

The Number Seven in Scripture (REV11)

1) Dr. John Walvoord identifies Seven Beatitudes in *Revelation*:¹

The Seven “Beatitudes” in Revelation

“Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near” (1:3).

“Then I heard a voice from heaven say, ‘Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them’ ” (14:13).

“Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed” (16:15).

“Then the angel said to me, ‘Write: “Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!”’ And he added, ‘These are the true words of God’ ” (19:9).

“Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years” (20:6).

“Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book” (22:7).

“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city” (22:14).

¹ Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary, New Testament* (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985, p. 929.

2) Dr. Clarence Larkin identifies Seven sets of Sevens in the *Book of Revelation*:²

- † Seven Churches (**Revelation 2:1-3:22**)
- † Seven Seal Judgments (**Revelation 6:1-8:5**)
- † Seven Trumpet Judgments (**Revelation 8:7-11:19**)
- † Seven Personages (**Revelation 12:1-13:18**)
- † Seven Bowl Judgments (**Revelation 15:1-16:21**)
- † Seven Dooms (**Revelation 17:1-20:15**)
- † Seven New Things (**Revelation 21:1-22:5**)

3) The *Book of Revelation* mentions:

- † Seven Golden Lampstands (**Revelation 1:12**)
- † Seven Stars (**Revelation 1:16, 20; 2:1; 3:1**)
- † Seven Spirits of God (**Revelation 1:4; 3:1**)
- † Seven Peals of Thunder (**Revelation 10:3-4**)
- † A Great Red Dragon having Seven Heads and...on his heads *were* Seven Diadems (**Revelation 12:4**)
- † Seven Plagues (**Revelation 15:1, 6, 8**)
- † Seven Mountains which are Seven Kings (**Revelation 17:9-10**)

4) The number seven is the biblical number of *completion*. For example, the Lord completed the renovation of the earth in seven literal 24-hour days.

² Larkin, Clarence, *The Book of Revelation* (Glenside, PA: Rev. Clarence Larkin Estate, 1919, p.13.

5) The meaning of the word *seven*:³

a) In the Hebrew, *seven* is *shevah*. It is from the root *savah* - *to be full* or *satisfied, have enough of*.

b) Hence the meaning of the word *seven* is dominated by this root:

On the *seventh* day God rested from the work of Creation.

This work was full and complete, and good and perfect.

Nothing could be added to it or taken from it without marring it.

Hence the word *shavath* - *to cease, desist, rest* and *shabbath* –
Sabbath - day of rest.

c) The number *seven*, therefore, stamps with perfection and completeness that in connection with which it is used.

6) It not only tells of the Sabbath, but also marks off the days of the week.

7) The number *seven* is unique in its occurrence throughout the Old Testament:

Seven occurs 287 times in the Old Testament (7 x 41).

Seventh, the fractional part, occurs 98 (7 x 14).

Sevenfold occurs 7 times.

These three numbers together (287 + 98 + 7) equal 392.

392 is 7 to the second power + 7 to the third power,
or 7 squared times 8.

Seventy occurs 56 times (7 x 8).

³ Most of this study, unless otherwise noted, is drawn from E.W. Bullinger's monumental work, *Number in Scripture*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel Publications), 1967. This volume is highly recommended for any student of the Bible with an interest in Biblical numerology.

Seventy, in combination with other numbers, occurs 35 times (7 x 5).

8) In the creative works of God:

a) *Seven* completes:

The colors of the spectrum;

The colors of the rainbow;

The notes of the musical scale.

In each of these the *eighth* is only a repetition of the *first*.

9) Another meaning of the root (*shavagh*) is *to swear* or *make an oath*.

The first occurrence of this word is in **Genesis 21:31**: “there the two of them took an oath.”

This oath was based upon “seven ewe lambs” (**Genesis 21:28, 29, 30**).

The same Hebrew word is used for both the number *seven* and the *oath*.

The seven ewe lambs, therefore, carry the idea *satisfaction* or *fullness* in an *oath*. It highlights the *security*, *satisfaction*, and *fullness* of the obligation, or the completeness of the bond.

Thus **Genesis 21:29-30**: “Abimelech said to Abraham, “What do these seven ewe lambs mean, which you have set by themselves?” And he said, “You shall take these seven ewe lambs from my hand in order that it may be a witness [confirmation] to me, that I dug this well.”

E.W. Bullinger: “Beer-sheba, *the well of the oath*, is the standing witness of the spiritual perfection of the number *seven*.”⁴

⁴ Bullinger, E.W., *Number in Scripture* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel Publications, 1967), p.168.

