

THE NUMBERS OF REVELATION

Numbers can have far more significance than their mathematical values.

In English speaking cultures, the number 13 is associated with bad luck, whilst 4 is bad luck in Chinese culture and 8 is lucky (especially if it's on your licence plate!)

In the same way, the numbers in the Bible have special significance. Here are some important ones:

7

THE NUMBER OF COMPLETENESS

The number 7 has massive significance in the Bible even from the very first chapter, where God makes the world in seven days. It symbolises perfection or completeness. This gives the significance of the number 666, a trinity of imperfection or imitation.

12

THE NUMBER OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The number 12 comes from the number of the tribes of Israel and so it (or multiples thereof) represent all the people of God. Jesus used the significance of this number in choosing 12 Apostles.

4

THE NUMBER OF THE EARTH

The number 4 comes from four points of the compass, and represents the world and what is in it. There are several groupings of 4 throughout the book which refer to judgements in creation e.g. the 4 Horsemen and the first 4 trumpets and bowls.

3 1/2

THE NUMBER CUT SHORT

The significance of 3½ is that it is half of 7. It stands for an incomplete period, of a time cut short. It is referred to in several forms in Revelation:
3½ years = 42 months = 1260 days
= Time, Times and Half a Time