and Merari. Levi lived 137 years.

¹⁷ The sons of Gershon, by clans, were Libni and Shimei.

¹⁸ The sons of Kohath were Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel. Kohath lived 133 years.¹⁹ The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi.

These were the clans of Levi according to their records.

²⁰ Amram married his father's sister Jochebed, who bore him Aaron and Moses. Amram lived 137 years.

- Notice that Moses was the seventh generation from Abraham.

- Abraham: Isaac: Jacob: Levi: Kohath: Amram: Moses

- Is it interesting to note that Moses was the seventh generation from Abraham?

- God **COMPLETES** his covenant with Abraham and gives the Hebrews the land of Canaan during the Exodus, whose leader was Moses, the **SEVENTH** generation from Abraham.

- Leviticus 25: 8-12

- ⁸ “Count off seven sabbath years—seven times seven years—so that the seven sabbath years amount to a period of forty-nine years. ⁹ Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. ¹⁰ Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan. ¹¹ The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; do not sow and do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the untended vines. ¹² For it is a jubilee and is to be holy for you; eat only what is taken directly from the fields.

- I also find it interesting that SEVEN is used frequently in Israel's conquest of Canaan, the Promised Land.
- The Israelites were to totally or completely destroy the SEVEN nations of Canaan.
- Deuteronomy 7:1-2
 - 7 When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you—² and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must **destroy them totally**
- Acts 13:19
 - ¹⁹ and he overthrew seven nations in Canaan, giving their land to his people as their inheritance.
- Furthermore, SEVEN is also used frequently in Revelation (54 times) to describe our Promised Land, Heaven.
- How interesting is that? Coincidence or the Greatness of God?

- Joshua 6: 2-5

- ² Then the LORD said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. ³ March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. ⁴ Have **seven** priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark. On the **seventh** day, march around the city **seven** times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. ⁵ When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in.”

- When the Israelites overtook Jericho, how many days did they march around the city?
- How many times did they march around the city on the seventh day?
- SEVEN times completed their marching. The victory God would give them would be complete, perfect.

- Joshua 6:21
 - ²¹ They devoted the city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.
- What entities are enumerated as being completely destroyed?
- Notice that SEVEN items are enumerated to symbolize a complete destruction of the city. Why not six or eight if but to serve a point?
 - Man, Woman, Young, Old, Cattle, Sheep, Donkey
- Hebrews 11:30
 - ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.

- In the book of Judges, SEVEN weak things were used by God to confound the mighty, in order to demonstrate the spiritual perfection of God's works of deliverance.
- 1. A left handed man: Judges 3:21
- 2. An ox-goad: Judges 3:31
- 3. A woman: Judges 4:4
- 4. A tent peg: Judges 4:21
- 5. A piece of millstone: Judges 9:53
- 6. Pitchers and trumpets: Judges 7:20
- 7. Jawbone of a donkey: Judges 15:15

- Leviticus 8:31-36

- 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.

- Before Aaron and his sons entered their priestly duties, they were consecrated SEVEN days.
- Here SEVEN is used for completeness. Their life was completely consecrated to the Lord for service.

- Leviticus 16: 11-14
 - ¹¹ “Aaron shall bring the bull for his own sin offering to make atonement for himself and his household, and he is to slaughter the bull for his own sin offering. ¹² He is to take a censer full of burning coals from the altar before the LORD and two handfuls of finely ground fragrant incense and take them behind the curtain. ¹³ He is to put the incense on the fire before the LORD, and the smoke of the incense will conceal the atonement cover above the tablets of the covenant law, so that he will not die. ¹⁴ He is to take some of the bull’s blood and with his finger sprinkle it on the front of the atonement cover; then he shall sprinkle some of it with his finger **seven** times before the atonement cover.
- On the day of Atonement, the high priest sprinkled the blood upon the atonement cover or mercy seat SEVEN TIMES. After which his sins were atoned for. Only once his sins were atoned for could the high priest enter the most holy place.
- Why SEVEN times, why not TWELVE, one for each tribe of Israel?

- Now let us compare and contrast the yearly priestly sacrifice on the Day of Atonement with that of Jesus.
- Hebrews 9:12
 - ¹² He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining ^[b] eternal redemption.
- Hebrews 10:4
 - ³ But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. ⁴ It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.
- When Christ offered himself, he FINISHED the sacrificial offerings.
- We have seen that the number SEVEN is associated with the high priest being allowed entrance into the Most Holy Place.
- Therefore one might suppose that the number SEVEN might also appear in some form when Christ offers himself as a sacrifice and enters the Most Holy Place.