10) The original creation and judgment of the earth:

In the first statement as to the original Creation in **Genesis 1:1**, there are 7 words and 28 letters (4 x 7).

But, amazingly in Genesis 1:2, which documents how the original creation fell into ruin, consists of 14 words, yet it has 52 letters. 52 is 4 x 13, the number of apostasy.

Therefore, the “cause of that ruin is more than intimated by the number 13 appearing so significantly in the second verse.”⁵

11) The words of God:

All the words of God are pure words.

How can the Lord most effectively communicate that His words are pure?

Psalm 12:6: “The words of the LORD are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.”

12) God’s blessing to Abraham:

God’s blessing to Abraham in **Genesis 12:2-3** is a sevenfold blessing:

And I will make you a great nation,
And I will bless you,
And make your name great;
And so you shall be a blessing;
And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will curse.
And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

13) God’s blessing to Israel:

God’s blessing to Israel in **Exodus 6:6-8** is sevenfold.

⁵ *Ibid.*, Bullinger, *Number in Scripture*, p.168, note.

Each of these blessings are introduced by the words “I will.”

“I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

I will deliver you from their bondage.

I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm
and with great judgments.

I will take you for My people.

I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God,
who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

I will bring you to the land which I swore to
give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

I will give it to you *for* a possession.

14) The Sevenfold Sprinkling:

The sevenfold sprinklings of the Old Testament imply that the sacrifice which they represent will be perfectly efficacious.

On the great Day of Atonement, the blood was sprinkled *once* and on the mercy seat.

But “*before* the mercy seat” it was to be sprinkled *seven* times. This was accomplished as a perfect testimony for the *people* that the atonement for their sins was accomplished.

The directions for the Day of Atonement are given in Leviticus 16. From other scriptures, however, we learn that there were *seven* sprinklings on that great day, to mark the perfection of accomplished atonement:

“On the mercy seat on the east *side*” (**Leviticus 16:14b**).

“In front of the mercy seat” (**Leviticus 16:14c**).

“In front of the veil” (**Leviticus 4:17**).

On the horns of the golden altar (**Exodus 30:10**).

“On the horns of the altar on all sides” (**Leviticus 16:18**).

Round about upon the altar (**Leviticus 16:19**).

“And all the blood [that remains] he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering which is at the doorway of the tent of meeting.” (**Leviticus 4:18**).

Right now, you just so happen
to be reading PAGE 7 of this study.
Coincidence? *Me thinks not!*

15) The number Seven in the Psalms:

There are 126 Psalms which have titles. That is 7 x 8.

Seven names are mentioned in the titles as the authors of the Psalms:

- † David, 56 (7 x 8).
- † The Sons of Korah, 11.
- † Asaph, 12.
- † Heman the Ezrahite, 1.
- † Ethan the Ezrahite, 1.
- † Moses, 1.
- † Solomon, 1.

14 Psalms (2 X 7), all David's, were written on historical occasions (**Psalms 3, 7, 18, 30, 34, 51, 52, 54, 56, 57, 59, 60, 63, 142**).

Seven Psalms are ascribed to David in the New Testament:

- † **Psalm 2** w/ **Acts 4:25**: “Who by the mouth of Thy servant DAVID hast said, ‘Why did the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing.’”

- † **Psalm 16 w/ Acts 2:25:** “For DAVID speaketh concerning Him, I foresaw the LORD always before my face, for He is on my right hand that I should not be moved.”
- † **Psalm 32 w/ Romans 4:6:** “Even as DAVID also describeth the blessedness of the man unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works.”
- † **Psalm 41 w/ Acts 1:16:** “Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.”
- † **Psalm 69 w/ Romans 11:9:** “And DAVID said, ‘Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumbling-block, and a recompense unto them.’”
- † **Psalm 95 w/ Hebrews 4:7:** “He again fixes a certain day, “Today,” saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, “TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS.”
- † **Psalm 109 w/ Matthew 22:43-44a:** “He [Jesus] said to them, “Then how does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying, ‘THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD.’”

16) There are seven men called “man of God” in the Old Testament:⁶

- † Moses, **Deuteronomy 33:1** and other places.
- † David, **2 Chronicles 8:14** and other places.
- † Samuel, **1 Samuel 9:6** and other places.
- † Shemaiah, **1 Kings 12:22** and **2 Chronicles 11:2**.
- † Elijah, 7 times.

⁶ There’s one instance in the New Testament (Timothy), making *eight* altogether.

† Elisha, **2 Kings 4:7** and 29 other times.

† Igdaliah, once, **Jeremiah 35:4**.

17) Seven weak things in Judges:

God raised up and empowered the Judges to deliver Israel from her enemies.

