

**THE FIGURES OF SPEECH GROUP OF PRINCIPLES**

- Ch. 19 The Symbolic Principle
- Ch. 20 The Numerical Principle
- Ch. 21 The Typical Principle
- Ch. 22 The Parabolic Principle
- Ch. 23 The Allegorical Principle

These specialized principles may be grouped together because they deal with figures of speech or extensions of them. These certainly do not comprise all the figures of speech used in Scripture but are included as principles due to their prominence in Scripture and the difficulties they present in interpretation. The difference between symbol and type is defined in Chapter 21 and the difference between parable and allegory is handled in Chapter 23.

## Chapter 19

### THE SYMBOLIC PRINCIPLE

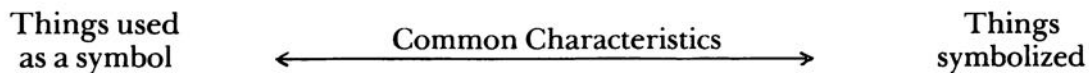
#### I. DEFINITION

That principle by which the interpretation of a verse or passage in Scripture containing symbolic elements can be determined by a proper interpretation of the symbol(s) involved.

#### II. AMPLIFICATION

According to Webster's Dictionary, the word "symbol" is made up of two Greek words: "syn" meaning "together," and "ballein" meaning "to throw." It means literally "thrown together," and denotes an object used to represent something abstract: an emblem: using one thing to stand for or represent another.

Though the word "symbol" is not specifically used in the Bible, God caused the writers of Scripture to employ the literary method of symbolization throughout Scripture. They often used one thing to represent another because of common characteristics. This is what is meant by symbolization in which the link between that which is used as a symbol and that which is being symbolized is the characteristics common to both.



God, in authoring the Bible, dealt with both creation and redemption. The first two chapters of Genesis contain the record of the creation of the natural realm: the rest of the Bible contains God's plan of redemption. In Scripture God uses the natural things He created to become symbols (Romans 1:19, 20). In other words, the language of creation becomes the language of the symbol which in turn becomes the language of redemption.

Basically, there are seven categories of symbols in Scripture: (A) Objects, (B) Creatures, (C) Actions, (D) Numbers, (E) Names, (F) Colors and (G) Directions.

**A. Symbolic Objects:** In Scripture God used inanimate objects, whether God-created or man-made, as symbols.

|                  |                                                                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hosea 7:8        | "Ephraim is a <i>cake</i> not turned."                                                                          |
| Psalms 18:2      | "The Lord is my <i>Rock</i> . . ."                                                                              |
| Proverbs 18:10   | "The Name of the Lord is a strong <i>tower</i> . . ."                                                           |
| Deuteronomy 32:2 | "My doctrine shall drop as the <i>rain</i> . . ."                                                               |
| Psalms 119:105   | "Thy Word is a <i>lamp</i> unto my feet. . ."                                                                   |
| Revelation 1:20  | "The seven <i>stars</i> are the seven angels . . . the seven <i>candlesticks</i> are . . . the seven churches." |

**B. Symbolic Creatures:** In Scripture God used living creatures, whether plants or animals, as symbols.

|                |                                                           |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Daniel 7:17    | "These great <i>beasts</i> . . . are four kings."         |
| Hosea 7:11     | "Ephraim also is like a silly <i>dove</i> . . ."          |
| Luke 13:31, 32 | "Herod . . . that <i>fox</i> . . ."                       |
| Isaiah 40:31   | "They that wait on the Lord . . . as <i>eagles</i> . . ." |

|               |                                                                                            |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Luke 8:11     | "The <i>seed</i> is the Word of God. . ."                                                  |
| I Peter 1:24  | "All flesh is as <i>grass</i> and all the glory of man as the <i>flower</i> of the grass." |
| John 1:29, 36 | "Jesus . . . the <i>lamb</i> of God."                                                      |

