

Amazing numbers

Peter Michell

Introduction

Truth, doctrine is not determined by numbers. We are not going to find anything that contradicts good, straight forward understanding of scripture.

What we are going to find is that, in a way only the Lord could conceive, the number values of letters and words can bring amazing confirmation to what we believe from reading and studying the bible, and we confirm the wonderful inspiration of scripture.

Here is an example - 'Jesus' in the Greek text:

Letter: value:

Iota 10

Eta 8

Sigma 200

Omicron 70

Upsilon 400

Sigma 200

Total 888 chance or design? More about this latter.

The numbers:

7

10

17

9

153

37 - with Jesus found to be in Genesis 1:1

33

5

13

666

42

12

120

200

144

This is my selection – there are, of course, many more!

For further study I recommend:

Unlocking the sign miracles of John by Jonathan R Hill

Seal of God by F C Payne

Number in Scripture by E W Bullinger

The book God signed by Karl Sabiers

As a download – The Biblical Meaning of numbers from one to forty by Dr Stephen E Jones.

7

7 is commonly thought of as an important or special number, and with good reason. Biblically it stands for spiritual perfection and completion.

For example 7 days complete one week being the spiritually perfect period of creation, - we see this right at the very beginning when God created in 6 days and rested on the 7th.

The number 7 is found in many places in scripture –

In Revelation chapters 1 to 3 we find Jesus writing letters to 7 churches in Asia. He is pictured amongst 7 spirits around the throne, and amongst 7 golden lampstands (representing the churches), and with 7 stars (representing the angels allotted to each church) in His right hand. There were more than 7 churches in Asia at that time so these are considered to be representative of the whole, complete, church.

Abraham was given a sevenfold blessing in Genesis 12:2-3:

‘I will make you a great nation
I will bless you
And make your name great
And you shall be a blessing

I will bless those who bless you
And curse him who curses you
And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

Israel was brought out of captivity in Egypt with a seven fold blessing in Exodus 6:6-8 :

'I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.
I will rescue you from their bondage
I will redeem you with an outstretched arm.
I will take you as My people.
I will be your God.
I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham.
I will give it to you as a heritage.'

7 Miracles as signs in the gospel of John* confirm Jesus is the Christ and carry a message for the church and for Israel.

	Reference
Water turned into wine at the wedding in Cana.	2:1-12
The nobleman's son.	4:46-54
The man healed at the pool of Bethesda.	5:1-15
The feeding of the 5,000.	6:1-14
The storm becalmed when Jesus walks on the water	6:15-21
The man born blind – sight restored	9:1-41
The raising of Lazarus.	11:1-44

* Every miracle is a sign that Jesus is the Messiah. In addition some miracles are more than just the healing or deliverance or

miraculous event – they carry a message. See, for example chapter 6 verse 54 where the miracle is declared to be the second sign although according to Nicodemus Jesus had already done plural signs. (chapter 3:2 and see chapter 2:23)

Many more sevens for example:

In the **Old Testament** the blood of the atonement was sprinkled 7 times on the mercy seat and on seven places in all. (Leviticus)

In **Revelation** there are, in addition to those seen already, seven seals, seven angels, seven trumpets, seven thunders, seven heads, seven crowns, seven plagues, seven mountains and seven things the Lamb is worthy to receive – power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessing.

There are seven gifts in Romans 12:6-8: prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading and mercy.

There are seven expressions of unity in Ephesians 4:4-6: One body, one Spirit one hope, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.

Seven characteristics of wisdom from above in James 3:17: pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

There are many more – but more astounding is:

The watermark - the work of Ivan Panin

A numeric design in the scripture was discovered by Ivan Panin. What Panin found was that the number seven

permeates the text in a way that I am describing as a watermark. The watermark lies beneath the immediate surface in the number and value of words and letters, and their position in the text of the Hebrew and of the Greek scriptures.

