

## FEAST OF TABERNACLES

### SUMMARY

We will emphatically demonstrate the Feast of Tabernacles is prophetic of the entire seven year period of the Great Tribulation. This view is in contrast to the popular interpretation of the Feast as a prophetic type of the Millennium.

Micah speaks of the Millennium: “**In the last days the mountain of the LORD’s temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it...They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more. Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid.” (Micah 4:1-4) Upon casual inspection the Feast of Tabernacles would appear to foreshadow this time, because people abide under the leaves of trees. However the leaf of the fig tree is not one of the four species of trees permissible under the regulations of the Feast of Tabernacles<sup>1</sup>. This interpretation does not fit.**

We will offer substantial evidence to support the interpretation that the Feast of Tabernacles is prophetic of the entire Great Tribulation. This will be the **prophetic fulfilment** of the Feast. During the Millennium the Feast of Tabernacles will be **celebrated**, looking back at its fulfilment in the Great Tribulation. As Zechariah declared: “**And it shall come to pass that everyone that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of Hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles**” (Zechariah 14:16). The same way the Jews keep the Feast of Passover, looking back to the event of the Exodus from Egypt, the nations will keep the Feast of Tabernacles, looking back at the events of the Great Tribulation.

At the end of this paper we will demonstrate a clear association between the meaning of spiritual numbers of the passages in the Law concerning the instructions for observing **each day of the Feast of Tabernacles** and the detailed events which occur in **each year of the Great Tribulation** as described in the Book of Revelations.

We will also present the parallel prophetic teaching in the gospel in the stars. For those who are as yet unfamiliar with spiritual numbers and prophecy in the stars we invite you to visit our website [www.biblenumberforlife.com](http://www.biblenumberforlife.com) and familiarize yourself with those forms of God’s truth.

---

<sup>1</sup> The four species are: Willow [Babylon]; Myrtle [Persia]; Olive [Israel]; and Palm [Egypt]. These refer to the four nations that first shelter then uproot the Jews, also described as the four horns (Zechariah 1:18-19). You might ask: ‘How could Israel be a nation that uproots the Jews?’ During the Great Tribulation the spiritual governor of Israel will prescribe worship of an idol upon pain of death. Believing Jews will flee in terror from their government into the desert. God will designate four craftsmen, angels, to fight back on behalf of the faithful remnant (Zechariah 1:20-21). This will become clearer to the reader in the rest of the document.

## BOOTHES IN THE BIBLE

We will start with a review of Bible references to the construction of booths and show, without exception, how this activity occurs during times of great fear, the helpless position of God's chosen people, a sworn enemy near at hand, and the imminent danger of being wiped off the earth.

### **Exhibit A – Moses and Pharaoh**

During the night of Passover all the firstborn sons of the Egyptians were killed. The Israelites were instructed to eat the Passover “**with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste...**” (Exodus 12:11) There was good reason to eat the Passover in haste because once the Egyptians finished grieving for their lost first sons they were surely going to come after the Israelites for revenge.

The Israelites did depart hastily. The Bible says “**The Israelites journeyed from Ramses to Succoth. There were about 600 thousand men on foot, besides women and children. Many other people went up with them, as well as large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds.**” (Exodus 12: 37-38). The word ‘Succoth’ means booths. The booths they built were hastily built temporary shelters to protect from the heat of the sun and to keep the livestock from straying.

Quickly the Egyptians came to pursue them: “**Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said “What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!” So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. He took 600 of the best chariots, along with the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them.**” (Exodus 14: 5-7). When the Israelites saw them coming “**They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, ‘Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us out to the desert to die?’**” (Exodus 14:11)<sup>2</sup>

The first example of events surrounding the Israelites building booths in the Bible has all the elements of our interpretation: great terror, a helpless position, a sworn enemy close at hand, and the imminent danger of being wiped out.

Interesting that after the Egyptians were drowned in the Red Sea the Israelites journeyed three days into the desert and came to Elim: “**where there were twelve springs [of fresh drinkable water] and seventy palm trees. And they camped there near the water.**” (Exodus 15:27) The palm tree is one of the four species used in the Feast of Tabernacles. Although the Feast of Tabernacles is a prophetic picture of terrible events, the hope of glorious victory and rest after the test of faith is also pictured.

---

<sup>2</sup> Egypt among all nations is particularly filled with graves: the pyramids and other monuments. In hindsight this statement was poignantly funny.

### **Exhibit B – Jacob and Esau**

In a way that foreshadows the Exodus from Egypt Jacob fled his master Laban and was angrily pursued by him. They made a treaty and Jacob continued on his journey to the Promised Land. Jacob was in a vulnerable position: his sons were not yet grown and could by no means protect him. He arrived with droves of livestock which made the pace of travel slow and at the mercy of an enemy on horseback. Similar to Moses he had the additional burden of women with children in the caravan and was in no way ready to engage in a battle.

Now Jacob must face his sworn enemy Esau, a mighty hunter with hundreds of armed soldiers on horses at his disposal. Jacob was terrified of the encounter: “In great fear and distress Jacob divided the people who were with him into two groups, and the flocks and herds and camels as well. He thought ‘If Esau comes and attacks one group, the group that is left may escape.’” (Genesis 32:7)

That night Jacob wrestled with an angel, and his name was changed to Israel which means ‘Struggle with God’. The next morning Esau arrived and was offered gifts to soften his hard heart. Esau made gestures of peace and assured Jacob of his protection on the journey. In the end, Esau took his soldiers and his lavish gifts and returned to the city of Seir in the land of Edom which now belonged to him.<sup>3</sup>

Jacob was by no means assured the initial pleasant greeting by Esau including the pledge of peace and amity was one he could trust. Jacob changed directions from the path he told Esau he would travel and sought protection by hiding in the hill country of Gideon: “So that day Esau started on his way back to Seir. Jacob however went to Succoth, where he built a place for himself and made shelters for the livestock. That is why the place is called Succoth.” (Genesis 33:17) Recall: ‘Succoth’ means booths.