C. **Symbolic Actions:** In Scripture God used actions to be symbolic.

|                  |                                                                                                    |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Psalms 141:1, 2  | "the <i>lifting</i> up of my hands as the evening sacrifice."                                      |
| Genesis 25:23-26 | "Elder shall serve the younger . . . and his hand <i>took hold</i> on Esau's heel."                |
| Joshua 1:3       | "Every place that the sole of your feet shall <i>tread</i> upon, that have I given unto you. . ."  |
| Isaiah 31:1      | "Woe to them that <i>go down</i> to Egypt for help . . . they look not to the Holy One of Israel." |

D. **Symbolic Numbers:** In Scripture God attributed symbolic significance to numbers.

|                     |                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| II Corinthians 13:1 | "This is the <i>third</i> time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established." |
| Revelation 13:18    | "The number of a man; and his number is <i>six hundred threescore and six</i> ."                                            |
| Matthew 19:28       | ". . . ye shall also sit upon <i>twelve</i> thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."                                  |
| Genesis 14:4        | ". . . in the <i>thirteenth</i> year they rebelled."                                                                        |

**NOTE:** Refer to "The Numerical Principle."

E. **Symbolic Names:** In Scripture God used names to be symbolic both personally and nationally. In Scripture a name is generally significant of the nature, character, experience, or function of the person, place, or nation.

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|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I Samuel 25:25 | "for as his name is, so is he; <i>Nabal</i> (Fool) is his name, and <i>folly</i> is with him."             |
| I Samuel 4:21  | "And she named the child <i>Ichabod</i> , saying <i>the glory is departed from Israel</i> ."               |
| Hosea 1:9      | "Then said God, Call his name <i>Loammi</i> : for ye are <i>not My people</i> and I will not be your God." |
| Matthew 1:21   | "Thou shalt call His name <i>JESUS</i> : for He shall <i>save</i> His people from their sins."             |
| John 1:42      | "Thou shalt be called <i>Cephas</i> , which is by interpretation <i>A Stone</i> ."                         |

F. **Symbolic Colors:** In Scripture God attributed symbolic significance to colors.

|                   |                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Isaiah 1:18       | "Though your sins be as <i>scarlet</i> , they shall be as <i>white</i> as snow; though they be <i>red</i> like <i>crimson</i> , they shall be as wool." |
| Mark 15:17, 18    | "Jesus clothed in a <i>purple</i> garment . . . King of the Jews."                                                                                      |
| Revelation 3:4, 5 | "They shall walk with Me in <i>white</i> for they are worthy. . ."                                                                                      |
| Revelation 19:8   | "The fine linen, clean and <i>white</i> . . . the righteousness of saints."                                                                             |

G. **Symbolic Directions:** In Scripture God attributed symbolic significance to directions.

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|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Jeremiah 1:14 | "Out of the <i>north</i> cometh forth an evil. . ." |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------|

|                   |                                                                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ezekiel 43:1, 2   | “toward the <i>east</i> , and behold the glory of the God of Israel came. . .” |
| II Chronicles 4:4 | The 12 oxen under the Molten Sea, looked to <i>north, south, east, west</i> .  |
| Daniel 8:4        | The ram pushing <i>westward, northward and southward</i> . . .                 |

It can be seen from the above illustrations that God, in authoring Scripture, utilized the literary method of symbolism. It is essential to recognize that since God is the virtual author of Scripture He was able to cause symbols to carry the same significance consistently throughout the Bible.

Thus, the literary *method of symbolism* used in writing Scripture gives rise to the *Symbolic Principle* of interpreting Scripture.