The concept that there is a numeric design flowing throughout both the New and Old Testaments is controversial – particularly to those who want to deny the inspiration, the God-breathing, of scripture as Paul related to Timothy. (2nd letter, 3:16-17)

Actually the **facts** are undeniable. There is a septenary design in the Hebrew and Greek texts that is amazing.

For those who would like to know more about the septenary design of scripture I recommend ‘The Book God Signed,’ by Karl Sabiers M. A. published by Megiddo Press Ltd (I got my copy from Amazon.) It is easy to follow and very worthwhile.

One benefit of the discovery of septenary design is the confirmation that two disputed passages are indeed part of the inspired word of God.

Those passages are Mark 16: 9-20 and John 7:53-8:11. Their validity was under question because they do not appear in two old manuscripts – Codex Vaticanus and Codex Sinaiticus. However they do appear in many other texts and are referred

to as scripture by church fathers whose writings pre date the two Codexes.

The Mark passage is important because it quantifies the signs that should follow the preaching of the word.

The John passage is important because in it we see the transition from Law to grace.

We now see the value of recognising that God's inspiration of scripture goes deeper than just the letters of the alphabet.

10

We have seen 7 as being spiritual completeness and perfection.

Ten ends the run of single digit numbers and so refers to numerical completeness, meaning all that should be counted are present – nothing lost.

Jesus speaking, 'Whilst I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the scripture may be fulfilled.' John 17:12

So we can see a principle - all that should be there were kept by the power of the Lord.

Ten is seen in many scriptures:

There were 10 commandments.

There were 10 plagues affecting Egypt.

There were 10 gifts of areas of land given to Abraham -
Genesis 15:18-20

The parable of the 10 virgins

10 times Jesus says, 'I am' in John's gospel.

So 10 speaks of all that should be there being there – numerical completeness.

17

What have we seen? Numerical perfection and completion (10) and spiritual perfection and completeness (7) – so let's put them together.

The number stands for complete victory over one's enemies.

Look at Romans 8:35-9 where the question is asked, 'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?'

17 potential oppressors are listed –

Tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword, death, life, angels, principalities, things present, things to come, powers, height, depth, any other creature.

'Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors,' none of these things shall be able to separate us from the love of Christ.

We can also see a connection between 17 and the bride of Christ (the bride will be numerically complete and spiritually perfect of course.)

In Genesis 24 we find the 17th mention of Isaac – he is in the field watching when he sees the camels coming bring his bride Rebecca. (The word camels has a value of 17) The word

Rebecca in Romans 9:10 has a value of 153 which later we will see represents the bride of Christ.

(Add together all the sequence of numbers 1+2+3+4+ 5+ through to 17 and we arrive at 153.)

Complete victory is found at the cross of Christ where He became the sacrifice atoning for our sins and the source of the righteousness gifted to us when we believe.

So the number 17 can also be seen to represent the flesh of Jesus Christ being the sacrifice that achieved complete victory.

9

Here we have the last of the single digits – it is both complete and yet not quite complete! Hence Galatians 5:22-23 lists 9 aspects of the fruit of the Spirit – complete in this life but not yet into completeness - that will come when by the Spirit we are changed in the twinkling of an eye. (1 Corinthians 15:52.)

Likewise the 9 beatitudes of Matthew 5:3- 11 contain the same message – very good but not quite the whole story. More is yet to come when we are raised incorruptible.

The 9 gifts of the Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 also illustrate the point, being complete in themselves, yet the final gift of the Spirit is yet to come.

So 9 stands for the end – it is the end of the single digits and 9 also stands for there is more to come.

Consider the 9th hour – this is when Jesus cried out from the cross ‘it is finished.’ -That is, it is the end. The end of the age of the Law came when the curtain of the temple was torn in two. There will now be a better way to enter into the presence of God.

153

Now let's take 17, complete victory and see it at the end. 17×9 and we come to 153.

153 represents the body of born again believers – the church, the bride. This is beautifully pictured in the last chapter of John's gospel:

Peter and the disciples are at the Sea of Tiberias, perhaps better known as the Sea of Galilee. It's a while since all the wonderful things that happened when they walked with Jesus, and the drama and sadness of the crucifixion. There had been that time in the upper room when Jesus appeared – but that now was just a memory.