This deliverance was God's work: **Judges 2:16-18**:

“Then the LORD raised up judges who delivered them from the hands of those who plundered them. And yet they did not listen to their judges, for they played the harlot after other gods and bowed themselves down to them. They turned aside quickly from the way in which their fathers had walked in obeying the commandments of the LORD; they did not do as *their fathers*. And when the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and delivered them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed and afflicted them.”

There are seven weak things in the Book of Judges that were used by God as instruments of deliverance, marking and stamping the spiritual perfection of His work:

† A left-handed man (**3:21**), Ehud, delivering from Moab's oppression.

† An ox-goad (**3:31**) in the hand of Shamgar, delivering from the Philistines.

† A woman (**4:4**) delivering from the hand of Jabin, king of Canaan.

† A tent-peg (**4:21**) in the hand of Jael, delivering from the hand of Jabin, king of Canaan.

† A piece of a millstone (**9:53**), thrown by another woman, and delivering the people from Abimelech's usurpation.

† The pitchers and trumpets of Gideon’s 300 (**7:20**), delivering from the armies of Midian.

† The jawbone of an Ass (**15:16**) that Samson used to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines.

These weak things were used in order “that no man should boast before God.”

They are a demonstrate of how “God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong” (**1 Corinthians 1:29, 27**).

It was *Luther*, a miner’s son, by whom God “shook the world.”

It was *Calvin*, a cooper’s son in Picardy, by whom God built up His church in the Faith.

It was *Zwingli*, a shepherd’s son in the Alps, by whom God established the Reformation in Switzerland.

It was *John Knox*, the son of a plain citizen of a country town, who caused Scotland to be known as “the Land of Knox.”

“And so through all the ages God has made it clear that it is He who is the worker, and that the instruments He chooses to use are nothing.”⁷

18) The sevenfold qualification for service:

Gideon was given a sevenfold qualification for service in **Judges 6**:

† Conviction as to his own humiliating condition, **6:11**, as shown in **6:15**.

† An exercised heart, **6:13**, as caused probably by the prophet’s testimony, **6:8**.

† No confidence in the flesh, **6:15**.

⁷ Bullinger, *Number in Scripture*, p.175.

† Peace with God through grace; the peace of God through gift, **6:17, 18, 22, 23.**

† Worship, **6:24.**

† Obedience in small things, **6:25-27.**

† Power for great things, **6:33-35;** and chapter 7.

“A careful study of Judges 6 will yield spiritual profit, instructing us as to the ways of God in calling and qualifying His servants.”⁸

19) Jesse had seven sons. Each “passed before Samuel (**1 Samuel 16**) to show that the perfection of nature can yield nothing for God.”⁹

20) There are seven miracles in the Gospel of John:

These formed the perfection of the “signs” that Jesus was the Christ.

In John, Jesus:

† Turned water into wine (**John 2**).

† Healed the nobleman’s son (**John 4:47**).

† Healed at the pool of Bethesda (**John 5:4**).

† Fed the 5,000 (**John 6**).

† Healed the man born blind (**John 9:1**).

† Raised Lazarus from the dead (**John 11**).

† Caused the miracle catch of fishes (**John 21**).

⁸ Bullinger, *Number in Scripture*, p.175.

⁹ Bullinger, *Number in Scripture*, p.176.

21) Jesus made seven statements to the Woman of Samaria:

- ✠ Attracting her attention by His question, “Give Me to drink”? (**John 4:7**)
- ✠ Leading her to ask it of Him (**John 4:10**).
- ✠ Describing the water which He gives (**John 4:13-14**).
- ✠ The arrow of conviction, “Go,” “call,” and “come” (**John 4:16**).
- ✠ Increasing the conviction (**John 4:17**).
- ✠ Answering her questions and her doubts (**John 4:21-24**).
- ✠ Revealing Himself (**John 4:26**).

In these words, “the perfection of Christ’s dealings with her is thus stamped.”¹⁰

22) Seven appearances of angels *during the life* of Jesus on earth:

Angels appeared:¹¹

- ✠ To the shepherds (**Luke 2:9**).
- ✠ To Joseph (**Matthew 2:13**).
- ✠ To Joseph (**Matthew 2:19**).
- ✠ After the Temptation (**Matthew 4:11**).
- ✠ In Gethsemane (**Luke 22:43**).
- ✠ At the Resurrection (**Matthew 28:2**).

¹⁰ Bullinger, E.W., *Number in Scripture*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel Publications), 1967, p.176.

¹¹ There were *three* appearances *before* the birth of Jesus: to Zacharias (**Luke 1:1**); to Mary (**Luke 1:26**); to Joseph (**Matthew 1:20**). Altogether there were ten, which completes the perfection of Divine order.