The reader who is unfamiliar with life in those times might not be aware how unusual it would be to build shelters for livestock. There were no fences surrounding pastures such as we have today. Shepherds with animals shared common pastures with other people’s flocks and herds. Shepherds slept on the open hills at night. They protected their flocks from wild animals with slings and with their staff. To enclose animals in booths meant there was danger from human enemies. If an enemy attacked when the animals were in the open field the sheep would scatter and be lost.

The Bible says “Laban was told that Jacob had fled. Taking his relatives with him, he pursued Jacob for seven days and caught up with him” (Genesis 31:22). Thus, the tribulation and trial of Jacob was a period of seven days in duration. These events in the ancient past are portents of great events to come in the future. The Feast of Booths is seven days. The Great Tribulation is seven years and will fall upon the descendants of Jacob world-wide. The first three years of the Great Tribulation the enemy of

---

<sup>3</sup> The implication is while Jacob was leading a pastoral life for fourteen years in the hills of Syria, his brother Esau was waging war with neighbors. Through his military exploits Esau had captured a large territory and trained an army of expert horsemen to follow him. Jacob had every reason to fear the harm that could come to him from Esau.

Israel will be at peace with them. In the fourth year the enemy of Israel will 'catch up with him'. The pact will be broken and for the remaining time Israel's enemy will pursue them.

Our second account in the Bible of the building of booths carries with it the same pattern of events as described in the first account: great fear, a helpless position, a cold-hearted enemy close at hand, and the danger of being completely wiped out. The astute reader will note that Pharaoh lost his firstborn son and Esau lost his right as the firstborn son. The parallels could not be closer.

### **Exhibit C – Ester and Haman**

The connection to the Feast of Booths is more subtle in the case of the Book of Ester. Concerning Ester the Bible says: "**Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This girl was also known as Ester...**" (Ester 2:7) The Hebrew word 'Hadassah' means myrtle, which is one of the four species of trees used to enclose booths in the Feast of Tabernacles (Nehemiah 8:14-18). In the instructions for the Feast of Tabernacles myrtle is not specifically mentioned. The text in Leviticus specifies: '**magnificent trees**', '**palm trees**', '**willows of the brook**', and '**boughs of thick trees**' (Leviticus 23:40). The myrtle plant is a dense bush or a '**thick tree**'. We believe it is the plant in mind in Leviticus because it was one of the plants chosen by Nehemiah to celebrate the Feast. The word Hadassah only occurs six times in the Bible, once in Nehemiah in connection to the leaves used to cover the booths and three times in Zechariah in connection to prophecies concerning the last days of the Great Tribulation (Zechariah 1:7-17). On this basis we assume the story of Ester is prophetic of the Great Tribulation and is connected to the Feast of Tabernacles. Further evidence will be presented to support this assumption.

The story of Ester centers on the wicked plot of Haman the most senior Prince under Xerxes the King of Persia. When Mordecai would not bow down to him, Haman vowed retribution on all Jews. Under the authority of the King, Haman ordered dispatches to be sent to all provinces to "**to destroy, kill, and annihilate all the Jews – young and old, women and little children – on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month**" (Ester 3:13). This caused the Jews throughout the whole empire of Persia to be reduced to "**weeping and wailing**" (Ester 4:3) and dressing in sackcloth (Ester 4:1).

In the Book of Ester we see all the elements we saw in the two earlier examples related to incidents when booths were built: great terror, a helpless position, a blood thirsty enemy near at hand, and the imminent danger of being completely wiped out.

There is another connection: Haman was an Agagite. Agag was king of the Amalekites. Agag was smote by Samuel the prophet when King Saul did not obey the LORD's command to kill him (1 Sam. 15:8-9). This disobedience was considered so serious by the Lord that it ended the royal line of Saul. The Amalekites were the first to attack Israel when they came out of Egypt and they were hostile to Israel all through the days of the Judges. Amalek was the grandson of Esau! (Gen. 36:12) So, now we can appreciate the apprehension of Jacob – he knew very well that Esau (and his descendants) would

be the sworn enemies of his people. How did Jacob know? His father Isaac had prophesied concerning Esau: “you will live by the sword and you will serve your brother [Jacob, who had received the blessing – in other words, the highest rank in the family] but when you grow restless, you will throw his yoke from off your neck.” (Gen. 27:40).

Further parallels between Ester and the Feast of Booths / Great Tribulation:

- There is a seven day feast observed (ch.1 v. 5)
- There were seven eunuchs (ch.1 v. 10) seven wise men (ch.1 v. 14a) and seven nobles (ch.1 v. 14b)
- Ester was provided with seven maids (ch.2 v. 9)
- Ester was taken to King Xerxes in the seventh year of his reign (ch.2 v. 16)
- The day chosen for the destruction of the Jews was the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the 12<sup>th</sup> month, or the 343<sup>rd</sup> day of the year (ch.3 v. 13). We note that 343 = seven (7) x seven (7) x seven (7).
- The number of the enemies of the Jews who were killed in self-defence on the day Haman pronounced death was 75,810: which is seven (7) times 10,830 (ch.9 v. 12,15,16)

Why is the number seven (7) so significant when we see it appear all over the Book of Ester? There are precisely seven feasts described in the Law of Moses under the appellation “appointed feasts and sacred assemblies” (Lev. 23) and the Feast of Tabernacles is the seventh (7) feast. This also explains why the number seven (7) occurs so frequently in the Book of Revelations, because it too is prophetic of the Last Days and specifically the terrible seven year period of the Great Tribulation that will befall the world and the descendants of Jacob.