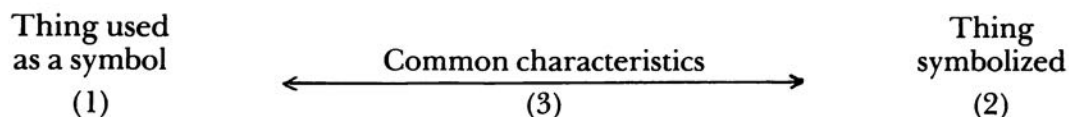
### III. QUALIFICATION

A. The first step in using the Symbolic Principle is to rightly determine which elements of the verse under consideration are meant to be interpreted as symbols.

1. If the language of the verse makes no literal or actual sense, then it must be interpreted as having symbolic sense (e.g., Revelation 12:1-4; 13:1-2; with Daniel 7:1-4).
2. If it does make literal or actual sense, then it can only be interpreted as having symbolic sense when the Scripture interprets or intimates this to be the case in other verses (e.g., The Tabernacle, John 1:14, e.g., The Temple, I Corinthians 3:17).

B. The interpreter must recognize the three fundamental elements of symbolism:

1. The significance of a symbol is based upon the literal or actual nature and characteristics of that which is being used as a symbol.
2. A symbol is meant to represent something essentially different from itself.
3. The link between that which is used as a symbol and that which it symbolizes is the characteristics common to both.



C. The use of this principle must be in constant conjunction with the context-group of principles. Because many symbols are used more than once in Scripture, every usage of them, beginning with the First Mention, must be compared in order to gain a complete understanding of the *progressive* unfolding of their symbolic significance in Scripture.

D. Generally speaking, the Bible interprets its own symbols. Thus, the interpreter must search through Scripture for the Interpretation of the symbol under consideration.

E. A study of the usages of the symbol in Scripture must be based on a consideration of the original languages (e.g., there are several different Hebrew words for “lion” each having its own significance).

F. The interpreter must keep in mind that something may be used to symbolize more than one thing in Scripture. (The same symbol may represent different characteristic aspects.) (e.g., gold — used to represent Divine nature, God, Wisdom, Faith, etc.) Also, some symbols may have both good and evil aspects to them (e.g., the Lion is used as a symbol of Jesus and His saints, as well as of the Devil. Revelation 5:5; I Peter 5:8, etc.).

G. When interpreting a symbol within a verse, its general Scriptural significance should be used unless there are clear indications otherwise.

H. If the symbol is uninterpreted in the Word, investigate the context thoroughly for the thought or idea set forth; check the concordance for other references, and consider the nature of the symbol used as it may give the clue (e.g., Lion, swine, lamb, etc.). The nature of such will give us the idea.

#### IV. DEMONSTRATION

A. **Symbolic Objects — Matthew 16:18:** “Upon this *Rock* I will build My Church. . .” The symbolic element of this phrase is the “Rock.” By context and comparison we find that the Scriptures interpret the symbol of the “Rock” to be a reference to Christ.

|                              |                                                         |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Psalms 18:2, 31              | “The Lord is my Rock . . . who is a Rock save our God.” |
| I Corinthians 10:4           | “That Rock that followed them was Christ.”              |
| Deuteronomy 32:4, 15, 18, 30 | “God . . . the Rock” (I Corinthians 3:10-12)            |

|                 |        |                                                 |        |            |
|-----------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Symbolic Object | —————> | Common Characteristics                          | <————— | Symbolized |
| The Rock        |        | Solidity<br>Stability<br>Strength<br>Foundation |        | Christ     |

B. **Symbolic Creatures — Genesis 3:1:** “The *Serpent* was more subtil than any beast of the field.” The symbolic element of this phrase is the “serpent.” By context and comparison we find that the Scriptures interpret the symbol of the “serpent” to generally be a reference to Satan.

