Biblical Numerology

Are numbers significant?

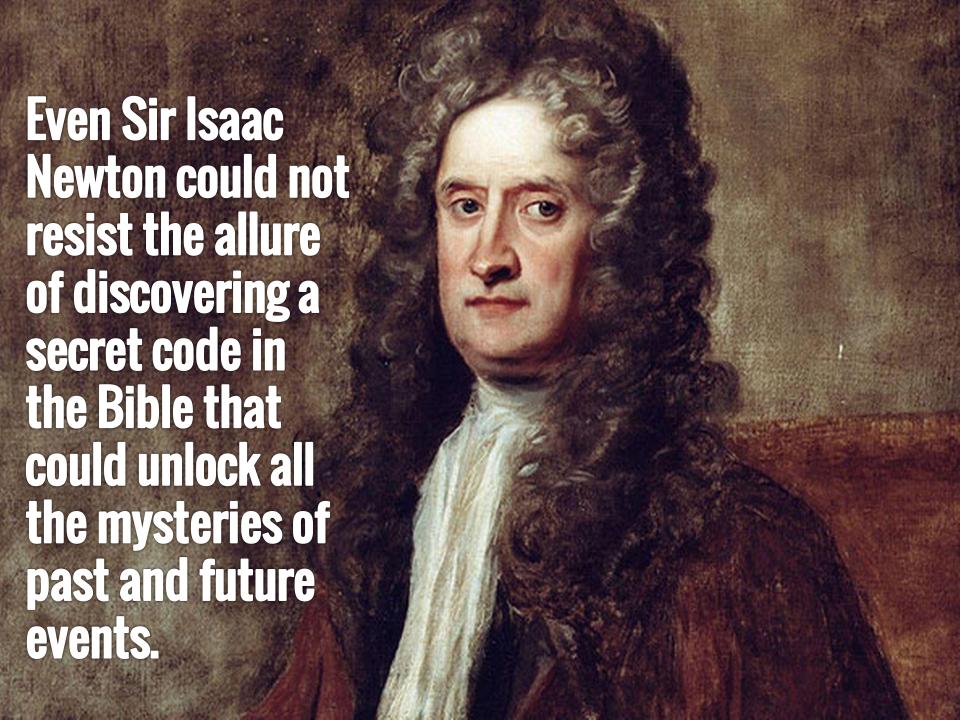
"Biblical symbolism is, in many respects, one of the most difficult subjects with which one must deal in the science of hermeneutics. The idea of symbolic numbers raises several questions which are unique to this subject, and present the interpreter with what appears to be an insurmountable difficulty" (Biblical Numerology, J.J. Davis, p. 103).

"The sum of Thy word is truth, and every one of Thy righteous ordinances is everlasting"

Psalm 119:160

Seeing more than "numbers"

- Seeing too much number symbolism can be more dangerous than seeing none. Some assert that every single reference to a number is a sign or symbol meant to communicate a "secret" or "mysterious" idea to mankind.
- Every number, therefore, becomes a puzzle piece! Furthermore, this same desire for secret codes has been applied to all letters in the Hebrew Old Testament.



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- <u>Deuteronomy 30:11</u> states, "For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off."
- Exodus 32:16 says, "The writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables" (and not in a computer program).
- We don't need a secret code when we have God's clear word: "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:19–20).
- In John 14:16-18, notice that our Helper is from God in the form of the Spirit, not in the form of a secret Bible number code.

Significant Numbers In The Bible

- Seven A complete number, especially when referring to cycles or groups of people.
- Three Triads in nature, often representing union, accord, coordination, approval.
- Four Often linked with the creation.
- Ten Completeness, order.
- Twelve Administrative structure, totality of God's people.
- 100 Large, but definite.
- 1,000 Practically infinite, unknowable duration or scope.