

DISCOVERING GOD

THROUGH THE BIBLE #18 – NUMEROLOGY (NUMBERS) IN THE BIBLE

It is rare when the Bible gives up more than a few verses to any specific topic. The Flood warrants three full *chapters*; comment by the Prophets'; the Apostle Peter'; the writer of Hebrews; plus, it is on the mind of Jesus as He faces the cross. (Matthew 24) There is more going on here than simply a Sunday school lesson.

SYMBOLS IN THE FLOOD STORY

The flood story is not about geology (although geological events certainly support the flood). The Flood is really about the "He" of Genesis 3:15 and how GOD is going to rescue mankind from sin. A continuation of the message of Eden...but with a very interesting addition.

Genesis 6: 13, "I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth."

GOD is going to cleanse the earth of it's evil state (Corrupted goodness) and, He is going to destroy "**them**", the evil ones. He has already told us "**Who**" will bring about this destruction. He is now going to tell us a bit more, including "**When**".

That is what the Flood story is all about. And, GOD lays it out beautifully for anyone to understand who is willing to look closely at what He is saying.

The Flood story reveals the future.

WHAT DO ALL THOSE NUMBERS MEAN?

Even a casual read of the Flood narrative reveals many numbers and more specifically, days and dates certain events occur. (2x2, 7's, 40 days, 40 nights, 150 days, on this date a specific event occurred, etc.)

To begin our study of Symbols in the Flood story, it is best to understand the numerology (meaning of numbers), in the Bible. This helps better understand the various symbols which are revealed in the Flood story.

BIBLE NUMBERS AND SYMBOLISM

Both the Old and New Testaments use numbers to reveal hidden concepts that completely escape the casual reader.

Once Jesus was asked why he spoke in parables? His answer was that those who truly want to understand GOD's message will ponder the hidden meanings. (Matthew 13:11)

NO NUMBERS IN GREEK OR HEBREW

You may be aware that one of the interesting features of Hebrew and Greek is that in both *written* languages there are no numeric characters. (1,2,3, etc.)

Where we have numbers and letters, Greek and Hebrew have only letters.

So, in both languages, the letters are also used as numbers. Maybe something like the way we use "O" and "zero" as a letter and meaning in our alphabet.

In Hebrew when a word is written, it also has a numeric equivalent. For example, the word "Jesus" in Greek is "**iasous**." Since each letter has a numeric equivalent, we can add up each number and get its value. The value is the "gammatria". Therefore, the gammatria of "Jesus" in Greek is **888** because, "I" = 10; "a" = 8; "s" = 200; "o" = 70; "u" = 400; "s" = 200 = **888**.

And, 888 has it's own meaning. Now think about the fact that the entire Bible is filled with numerology and hidden meanings behind the obvious.

In many cases numbers are used deliberately to convey a meaning. Most are familiar with the **666** of Revelation 13:18. 666 has a meaning in Hebrew just as 888 can be read in Hebrew as *iasous*. (You will learn the meaning of 666 in a later Through the Bible)

NAMES AND PLACES IN THE BIBLE

It follows therefore, that every certain words in the Bible have symbolic or deeper meaning.

For example, the story of Cain slaying Abel seems to be all about fraternal rivalry but **Cain means body (materialism or human desire)**, while in Hebrew, **Abel means the soul or (GOD created human nature)**. **Therefore, the message of Cain and Able is, "materialism kills spirituality". Cain slew Abel (Genesis 4:8).**

Abram becomes Abra ham (Genesis 17:5) and Sara becomes Sara h (Genesis 17:15).

In both cases, the Hebrew Heh (H), meaning "light" or "spirit" is added to the name to denote GOD's giving them the Holy Spirit. (E.g., GOD breathes the Heh into man to give him life. Jesus breathed ("Heh") on the disciples after his ascension. Jesus tells Nicodemus that no one knows where the "Heh" comes from and uses the wind as an example which is the same word for breath.)

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