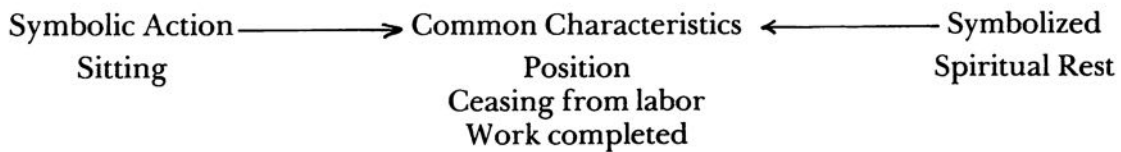
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| Revelation 12:9 | “That old serpent. . .”                               |
| Revelation 20:2 | “That old serpent, which is the Devil and Satan. . .” |
| Genesis 3:14    | “The Lord God said to the serpent. . .”               |

|                   |        |                                    |        |            |
|-------------------|--------|------------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Symbolic Creature | —————> | Common Characteristics             | <————— | Symbolized |
| Serpent           |        | Subtlety<br>Deception<br>Dangerous |        |            |

C. **Symbolic Actions — Ephesians 2:6:** “*Seated* in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” One symbolic element in this verse is the action of “sitting.” By context and comparison we find that the Scriptures interpret the symbol of “sitting” to be a reference to spiritual rest.

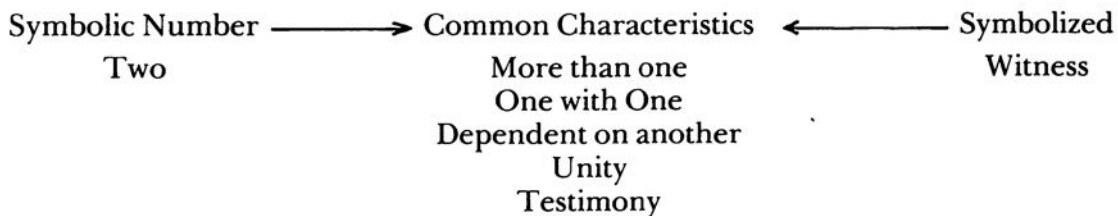
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| Psalms 110:1      | “The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit on My Right Hand.”              |
| Mark 16:19        | “. . . He sat down on the right hand. . .”                       |
| Hebrews 10:11, 12 | “. . . this Man . . . sat down . . . from henceforth expecting.” |

|              |                                                                 |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hebrews 12:2 | “... who is set down on the Right Hand of the Majesty on High.” |
| Luke 17:7    | “Come in . . . sit down . . . serve him”                        |



**D. Symbolic Numbers — Luke 10:1:** “Sent out the seventy *two by two* into every city. . .” One symbolic element in this verse is the number “two.” By context and comparison we find that the Scriptures interpret the number “two” to be the number of testimony and witness.

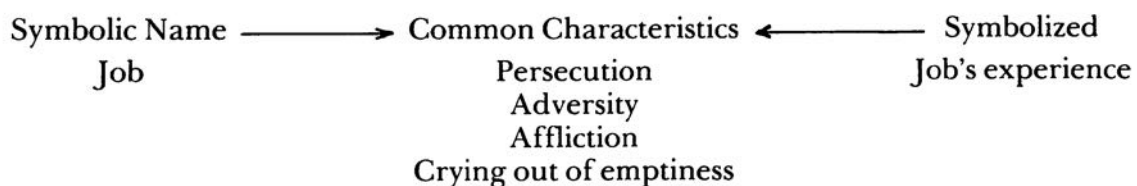
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| Deuteronomy 17:6, 7 | “In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.” |
| Deuteronomy 19:15   | “One witness shall not rise up . . . two witnesses. . .”                  |
| II Corinthians 13:1 | “In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.” |



**NOTE:** Refer to the Numerical Principle.

**E. Symbolic Names — James 5:11:** “The patience of *Job* . . .” The symbolic element in this verse is the name “Job.” By referring to the book of Job and other study helps we find that Job’s name means “persecuted.” In Scripture a name is generally significant of the nature, character, experience or function of the person, place or nation. Thus we determine by context and comparison that Job’s name was indicative of his experience.