The appointed feasts and sacred assemblies are: Passover (1); Unleavened Bread (2); First Fruits (3); Pentecost (4); Trumpets (5); Atonement (6); and Tabernacles (7). Passover is the earliest occurring feast in the calendar and Tabernacles is the last occurring feast in the calendar. The Feasts of Trumpets (1st day), Atonement (10th day), and Tabernacles (15th day) all occur in the seventh month. All three of these seventh month feasts have a prophetic fulfillment in the Great Tribulation. Trumpets and Atonement are prophetic of specific events occurring on one day. The Feast of Tabernacles is seven days long and is prophetic of the entire seven year period of the Great Tribulation.

For further detailed insight into the Feast of Trumpets and the Feast of Atonement, please see page 4.0 PROPHECY on the website: [www.biblenumbersforlife.com](http://www.biblenumbersforlife.com)

### **Exhibit D – Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles**

In the seventh (7) chapter of John we have the account of Jesus observing the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem.

All the elements we look to show a connection between the Feast and the troubles of the Great Tribulation are present:

- (a) A sworn enemy close at hand: “**the Jews were waiting to take his life**” (ch.7 v. 1)
- (b) A helpless condition: “**he went, not publicly, but in secret**” (ch.7 v.10)
- (c) Danger of complete destruction: “**Isn’t this the man they are trying to kill?**” (ch.7 v.25)
- (d) Great fear: “**no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the Jews**” (ch.7 v.13)

A number of events occur in the account point to prophetic events that will happen during the seven year Great Tribulation:

- (a) Half-way through the Feast Jesus speaks out loud (ch.7 v.14) – At the midpoint of Tribulation when the abomination of desolation occurs, the Jews realize the Anti-Christ is not the Messiah, and they flee for their lives to the desert where they repent of killing the true Messiah Jesus when he was sent to them. At this very point in future prophetic history, they ‘see Jesus’ and ‘hear his voice’ and believe in his name (Zechariah 12:10-14 and Revelations 11:11-15)
- (b) On the last great day of the Feast Jesus declares “**Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture said, streams of living water will flow from within him**” (ch.7 v.38). The last plague in the Book of Revelations is the very great earthquake (Rev. 16:18-19) that splits the great city into three parts and causes all the rest of the cities in the world to fall flat. The Mount of Olives is split into two from east to west forming a great valley (Zechariah 14:4). The Bible says: “**On that day [the last year of the Great Tribulation] living water will flow out of Jerusalem, half to the eastern sea and half to the western sea**” (Zechariah 14:8)
- (c) Chapter 7 of John ends with the words: “**Then each went to his own home**” (ch.7 v.53). The picture of the Feast of booths is of believers being separated from one another **dwelling in booths outside their homes** covered in leaves. Micaiah the prophet in the days of Jehoshaphat said: “**I saw all Israel scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd, and the LORD said: ‘These people have no master. Let each one return to his own home in peace’.**” (2 Chron. 18:16) The crisis of the Great Tribulation for the Jewish people is that their master, the High Priest, will be shown to be the False Prophet. When they see him set up an abomination in the temple (Revelation 13:14), they will know he is not even a believer, and he will be disqualified to be their priest<sup>4</sup>. Without a high priest, and by extension without the priesthood, the

<sup>4</sup> The reader should note the ‘Beast out of the Sea’ is the Anti-Christ, the Gentile world ruler. The ‘Beast out of the Land’ is a Jew because ‘the Land’ refers to the Holy Land. Note also the Beast out of the Land had “two horns like a lamb”, (Rev.

believers among the Jewish people will be like sheep without a shepherd. The true believers among the Jews will scatter to the hills and live in the wild places [this is what the booths covered in leaves are intended to picture]. When they recall the teaching of the Two Witnesses and accept their astonishing resurrection as a miracle from God, they will repent and turn to Jesus, the one whom the Two Witnesses preached (Rev.11:4).

## **BOOTHS IN THE STARS**

According to ancient interpretation using the Jewish pictures and star names, the period of the Great Tribulation is presented in the Mazzaroth, or the twelve constellations of the Zodiac. There are two signs: Gemini: prophetic of the first half of the Great Tribulation where there will be two witnesses who testify; and Cancer: prophetic of the second half of the Great Tribulation where there will be two congregations who survive and become the harvest.

The constellation of Cancer does not picture a crab. That is the perverted Greek interpretation. According to the Jewish star names the constellation Cancer pictures two booths, or livestock holding pens. The large pen is Ursa Major, or the "Big Donkey" (popularly known as the 'Big Dipper') and the small pen is Ursa Minor, or the "Colt of the Donkey" (popularly known as the 'Little Dipper').

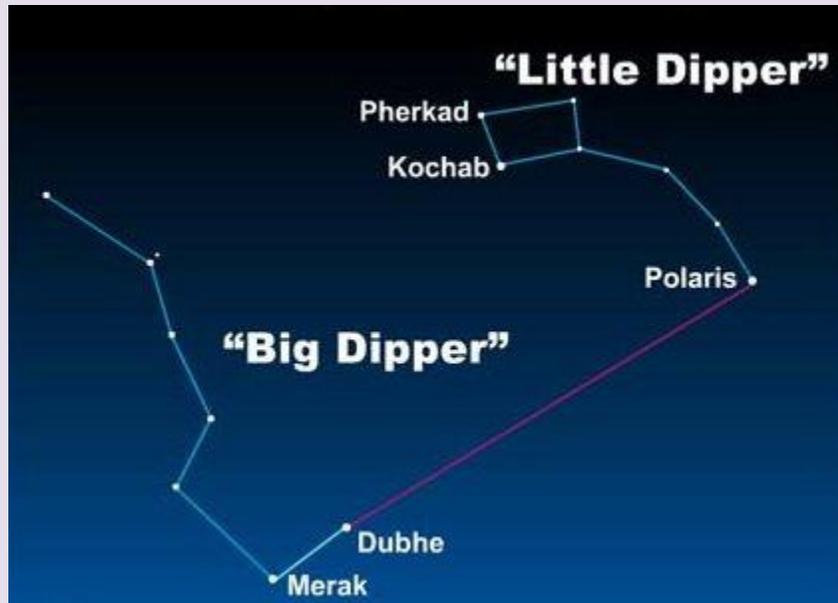
The large pen represents the 'sheep nations' who protect the Jews in the second half of the Great Tribulation and who enter the Millennium. The 'goat nations' who co-operate with the Anti-Christ to wage war on the Jews of course do not enter the Millennium. The judgement between the sheep nations and the goat nations occurs after the Lord returns from heaven to vanquish the Anti-Christ and the False Prophet (Matthew 25:31-46).

