**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Making Numbers Count |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Revelation 1:4, 20 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2334 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. The book of the Revelation is full of symbols, signs, analogies and figures of speech.
      1. Revelation 1:1
         1. The first part of the word “signified” in this passage is the Greek word for “sign.”
         2. Revelation is full of signs with signification.
   2. John, the author of Revelation, uses many symbols.
      1. Sometimes John speaks like a zoologist.
         1. He describes Jesus as a lamb and a lion.
         2. He describes others as animals or having animal-like features.
      2. John also speaks as an astronomer, talking about stars.
         1. Stars are obviously symbolic in Revelation.
      3. John speaks like an artist, describing colors that are rich in symbolism.
      4. John also speaks like a geographer, describing mountains, a sea and a river, each with a distinct meaning.
      5. John also speaks as a mathematician, using numbers that are full of symbolism.
         1. The number “7” is a key number in the book.
            1. Revelation 1:20
   3. Do we interpret the book literally or symbolically? The answer is both.
      1. For instance, Satan is described as a great, red dragon. That is a symbol; that is symbolism.
         1. But when we learn what the symbol means, then we can interpret it literally.
      2. Symbolism does not do away with literal interpretation.
         1. Find what the symbol stands for and believe it.
      3. We must understand symbolism in order to understand the book of the Revelation. But the symbolism does not discount the truth of the book.
   4. In today’s message, we are thinking primarily about the symbolism of numbers.
2. THE SCIENTIFIC MATTER OF NUMBERS
   1. Numbers are a matter of science.
      1. The God who wrote the Bible also wrote the book of nature.
         1. There are no laws of nature; they are God’s laws that nature obeys.
   2. God is a God of order and a God of design.
      1. Numerical laws come out of the mind of God.
      2. There is a mathematical arrangement in everything.
         1. In biology, chemistry, astronomy, etc.
3. THE SYMBOLIC MEANING OF NUMBERS
   1. To the Jews, the writers of the Bible, numbers were more than scientific matter; they had symbolic meaning.
   2. The symbolism of numbers is one of the great confirmations and affirmations of the inspiration of the Word of God because we find these themes throughout Scripture.
   3. What are the symbolic meaning of numbers?
      1. The symbolism of the number one:
         1. This is the number for unity and the nature of God.
         2. Deuteronomy 6:4
         3. Zechariah 14:9
         4. Ephesians 4:4-6
            1. There is one God, and His name is Jehovah.
      2. The symbolism of the number two:
         1. Two is the number of witness.
         2. John 8:17
         3. The Old Testament taught that no one could bring an accusation without a witness to confirm.
         4. We have two testaments in our Bible to bear witness of the Lord Jesus Christ: the Old and the New.
         5. Jesus Christ is the second person in the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
            1. The second person in the Trinity is the witness.

Revelation 1:5

* + - 1. There were two angels at the tomb when Jesus arose.
      2. There were two angels at the ascension of the Lord Jesus.
      3. Later in Revelation, we find two witnesses during the Great Tribulation.
         1. Revelation 11:3
      4. When Jesus sent people out to share the Gospel, He sent them out two by two.
    1. The symbolism of the number three:
       1. Three is the divine number.
          1. Three also speaks of God, but this time in His Trinity.

Our God is three in one.

* + - 1. Revelation 1:8
      2. Matthew 28:19
      3. Isaiah 6:3
      4. The simplest compound figure is an equal-sided triangle.
      5. Man, made in the image of God, is triune: body, soul and spirit.
         1. 1 Thessalonians 5:23
      6. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day.
      7. Everything that God made in this world reflects His triune nature.
         1. Time, space and energy
         2. Past, present and future
         3. Height, width and depth
         4. Matter is triune: energy, motion and phenomena
    1. The symbolism of the number four:
       1. Four is the Earth number.
          1. It deals with creation.
       2. Isaiah 11:12
          1. The four corners of the Earth refer to the four points of a compass: North, South, East and West.
       3. Ezekiel 7:2
       4. Revelation 7:1
       5. There have been only four world empires in all of history.
       6. There are four seasons in the year.
       7. Four multiplied by ten equals 40.
          1. Forty in the Bible is the number of testing and trial.

In Noah’s time, it rained 40 days and 40 nights.

Moses was on Mt. Sinai for 40 days and nights.

Jonah preached that in 40 days and 40 nights Nineveh would be destroyed.

Jesus was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days and nights.

