

ew bullinger numbers in scripture

ew bullinger numbers in scripture hold a significant place in biblical interpretation, particularly through the work of E.W. Bullinger, a theologian and biblical scholar known for his extensive studies on the meanings of numbers in the Bible. Bullinger's analysis reveals that numbers are not merely mathematical symbols but carry profound theological implications and symbolic meanings. This article will explore the concept of Bullinger numbers, their application in scripture, and how they contribute to understanding biblical texts. We will also delve into specific numbers Bullinger highlighted, their meanings, and examples of their occurrence in the Bible.

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Introduction to E.W. Bullinger

E.W. Bullinger, whose full name is Edward William Bullinger, was a prominent figure in the realm of biblical studies during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Born in 1837, he became known for his unique approach to the interpretation of scripture, particularly through the lens of numerology. Bullinger's seminal work, "Number in Scripture," laid the foundation for understanding the significance of numbers throughout the Bible. He proposed that numbers serve as a divine language that conveys deeper spiritual truths, thus enriching the reader's understanding of biblical texts.

His dedication to uncovering the hidden meanings of numbers has influenced many theologians and scholars. Bullinger categorized numbers into various meanings, emphasizing that they reveal God's perfect order and purpose. This exploration of numbers is not only fascinating but also serves as a tool for deeper theological reflection and insight into scriptural narratives.

Understanding Numbers in Scripture

The concept of numbers in scripture transcends mere counting; it invites believers to engage with the text on a spiritual level. Many biblical scholars recognize that numbers often symbolize various themes and concepts. For instance, the number seven frequently appears as a symbol of completeness or perfection, while the number twelve often represents divine authority or governance, as seen in the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve apostles of Jesus.

Numbers in the Bible can be categorized into two main types: cardinal numbers, which denote quantity, and ordinal numbers, which denote position or order. However, Bullinger's work focuses more on the spiritual implications of these numbers rather than their mathematical properties. He believed that understanding these numbers helps to unlock deeper meanings in scripture, leading to a more profound appreciation of God's word.

Key Bullinger Numbers and Their Meanings

In his studies, E.W. Bullinger identified several key numbers that recur throughout the Bible, each carrying its unique significance. Below are some of the most notable Bullinger numbers and their meanings:

- **1** - Unity and Primacy: Represents God's sovereignty and the oneness of God.
- **2** - Division and Witness: Denotes the concept of duality and establishes the necessity of witnesses.
- **3** - Divine Completeness: Symbolizes the presence of God, as seen in the Trinity.
- **4** - Creation: Represents the earth and its four corners, as well as the four living creatures in Revelation.
- **5** - Grace: Indicates God's grace, as seen in the five books of the Law.
- **6** - Man: Represents humanity, often associated with imperfection.
- **7** - Perfection: Symbolizes divine perfection and completion, seen in the seven days of creation.
- **10** - Completeness of Order: Often associated with the Law, as in the Ten Commandments.
- **12** - Divine Authority: Represents God's governance, as in the twelve

tribes of Israel.

- **40** - Testing and Trial: Often associated with periods of testing, such as the 40 days of Jesus in the wilderness.

Examples of Bullinger Numbers in the Bible

Numerous examples in the Bible illustrate the significance of Bullinger numbers. For instance, the number seven appears prominently in the creation narrative of Genesis, where God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh, thus establishing a pattern of work and rest that signifies completion. Similarly, the seven churches addressed in the Book of Revelation represent the completeness of the church across all ages.

Another pertinent example is the use of the number twelve, which signifies God's authority. This is evident in the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve apostles chosen by Jesus. Each of these instances reflects divine order and governance, underscoring the theological implications of these numbers in scriptural contexts.

Impact of Bullinger's Work on Biblical Interpretation

Bullinger's contributions to biblical interpretation have had a lasting impact on how scholars and theologians approach scripture. His work encourages readers to consider the symbolic meanings behind numbers, offering a richer understanding of biblical texts. By recognizing the significance of numbers, believers can gain insights into God's character, His plans, and the overall narrative of salvation history.

Furthermore, Bullinger's methodology invites critical thinking and deeper engagement with the text. It promotes a holistic view of scripture, where numbers are not isolated elements but integral components of the biblical message. This approach fosters an appreciation of the complexity and intentionality of the biblical authors in conveying spiritual truths.

Conclusion

E.W. Bullinger's exploration of numbers in scripture reveals a profound layer of meaning that enhances our understanding of the Bible. His identification

of key numbers and their symbolic significance invites believers to engage with the text more deeply, recognizing that God has woven a tapestry of meaning throughout His word. The insights gained from studying Bullinger numbers not only enrich personal faith but also contribute to a broader comprehension of God's purpose and order in creation. As we continue to explore scripture, let us remain open to the divine messages encoded within the numbers, drawing closer to the heart of God's revelation.

FAQs

Q: What are E.W. Bullinger numbers?

A: E.W. Bullinger numbers refer to the numerical values and their symbolic meanings as interpreted by Edward William Bullinger in his biblical studies. He believed that these numbers reveal deeper spiritual truths within scripture.

Q: How did E.W. Bullinger interpret the number seven?

A: Bullinger interpreted the number seven as a symbol of divine perfection and completeness, as evidenced by its frequent appearance in the creation account and its symbolic use in the Book of Revelation.

Q: Are Bullinger numbers only applicable to the Old Testament?

A: No, Bullinger numbers are applicable to both the Old and New Testaments. They provide insights into various themes and concepts throughout the entirety of the Bible.

Q: What is the significance of the number twelve in the Bible according to Bullinger?

A: According to Bullinger, the number twelve signifies divine authority and governance, as seen in the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve apostles of Jesus.

Q: How can understanding Bullinger numbers enhance biblical study?

A: Understanding Bullinger numbers can enhance biblical study by providing

additional layers of meaning and context, allowing readers to appreciate the intentionality of the biblical authors and the overarching themes of scripture.

Q: Is numerology in the Bible widely accepted among scholars?

A: While numerology has its proponents, including Bullinger, it is met with skepticism by some scholars who prioritize historical-critical methods. Nevertheless, the study of numbers offers valuable insights for many believers.

Q: What are some other key numbers in Bullinger's studies?

A: Other key numbers in Bullinger's studies include three (divine completeness), six (man), and forty (testing), each carrying specific meanings that can be found throughout scripture.

Q: Can Bullinger numbers be applied to modern biblical interpretation?

A: Yes, Bullinger numbers can be applied to modern biblical interpretation as they encourage deeper engagement with the text and promote an understanding of the symbolic nature of scripture.

Q: Where can I find more information about E.W. Bullinger's work?

A: More information about E.W. Bullinger's work can be found in his published books, particularly "Number in Scripture," which discusses the significance of numbers throughout the Bible.

[Ew Bullinger Numbers In Scripture](#)

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