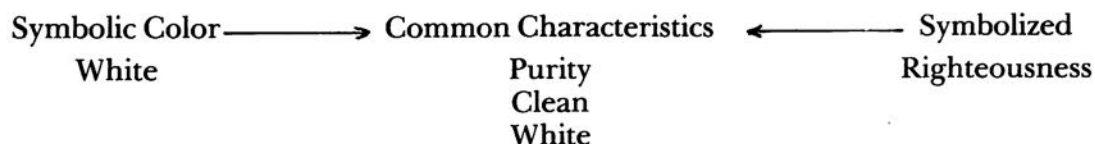
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| Job 1:13-19   | Job’s loss of animals, sons and daughters.                                |
| Job 2:7-9     | Job’s affliction and suffering under Satan, smitten with boils.           |
| Job 19:22, 28 | Job’s physical condition: “skin and bone,” and persecuted of his friends. |



**F. Symbolic Colors — Revelation 6:2:** “. . . a *white* horse . . .” One of the symbolic elements in this verse is the color “white.” By context and comparison we find that the Scriptures interpret “white” to be symbolic of “righteousness.” In Scripture “white” is mainly associated with God, Christ, Angels and Saints.

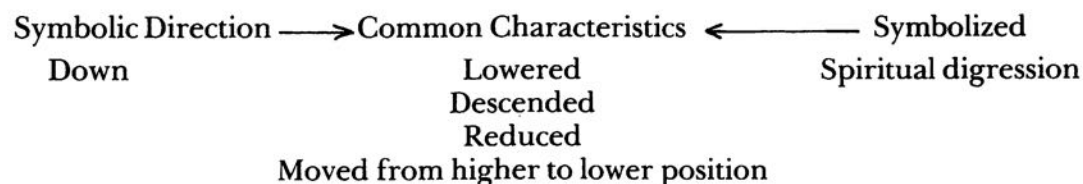
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| Revelation 3:4, 5 | “They shall walk with Me in white . . . overcome clothed in white.” |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                 |                                                                                    |
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| Revelation 7:9  | "Washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb."                 |
| Revelation 15:6 | "Angels clothed in white raiment. . ."                                             |
| Revelation 19:8 | "Fine linen, clean and white . . . fine linen is the righteousness of the saints." |



**G. Symbolic Directions — Luke 10:30:** "... a certain man went *down* from Jerusalem to Jericho." The actual and geographical direction can be seen also to be symbolic. One of the symbolic elements in this verse is the direction "down". By context and comparison we find that the Scriptures interpret the direction "down" to generally be symbolic of "spiritual digression" (negative) or "humility" (positive).

|                    |                                                                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Genesis 12:10-13:1 | "... Abram went down to Egypt . . . went up out of Egypt."                   |
| Isaiah 14:12, 15   | "Lucifer . . . brought down to Hell, to the sides of the Pit."               |
| Jonah 1:3, 5       | "From the Presence of the Lord . . . Jonah went down . . . down . . . down." |
| Luke 10:15         | "Capernaum . . . shall be brought down to hell (Gehenna)."                   |



## Chapter 20

### THE NUMERICAL PRINCIPLE

#### I. DEFINITION

That principle by which the interpretation of a verse or passage in Scripture containing numbers is aided by a recognition of the symbolic significance of the numbers involved.

#### II. AMPLIFICATION

It is impossible to read the Scriptures without noticing the continuous use of numbers. Nearly every page of the Bible contains some usages of numbers. God Himself is the Divine numberer and He has stamped His numerical seal upon the whole of creation. This same seal has been placed upon His book — the Holy Bible. In Daniel 8:13, 14, the saint who gives to Daniel the number of days concerning the cleansing of the sanctuary is referred to in a marginal rendering as Palmoni, “the numberer of secrets,” or “the wonderful numberer.”

|               |                                                         |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Job 14:16     | “For now thou numberest my steps. . .”                  |
| Psalms 90:12  | “So teach us to number our days. . .”                   |
| Psalms 147:4  | “He telleth the number of the stars. . .”               |
| Daniel 5:26   | “God hath numbered thy kingdom. . .”                    |
| Matthew 10:30 | “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. . .” |

These verses point out that God is indeed “the wonderful numberer.” This is more particularly to be seen in His dealings with His chosen nation. Israel’s way of life was governed by numbers. This was especially evident in the Tabernacle of Moses, the Feasts of the Lord, and the Ceremonial and Civil Laws (Exodus 25-40).