The small pen represents the 144,000 Jewish witnesses who miraculously survive the Great Tribulation plus the Jewish martyrs during the Great Tribulation who testify of Jesus, refuse to accept the mark of the Beast, and are resurrected to life at the beginning of the Millennium to rule and to reign with Christ.

---

13:11) in other words he dresses in sheep's clothing appearing to be a believing Jew but is not. He is granted power by the first Beast to be in charge of worship (Rev. 13:12). The only Jew that could be in charge of worship is the high priest.

How many stars do you think are in the ‘Little Dipper’ / ‘Colt of the Donkey’ (symbolic of the righteous Jews during the Great Tribulation)? There are Seven (7)! The ‘Big Dipper’ / ‘Big Donkey’ also has seven (7) stars in the same rib cage-plus-neck outline. See diagram below:



5

For further detail and analysis of the star signs Gemini and Cancer, please see page 7.0 STARS on the website: [www.biblenumbersforlife.com](http://www.biblenumbersforlife.com)

### SEVENS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATIONS

There are almost too many sevens to count. They include:

- Seven Golden Candlesticks (Seven Churches) / Seven Stars (Seven Angels of the Churches)
- Before the Throne: Seven Lamps Blazing (Seven-fold Spirit of God)
- Scroll with Seven Seals
- Lamb with Seven Horns & Seven Eyes (Seven-fold Spirit of God)
- Seven Angels who Stand Before God / Seven Trumpets / Voices of Seven Thunders
- Holy City Trampled 42 Months (6 x 7)
- Beast out of the Sea – Seven Heads (representing Seven Hills & Seven Kings)
- Seven Bowls of God’s Wrath (Seven Last Plagues)

<sup>5</sup> Source: Earthsky.org

## GEMATRIA ANALYSIS

### Exhibit A –Esau

The gematria [G], or numerical value of the Hebrew letters, of the name 'Esau' (עשׂו) is 376. The spiritual number 376 is equal to  $47 \times 8$ . The spiritual meaning of the number 47 is '**Abasement**' and the spiritual meaning of the number 8 is '**Believer**'. Therefore the spiritual meaning of the number 376, the value of Esau's name, is '**Abasement of Believers**'. The factors of the spiritual number of Esau's name can also be re-arranged as  $4 \times 94$ . The spiritual meaning of 4 is '**Message**' and the spiritual meaning of 94 is '**Proud Humbled**'. Therefore the spiritual meaning of the number 376, the value of Esau's name, can alternatively be translated as '**Message of the Proud Humbled**'.

There are a total of **91** occurrences of words with a gematria of **376** in the Bible: **78** in the Old Testament and **13** in the New Testament. This associates the spiritual number **376** with three other numbers: the spiritual number **13** which means "**Rebellion**"; the spiritual number **78** which means "**Miraculous Signs**"; and the spiritual number **91** which means "**Wicked Judged**".

Esau is a type of the Anti-Christ, or the Man of Lawlessness referred to in the New Testament. Compare the spiritual numbers of the gematria of Esau's name with the description of the Man of Lawlessness in the New Testament:

**"Don't let anyone deceive you for that day will not come until the rebellion (#13) occurs and the man of lawlessness (#21) is revealed, the man doomed to destruction (#91)."** (2 Thess. 2:3)

**"He opposes and exalts himself over everything that is called God (#376 Abasement of Believers) or is worshipped, and even sets himself in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God"** (2 Thess. 2:4)

**"For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one [Holy Spirit] who is holding him back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one (#21) will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy (#376 Message of Proud Humbled) by the splendor of His coming"** (2 Thess. 2:7-8)

**"The coming of the lawless one (#21) will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders (#78) ..."** (2 Thess. 2:9)

## **Exhibit B – Seven Day Feast of Tabernacles**

The longest passage of instructions regarding the Feast of Tabernacles in the Law of Moses is the passage in Numbers 29 which specifies the daily offerings for the Feast of Tabernacles. The list below presents the gematria value [G] of the Hebrew letters in all the words in each of the verses pertaining to each day of the Feast:

- Day 1 [ch.29 v.12-16] [G = 23501 = 71 x 331 [67<sup>th</sup> prime]]
- Day 2 [ch.29 v.17-19] [G = 10465 = 7 x 23 x 3 x 13]
- Day 3 [ch.29 v.20-22] [G = 10234 = 7 x 17 x 2 x 43]
- Day 4 [ch.29 v.23-25] [G = 9216 = 3 x 3 x (2<sup>^</sup>10) ]
- Day 5 [ch.29 v.26-28] [G = 9377 = 1170<sup>th</sup> prime [13x30 or 26x15]]
- Day 6 [ch.29 v.29-31] [G = 9243 = 3 x 3 x 13 x 79]
- Day 7 [ch.29 v.32-34] [G = 9027 = 3 x 3 x 17 x 59]
- Day 8 [ch.29 v.35-38] [G = 11820 = 60 x 197 [45<sup>th</sup> prime]]

The events of the Great Tribulation divide into the **first 3 ½ years, the mid-point, and the last 3 ½ years**. We will compare the meaning of the gematria of the days of the Feast to the period of the Great Tribulation to which they apply.