- How many statements does Jesus make while on the cross?

1. "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34).
2. "Today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43).
3. "Woman, here is your son. Here is your mother." (John 19:26).
4. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46).
5. "I thirst." (John 19:28).
6. "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." (Luke 23:46).
7. "It is finished." (John 19:30).

- Psalm 12: 5-6

- “Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise,” says the LORD.

- “I will protect them from those who malign them.” ⁶ And the words of the LORD are **flawless**,
like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times.

- The words of God are flawless or perfect, like gold refined SEVEN times.

Mountains around Jerusalem

- Psalm 125: 1-2
 - Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever.
² As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people both now and forevermore.
- Listed below are the mountains (hills) that surround Jerusalem.
 - 1. Moriah
 - 2. Bethsaida
 - 3. Scopus
 - 4. Olives
 - 5. Opel
 - 6. Zion
 - Zion refers to the whole range, but it also refers to a specific mountain. It means “stronghold, fortress.” It also means “to show the way, to be white and to be pure.”
 - 7. Calvary
- How many mountains surround Jerusalem?

- 2 Kings 5:10
 - ¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, “Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed.”
- Naaman was to was SEVEN times in the Jordan in order to be fully cleansed.
- Why SEVEN times and not just once?

- Luke 17: 3-4
 - “If your brother or sister^[a] sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. ⁴ Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying ‘I repent,’ you must forgive them.”
- Here Jesus is showing that your forgiveness must be complete.

- Daniel 3:19-23

- ¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰ and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹ So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²² The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ²³ and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

- Here we see that THREE Hebrews were brought forth alive from death, representing the resurrection. But also notice the heat of the furnace.
- Here is a COMPLETE deliverance for God's people from the power of death. There was not a trace of fire on them and their clothes did not even remotely smell of fire. God COMPLETELY RESURRECTED them.
- They were COMPLETELY restored as if they had never entered the furnace, never faced death.
- The same is true for our resurrection in Christ.

Seven in Revelation

- Since Revelation is the final book of the Bible, would it not be fitting to see the number SEVEN appear frequently in this FINAL book in order to demonstrate that God's word is COMPLETE?
- The book was written to SEVEN churches.

- Revelation 1: 4-5

John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits^[a] before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

- The seven recipient churches were Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.

- We also have a picture of Christ walking among SEVEN golden lampstands holding SEVEN stars.
- Revelation 1:12-16
 - ¹² I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw **seven** golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, ¹⁴ dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held **seven** stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.
- Revelation 1:20
 - ²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels (messengers) of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.
- **If Christ is the groom and the church is his bride then this is an image of the groom walking with his bride finally and completely as symbolized by the SEVEN lampstands.**

- Revelation 4: 5
 - ⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits^[a] of God.
- Revelation 5:1
 - ⁵ Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals.
- Revelation 5: 5
 - ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”
- Revelation 5: 12
 - ¹² In a loud voice they were saying:
“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!”
- SEVEN words of praise were given to Christ. Why seven words? Because the lamb that was slain was PERFECT. SEVEN IS PERFECTION.

- Revelation 8: 1-2;6

1 When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. ² And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

⁶ Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.

- Revelation 10:1-4

- Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. ² He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, ³ and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. ⁴ And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.”

- Revelation 10:7
 - ⁷ But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be **accomplished**, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.”
- In this passage the mystery of God is finished or accomplished at the voice of the seventh angel.
- Revelation 12:3
 - ³ Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads.
- Revelation 15:1
 - I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—**last**, because with them God’s wrath is **completed**.
- Here are seven angels with the seven last plagues, because God’s wrath is complete (finished) with them.

- Revelation 16:1
 - Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go, pour out the seven bowls of God’s wrath on the earth.”
- SEVEN plagues from SEVEN angels with SEVEN bowls filled with the wrath of God.
- Revelation 16:17
 - ¹⁷ The **seventh** angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, “**It is done!**”
- In this passage we see the phrase “it is done” in connection with the seventh angel pouring out his vial.
- Revelation 17: 9
 - ⁹ “This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. ¹⁰ They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for only a little while. ¹¹ The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.