* + - 1. Four is the Earth number because Earth is the place where we have our testing and trials.
    1. The symbolism of the numbers five and ten:
       1. Five and ten are basically the same, and they speak of fullness and completeness.
       2. We have five fingers and toes.
       3. We have five senses.
       4. God gave us Ten Commandments.
          1. This is the whole duty of man.
       5. Revelation 13:1
       6. When God was fully judging Egypt, He sent ten plagues.
       7. Revelation 2:10
          1. Describes when the church will be persecuted fully; not a literal ten days, but speaking of full and complete tribulation.
    2. The symbolism of the number six:
       1. Six is the number of man.
       2. Revelation 13:18
          1. The number of the beast is 666.

The number of God is three; the number of man is six.

The beast is man pretending to be God.

Man is no seven; he is a six.

* + - 1. Man was created on the sixth day.
    1. The symbolism of the number seven.
       1. This is the key number in the book of the Revelation.
       2. Seven is the perfect number; the number of perfection.
          1. Three (the divine number) plus four (the Earth number) is Earth crowned with Heaven.
          2. This is God working out His perfect will on Earth.
       3. God has written the number seven through everything.
          1. Seven days in the week.
          2. Seven notes in a musical scale.
          3. Joshua marched around Jericho seven times.

Joshua 6:1-4

* + - * 1. There are seen parables of the kingdom in Matthew 13.
      1. There are also multiples of seven, just as we see multiples of four and five.
         1. Jesus sent out 70 to preach the perfect Gospel.
         2. There are 70 weeks in the book of Daniel that speak of God’s dealing with all of time.

This is weeks of years, not weeks of days.

* + - * 1. The human life span is 70 years.

Psalm 90:10

* + - 1. Seven divided in half equals three and one half.
         1. This speaks of danger, division and foreboding.

When Elijah prophesied, he shut up the heavens for three and one half years.

The Antichrist will make a covenant with Israel for seven years and then break that covenant after three and one half years.

Daniel 7:25

Revelation 13:5

* + 1. The symbolism of the number eight:
       1. Eight stands for new beginnings; the new birth.
       2. The eighth day is the first day of the week.
       3. In Scripture, a child was circumcised on the eighth day.
          1. Colossians 2:11

This was a symbol of the new birth that we have in the Lord Jesus.

* + - 1. Eight people were saved out of the ark.
         1. 1 Peter 3:20
      2. When a leper was cleansed of leprosy and received a fresh start, he was pronounced clean on the eighth day.
      3. Jesus was in the tomb for three days, but He rose on the eighth day, the Lord’s day. This is the reason we worship on Sunday.
      4. Jesus appeared to His disciples on the eighth day.
         1. John 20:26
      5. Greek letters also have a numerical significance. Jesus’ name in Greek has a value of 888. Jesus is the one who makes all things new.
         1. Revelation 21:5
    1. The symbolism of the number twelve:
       1. Twelve is God’s governmental number.
          1. This is God ruling and reigning.
       2. There were twelve apostles.
       3. There were twelve patriarchs.
       4. We see twelve thrones in glory.
          1. Matthew 19:28
       5. Revelation 4:4
          1. Twelve patriarchs in the Old Testament and twelve apostles in the New Testament.
          2. This represents the redeemed of all ages sitting around the throne.

1. THE SPIRITUAL MESSAGE OF NUMBERS
   1. One tells us that there is one God; He is Jehovah.
   2. Two tells us that God wants to speak to us.
      1. Jesus is the faithful and the true witness.
      2. He is speaking to us today.
   3. Three tells us that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
      1. God loves us.
      2. He sent His Son to suffer, bleed and die upon the cross for us.
      3. He gave us His Holy Spirit to bear witness to that.
   4. Four tells us that this is our Father’s world.
      1. God wants peace on the Earth.
      2. He has a plan where the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ.
         1. Matthew 6:10
   5. Five tells us that what God does, He does well.
      1. Philippians 1:6
      2. God will do His work fully and completely.
      3. God is in complete control of this world.
   6. Six tells us that we are sinners and imperfect.
      1. God demands absolute perfection, and we cannot provide it.
         1. Romans 3:23
   7. Seven tells us that God has provided perfection in Jesus Christ.
      1. With His perfect sacrifice on the cross, He provided for us the perfection that we need.
   8. Eight tells us that we can have a brand new start.
      1. We can be born again.
      2. God is the God of new beginnings; He makes all things new.
   9. Twelve tells us that one day we will be with Him and see the Lord rule and reign in glory.
2. CONCLUSION
   1. Do you know Jesus?
      1. The question is not are you a nice person.
      2. The question is not are you religious.
      3. The question is not do you believe in God.
   2. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   3. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31