Numbers, as used in the Word of God, are not used promiscuously, but rather take on spiritual meaning and significance. They are a special form of symbol in Scripture. There are basically two ways in which numbers are to be found in Scripture: by name and by implication. Genesis 15 contains both of these.

|                            |              |               |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| A. <b>Named Numbers:</b>   | Verse 9      | 3 years       |
|                            | Verse 13     | 400 years     |
|                            | Verse 16     | 4 generations |
| B. <b>Implied Numbers:</b> | Verse 9      | 5 sacrifices  |
|                            | Verse 10     | 8 pieces      |
|                            | Verses 19-21 | 10 nations    |

The following is a brief interpretation of some of the numbers most often used in Scripture. These were interpreted by using the First Mention, Progressive Mention, Full Mention, and Symbolic Principles. The list is by no means complete and there are many shades of significance that could be added to it.

|            |                                                                                                         |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ONE</b> | Number of God: Beginning, source, commencement, first<br>Genesis 1:1; Matthew 6:33                      |
|            | Number of Compound Unity:<br>Deuteronomy 6:4 (Hebrew — ECHAD); John 17:21-23;<br>I Corinthians 12:12-14 |
|            | Numerical One:<br>Genesis 22:2 (Hebrew — YACHIYO); Only One, Zechariah 12:10;<br>John 3:16              |

- TWO** Number of Witness, Testimony (1 with 1 = 2):  
 John 8:17, 18; Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15; Matthew 18:16;  
 Revelation 11:2-4; Luke 9:30-32  
 Number of Division, Separation (1 against 1 = 2):  
 Exodus 8:23, 31:18; Matthew 7; Genesis 19; Genesis 1:6-8;  
 Matthew 24:40-41
- THREE** Number of Godhead:  
 I John 5:6-7; Matthew 28:19  
 Number of Divine Completeness, Perfect Testimony:  
 Deuteronomy 17:6; Matthew 12:40; Ezekiel 14:14, 18;  
 Daniel 3:23-24; Leviticus 23; Exodus 12:7; Exodus 3:6
- FOUR** Number of Earth, Creation, World: Proceeds from three and is dependent thereon  
 Genesis 2:10; Leviticus 11:20-27; Jeremiah 49:36;  
 Ezekiel 37:9; I Corinthians 15:39; Revelation 7:1, 2  
 (four seasons; four winds; four corners of earth)
- FIVE** Number of the Cross, Grace, Atonement, Life:  
 Genesis 1:20-23; Five offerings, Leviticus 1-5;  
 Five-fold ministry, Ephesians 4:11; Exodus 13:18 margin;  
 Joshua 1:14 margin; The five "I will's" of Satan, Isaiah  
 14:12-14; The five wounds of Jesus on the cross, Five in the  
 Tabernacle, Exodus 26:3, 9, 26, 27, 37; 27:1, 18
- SIX** Number of Man, Beast, Satan:  
 Genesis 1:26-31; Six generations of Cain, Genesis 4:17-18;  
 I Samuel 17:4-7; II Samuel 21:20; Numbers 35:15
- SEVEN** Number of Perfection, Completeness:  
 Genesis 2:1-3; 5:24; Jude 14; Joshua 6;  
 Leviticus 14:7, 16, 27, 51  
 Number of Book of Revelation:  
 Revelation 1:4, 11, 12, 16, 20; 2:1; 4:5; 5:1, 6; 8:2; 10:3, 4; 12:3;  
 15:1, 6-8; 17:9-11  
 (Seven is used about 600 times in the Bible)
- EIGHT** Number of Resurrection, New Beginning:  
 Leviticus 14:10-11; Exodus 22:30; Genesis 17:12;  
 I Peter 3:20; Matthew 28:1; John 20:26  
 (Numerical value of "Jesus" is 888)
- NINE** Number of Finality, Fullness, Fruitfulness:  
 Genesis 17:1; Matthew 27:45  
 Number of the Holy Spirit:  
 Galatians 5:22, 23; (Nine fruits, nine gifts)  
 I Corinthians 12:1-11  
 (Nine months for the "Fruit of the womb")
- TEN** Number of Law, Order, Government, Restoration:  
 Genesis 1; ("God said," 10 times) Exodus 34:28;  
 Daniel 2 (10 toes) Daniel 7 (10 horns) Revelation 12:3  
 Number of Trial, Testing, Responsibility:  
 Matthew 25:1-30; Luke 15:8; 19:13-25; Numbers 14:22;  
 Revelation 2:10; Leviticus 27:32; Exodus 12:3
- ELEVEN** Number of Incompleteness, Disorganization, Disintegration:  
 (One beyond 10, yet one short of 12)  
 Genesis 32:22; 35:16, 18; Matthew 20:6; Exodus 26:7;

