

7 Feasts of Israel – part 1

Start our conversation on these 7 feasts by giving you a taste of how the number 7 is used in Scripture:

--First sentence in the Bible: (in Hebrew) made up of 7 words and 28 letters.

--(in Hebrew) starting with the first “T” in Genesis 1:1 and counting 49 (7x7) letters gives you “O” +49 letters gives you “R” +49 letters gives you “A” +49 letters gives you “H” = “Torah” = name of the five books of the Law.

--May seem like a just a coincidence, but starting with the first “T” in Exodus and repeating the above gives the same result.

--Leviticus doesn't perform that way, but Numbers does except it spells “Torah” backwards = “haroT”

--Deuteronomy performs just like Numbers does giving a backwards “Torah”.

--Leviticus – instead of every 49th letter, take every 7th letter and we get the name of God that He gave to Moses at the burning bush = “Jehovah” or “Yahweh” or יהוה

--When taken together we get:

Torah, Torah >> Jehovah << haroT, haroT

1. The Biblical Calendar is set up on a system of 7's

--7-day cycle, a 7 year cycle (land took a Sabbath), a 7x7 year cycle called the Jubilee when all land returned to original owners, all debts were canceled and all Jewish slaves were freed.

--The words related to seven are interesting also: the word “seven” is used 287 times or 7x41; “seventh” is used 98 times or 7x14; “seven-fold” is used exactly 7 times in the Scriptures.

--Those words taken together are used 392 times or 7²x7³!!

Revelation is also a standout with regards to the number 7: Lampstands, churches, stars, Promises to the over comer, 7 divisions within the 7 letters, 7 titles of Jesus (within the 7 letters), 7 Spirits, 7 Seals, 7 Horns, 7 eyes, 7 angels, 7 Trumpets, 7 Thunders, 7 thousand, 7 Heads, 7 Crowns, 7 Plagues, 7 bowls, 7 mountains, 7 kings, 7 Personages, 7 Beatitudes, 7 years of judgment, 7 “I Am” statements, 7 doxologies, 7 new things, 7 songs sung, etc., etc.

--The Book of John is organized around 7 “I Am” statements and 7 signs.

Matthew is the real standout for the use of the number 7 among the gospel writers: His genealogy is nothing short of amazing. Genealogy of Jesus in the original Greek:

A. Number of words in his genealogy that are divisible by 7

1. # of letters are divisible by 7
2. # of vowels are divisible by 7
3. # of consonants are divisible by 7 (dv. by 7)
4. # of words that begin with a vowel are dv. by 7
5. # of words that begin with a consonant are dv. by 7
6. # of words that occur more than once are dv. by 7
7. # of words that occur in more than one form are dv. by 7
8. # of words that occur in only one form are dv. by 7
9. # of nouns are dv. by 7
10. 7 words are not nouns
11. # of names in the genealogy are dv. by 7
12. Besides the names, there are only 7 other kinds of noun
13. # of male names are dv. by 7
14. # of generations are dv. by 7
15. # of times the definite article is used is dv. by 7
16. # of forms of the definite article is exactly 7.

B. In the first section of the genealogy (through verse 11) there are exactly 49 Greek vocabulary words.

1. Of these 49, 28 begin with a vowel
2. 21 begin with a consonant.
3. # of letters in those 49 are 7x38
4. # of vowels are 7x20
5. # of consonants are 7x18
6. # of these words that occur more than once is 7x5
7. # of these words that occur only once is 7x2
8. # of these that occur in only one form is 7x6
9. # of these that occur in more than one form is exactly 7
10. # of these that are nouns is 7x6
11. # of these that are proper nouns is 7x5
 - Of these proper nouns: 7x4 are male
 - Only 3 are female but they have a total of 14 letters in their names.
12. # of compound nouns is exactly 7
 - # of letters within these compound nouns is 49
13. Only one city is mentioned in the genealogy (Babylon) and it is written with exactly 7 letters in the Greek.

--Additionally, Matthew uses certain Greek words which no one else in the New Testament uses and he uses them a multiple of 7 times!

--Mark does the same thing..., as do Luke and John.

--Acts and all the letters and Revelation do the same thing—using unique Greek vocabulary words that no other book in the New Testament uses and they each use them a multiple of 7 times!!

As crazy as Matthew's genealogy is with regards to the number 7, Jesus' genealogy there has 66 names in it??

--His genealogy is artificially constructed (which was common practice among the Jews—leaving out certain names shortening the list for convenience) 21 names before Abraham are left out (**Mt. 1:1-2**) taking it back to Adam; 4 names between Joram and Uzziah are left out (**Mt. 1:8**) namely, Ahaziah, Jehoahaz, Joash, Amaziah;

--Matthew's is Jesus' legal genealogy connecting Him to the Throne of Israel which he can only receive from a male ancestor, namely, Joseph. His legal father (but Jesus receives no blood from that line since He is virgin born).

--Luke's genealogy is Jesus' bloodline genealogy through Mary.

--**Matt. 1:16** says Joseph was the son of Jacob; **Lk. 3:23** says Joseph was the son of Eli ---so which is he?? He is the son of Jacob and the Son-n-Law of Eli (legal son).

--Luke's genealogy has exactly 77 names in it compared to Matthew's 66.

--Matthew's genealogy is Jesus' royal one, so we would expect (after all of its 7's) it to have the 77 names; and Luke's genealogy is His bloodline or human one so we expect the 66 names since 6 is the number of man (**Rev. 13:18**).

--They are inverted because Jesus is a man though He is God's ultimate and eternal King (divine); and He is the ultimate and eternal King though He is a man, **forever**;

--So, we see a mixture of 7 (divine number) and 6 (number of man) because they are forever inseparable in the person of Jesus Christ.

--Even Jesus's name carries this mixture: Jesus=human name= 6 letters; Christ=Divine title (anointed one)= 7 letters

--We see this same mixture and inseparability in Menorah that Moses built in the wilderness for the Tabernacle: often referred to as the “7 branched lamp stand” but in fact it only has 6 branches but a total of 7 lamps **Ex. 25:31-32**.

--Jesus claimed to be or involved in every aspect of the furnishings of the Tabernacle—that lampstand was the only light inside of that structure. Likewise, Jesus claims to be the only light “I am the light of the world” (**Jn. 8:12**), so that lampstand was constructed to represent Him.

2. How does this all relate to a study of the Seven Feast of Israel?

--I left out a 7 earlier in the Jewish calendar—set up on a system of 7's: 7 day cycle Sabbath to Sabbath; 7 year cycle of Sabbatical years; within these years was 7 month season of Feasts.

--These 7 Feasts were set up organizationally exactly like the Menorah was, physically: 1st month= a cluster of 3 feasts; 7th month= a cluster of 3 feasts; off by itself in the “middle” was the remaining feast.

--As was true for the Menorah, so is true for the feasts—they represent Jesus and His ministry as the Light of the World.

--Jesus fulfilled the first four feasts Himself on the day of each individual feast in His first coming.

--The Bible calls them “appointed feasts” and that is what we see, they are like appointments that Jesus keeps.

What do suppose the chances are that He fulfills the final three in the same way in His second coming: He Himself fulfills them on the appointed day?