Simon Peter is with Thomas the twin, Nathanael, the sons of Zebedee and two others – seven in all. Peter announces, *'I am going fishing.'* (According to the NKJ version) Now we need to look deeper because the Greek language has much greater depth than our translation.

Here is a literal translation - *'I am going back to my former business as a fisherman.'*

The others – *'we are going with you also.'*

So straight away, that very night, they take to the boat and go fishing.

All night fishing results in a catch of exactly nothing – no fish, not even one.

(A little lesson for us here – once called by the Lord to His specific work can we expect to go back to our old livelihood and be successful unless we have His instruction to do so? Jesus had previously called them to be fishers of men through a miracle catch recorded by Luke. (5:1-11)

Similarly, on the first occasion, they had fished all night and caught nothing but at Jesus behest had let the nets down on the right side of the boat and secured so many fish that the net was near to breaking and the boat near to sinking. But now their previous occupation, as fishermen, was not yielding even one fish until Jesus again gave His instruction.)

They did not know it was Jesus on the shore calling out to them. *'Children have you any food?'* Let's go a bit more literal with the Greek language – *'Children still at the age of learning, you do not have anything to add to your bread for eating do you?'*

An emphatic 'No' is their reply. (I guess they were probably a bit frustrated after a fruitless night's endeavour.)

'Cast your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.'

They did. The net was so full of fish they couldn't draw it in.

John, one of the sons of Zebedee, recognises Jesus and calls out, *'It is the Lord.'*

The ever impetuous Peter puts on his fisherman's garment (for he was naked) and plunges into the sea – the others follow in the little boat, dragging the net full of fish, the short distance to the shore. (200 cubits - about 300 feet.)

Already Jesus has a fire going, He has some bread and is cooking some fish. *'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.'* Peter drags the net, even though it is full of great fish it has not broken, to the land. 153 large fish. (Described in the Greek as being 'mega' fish.)

Jesus serves them with a bread and fish breakfast on this the third time He has appeared to them after He was raised from the dead.

Why does the scripture record 153 great fish? Is it more than just a random number?

Every Greek letter and every Hebrew letter has a numerical value as we have seen already:

'Alpha' in Greek and 'Aleph' in Hebrew are valued as 1
'Lambda' in Greek and 'Lamed' in Hebrew are each valued as 30

..... and so on.

And now we tread carefully. We are not going to use numbers to determine doctrine. We are going to look and see if the numbers confirm the doctrine we have already established from our bible studies.

10 the number represents numerical completion.

7 the number represents spiritual perfection

10 and 7 together then represent the full number of the spiritually perfect – that would be the state of the body of Christ, all there and in complete victory.

9 represents the end, being the last single digit.

So when we take 10 and 7 together = 17 by 9 we get 153, in this case representing the complete body of Christ. The fish are taken out of the sea representing mankind – refer to Revelation 17:1 where the harlot is seen sitting on many waters representing mankind.

So now our numbers confirm the doctrine we know - all those who believe, that is place their trust, in Jesus , will, in

due course, be taken, out of mankind, to Him, to be taken to dwell in the place He has prepared for us. (John 14:1-3)

There is more –

The fish are taken out of the sea in a net which does not break. Remembering that the letters of the Greek language (and the Hebrew) are also numbers let us see what more we can find.

The net in Greek is '*to diktuon*' which when the value of each letter is added together comes to 1224 which is 8 times 153.

We saw 888 in the introduction - being the personal number of Jesus, who is Himself resurrected and is the power of resurrection for every believer.

8 *the number represents 'resurrection.'*

So now our numbers are confirming more doctrine we already know from our bible study. All believers will be resurrected – metaphorically in a net which does not break!

This event, when Jesus reinstates Peter, by the shore of the Sea of Galilee, is in its numbers confirming that the complete church is to be taken out of the sea of mankind and brought to Jesus to be His bride.