### ***First 3 ½ Years of the Great Tribulation***

**Day 1:** (**13** young bulls sacrificed) Numbers 29:12-16 **The first year** of the Great Tribulation.

The number **13** means "**Rebellion**". This sets the theme of the significance of the gematria of this passage in the Bible. The Jewish fellowship will enter into covenant with the Anti-Christ and thereby rebel against the one true God, to whom she properly belongs and is betrothed. It is important to note the Bull sacrifice represents the Gentile World Ruler, which in this case is the Anti-Christ.<sup>6</sup>

The key factors in the gematria of the text in Numbers 29:12-16 include **71** and **67**. The spiritual number **71** means "**Prophet**" and the spiritual number **67** means "**Gentiles Praise God**".

Every Jew who has celebrated Passover knows Elijah must appear before the Messiah comes. At the Seder service there is (by tradition) an empty chair for Elijah to remind the people of this truth.

Malachi says "**See, I will send you the prophet (71) Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.**" (ch.4 v.5-6)

<sup>6</sup> We invite you to see the paper "Taurus – Times of the Gentiles" on page 7.0 STARS of www.biblenumbersforlife.com for a detailed examination of the significance of the Bull in prophecy.

The first year of the Great Tribulation is marked by the appearance of the Two Witnesses who, like Elijah, are given “power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have the power to turn the waters of the earth into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want” (Rev. 11:6). The ministry of the Two Witnesses is a call to testify of Jesus. He calls them “my two witnesses” (Rev. 11:3) and they prophesy for 1,260 days (Rev. 11:3) which is exactly 3 and ½ years by the Jewish calendar. That means they are in Jerusalem at the very start of the Great Tribulation, i.e. the first year.

The Jews in Jerusalem do not respond to the Two Witnesses’ preaching and as a result plagues fall on the holy land. For example: “hail and fire mixed with blood”, “third of the sea turned into blood”, “waters became bitter”, “the day was without light”, the torturing locusts, and a 200 million troop army that marches across the Euphrates on dry ground (Rev. Ch. 2)<sup>7</sup>.

During the first year of the Great Tribulation, “the outer court of the Temple is given to the Gentiles. They trample on the holy city for 42 months.” (Rev. 11:2). This period of time is 3 and ½ years. In other words, they are there right from the start – i.e. the first year of the Great Tribulation. This is the connection to the number **67** which means “**Gentiles [in the place to] Praise God**”. Are they praising God in the outer court? That is unlikely, but they are **in the place for praising God** which is the outer court of the temple.

**Day 2: (12 young bulls sacrificed) Numbers 29:17-19 The second year of the Great Tribulation.**

The number **12** means “**Government**”. This sets the theme for the gematria analysis of this passage.

The prime factors in the gematria of Numbers 29:17-19 are **3 x 3 x 7 x 13**. This can be expressed in a variety of combinations of numbers and meanings:

- As **21** (7x3) which means “**Lawlessness**”; **3** which means “**Strong**”; and **13** means “**Rebellion**”. So the spiritual meaning of the gematria could be “**Rebellious [Man of] Lawlessness is Strong**”;
- As **63** (7x9) which means “**God’s Wrath**”; and **13** which means “**Rebellion**”. So the spiritual meaning of the gematria could be “**God’s Wrath [upon] Rebellion**”;
- As **9** (3x3) which means “**Judgment**”; and **91** (7x13) which means “**Wicked Judged**”.

During the first half of the Great Tribulation the Anti-Christ is the **one-world ruler (12)**. Yes, the Anti-Christ is strong in the sense he has authority over everything. He has also made a covenant, **a strong (3) pact of rebellion (13) against God**, with the High Priest of Israel. The deal provides that all the Jews in the world may migrate and live in the Holy Land and observe their religion. In return the Anti-Christ is given absolute world power and authority. How can this pact with the **world government (12)** be strong? It is made strong by the fact the High Priest of the Jews is co-regent with the Anti-Christ.

<sup>7</sup> All the trumpet plagues occur during the ministry of the Two Witnesses

Revelation chapter **13** describes the relationship of these two players on the world stage in detail. It says the Beast out of the Land (the False Prophet) “**exercises all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast**” (Rev. 13:12). Why is this rebellion so abominable to God? It is because the Anti-Christ is suppressing the worship of the true God and leading men to worship himself instead. Meanwhile, the False Prophet is playing along with this nonsense and is guiding all the people in the world to worship the Beast. He has also convinced the Jews that the Beast is the Messiah who has been sent by God to protect them and usher in the Millennium period of world peace.

As is to be expected, the true **God** is boiling over with **Wrath (63)** at these lies and deceptions. He brings judgments raining down to demonstrate that neither the Beast nor the False Prophet have the power to protect sinful people from punishment. God will have everyone know the rebellion is a wicked sin and He **Judges The Wicked (91)**. How wicked will those days be? The Bible says “**The rest of mankind that was not killed by the plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshipping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood – idols that cannot see, hear, or talk.**” (Rev. 9:20)

**Day 3: (11 young bulls sacrificed) Numbers 29:20-22 The third year of the Great Tribulation.**

The number **11** means “**Mystery**”. This sets the theme for the gematria analysis of this passage. The mystery referred in this passage is the identity of the sealed Jews who enter the Great Tribulation.

The prime factors in the gematria of Numbers 29:20-22 are **7**, **17**, **2**, and **43**. This can be expressed in a variety of combinations of numbers and meanings:

- The spiritual number **119** (7x17) means “**Loves Your Law**” and the number **86** (2x43) means “**Nations Worship**”;
- The spiritual number **14** (2x7) means “**Righteousness**” and the number **17** means “**Victory**”; and the number **43** means “**Humiliation**”.

