

Berean Expositor Volume 1

Bible Numerics. An aid to interpretation. **pp. 88-91**

“Re-numerics.—I think a few thoughts would be invaluable. We stand open mouthed, as it were, at the data, but want a little guidance as to how to apply the truth revealed to us.”

Such was the reply of a beloved colleague to an enquiry as to whether a few words regarding the application of “Numerics” to “Interpretation” would be of use in *The Berean Expositor*. Many of our readers will be acquainted with the wonderful findings of *Mr. Ivan Panin*, who has been used of God to show, beyond the faintest possibility of doubt, that the choice of words, grammatical forms, use of vowels, consonants, syllables, and letters in the Originals of the Holy Scriptures are all governed by a most elaborate scheme of numerics. For example, the first eleven verses of Matt.1 have been explored with overwhelming results. We remind our readers of a few only:--

- a. This passage has a vocabulary of 49 words (7*7).
- b. 28 of these *begin* with a vowel (7*4), and
- c. 21 *begin* with a consonant (7*3).
- d. 7 *end* with a vowel (7), and
- e. 42 *end* with a consonant (7*6).
- f. These 49 (7*7) words have 266 letters (7*38).
- g. Of these letters 140 are vowels (7*20), and
- h. 126 are consonants (7*18).

NOTE: * = multiply.

We cannot spare space to go further. We have mentioned eight features of sevens; many of more involved character have been tabulated. What are we to learn from this numerical feature? “The *words* of the Lord (not merely the Word, but the very words) are pure words, as silver tried in a furnace (words of earth, yet) purified SEVEN times” (Psa. xii. 6). In other terms, the Scriptures bear God’s *hall mark*, perfection is stamped upon every syllable, nay, every letter. Thus the knowledge of Bible numerics shows us that the belief in the *full, verbal inspiration* of Scripture is the only consistent attitude of faith possible. No lower or modified inspiration can be entertained.

Let us now turn our attention for a moment to consider how the numerics of a passage throw light upon its meaning. In the term Numerics we include (a) Gematria, (b) Number of occurrences of words or things, and (c) Number of words used for the same idea. Gematria is the ancient name for the numerical value of the letters of the Hebrew and Greek alphabet. Figures were unknown. A stood for 1, B for 2, and G for 3, and so on. Hence the Gematria of the word “bag” would be 6 (2+1+3). Now we find that the

Gematria of “satan,” his title and his agents, in Hebrew and Greek, are continually multiples of 13. Thirteen has always been a number of ill-omen among the superstitious; maybe there is some deeper reason for it than we had supposed. The first occurrence of the number links it with rebellion (Gen. xiv. 4).

The inspired explanation of that old serpent—“who is called the devil and satan” (Rev. xii. 9), is $13 \times 13 \times 13$. Here we see at a glance that, in the Apocalypse, rebellion has reached its zenith in satan. Travelling back from revelation to the Old Testament, we find that the word satan is 13×28 . Here we have further light upon his character. 28 is the number of Gen. i. 1, for that brief verse contains (in Hebrew) 7 words and 28 letters. Seven signifies spiritual perfection, and four is associated with the earth and the creature. The Gematria of the word satan then tells us that into the perfect creation (28) satan introduced rebellion (13). Satan is linked also to man in the awful word “Belial,” for that is 13×6 . The Greek word “serpent” takes us further, for that is 13×60 , while the Gematria of the words, “The son of perdition, who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, so that he, as God, sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God,” tells us plainly that antichrist will be man, satan possessed, for the numerical value is $13 \times 13 \times 13 \times 6$.

What shall we say then, when we find that the words “Jesus of Nazareth” have as their Gematria the very same as satan, for it is $13 \times 13 \times 13$! How it emphasises the humiliation of our Lord! Truly we see that “Christ hath redeemed us. . . . being made a *curse*.” How fully He fulfilled His own words, “As Moses lifted up the *serpent* in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up”! Shall we say there is nothing in numerics after this?

Even, this is not all. That offering of Christ as the substitute, though it brought the Lord Jesus under the curse, yet glorified God. Consequently we find the words, “God is glorified in Him,” yielding the same remarkable number, $13 \times 13 \times 13$! Thus even numerics show that satan’s rebellion is overthrown and overruled by the cross to bring glory to God. Joktan (Gen. x.) is the 13th from Shem. He has 13 sons, the Gematria of his own name is a multiple of 13, and so also is the sum of the names of his children. This throws light upon the omission of his name, and the taking up of Peleg, in Gen. xi. The Bible is full of purpose—that is the secret of its interpretation. Surely we must see design in all this.

Take another illustration of the way in which the Gematria of names indicates the character of the owners. The Gematria of the four names, Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japhet is 936, but if we take away the name of Ham, the father of Canaan, the Gematria of Noah, Shem, and Japhet is 888. The number 888 is significantly the numerical value of the word “Jesus,” and stands in contrast to 666, the number of antichrist (Rev. xiii. 18).

The number eleven is worthy of study. Deut. i. 2 tells us that from Horeb to Kadesh-Barnea was a journey of *eleven* days! Now eleven is one short of twelve, the number of Israel. One more day would have seen them in the promised land; as it was they failed. There are *eleven* books in the third section of the Hebrew Old Testament

called the Psalms, or *Kethuveem*, i.e., the Writings. These eleven Books give the inner history of Israel's failure. The central book of the eleven is the book of Lamentations. This book is composed throughout of sets of elevens, its chapters containing 22, 22, 66, 22, and 22 verses, respectively. The number of times a word occurs, or the number of words used of one thing, often assists us in arriving at the true meaning. The absolute character of God's truth is emphasized when we find that, although there are many Hebrew words for "error," there is but one for "truth"! Seven words are used in Leviticus for "gold"—a type of Christ and the Word.

Space will not allow of further examples. The numerics of the Original Scripture provide us with a sure test in the case of disputed readings. If the ancient reading of John i. 18, supported by *Westcott* and *Hort*, be retained, John i. 1-18 presents a wonderful phenomenon of sevens, which is spoiled if the reading as in the A.V. is used. The numeric structure demands the reading, "GOD, only begotten," instead of "Only begotten SON," which is, moreover, brought into harmony structurally with the first verse (John i. 1-18 being arranged as a simple introversion, verse 1 corresponding with verse 18, 2 with 17, etc.), and gives us definite teaching concerning the deity of Christ.

Let us then be willing and ready to believe that the God who has arranged even this system of numerics in His Word, intends that we should use it to His glory, and our enlightenment.

Gen. xiv. 4	Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled.
John i. 18	No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.