

**Chain Peculiarities**

Here's another tool for your toolbox. Chains can be literal or figurative, but every chain is a series of connected links. With either kind, the number of links determine the chain's length.

Except for their ends, all links in literal chains are the same. This isn't true in figurative chains. For example, a couple can have a series of six children. These links may include both male and female with all of them having unique temperaments.

In this family, birth order fixes the order of each link. And if another couple adopts a number of children, the adoption dates fix the order of each link.

Thus, we see a pattern, a rule. The links in literal chains have no specific order. However, the links in figurative chains have fixed positions. So then, builders of figurative chains must put all links in their unique positions

**Chains in Numbers**

In the base 10 number system, each digit has a unique position. Except when counting by 2's, 3's, etc., you cannot skip any digit from zero to infinity. For example, a chain from 1 to 20 requires that you put each number in its unique place.

You can shorten the chain by subtracting a digit, or you can lengthen the chain by adding a digit. But either operation must occur at the upper end of the chain.

Base 10 is the most popular system, but there are others. The scriptures use the Heptad system — a group of seven.

When counting week days, you start with Sunday and add Monday, Tuesday, etc. After Saturday you start over with Sunday. The Sunday after the 1st Saturday may be the 8th day of the month, but it's not an 8th day of the week. There is no 8 in the Heptad system. If this were not true, eight [8] could represent "a new beginning."

The simplicity of all this may be tiresome, but I must summarize this topic with two important points:

[1] Whatever the number system, all digits are subject to three levels of interpretation. Even so, their root meanings do not change.

[2] You cannot mix two number systems.

**Working with Base 10**

These are the biblical meanings of numbers from 1-10:

- 1 Beginning, first, etc.
- 2 Divide, sanctify, etc.
- 3 Conform, change, etc.
- 4 Of the world, rule, etc.
- 5 Works, servants, etc.
- 6 Image, word picture, etc.
- 7 Complete, finished, etc.
- 8 Put Off, an end, etc.
- 9 Harvest, reap, etc.
- 10 Measure, a line, etc.

FL204, "Introduction to Bible Numerology," contains a colored picture of the Base-10 system. It shows how each number's meaning links with the meanings of the numbers before and after it. The text also explains how to interpret the 10s, the Teens, the 100s, and the 1000s.

**Figurative Chains**

The links of some biblical chains don't have numbers. Their links do have unique positions, but each one is figurative. You can count and assign numbers to their links, but don't expect all the numbers to coincide with an agreeable companion. The 10 generations of Adam in Ge 5:1-32 form one of these chains.

The ten links are Adam, Seth, Enos, Cainan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech and Noah. If you parallel these with numbers 1-10, you will find some matches [see Jude 14].

However, you won't find numerical links in these ten names. They represent a chain of events that began with Adam and that will end with the rest of the Millennial Kingdom.

**Three Special Figurative Chains**

Certain scriptures form figurative chains that work both separately and together. Those listed here are "a must" for scholars who want to "Rightly Divide the Word of Truth."

- The 1st 6 of the 7 Creative Days
- The 1st 6 of Israel's 7 yearly Feasts
- The Six Principles of the Doctrine of Christ