In day two we saw the Judgment of God - He brings horrible plagues down on offenders. In day three we see the Mercy of God – He establishes a hope and a future for Israel in spite of its sin.

Before the pact between the High Priest of the Jews and the World Ruler was formalized, before the seven year Great Tribulation began, and before the great rebellion occurred, God was working in the hearts of faithful Jews who remained pure from sin in the world around them.

“**Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: ‘Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.’** Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.” (Rev. 7:2-4)

The Seal Judgements fall on the earth prior to the Great Tribulation. The Trumpet Judgments occur after the Seal Judgments in the first three and a half years of the Great Tribulation. The Seal Judgements are the “**beginning of sorrows**” spoken of by Jesus:

“**You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end [Great Tribulation; spiritual number (7) “The End”] is yet to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pangs. Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.” (Matt. 24:6-9)**

The Seal Judgments fit the description of Jesus of the birth-pangs: rider with sword (war), black horse (famine), pale horse (plague), souls who had been slain for the word of God (persecution), great earthquake (Rev. 6:1-14). A great persecution of Christians occurs during the Seal Judgments but after the sixth seal (Rev. 6:12) two things follow which happen simultaneously:

- 144,000 ritually pure Jews are sealed by God to be servants in the Great Tribulation (Rev. 7:1-8)
- Christians are raptured to heaven (Rev. 7:9-17)

These two things must happen simultaneously because when the Christians are gone the Holy Spirit goes with them (2 Thess. 2:7). The Seal on the foreheads of the 144,000 is a marker for the angels to identify them. The rapture of Christians signifies the end of the Age of Grace. The sealing of the 144,000 signifies the reinstatement of the Old Testament covenant dealings of God with men. Under this covenant there is no spiritual regeneration only a covering of protection or a ‘seal’. How can there be spiritual regeneration? The Holy Spirit is gone!

The Great Tribulation is the ‘Time of Jacob’s Troubles’ – it pertains specifically to God’s dealings with Israel, not with the church. It is the fulfilment of Daniel’s prophecy of the 70<sup>th</sup> week determined for ‘your people’, i.e. the descendants of Jacob. The fact the Christians disappear and the 144,000 Jews are sealed at the same moment in time is the clearest evidence possible that the Great Tribulation begins after the sixth seal judgment. The other clue is the Great Tribulation begins in chapter **seven (7)** of Revelation!!!

Now we return to the meaning of the spiritual numbers in the passage.

The description of the 144,000 who are sealed:

“**Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb standing on Mount Zion [#17 Victory], and with him 144,000 who had his name [Jesus] and his father’s name [Jehovah] written on their foreheads” (Rev. 14:1) “**These are those who did not defile themselves with women [#43 Humiliation], for they kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes [#119 Loves Your Law]...No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.[#14 Righteous]” (Rev. 14:4-5)****

The description of the task the 144,000 perform:

“And they **sang a new song** [#86 Nations Worship] before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders.” (Rev. 14:2-3)

These 144,000 are the Jewish preachers (“**sang a new song**”) who go throughout the world warning people in all nations to die as martyrs (Rev. 14:12) in the hope of resurrection (Rev. 14:13) rather than take the mark of the Beast (Rev. 14:6-7). They also predict the complete downfall of Satan’s world system and God’s wrath on anyone that takes the mark of the Beast (Rev. 14:8-12).

### ***Mid-point of the Great Tribulation***

**Day 4: (10 young bulls sacrificed) Numbers 29:23-25 The mid-point of the Great Tribulation.**

The number **10** means “**Testimony**”. This sets the theme for the gematria analysis of this passage. We provide an extensive discussion of the number 10 in the context of the generations since Adam in an Appendix to this paper. Each 10 generations God’s chosen people experience a crisis of faith: those who respond by faith are saved and those who disobey are destroyed. Amazingly, the crisis that occurs at the mid-point of the Great Tribulation is **the seventh and final test of faith** for God’s chosen people.

The prime factors in the gematria of Numbers 29:23-25 are **2** raised to the **10<sup>th</sup>** power, and **9** (3x3).

The spiritual number 2 raised to the 10<sup>th</sup> power means **utter and complete breaking asunder** of the **fellowship of the Jews (#10 Testimony) into two groups: the favored and the cursed**. The number “**Division**” (2) is raised to the power of “**Testimony**” (10). The number #9 (3x3) means “**Judgment**” and hints that God makes his final decision regarding this matter.

The mid-point of the Great Tribulation coincides with the prophetic meaning of the Feast of Trumpets – which is a symbol of the urgency and serious consequences of the betrayal of the High Priest in setting up the abomination in the temple – and the Feast of Atonement – which is a symbol of the **irrevocable division of the Jewish fellowship** into two groups: **the favored** (goat of the sacrifice) and **the cursed** (goat sent to die of thirst in the desert). If there is any doubt as to the interpretation of the destiny of these goats consider this parallel teaching:

“As surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the LORD fills the whole earth **not one of the men who saw my glory and the miraculous signs I performed in Egypt** [Seal Judgments] **and in the desert** [Trumpet Judgments] **but who disobeyed me and tested me ten** [#10 Testimony] **times – not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath** [Promised Land in the Millennium] **to their forefathers. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it** [cursed goat]. But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and **follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land** [favored goat] **he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.**” (Numbers 14:21-25)

The favored half of the fellowship of the Jews will enter the Promised Land, i.e. be part of the 1<sup>st</sup> resurrection at the beginning of the Millennium, by dying at the hands of the Anti-Christ as martyrs and witnesses that Jesus is the Messiah. The cursed half of the fellowship of the Jews will accept the mark of the Beast and die under the Bowl Judgments in the last half of the Great Tribulation. They will not be resurrected to live in and enjoy the Millennium.

