

Dear Friends,

Have you ever thought about the significance of numbers, in your own lives as indeed in the Bible? I guess most of us have a favourite number, in fact I have *two* favourites (3 and 7) and although I do not really know why this is, I am pleased to note that both are of great significance in biblical terms. Just consider this:



THREE

The number three is used 467 times in the Bible * it pictures completeness (though to a lesser degree than 7 – see below) * Jesus prayed three times in the Garden of Gethsemane before His arrest * he was crucified at the third hour of the day (9 a.m.) and died at the 9th hour (3 p.m.) * there were three hours of darkness during his suffering on the cross * Three is the number of His resurrection following His death which lasted three full days and three full nights * His three closest disciples (John, Peter and James) witnessed his transfiguration on Mount Hermon

SEVEN

The number seven appears 735 times in the Bible * seven is regarded as *the* number of completeness and perfection in all creation * There are seven days in the week and the Sabbath is on the seventh day * the Bible as a whole was originally divided into seven major parts, i.e. the Law, the Prophets, the Psalms, the Gospels and Acts, the General Epistles or Letters, the Letters of Paul and the Book of Revelation * the total number of originally God-inspired books was forty nine (or seven by seven), all serving to demonstrate the absolute perfection of the Word of God.

So, what is *your* favourite number, and why? Might this be an interesting exercise for you as well in your spare time?

Rev Preben Andersen