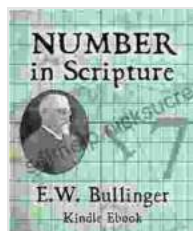


# The Significance of Numbers in Biblical Literature: A Comprehensive Exploration through E. W. Bullinger's Works

Numbers play a pivotal role in the intricate tapestry of biblical narratives, serving as more than mere quantities but rather as profound symbols imbued with theological and spiritual significance. E. W. Bullinger, a renowned Bible scholar and author, dedicated his life to meticulously unraveling the hidden meanings concealed within the numerical framework of Scripture. In this article, we embark on a comprehensive journey through Bullinger's writings, excavating the depths of his insights into the significance of numbers in biblical literature.

## 1. The Number of Perfection: Seven

Bullinger ascribed immense importance to the number seven, recognizing it as a symbol of completeness, perfection, and divine order. He observed that seven appears frequently throughout the Bible, signifying pivotal events and profound spiritual truths. For instance:



### Number in Scripture by E.W. Bullinger

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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- The seven days of creation (Genesis 1-2)
- The seven churches in Revelation (Revelation 1-3)
- The seven seals, trumpets, and bowls of judgment (Revelation 5-16)

Bullinger believed that the number seven served as a divine signet, authenticating the inspired nature of the biblical text and the authority of God's Word.

## **2. The Number of the Covenant and the Holy Spirit: Twelve**

The number twelve holds significant value in biblical literature, representing the covenant relationship between God and His people. Bullinger highlighted the following occurrences:

- The twelve tribes of Israel
- The twelve apostles
- The twelve fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

He viewed the number twelve as a symbol of divine completion and the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers.

## **3. The Number of Testimony: Three**

Bullinger recognized the number three as a recurring symbol of witness, testimony, and confirmation. This significance manifests itself in various biblical passages:

- The three witnesses in the heavenly court (1 John 5:7)
- The three temptations of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)
- The three days and three nights that Jesus spent in the tomb (Matthew 27:63)

Bullinger believed that the number three emphasized the principle of confirmation and the reliability of biblical truths.

#### **4. The Number of Man and Tribulation: Six**

Bullinger attributed the number six to man and the suffering he experiences in the fallen world. He noted that six is often associated with human limitations and struggles:

- The six days of creation, followed by rest on the seventh day (Genesis 1-2)
- The six years of famine in Egypt (Genesis 41:29-30)
- The sixth seal, trumpet, and bowl of judgment (Revelation 6, 9, 16)

Bullinger suggested that the number six represents the incompleteness and tribulations inherent in human existence.

#### **5. The Number of Time and Eternity: Ten**

Bullinger recognized the number ten as a symbol of time and eternity. He observed that ten appears frequently in the Bible in reference to periods of time and complete cycles:

- The Ten Commandments

- The ten plagues of Egypt (Exodus 7-12)
- The ten horns on the beast in Revelation (Revelation 13:1)

Bullinger believed that the number ten signified the fullness of time and the cyclical nature of human history.

## 6. The Number of Mystery and Fulfillment: Forty

The number forty holds a significant place in biblical literature, often associated with periods of testing, preparation, and fulfillment:

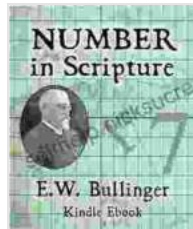
- The forty days and nights of the flood (Genesis 7:4)
- The forty years of wandering in the wilderness (Numbers 14:33)
- The forty days of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness (Matthew 4:2)

Bullinger suggested that the number forty represents a period of intense trial and ultimately the realization of God's purposes.

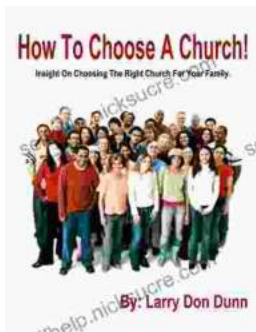
E. W. Bullinger's meticulous research and profound insights have illuminated the rich tapestry of numbers woven throughout the biblical narrative. His writings provide a valuable lens through which to explore the hidden meanings and theological significance concealed within these seemingly mundane digits. By understanding the symbolism of numbers, we unlock a deeper appreciation for the intricate design and profound spiritual truths embedded in the sacred text. May this exploration inspire us to delve further into the depths of biblical literature, discovering the timeless wisdom and divine guidance it offers for our lives.

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