Scripture tells us to expect that this is the case. John 14:1-6 carries the promise that Jesus, having gone to prepare a place for us in His Father's house, will come to collect us. 1 Corinthians 15:51-54 tells us this will happen in the twinkling of an eye.

'to diktuon' the net – Greek letter values:

Tau	T = 300	by 2	600
Omicron	0 = 70	by 2	140
Delta	D = 4		4
Iota	I = 10		10
Kappa	K = 20		20
Upsilon	U = 400		400
Nu	N = 50		50
Total			1224

So the numbers have confirmed our expectation that we will rise to meet Jesus in the air at the rapture of the believers in due course.

Isn't the scripture a wonderful miracle in itself!

37

37 stands for 'the living word,' or another way of saying it, 'all that is in Christ,' or 'inheritance.'

We are told that the Lord is, and knows, the end from the beginning and the beginning from the end – so we will consider a little mathematics: (Isaiah 46:10 and Revelation 21:6 and 22:13)

37 beginning from the end – reversed to
73 to represent end from the beginning.
37 x 73 amounts to 2,701 – is that special in any way?

The first 7 words of Genesis 1 read like this:

Hebrew word in English:	Value of the letters added together:
In the beginning	913
God	86
Created	203
<i>Untranslated</i>	401 *
The heavens	395
And	407
The earth	296
Total	2701

* The untranslated Hebrew word is just two letters - the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet (aleph value 1) and the last letter (tav value 400) of the Hebrew alphabet – the first and the last! Here is Jesus who said I am the first and the last (Revelation 1:11, 21:6, 22:13) and without Him nothing was made that was made. (John 1:3) He is pictured right in the centre of creation.

The earth was created for mankind to have dominion, to flourish, to multiply. Due to man's failure the earth as it is now will pass away, but a new heaven and a new earth will replace it and be our inheritance in Christ.

Under the number 153 we saw the number 8 representing resurrection.

We saw 888 in the introduction. 888 is Jesus. 888 is also 37×24

We have defined 37 as 'the living word' - that is, of course the word made flesh from John's gospel.

Now we will see 24 as representing the priesthood - consider Revelation 4:4 24 elders around the throne, and 1 Chronicles 24:1-18 where there are 24 divisions of the priests.

Jesus is described as our high priest – Hebrews 7:20 to 8:1

It is indeed very fitting that Jesus personal number should represent both the living word and His great high priesthood.

There is more in a name:

296		37 x 8
592	Godhead *	37 x 16
888	Jesus	37 x 24
1480	Christ	37 x 40
2368	Jesus Christ	37 x 64
2960	Son of Man	37 x 80
5920	Total of all these names	**

* this is in Colossians 2:9 where we find the phrase *'in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.'*

** exactly the numerical value of the phrase *'Behold the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet Him'* from Matthew 25:6

Another interesting fact relating to 888 - the living word. In John 9:1-12 we have the account of the man born blind. Jesus spits on the ground, makes clay and anoints the man's eyes. At this point the man still cannot see. Go wash in the pool of Siloam – he does and he comes back seeing. Siloam has the numerical value of 888. 24 x 37.

The Hebrew word for wisdom 'chokmah' has the value of 73 when we use the standard method which allocates a particular value to each letter. When we use the ordinal method, which values the first letter as 1, the second as 2, the third as 3, and

so on to the last letter as 27, then the total value of 'chokmah' is 37

Is it possible all of this is just coincidental, or, do we worship a God whose intelligence goes way beyond what we can think or imagine?

33

33 means a sign or witness.

When we meet Noah for the 33rd time it is in Genesis 9:17 – here the Lord God says to him, concerning the rainbow, *'This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.'*

King David rules all Israel for 33 years - 2 Samuel 5:5 - a type or sign of the coming kingdom which will fulfil God's promise that David's heir would rule for ever. 2 Samuel 7:16. To be fulfilled in the millennium.