|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                               | Deuteronomy 1:1-8                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                               | Number of Lawlessness, Disorder, The Antichrist:<br>Daniel 7 (the 11th "Little Horn")                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>TWELVE</b>                 | Number of Divine Government, Apostolic Fullness:<br>Genesis 49:28; Exodus 15:27; 24:4; 28:15-21; Matthew 19:28; Luke 6:13 (12 Apostles); Revelation 12:1<br>(Note number 12 in the "Holy City, New Jerusalem,"<br>Revelation 21:12, 21; 22:2) |
| <b>THIRTEEN</b>               | Number of Rebellion, Backsliding, Apostasy:<br>Genesis 14:4; 10:10 (Nimrod, 13th from Adam);<br>Genesis 17:25; Esther 9:1<br>Number of Double Portion:<br>Genesis 48 (Ephraim, 13th Tribe) Cf, Judas and Paul, 13th Apostle)                  |
| <b>FOURTEEN</b>               | Number of Passover:<br>Exodus 12:6; Numbers 9:5; Genesis 31:41; Acts 27:27-33                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>SEVENTEEN</b>              | Number of Spiritual Order: ( $10 + 7 = 17$ )<br>Genesis 37:2; I Chronicles 25:5; Jeremiah 32:9; Genesis 7:11; 8:4<br>Acts 2:9-11<br>("Walk with God," Genesis 5:24; 6:9; Enoch the 7th and Noah 10th)                                         |
| <b>TWENTY-FOUR</b>            | Number of Priestly Courses, Governmental Perfection: ( $2 \times 12 = 24$ )<br>Joshua 4:2-9; I Kings 19:19; I Chronicles 24:3-5; 25;<br>Revelation 4:4-10<br>(Note in the "Holy City, New Jerusalem" Revelation 21, 22)                       |
| <b>THIRTY</b>                 | Number of Consecration, Maturity for Ministry:<br>Numbers 4:3; Genesis 41:46; II Samuel 5:4; Luke 3:23;<br>Matthew 26:15                                                                                                                      |
| <b>FORTY</b>                  | Number of Probation, Testing (Ending in Victory or Judgment):<br>Numbers 13:25; 14:33, 34; Matthew 4:2; Acts 1:3;<br>Exodus 34:27-28; Ezekiel 4:6; Acts 7:30; I Kings 19:4-8                                                                  |
| <b>FIFTY</b>                  | Number of Pentecost, Liberty, Freedom, Jubilee:<br>Exodus 26:5, 6; Leviticus 25:10-11; (Acts 2:1-4)<br>II Kings 2:7; I Kings 18:4, 13; Numbers 8:25                                                                                           |
| <b>SEVENTY</b>                | Number Prior to Increase, or Representative of a Multitude:<br>Genesis 11:26; 46:27; Exodus 1:5-7; Numbers 11:25;<br>Exodus 15:27; 24:1, 9; Luke 10:1                                                                                         |
| <b>SEVENTY-FIVE</b>           | Number of Separation, Cleansing, Purification:<br>Genesis 12:4; (Daniel 12:5-13)                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>ONE HUNDRED TWENTY</b>     | Number of the End of all Flesh, the Beginning of Life in the Spirit:<br>Genesis 6:3; Deuteronomy 34:7; II Chronicles 3:4; 5:12; 7:5;<br>Acts 1:5                                                                                              |
| <b>ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR</b> | Number of God's Ultimate in Creation: ( $12 \times 12 = 144$ )<br>Revelation 21:17; I Chronicles 25:7; Revelation 7:1-6; 14:1-3                                                                                                               |
| <b>THREE HUNDRED</b>          | Number of Faithful Remnant:<br>Genesis 5:22; 6:15; Judges 8:4; 15:4                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>SIX-SIX-SIX</b>            | Number of Antichrist, Satan, the Damned:<br>Daniel 3; I Samuel 17; Daniel 7; Revelation 13:18; 14:9-11                                                                                                                                        |

