



October 7, 2007

The Numbers Of God

Introduction

Writers and publishers are known by their works and the characteristics of their publications. In other fields, such as film, directors and producers are known for their style and the creative conventions they use. These things serve to identify the individuals that produced the works. We may adopt a favorite style of writing in the books that we read and, being familiar with an author's style, can spot forgeries and unapproved changes to a text or other work. The Bible is no different. God signs his work by certain conventions that He uses throughout the scriptures to denote that something is of divine origin. These elements identify the writings that we have in the scriptures and writings that do not bear these similarities can be noted as having a human origin. God does not have a signature, as we would recognize, nor is there physical confirmation given. We believe that God has revealed his will to certain inspired writers and has preserved what He wants us to know in the form of the Bible. One of the elements that appears in the scriptures is the use of certain numbers to denote God's working. Over the next few weeks we will examine the use of certain numbers and how they tie the scriptures together so that we know the content is consistent and therefore from God. From earliest times mankind has also been preoccupied with numbers and from this has arisen certain beliefs such as numerology and astrology. The physical universe obeys certain natural laws put in place by God. Scientists have been able to determine many

things based on the numeric underpinnings of the creation and although this regularity and predictability are viewed as a phenomenon, it does not rule out the existence of the Creator and his power. We find on closer inspection that this order of the universe, in the mind of the believer, confirms the existence of a higher power that put these in place. Numerologists and astrologers, among others, believe that there is power in the presence of numbers themselves. This is superstition that denies the power of God. As we will see the numbers that appear in scripture are powerless in themselves but are used by God for specific reasons. Many times the appearance of certain numbers point to revelation of God's power, his judgment and a means of identification. The numbers that we will look at are one, three, seven, twelve and forty. These are prominent in the scriptures and are used at various times to denote the aspects of God's work as mentioned above. Numbers are used at times by God as signs or symbols but may also represent physical as well as spiritual realities. In the occult world the use of certain numbers is believed to have the power to invoke results calling on spirit and elemental forces to aid one in the accomplishment of a certain task. There may be a tendency on the part of those who are religious to think in these terms as well. The number 666 is often misinterpreted as being inherently bad as it is used to denote the identification of a power that opposes God in the book of Revelation. We discussed this previously and examined why there is no reason to fear this number in itself. One of the benefits of reading and studying the Bible is to dispel such superstitious notions. God has revealed His will to us in certain ways so that we can understand the truth and avoid being drawn into a hazy and mysterious realm. Paul brings this out in his writing to the Galatians. "***Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ...***" (Gal 3.4). God has not revealed a book filled with convoluted codes and symbols that have disputed value. As we examine these numbers we will find purpose and direction. **TLC**