✠ At the Ascension (**Acts 1:10**).

In these seven appearances is the perfect completion of the statement that He was “beheld by angels.” (**1 Timothy 3:16**)

23) Seven things which “defile the man” (**Matthew 15:19-20**):

These come “out of the heart” and complete the picture of spiritual defilement.

This also emphasizes the fact that spiritual defilement is caused, not by that which goes “into the mouth,” but by that which comes “out of the heart” (**Matthew 15:18**).

The seven are listed in **Matthew 15:19**:

Evil thoughts	Adulteries	Thefts	Slanders
Murders	Fornications	False witness	

Jesus declared that, “These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man.”

24) The Ten Commandments were written with the finger of God and are, therefore, specially stamped with the number of spiritual perfection:

✠ Seven of the commandments commence with the word *not*.

✠ The word *day* occurs seven times.

✠ The preposition translated *in* occurs seven times.

✠ The preposition translated *to* occurs seven times.

✠ *Upon* and *above* together occurs seven times.

✠ *Serve*, *servant*, *maidservant* together occur seven times.

✠ The relationship of *father*, *mother*, *son*, *daughter*, *wife*, together, occur seven times.

- † *Lord* and *God* together occur 14 times.
- † There are seven different pronouns used, in all 49 times (7 x 7).
- † The third person singular pronoun occurs seven times.
- † The conjunction “and” seven times in Commandment II.
- † The definite article seven times in Commandment IV.
- † Commandment IV forbids the doing of any work on the *seventh* day to seven persons and things.
- † Commandment X forbids coveting to seven persons and things.
- † Commandment III contains 21 (7 x 3) simple words.
- † Commandment IX contains 7.
- † Commandment X contains 28 (7 x 4).

25) The prominence of the number seven in **Ezekiel 36**:

Seven things concerning Israel today:

- † Unclean in the sight of God (**36:29**).
- † Possessed of stony hearts (**36:26**).
- † Profaning God’s holy Name (**36:20, 22**).
- † Scattered among the heathen (**36:19**).
- † Covered with infamy and shame (**36:3-6**).
- † Subject to heathen rule (**36:6**).

† Desolate, forsaken, and a reproach (**36:3, 4, 30**).

Seven things God will do to Israel's oppressors:

† Speak in jealousy against them (**36:5**).

† Turn their glory into shame (**36:7**).

† Dispossess them of their occupation in the land (**36:10, 11**).

† Give them to Israel for a possession (**36:12**).

† Break their power to crush Israel (**36:13, 14**).

† Vindicate and glorify His own name among them (**36:22**).

a) Teach them that He is God (**36:36, 38**).

Seven things God will do for Israel:

† Gather them out of all countries (**36:24**).

† Bring them into their own land (**36:24**).

† Cleanse them from filth and idols (**36:26**).

† Give them new hearts and minds, and His spirit (**36:26, 27**).

† Make them again His people (**36:28**).

† Cause them to flourish and multiply (**36:30**).

† Make their end better than their beginning (**36:11**).

Seven things Israel themselves will do:

† Remember their past evil (**36:31**).

† Loathe themselves for their iniquity (**36:31**).

† Be ashamed and confounded (**36:32**).

† Walk in Jehovah's statutes (**36:27**).

† Keep His judgments (**36:27**).

† Dwell forever in the land (**36:33**).

† Pray for the accomplishment of all these blessings (**36:37**).

26) There are seven promises to the seven churches of **Revelation 2** and **3**.

27) Gematria:

† One or two examples may be given of the numbers in names, although many more are given elsewhere.

† Enoch was "the seventh from Adam" - 84 (7 x 12).

† "Heirs of God" in the Greek - 1071 (7 x 153).

† "The Lamb" in Greek – 651 (7 x 93).

28) Phrases:

† The phrase "From the foundation of the world" occurs seven times in the New Testament because it deals with God's work of Grace.

† However, the phrase "before the foundation of the world" occurs 3 times (the number of Divine completeness) because it relates to an act of God's sovereignty.

† The phrase "the Sabbath day" occurs seven times in the New Testament.

† The phrase "There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" occurs seven times in the New Testament.

† The phrase "The tree of life" occurs seven times in the Old Testament.