The numerical value of *'in three days'* in John 2:19 is 1089 which is 33 x 33. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the greatest of all the signs to mankind.

Even the date of Jesus death and resurrection - AD 33 carries the number representing the sign and witness.

Detailed study of biblical chronology tells us that a very significant sign was given to the Gentile Nations in 1933 – please refer to 'The end is not quite yet,' or 'Ostrich Christianity,' for details.

See 'Last orders' for more on 33 and the signs of this time.

5

If we follow the sequence of the first numbers we get this:

- 1 Can represent the Father
- 2 Can represent the Son
- 3 Can represent the Spirit

All three were involved in the recreation of the earth

- 4 Creation – which was subject to the fall through man.
- 5 Grace - redemption then had to follow.

(Under 37 we saw that the earth has a value of $296 - 37 \times 8$ - the living word and resurrection. When we consider Genesis 1 the earth is indeed resurrected from its watery tomb where it was without form and void.)

Abram became Abraham when the Lord God changed his name by adding 'hey' the fifth letter of the Hebrew alphabet into the fifth place in his new name. Abraham's obedience to the voice of God, by faith, was counted to him as righteousness - here is a manifestation of grace which is exactly what the letter 'hey' stands for.

When Paul is told '*My grace is sufficient for you*' the numerical value is $1845 - 5 \times 3 \times 3 \times 41$.

When David was facing Goliath he took 5 smooth stones for his sling – shows that he was relying on God’s grace rather than his own ability. 1 Samuel 17;40 (Scripture also relates that Goliath had four brothers – enough grace to deal with them all if needed!)

When one considers both the tabernacle and the temple we find the number 5 and multiples thereof are ‘stamped’ all over them.

The holy anointing oil had 5 components – oil and myrrh and sweet cinnamon and sweet calamus and cassia. Exodus 30:23-25. (and the quantity of each component was a multiple of 5)

The incense also had 5 components – stacte and onycha and galbanum and frankincense and salt. Exodus 30:34

In the Old testament the grace of God was secured by 5 offerings – the burnt offering, the sin offering, the meal offering, the trespass offering and the peace offering. In the New testament the grace of God is fully manifest in His Son.

‘By grace you have been saved.’ Ephesians 2:5

When the disciples are told, *‘you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you’* in Acts 1:8 the numerical value of ‘power’ is 555 - grace, grace, grace ! It is also 111 x 5 where 1 1 1 can represent God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

13

In the world 13 is often seen as being unlucky – however when we turn to scripture it carries the meaning of rebellion - ‘sin.’

One of the principles of bible study is to consider the first occurrence of the word to help establish its meaning. For 13 the first occurrence is Genesis 14:4 - *‘Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer , and the thirteenth year they rebelled.’*

Here are some examples of multiples of 13:

Satan in Hebrew	363	which is	13 x 28
Satan in Greek	2197		13 x 13 x 13
Belial	78		13 x 6
Murderer	1820		13 x 140
Tempter	1053		13 x 81
Beelzebub	598		13 x 46

‘All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.’ Romans 3:23

This is the doctrine of ‘original sin.’ It states that even from birth everyone comes into the world as one needing regeneration because of sin. This would be sin passed down through the male line - ‘in Adam all die.’ 1 Corinthians 15:22

When we look at a newly born babe it can be difficult to accept and we certainly don't think the babe has itself committed any sin. Our study of numbers can throw some more light by showing us that there is good blood and unredeemed blood:

The word blood has a numerical value of 52 made up of

Alpha	1
Iota	10
Mu	40
Aplha	1
Total	52.

52 is 13 meaning sin by 4 meaning creation. So we see that blood starts off as 'unredeemed' blood. This is actually confirmed by the parable of the leaven – which itself stands for sin. Leaven introduced by a woman (Eve) leavens the whole lump. (Matthew 13:33 – note the comma may be in the wrong place in your translation. The kingdom of God is not likened to leaven itself but to the effect of leaven, that is sin, being introduced by Eve.)