Though the Bible was written by various men of God over many generations, there is a marvelous consistency and harmony in its use of numbers. This is because God Himself, "the wonderful numberer," was able, by inspiring the writer to shape and maintain the significance of the numbers He desired to be used.

The literary *method of numeration* used in writing Scripture gives rise to the *Numerical Principle* of interpreting Scripture.

For a fuller treatment of the significance of numbers in Scripture the reader is directed to the following publications.

*Number in Scripture*. Ethelbert W. Bullinger, Kregel Publications.

*The Seal of God in Creation and The Word*. F. C. Payne, Hunkin, Ellis & King, Adelaide, Australia.

*Keys to Scripture Numerics*. Ed. F. Vallowe, 528 Pine Ridge Drive, Forest Park, Georgia 30050.

### III. QUALIFICATION

A. The first step in using this principle is to recognize the numbers involved in the verse or passage, whether named or implied. The only possible difficulty in this is determining the implied numbers.

B. The first mention of the number in Scripture generally conveys its spiritual meaning.

C. God is consistent, and generally the significance of a number will be maintained throughout Scripture.

D. The spiritual significance of a number is not always stated; it may be veiled or hidden. Its significance can be seen by comparing it with other Scriptures using the same number.

E. Generally there are both good and evil, true and counterfeit, God and Satanic, aspects in the significance of numbers.

F. The numbers from one to thirteen are the basic numbers having spiritual significance. Multiples of these numbers generally carry the same meaning, only intensifying the truth symbolized by them.

G. This principle should be used in connection with many others, such as the First Mention, Full Mention and Symbolic Principles.

H. This principle must be used with discretion and kept in balance with the other principles in order to avoid eccentric interpretation.

### IV. DEMONSTRATION

**Luke 10:1:** "After these things the Lord appointed other *seventy* also, and sent them *two and two* before His face into every city and place, whither He Himself would come."

A. **The Number Seventy:** The first number mentioned in this verse is the number "seventy." By context and comparison we find that Scripture interprets the number "seventy" to be the number of imminent increase or representative of a multitude.

|                |                                                       |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Genesis 46:27; | Seventy souls went down into Egypt and there became a |
| Exodus 1:5     | great nation.                                         |

|                |                                         |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Exodus 24:1, 9 | Seventy elders represent the multitude. |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------|

In this passage the seventy disciples sent out by Christ are representative of the multitude that followed Him, and they were sent out prior to the harvest increase of disciples.