Why is there a parallel between Israel in the first half of the Great Tribulation and the miraculous signs God performed **in the desert**? One clue would be during the first half of the Great Tribulation the Two Witnesses shut the sky so that there is no rain. Israel will turn into a desert!

### ***Last 3 ½ Years of the Great Tribulation***

**Day 5: (9 young bulls sacrificed) Numbers 29:26-28 The fifth year of the Great Tribulation.**

The number **9** means "**Judgment**". This sets the theme for the gematria analysis of this passage.

The prime factors in the gematria of Numbers 29:28-30 are: **2**, **3**, **5**, and **13**. This can be expressed in a variety of combinations of numbers and meanings:

- The spiritual number **13** means "**Rebellion**" and the number **30** (2x3x5) means "**Blood**"
- The spiritual number **26** means "**Gospel**" and the number **15** (3x5) means "**Peace**"

The last half of the Great Tribulation will be a time of **a great harvest of souls for Jesus**. As the 144,000 preachers share their message of good news, thousands perhaps millions of souls will turn their eternal destiny over to the safekeeping of Jesus:

**"Then I heard a voice from heaven say: 'write: Blessed [#26 Gospel] are the dead who die in the LORD from now on.' 'Yes' says the Spirit 'they will rest [#15 Peace] from their labor for their works will follow them'. I looked and there before me on the cloud was one 'like a son of man' [Jesus] with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud. 'Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe. So he that had the sickle swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested." (Rev. 14:13-16)**

The last half of the Great Tribulation will also be marked by **bloodshed as the rebels to God, entrenched in their hatred for God, die from his plagues:**

**"Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. Still another angel who had charge of the fire, came from the altar [#9 Judgment] and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, 'Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe'. Then the angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. They were trampled in the winepress outside**

the city [Jerusalem] and **blood flowed** [#30 Blood] out of the press, rising as high as the horse's bridle for a distance of 1,600 stadia" (Rev. 14:17-20).

**Day 6:** (8 young bulls sacrificed) Numbers 29:29-31 **The sixth year** of the Great Tribulation.

The number **8** means "**Believer**". This sets the theme for the gematria analysis of this passage.

The prime factors in the gematria of Numbers 29:31-34 are: **3**, **3**, **13**, and **79**. This can be expressed in a variety of combinations of numbers and meanings:

- The spiritual number **3** means "**Strong**"; the spiritual number **39** (3x13) means "**Disease**"; and the spiritual number **79** means "**Martyrs**";
- The spiritual number **9** (3x3) means "**Judgment**" and the spiritual number **13** means "**Rebellion**"; and the spiritual number **79** means "**Martyrs**";

Without belaboring the point, the last half of the Great Tribulation is a time when hideous plagues or '**strong diseases**' (**39**) will fall as '**judgment**' (**9**) on those who are party to the '**rebellion**' (**13**). For example:

"The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the Beast and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. Men **gnawed their tongues in agony** (#39 strong diseases) and **cursed the God of heaven** (#13 rebellion) because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done." (Rev. 16:10-11)

Where are the **believers** (#8) in this picture? They have been **martyred** (#79):

"I saw the woman was drunk with the **blood of the saints** (#79 martyrs), the blood of **those who bore testimony to Jesus** (#8 believers)." (Rev. 17:6)

The 144,000 witnesses of God are not exposed to the pain and agony of the plagues that occur in the bowl judgements. The bowl judgments only fall on those with the mark of the Beast (Rev. 16:2). The 144,000 who have the seal of the living God of their foreheads make it through the Great Tribulation unscathed.<sup>8</sup> Why are these witnesses preserved? By God's grace he will give every nation the chance to obey right up to the very end.

The fate of the Jews was decided at the mid-point of the Tribulation when they either: believed in Jesus and were promptly beheaded by the Anti-Christ, or they took the mark of the Beast and began to steadily die off as one plague after another takes them. The vision of the woman with the cup riding

<sup>8</sup> The reward of the sheep nations is for protecting the 'least of these my brothers' [who are the 144,000 witnesses in the Great Tribulation] (Matt. 25:31-46). We know there are sheep nations that enter the Millennium. Further evidence the 144,000 witnesses will be protected.

the Beast hints that the death of the saints is swift and complete. She is exultant – raising her cup - because she has wiped out the saints. Her glory is vain because God will raise them back to life.

**Day 7: (7 young bulls sacrificed) Numbers 29:32-34 The seventh and last year of the Great Tribulation.**

The number **7** means “**The End**”. This sets the theme for the gematria analysis of this passage. This is the “**The End**” (**7**) of the Anti-Christ **Gentile world ruler**.

The prime factors in the gematria of Numbers 29:32-34 are: **3**, **3**, **17**, and **59**. This can be expressed in a variety of combinations of numbers and meanings:

- The spiritual number **9** (3x3) means “**Judgment**”; the spiritual number **17** means “**Victory**”; and the spiritual number **59** means “**Rich Oppressor**”;
- The spiritual number **51** (3x17) means “**Praise**”; and the spiritual number **177** (3x59) means “**Trample the Poor**”;

Concerning the judgment of the rich oppressors, the Bible is explicit:

“Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!...**the merchants of the earth grew rich (#59 Rich Oppressor)** from her excessive luxuries...for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes ...Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself...She will be consumed with fire, for **mighty is the Lord God who judges her (#9 Judgment)**” (Revelation chapter 18)

For the connection between rich oppressors and trampling the poor we will visit the Book of James:

“Now listen **you rich people (#59 Rich Oppressor)**, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. Your wealth has rotted and moths have eaten your clothes...You have hoarded wealth in the last days. Look! **The wages you failed to pay the workmen** who mowed your fields is crying against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty! You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. **You have condemned men and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you. (#177 Trampling the Poor)**” (James 5:1-6)

The fall of Babylon will result in praise to God for his glorious victory:

“After this I heard what sounded like **the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting (#17 Victory): ‘Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, (#51 Praise)** for true and just are **his judgments (#9 Judgment)**”. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. **He has avenged the blood of his servants’.**” (Rev. 19:1-2)

***First Year of the Millennium***

**Day 8: (1 Bull sacrificed) Numbers 29:35-38 The first year of the Millennium.**

We note the eighth day is not a part of the Feast of Tabernacles because Scripture explicitly says:

**“On the fifteen day of the seventh month, hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. Celebrate a festival to the Lord for seven days.”** (Numbers 29:12)

However, in the instructions for the Feast there is a tag-on instruction for the Sabbath following the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles as provided in the Book of Numbers.

