

Notes

Exodus 20:5-6

and Numerical Parallelisms in the Hebrew Bible

Cf. Stanley Gervitz, *Patterns in the Early Poetry of Israel* (University of Chicago Press, 1963)

- Most: n//n+1; some n//10n; one n//11n
- Ugaritic and Akkadian also reflect these patterns

1//2

Job 33:14 For God speaks in one way, and in two, though man does not perceive it.
Ps 62:11 Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God;

3//4

Prov 30:15 Three things are never satisfied; four never say, "Enough"
Prov 30:18 Three things are too wonderful for me; four I do not understand:
Prov 30:21 Under three things the earth trembles; under four it cannot bear up:
Prov 30:29 Three things are stately in their tread; four are stately in their stride:
Amos 1:3 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four . . .
Amos 1:6 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four . . .
Amos 1:9 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Tyre, and for four . . .
Amos 1:11 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Edom, and for four . . .

6//7

Prov 6:16 There are six things which the Lord hates, seven which are an abomination to him:
Job 5:19 He will deliver you from six troubles; in seven shall no evil touch you...

7//8

Eccl 11:2 Give a portion to seven, or even to eight, for you know not what evil may happen on earth
Micah 5:5 And this shall be peace, when the Assyrian comes into our land and treads upon our soil, that we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men;

(Continued on next page)

Notes

7/77 (obviously exaggerative)

Gen 4:24 "If Cain is avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy-sevenfold."

1,000//10,000

Deut 32:30 How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had given them up?

Micah 6:7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

1 Sam 18:8 And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him; he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands; and what more can he have but the kingdom?"

Ps 91:7 A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand; but it will not come near you.

A surprising, complex exception to the pattern:

3//4//1000's

Exod 20:5 you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the **third** and the **fourth** generation of those who hate me,

Exod 20:6 but showing steadfast love to **thousands** of those who love me and keep my commandments.

"...once you've received God's salvation the most natural expectation is [that] first you will start worshipping Him...but secondly that you'll start keeping His commandments."

Notes

height

How was the Israelites system of law different from most modern western systems of law?

What explanation does Dr. Stuart give for the verse about God's "punishing the children for the sin of their fathers"?

What question should we ask ourselves when studying the 601 Old Testament commandments that are not part of the New Covenant we live under as followers of Christ?

What illustration of God's grace do we see in Exodus?

Why is the civil law given in Exodus nullified in Christ? What about the ritual law given in Leviticus?

length

What efforts do you see in your church community to break cycles of sin that might be passed down from generation to generation?

Notes

At what point in your life were you most motivated to live in obedience to God's law?
What got you to that place?

Depth

How do modern Jews deal with the 613 laws of the Old Testament?

John W. Welch. *A Biblical Law Bibliography*. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellon Press, 1990.

What are some different interpretations of the Ten Commandments, ranging from the most liberal to the most conservative?

John H. Gerstner. *Reasons for Duty*. Morgan, PA: Soli Deo Gloria, 1995.