Leviticus 17:11 tells us that life is in the blood. So our blood needs to receive new life in Jesus through His blood that He shed on the cross. This is the gift of righteousness we receive when we are born again. (Matthew tells us that there some with righteous blood - see 23:35.)

Want to study 13 more – then I suggest, 'Numbers in Scripture' by E W Bullinger, published by Kregel Publications.

666

'Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of man: his number is 666.' Revelation 13:18

Some are of the opinion that looking at numbers is unbiblical and even occult. (No doubt in occult circles there are interpretations of numbers that are unbiblical and even used in evil – the enemy will always try to throw us of course.)

However, here the scripture is urging us to understand by calculating or counting the number. So consider -

- 6 Goliath was 6 cubits tall, had 6 pieces of armour and his spears head weighed 600 shekels of iron. Here is pride of man's fleshly might.
- 66 Nebuchadnezzar set up an image 60 cubits high and 6 cubits broad. Here is pride of man's absolute dominion.
- 666 is the mark of the beast. Here is man with satanic empowerment.

We understand from the book of Daniel that antichrist is

Roman (the prince who is to come is from the people who destroy the city and the sanctuary. 9:26)

Just an interesting aside:

Whilst the Hebrews and the Greeks used all the letters of their alphabets to represent numbers, the first 6 used by the Romans are as follows:

D	=	500
C	=	100
L	=	50
X	=	10
V	=	5
I	=	1

Total **666**

So 666 represents man with the mark of the beast raised up in absolute dominion and empowered by satan. This is the antichrist yet to come. Meanwhile the spirit of antichrist is seen working in the world – raising up people like Hitler, Stalin and so on who are types foreshadowing the one to come.

666 is the number of the mark of the beast – see 13:17 for the fact that buying and selling will be impossible without this mark

42

42 is a multiple - 6×7 .

7 we have seen stands for spiritual perfection. In this number it is polluted by being associated with or taken over by 6 which stands for man.

There are a couple of places where we find reference to 42 in the scripture –

There are two references in Revelation (11:2 and 13:5). 13:5 clearly refers to the person to come we call antichrist. 11:2 refers to the treading down of the holy city (Jerusalem and the temple) by the Gentiles for 42 months.

So we can discern that the number 42 refers to antichrist and the spirit of antichrist which has effect in the world. Antichrist being the one who causes those alive in the period of his power to have the mark of the beast on their forehead or right hand.

Now we can enhance our understanding of an obscure passage in the Old Testament in 2 Kings 2:23-24 –

Regarding Elijah, *'Then he went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up the road, some youths came from the city and mocked him, and said to him, "Go up you baldhead! Go up you baldhead!" So he turned round and looked at them, and pronounced a curse on them in the name of the Lord. And two female bears came out of the woods and mauled forty two of the youths.'*

So we see here a very wrong spirit coming against the prophet of God. This is the spirit of antichrist at work in the youths.

12

We associate 12 with governmental perfection or completion.

In the Old Testament there are 12 sons of Jacob and 12 tribes of Israel. (There became 13 with Ephraim and Manessah but only 12 are ever mentioned at one time.)

In the New Testament there are 12 apostles.

In the New Jerusalem, yet to come, there are 12 foundations, 12 gates and 12 angels at the gates. The gates have the names of the 12 tribes of Israel inscribed on them. The foundations have on them the names of the 12 apostles and of the Lord on them.

New Jerusalem, as the home of the Lord and His bride, will be the example of governmental perfection.

We see it all speaks of governmental completion and perfection:

'So Jesus said to them, Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.' Matthew 1:28

120

120 marks the physical manifestation of God present with man.

For example: In Acts 1:15 we find there were 120 gathered to appoint Matthias to replace Judas Iscariot. Then in 2:1 we find then all gathered together in one accord when the Holy Spirit manifests His presence in tongues of fire and they are all filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues.

In Genesis God waits 120 years before bringing the great flood. Noah, who has found favour with God, obediently builds an ark. However Noah is unable to seal the outside of the door. God, Himself, shuts Noah, his family and the animals in the ark.