- 29) The Lord's Prayer contains *seven* petitions. These are divided into four and three. The first three relate to God, the four to man.
- 30) *Seven* washings are types of our complete spiritual cleansing (**2 Kings 5:14**).
- 31) There are seven parables in Matthew 13.
- 32) There are seven mysteries or secrets in the Bible:
- ✠ The Kingdom (**Matthew 13:11; Mark 4:11; Luke 8:10**).
 - ✠ The partial blindness of Israel (**Romans 11:25**).
 - ✠ The Church or Body of Christ (**Romans 16:25; Ephesians 3:3, 4, 9, 5:32, 6:19; Colossians 1:26-26; Revelation 1:20**).
 - ✠ The first Resurrection (**1 Corinthians 15:51**).
 - ✠ The purpose of God (**Ephesians 1:9; Colossians 2:2; Revelation 10:7**).
 - ✠ Babylon (**Revelation 17:5, 7**).
- 33) Scripture records but seven sayings of our Lord upon the cross:
- ✠ "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (**Luke 23:34**).
 - ✠ "Verily, I say unto thee to-day: Thou shalt be with Me in Paradise" (**Luke 23:43**).
 - ✠ "My God! my God! why hast thou forsaken Me" (**Matthew 27:46**).
 - ✠ "Woman, behold thy son...Behold thy mother" (**John 19:26**).
 - ✠ "I thirst" (**John 19:28**).
 - ✠ "Father, into Thy hand I commend My spirit" (**Luke 23:46**).

† “It is finished” (**John 19:30**).

34) There are *seven* steps in the humiliation of Jesus in **Philippians 2**:

† “He existed in the form of God” (**2:6**).

† He “did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped” (**2:6**).

† He “emptied Himself” (**2:7**).

† He took upon Himself “the form of a bond-servant” (**2:7**).

† He was “made in the likeness of men” (**2:7**).

† “He humbled Himself” (**2:8**).

† He became “obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (**2:8**).

35) There are seven steps in the exaltation of Jesus in **Philippians 2**:

† “God highly exalted Him” – the hyper-exaltation to the highest possible position (**2:9**).

† God “bestowed on Him “the” name – the Text should read “the name,” not “a name” (**2:9**).

† “The” name He received is above every other name – the title of superiority above all rule, authority, and power (**2:9**).

† “At the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW” (**2:10**) this signifies universal adoration and acknowledgement of His authority.

† “Those who are in heaven” and “on earth” shall bow – He will be recognized by the celestial creation, the human creation and the subterranean creation (**2:10**).

† “Every tongue” will “confess that Jesus Christ is Lord” (**2:11**).

✠ This will be to the “glory of God the Father” (2:11).

36) The mystery of God is completed in the seventh bowl of the seventh trumpet of the seventh seal.

37) The “seventh” man “from Adam” “was not, for God took him” (Genesis 5:24).

38) The Day of Atonement was in the seventh month (Leviticus 16:29).

39) The clean beasts were taken into the Ark by sevens (Genesis 7:2).

The others were taken by twos (Genesis 6:19).

40) Seven steps lead up to the temple in Ezekiel 40.

41) There are seven “better” things in Hebrews:

Testament (7:22)	Substance (10:34)	Country (11:16)
Promises (8:6)	Hope (7:19)	Thing (11:35)
	Sacrifices (9:23)	

42) There are seven titles of Christ in Hebrews:

Heir of all things (1:2)	High Priest (10:21)	Author of salvation (5:9).
Captain of our salvation (2:10)	Apostle (3:1)	Author and finisher of faith (12:2)
	Forerunner (6:20)	

43) There is a sevenfold “once” (hapax) in Hebrews (9:7, 26, 27, 28; 10:2; 12:26, 27).

44) There are seven “eternal” things in Hebrews:

✠ A priest forever (5:6).

✠ Eternal salvation (5:9).

✠ Eternal judgment (6:2).

- ✠ Eternal redemption (**9:12**).
- ✠ Eternal Spirit (**9:14**).
- ✠ Eternal inheritance (**9:15**).
- ✠ Everlasting covenant (**13:20**).

45) There are seven first fruits, of:

- ✠ Resurrection (**1 Corinthians 15:20-23**).
- ✠ The Spirit (**Romans 8:23**).
- ✠ New creation (**James 1:18**).
- ✠ Israel (**Romans 11:16**).
- ✠ The “redeemed from the earth” (**Revelation 14:5**).
- ✠ Missions (**Romans 16:6**).
- ✠ Ministry (**1 Corinthians 16:15**).

46) There are seven gifts mentioned in **Romans 12:6-8**.

47) There are seven unities of **Ephesians 4:4-6**.

48) There are seven characteristics of wisdom in **James 2:17**.

49) There are seven gifts of Christ in **John’s Gospel**:

His flesh (6:51)	His words (17:8, 14)	“My peace” (14:27)
His life (10:11)	The comforter (14:16)	His example (13:15)
	His glory (17:22)	