G
od uses figurative language to both hide and revea truth. The four 'parts of speech' in His figurative language are symbols, parables, figures, and shadows. Figurative speech hides truth from those who don't love truth (2Th. 2:10), but reveals truth to those who love truth. When numbers are symbols, God's figurative language works like this:

## The Biblical Number System

Each digit from one (1) through nine (9) has a specific root meaning. The zero (0) works to position the roots where the digits can reveal the hidden meanings.

Take a brief look at the list of roots on Page 2. Then look at the picture. Starting with (1), notice how each root meaning leads to the next root and its meaning.

The numbers ten (10), $(100),(1,000),(10,000),(100,000)$, magnify [multiply] the meanings of their associated roots. For example, (1) is an entity; (10) is a measure of an entity; (100) is a fulness of an entity; ( 1 K ) is a mature entity; 10 K is a measure of a mature entity; 100K is the fulness of a mature entity, and 1 KK is an oath of a mature entity.

Now, consider asking any fellow disciple what (8) means. I don't know what he or she would have said several years ago, but the answer you will get today is "a new beginning." I don't know who originated this definition, but those who believe this are a long way from the truth.

Moses' law requires the circumcision of every male child on its 8 th day. Why would a baby this young need a new beginning? All symbols, whether words or numbers, have root meanings. Only God can reveal these roots and meanings because only He knows what they are [see FL101 Private Interpretation].

That covers the roots and multipliers; now let's consider the numbers from (11) through (19). Look at the picture on Page 2 again. You know what will happen to the corn in the basket. Animals eat field-corn; people eat sweet-corn. In either situation, the corn will diminish until the basket is empty. And this gives us the clue to the meanings of numbers (11) through (19).

These meanings are opposites of their matching roots. For example, (11) is the opposite of (1); 12 is opposite of (2); (13) is the opposite of (3), etc. Take (13) as an example. Three (3) means conform, so (13) means rebel. In fact, I received this revelation from Ge. 14:4: "Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled."

Looking back at (1), the opposite of an entity is a nonentity, or maybe an unnamed entity. Thus, (11) means nonexistent or unnamed. Apply this to De 1:2 and this verse might say, "There is no short-cut from Horeb to mount Seir." [There may be more revelation yet to come for number one.]

## Using the Number System

Consider Abraham: "And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him" [Ge. 21:15]. In this verse, Abraham represents God (the Father) and Isaac represents Christ (the Son). Age represents time, so this verse may have contributed to Paul's revelation that age represents time: "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law" [Ga. 4:4].

Read 2Ki. 20:1-6 for our next example. Hezekiah, a king of Judah, represents Christ. Isaiah told him to set his house
in order because he was going to die [V1]. His description of himself in his prayer [V3] and his ascension on the third day [V6] confirms the above symbolism. The LORD hears his prayer and sends Isaiah back with this message: "... I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD. And I will add unto thy days fifteen years..." [2Ki. 20:5-6].

Look at the picture again. Note that five (5) represents work and recall that (15) is the opposite of (5). The opposite of work is Grace. Thus, knowing what (5) and (15) mean enables us to see that Hezekiah's sickness portrays him as Christ before the cross, his death sentence portrays the cross, and him "going up" into the house of the LORD on "the third day" portrays Christ's resurrection.

There is room for one more example. The LORD commanded Israel to appear before Him during the Feasts of Unleavened Bread [1], Weeks [2], and Ingathering [3]. Respectively, these represent three types of church assemblies for [1] Teaching, [2] Worship, and [3] Evangelism.

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared 3 times to His disciples. His 1st and 2nd appearances were indoors and His 3rd appearance was outside [Joh. 21:1-17]. After having caught 153 fish, 3 times Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him. After Peter's 1st answer, Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." After his 2nd and 3rd answers, Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

The 3 questions, the 3 answers, and the 153 fish parallel the 3 kinds of church assemblies. An 100 aligns with Unleavened Bread, which is teaching, 50 aligns with Weeks, which is Pentecost [practicing what you learned in Weeks], and 3 aligns with the apostle conforming [converting souls]. Notice how V11 divides 153 into its 3 parts - an 100 and 50 and 3 - another point to know about interpreting number symbols.


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