The number **8** means **“New Beginning”**. This sets the theme for the gematria analysis of this passage. In every way the Millennium will be a fresh start for planet earth. There will only be one bull sacrificed because there will only be one king of the Gentiles: the Lord Jesus Christ.

In all the offerings of the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles there were two rams, but on the eighth day there is only 1 ram. The ram stands for the leader of God’s sheep, the people of his pasture. During the Great Tribulation there were two leaders in competition for the loyalty of the Jews: the High Priest and Jesus Christ. Since the False Prophet was destroyed and the flock of disobedient Jews along with him, there is now only one flock of obedient Jews and one shepherd the Lord Jesus Christ.

The factors in the gematria of Numbers 29:35-38 are: **60**, and **45**. The spiritual number **60** means **“Earthly King”** and the spiritual number **45** means **“Preservation”** (as through a trial).

During the Millennium Christ will be the Earthly King and will rule from his throne in Jerusalem. But, he will also share this rule with the Jewish overcomers:

**“I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshipped the Beast, nor his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life [#45 Preservation] and reigned with Christ [#60 Earthly Kings] for a thousand years [Millennium]”** (Rev. 20:4)

The ones pictured here are not Christians, because Christians will not be in the Great Tribulation and therefore they will never have to refuse the mark of the Beast. That requirement to do or die only happens at the mid-point of the Great Tribulation. Therefore, the ones described above receiving these honors are the believing Jews who follow Jesus and are martyred in the Great Tribulation.

## APPENDIX – SIGNIFICANCE OF NUMBER 10 “TESTIMONY”

Every 10 generations from Adam it seems there was a test of faith. Some passed the test and some failed. The spiritual number 10 means "Testimony": either of faith or unbelief.

### FIRST TEST OF FAITH

Noah was the 10th from Adam. He lived in evil times. Men were so wicked God repented that he made them. By faith Noah entered the Ark and was saved. The rest of mankind failed the test and was destroyed in the flood.

### SECOND TEST OF FAITH

Abraham was the 10th from Noah. He lived in wicked days. Nimrod was king at that time and he taught the world to worship idols and bow down to the stars of heaven. Abraham's nephew Lot failed and went down to live in Sodom. By faith, Abraham lived a simple life in the hills. He and all his family survived the destruction of Sodom by fire and brimstone.

### THIRD TEST OF FAITH

Boaz was the 10th from Abraham. He lived in dire times. There was a severe famine in the land. Naomi left with her husband and her two sons to go to Moab. All the men of that family died. Oprah the widow of one of her sons returned to Moab, but Ruth the widow of the other son clung to Naomi and said "Your people will be my people and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die. And there I will be buried." (Ruth 1:16-17). God blessed the faith of Ruth: she became the great-grandmother of David. The nation of Moab has since disappeared from the earth.

### FOURTH TEST OF FAITH

Uzziah was the 10th from Boaz. By faith the priests warned Uzziah not to offer incense in the temple. They survived, Uzziah got leprosy. (2 Chron. 26)

### FIFTH TEST OF FAITH

Abiud, son of Zerubbabel, was the 10th from Uzziah. The prophet Haggai said "Until now, the vine and the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree have not borne fruit. From this day on I will bless you". (Hag. 2:19) Those who by faith rebuilt the temple were blessed. To those who did not return but who remained in the shade of Babylon, Haggai said "I will shatter the power of foreign kingdoms. I will overthrow chariots and drivers..." (Hag. 2:22)

## SIXTH TEST OF FAITH

Jesus Christ was the 10th from Abiud. By faith he went to the cross and died. Three days later he was raised from the dead and now sits at the right hand of the father in heaven. As the prophet Simeon said to Mary concerning Jesus "This child is destined to cause the rising and falling of many in Israel." (Luke 2:34) A great test of faith came at that time. Those who put their trust in the Messiah were saved. Those who did not were cursed. The Romans came and destroyed Jerusalem in less than a generation, or 40 years.

## SEVENTH TEST OF FAITH

The Great Tribulation is the 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel, which is 7 x 10. In the middle of this week the Jewish people face their most agonizing test of faith of all. If they want to be part of the first resurrection at the beginning of the Millennium they must testify of faith in Jesus and be beheaded for not accepting the mark of the Beast. This is the final test. Those who pass this test reign with Jesus forever.

## MEDITATION

The number 10 is composed of a "1" and a "0". The answer to the question of faith is either a resounding "YES!" (1) or an unqualified "NO!" (0). Concerning faith in God there is no middle ground. Jesus said "**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the father but by me.**" This is true during the Age of Grace, and it is true during the Great Tribulation.

Have you passed the test of faith? Are you placing 100% of your trust in the hope of eternal salvation on the merits of Christ's sacrifice for your sins on the cross? If the answer is yes, you are saved: completely and perfectly. The blessing of God awaits you. If the answer is no, you have no hope whatsoever. You are under a curse.

God will decide your fate. Are you one who has a "Testimony" of faith in Jesus?