

NUMBERS

(An Older Perspective - 1870)

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Pythagoras

Pythagoras considered numbers to be influential principles in his system:

- 1 was Unity, and represented Deity, which has no parts.
- 2 was Diversity, and therefore disorder; the principle of strife and all evil.
- 3 was Perfect Harmony, or the union of unity and diversity.
- 4 was Perfection; it is the first square ($2 \times 2 = 4$).
- 5 was the prevailing number in Nature and Art.
- 6 was Justice.
- 7 was the climacteric^[1] number in all diseases; called the Medical Number. See Climacteric^[1].

Romans

With the ancient Romans the number 2 was the most fatal of all the numbers; they dedicated the second month to Pluto, and the second day of the month to the Manes.

Old Ecclesiastical

In old ecclesiastical symbolism the numbers from 1 to 13 were held to denote the following:

- 1 The Unity of God.
- 2 The hypostatic union of Christ, both God and man.
- 3 The Trinity.
- 4 The number of the Evangelists.
- 5 The wounds of the Redeemer: two in the hands, two in the feet, one in the side.
- 6 The creative week.
- 7 The gifts of the Holy Ghost (Rev. i, 12), and the seven times Christ spoke on the cross.
- 8 The number of beatitudes (Matt, v, 3-11).
- 9 The nine orders of angels.
- 10 The number of the Commandments.
- 11 The number of the Apostles who remained faithful.
- 12 The original college.
- 13 The final number after the conversion of Paul.

666 The Apocalyptic number^[2].

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Notes

[1] Climacteric - It was once believed by astrologers that the 7th and 9th years, with their multiples, especially the odd multiples (21, 27, 35, 45, 49, 63, and 81), were critical points in life; these were called the Climacteric Years and were presided over by Saturn, the malevolent planet.

63, which is produced by multiplying 7 and 9 together, was termed the Grand Climacteric, which few persons succeeded in out-living.

There are two years, the seventh and the ninth, which commonly bring great changes in a man's life, and great dangers; wherefore 63, that contains both these numbers multiplied together, comes not without heaps of dangers. (*Levinus Lemmus*).

[2] The Number of the Beast, the 666, is a mystical number of unknown meaning but referring to some man mentioned by St John.

Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast; for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six. Rev. xiii, 18.

One of the most plausible suggestions is that it refers to Nero, Caesar, which in Hebrew characters with numerical value gives 666, whereas Nero, without the final "n," as in Latin, gives 616 (n = 50), the number given in many early MSS., according to Irenaeus.

Among the Cabalists every letter represented a number, and one's number was the sum of these equivalents to the letters in one's name.

If, as is probable, the Revelation was written in Hebrew, the number would suit either Nero, Hadrian, or Trajan all persecutors; if in Greek, it would fit Caligula or Lateionos, i.e. the Roman Empire; but almost any name in any language can be twisted into this number, and it has been applied to many persons assumed to have been Antichrist, or Apostates, Diocletian, Evanthas, Julian the Apostate, Luther, Mohammed, Paul V, Silvester II, Napoleon Bonaparte, Charles Bradlaugh, William II of Germany, and several others, as well as to certain phrases supposed to be descriptive of "the Man of Sin," as Vicar-General of God, Kakos Odegos (bad guide), Abmu Kadescha Papa (our holy father the pope), e.g.--

M a o m e t I s
40, 1, 70, 40, 5, 300, 10, 200 = 666

L a t e I n o s
30, 1, 300, 5, 10, 50, 70, 200 = 666

One suggestion is that St. John chose the number 666 because it just fell short of the holy number 7 in every particular; was straining at every point to get there, but never could. See also "Mysterium"[3].

[3] Mysterium - The letters of this word which, until the time of the Reformation, were engraved on the Pope's tiara, are said to make up the number 666 - the number of the "Beast".

End

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