

# SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:**                      **MAKING NUMBERS COUNT**

**SERMON REFERENCE:**            **REVELATION 1:4, 20**

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## 1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The book of the Revelation is full of symbols, signs, analogies and figures of speech.
  - i) 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.
- b) John, the author of Revelation, uses many symbols.
  - i) 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.
  - ii) John also speaks as an astronomer, talking about stars.
    - (1) Stars are obviously symbolic in Revelation.
  - iii) John speaks like an artist, describing colors that are rich in symbolism.
  - iv) John also speaks like a geographer, describing mountains, a sea and a river, each with a distinct meaning.
  - v) John also speaks as a mathematician, using numbers that are full of symbolism.
    - (1) The number “7” is a key number in the book.
      - (a) Revelation 1:20
- c) Do we interpret the book literally or symbolically? The answer is both.
  - i) 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.
  - ii) Symbolism does not do away with literal interpretation.
    - (1) Find what the symbol stands for and believe it.
  - iii) We must understand symbolism in order to understand the book of the Revelation. But the symbolism does not discount the truth of the book.
- d) In today’s message, we are thinking primarily about the symbolism of numbers.

## 2) THE SCIENTIFIC MATTER OF NUMBERS

- a) Numbers are a matter of science.
  - i) 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.
- b) God is a God of order and a God of design.
  - i) Numerical laws come out of the mind of God.
  - ii) There is a mathematical arrangement in everything.
    - (1) In biology, chemistry, astronomy, etc.

## 3) THE SYMBOLIC MEANING OF NUMBERS

- a) To the Jews, the writers of the Bible, numbers were more than scientific matter; they had symbolic meaning.
- b) 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.
- c) What are the symbolic meaning of numbers?
  - i) 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
  - (a) There is one God, and His name is Jehovah.
- ii) 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.
    - (a) The second person in the Trinity is the witness.
      - (i) Revelation 1:5
  - (6) There were two angels at the tomb when Jesus arose.
  - (7) There were two angels at the ascension of the Lord Jesus.
  - (8) Later in Revelation, we find two witnesses during the Great Tribulation.
    - (a) Revelation 11:3
  - (9) When Jesus sent people out to share the Gospel, He sent them out two by two.
- iii) The symbolism of the number three:
  - (1) Three is the divine number.
    - (a) Three also speaks of God, but this time in His Trinity.
      - (i) Our God is three in one.
  - (2) Revelation 1:8
  - (3) Matthew 28:19
  - (4) Isaiah 6:3
  - (5) The simplest compound figure is an equal-sided triangle.
  - (6) Man, made in the image of God, is triune: body, soul and spirit.
    - (a) I Thessalonians 5:23
  - (7) Jesus rose from the dead on the third day.
  - (8) Everything that God made in this world reflects His triune nature.
    - (a) Time, space and energy
    - (b) Past, present and future
    - (c) Height, width and depth
    - (d) Matter is triune: energy, motion and phenomena
- iv) The symbolism of the number four:
  - (1) Four is the Earth number.
    - (a) It deals with creation.
  - (2) Isaiah 11:12
    - (a) 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.
    - (a) Forty in the Bible is the number of testing and trial.

- (i) In Noah's time, it rained 40 days and 40 nights.
  - (ii) Moses was on Mt. Sinai for 40 days and nights.
  - (iii) Jonah preached that in 40 days and 40 nights Nineveh would be destroyed.
  - (iv) Jesus was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days and nights.
- (8) Four is the Earth number because Earth is the place where we have our testing and trials.
- v) 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.
    - (a) 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
    - (a) Describes when the church will be persecuted fully; not a literal ten days, but speaking of full and complete tribulation.
- vi) The symbolism of the number six:
- (1) Six is the number of man.
  - (2) Revelation 13:18
    - (a) The number of the beast is 666.
      - (i) The number of God is three; the number of man is six.
      - (ii) The beast is man pretending to be God.
      - (iii) Man is no seven; he is a six.
  - (3) Man was created on the sixth day.
- vii) 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.
    - (a) Three (the divine number) plus four (the Earth number) is Earth crowned with Heaven.
    - (b) This is God working out His perfect will on Earth.
  - (3) God has written the number seven through everything.
    - (a) Seven days in the week.
    - (b) Seven notes in a musical scale.
    - (c) Joshua marched around Jericho seven times.
      - (i) Joshua 6:1-4
    - (d) There are seen parables of the kingdom in Matthew 13.
  - (4) There are also multiples of seven, just as we see multiples of four and five.
    - (a) Jesus sent out 70 to preach the perfect Gospel.
    - (b) There are 70 weeks in the book of Daniel that speak of God's dealing with all of time.
      - (i) This is weeks of years, not weeks of days.
    - (c) The human life span is 70 years.
      - (i) Psalm 90:10
  - (5) Seven divided in half equals three and one half.
    - (a) This speaks of danger, division and foreboding.

- (i) When Elijah prophesied, he shut up the heavens for three and one half years.
    - (ii) The Antichrist will make a covenant with Israel for seven years and then break that covenant after three and one half years.
      - 1. Daniel 7:25
      - 2. Revelation 13:5
  - viii) 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.
      - (a) Colossians 2:11
        - (i) This was a symbol of the new birth that we have in the Lord Jesus.
    - (4) Eight people were saved out of the ark.
      - (a) 1 Peter 3:20
    - (5) When a leper was cleansed of leprosy and received a fresh start, he was pronounced clean on the eighth day.
    - (6) 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.
    - (7) Jesus appeared to His disciples on the eighth day.
      - (a) John 20:26
    - (8) 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.
      - (a) Revelation 21:5
  - ix) The symbolism of the number twelve:
    - (1) Twelve is God's governmental number.
      - (a) This is God ruling and reigning.
    - (2) There were twelve apostles.
    - (3) There were twelve patriarchs.
    - (4) We see twelve thrones in glory.
      - (a) Matthew 19:28
    - (5) Revelation 4:4
      - (a) Twelve patriarchs in the Old Testament and twelve apostles in the New Testament.
      - (b) This represents the redeemed of all ages sitting around the throne.
- 4) THE SPIRITUAL MESSAGE OF NUMBERS
- a) One tells us that there is one God; He is Jehovah.
  - b) Two tells us that God wants to speak to us.
    - i) Jesus is the faithful and the true witness.
    - ii) He is speaking to us today.
  - c) Three tells us that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
    - i) God loves us.
    - ii) He sent His Son to suffer, bleed and die upon the cross for us.
    - iii) He gave us His Holy Spirit to bear witness to that.
  - d) Four tells us that this is our Father's world.
    - i) God wants peace on the Earth.

- ii) He has a plan where the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ.
  - (1) Matthew 6:10
- e) Five tells us that what God does, He does well.
  - i) Philippians 1:6
  - ii) God will do His work fully and completely.
  - iii) God is in complete control of this world.
- f) Six tells us that we are sinners and imperfect.
  - i) God demands absolute perfection, and we cannot provide it.
    - (1) Romans 3:23
- g) Seven tells us that God has provided perfection in Jesus Christ.
  - i) With His perfect sacrifice on the cross, He provided for us the perfection that we need.
- h) Eight tells us that we can have a brand new start.
  - i) We can be born again.
  - ii) God is the God of new beginnings; He makes all things new.
- i) Twelve tells us that one day we will be with Him and see the Lord rule and reign in glory.

## 5) CONCLUSION

- a) Do you know Jesus?
  - i) The question is not are you a nice person.
  - ii) The question is not are you religious.
  - iii) The question is not do you believe in God.
- b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- c) 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.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31