The jubilee is the God given 50th year. 120 jubilees is 6,000 years. Please see 'The end is not quite yet' or 'Ostrich Christianity' for details of the wonderful chronology of God's favour.

In the Old Testament 120 priests were present at the dedication of Solomon's temple – when the temple was filled

with the cloud of God's presence and they could no longer stand to minister.

When God appeared to Moses in the burning bush – the word 'bush' (in Exodus 3:2) has a numerical value of 120.

When Israel was led by the pillar of cloud – the word , 'pillar' (Exodus 13:22) has a numerical value of 120

200

The number 200 speaks of insufficiency. Consider, for example, John 6:1-14 – the occasion when Jesus is going to feed the 5,000. He challenges the disciples *‘where shall we buy bread?’* Philip replies, *‘Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them.’*

In John 21 the disciples have gone back to fishing. They are in the boat 200 cubits offshore. They catch nothing – totally insufficient!

Having established the link between 200 and insufficiency we may ponder on its appearance in various scriptures:

Achan- he took some spoils when Israel defeated Jericho even though the Lord had explicitly warned them not to do so. Amongst the spoils he took were 200 shekels of silver. His obedience was insufficient and the riches he took were insufficient to help him in any way. He was killed and all his family as instructed by the Lord. Our riches are always insufficient when we think of the Kingdom of God. Joshua 7

Absalom - well known for his outstanding good looks. Every year his hair was cut and weighed 200 shekels. But his good looks were insufficient and we next see him in rebellion. Absalom rebelled against King David with 200 men. However his rebellion ended in his death – it was insufficient. Absalom wanted to be King instead of David but his human effort was insufficient.
2 Samuel chapters 13 to 18.

Micah – he returned money he stole from his mother. The mother took 200 shekels of silver, gave it to the silversmith to make a moulded image - an idol for him. Perhaps we can discern that false religion is insufficient – his ‘religion,’ his idols were stolen from him by the tribe of Dan – they proved to be insufficient to protect him. Judges 18

David – kills 200 Philistines and presents their foreskins to King Saul – but they are insufficient to assuage Saul who continues to try to kill him. 1 Samuel 18
David was chasing after the Amalkites who had taken captives. 400 went with him but 200 were faint and stayed behind - they had insufficient strength for the fight. 1 Samuel 30

200 Sons of Issacher – they knew what Israel should do – but knowing was insufficient as Israel continually made wrong as well as right choices. 1 Chronicles 12.

144

Whilst 200 reflects insufficiency we now look at 12×12 making 144. We have seen 12 as being governmental perfection – so multiplied by itself underlines and amplifies its effect – perfect government

So in Revelation 7: 1-8 we find 144 thousand Jews sealed with a mark on their foreheads from God – perfect for the work God assigned to them. (As is often the case, this is counterfeited by the work of the enemy through antichrist as we saw under 666)

12 thousand come from each tribe of Israel (except the tribe of Dan – who are described as *'a serpent by the way, a viper by the path'* in Genesis 49:17) witnesses who are sealed to be safe during the tribulation period - they are seen again in Revelation 14:1.

Revelation 7:9-17 seems to record the effect of the ministry of the 144,000 - multitudes which no one could number who have come to believe and have been martyred for their faith.

We may see 144 as the potential and or expected result of governmental perfection.

Conclusion

So what do we conclude?

- 1 The word of God, which the scripture declares is living and powerful (Hebrews 4:12), is seen to be breathed out by God through many authors over many years in a depth of inspiration we may not have previously realised.
- 2 Our trust in the scripture is enhanced when we see that its inspiration is a long way beyond human capability – it truly is God's word for us.
- 3 Therefore we can trust our lives and our hopes and our eternal destiny to the one who we know as 'the living word,' Jesus Himself.
- 4 We can live our lives in accordance with the directions of the scripture knowing that doing so is obedience to Him.

The numbers have not determined our doctrine, they have 'added weight' to the wonderful words of scripture.