

# UN Resolution 181: God Is in the Numbers

By T.W. Tramm

NOVEMBER 29 this year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UN Resolution 181, the historic vote that facilitated the birth of the Modern State of Israel.

The number 70 figures prominently in Scripture as it's associated with Israel, from the days of the patriarchs to the end of the age:

- Terah, Abraham's father, had his first male child at the age of 70.
- The Hebrews who migrated to Egypt during a time of famine, eventually becoming the Nation of Israel, numbered 70.
- During the Exodus, Moses appointed 70 elders to accompany him to the peak of Sinai to commune with God (Ex. 24:9-11).
- The Lord banished the disobedient Nation of Israel from the Promised Land to spend 70 years in Babylon (Jer. 29:10).
- In Daniel's "weeks" prophecy, 70 sabbatical cycles are determined upon the Jews and their Holy City, Jerusalem, to complete God's plan of redemption for both (Dan. 9:24-27).

Another significant occurrence of the number 70 in Scripture is in the Psalms, where a typical human lifespan is said to be 70 years (Ps. 90:10). That 70 years equal a generation is a critical piece of information in view of Matthew's prophecy that the *generation* who witnesses the "budding of the fig tree" (rebirth of Israel) will *also* witness Jesus' return (24:32-34).

## GOD'S FINGERPRINTS

In the Bible, certain numbers have a symbolic meaning. It's thus noteworthy when these numbers show up in the details of major prophetic events as a kind of Divine "fingerprint" showing God's hand. One example is the Six Day War, the particulars of which involve many numerical "coincidences." (See my article ["Jerusalem Day: Fifty Years Later"](#) for examples.)

Another seeming example of a Divine (numerical) fingerprint pertains to Resolution 181. The 56 nations who voted on Israel's fate in 1947 break down into three groups: those who abstained (10), those in favor (33), and those opposed (13).

The numbers 10, 33, and 13 each have an important symbolic meaning in Scripture.

## TEN

The number 10, corresponding to the abstain votes on Resolution 181, signifies completion and expresses God's omniscience and omnipotence:

- In the first chapter of Genesis the phrase "God said" appears 10 times.
- In the Book of John Jesus uses the phrase "I am" 10 times.
- There are 10 Commandments, linking the number 10 to man's responsibility to do God's will.

## THIRTY THREE

The number 33, corresponding to the votes in favor of Israel, is associated with resurrection and the promise of God:

- The 33<sup>rd</sup> time Noah's name is used in Scripture is when God promises to never again destroy the world with a flood (Gen. 9:12-16).
- The 33<sup>rd</sup> time Abraham's name is used in Scripture is when Isaac, the child of promise, is born to the patriarch at the age of 99 (Gen. 21:1-2).
- Jacob's (Israel's) wife Leah bore 33 children (Gen. 46:15).
- King David reigned 33 years in Jerusalem (1 Kings 2:11).
- Jesus' died at the age of 33, fulfilling countless prophecies and promises pertaining to the redemption of humanity.
- Jesus spent three days *and* three nights—a pair of threes, or "33"—in the tomb before being resurrected (Matt. 12:40).

## THIRTEEN

The number 13, corresponding to the votes against the establishment of Modern Day Israel, signifies rebellion and lawlessness in the Bible:

- The first occurrence of the number 13 in Scripture relates to a rebellion: “For twelve years they had been subject to Kedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled” (Gen. 14:4).
- The second occurrence of the number 13 in Scripture is in connection with Ishmael, the son born “according to the flesh” (Gal. 4:29). Ishmael was 13 years old when Abraham circumcised him and admitted him into the covenant to which he was a stranger in heart, and which ended in his rebellion and rejection.<sup>1</sup>
- Nimrod, the rebellious ruler of those who built the Tower of Babel, was the 13<sup>th</sup> in Ham’s line.
- The word “dragon,” a symbol for Satan, is found 13 times in the Book of Revelation.
- Haman the Agagite put forth a decree on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the first month stating that on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the 12<sup>th</sup> month all Jews in the Persian Empire were to be killed (Esth. 3:7-9).
- In Romans, the 13<sup>th</sup> characteristic of those with a debased or reprobate mind is that they are haters of God (Rom. 1:28-32).
- In the Gematria (the study of the numerical value of Hebrew words), the number 13 and multiples thereof are associated with the names of those who apostatized, rebelled, or who were in any sense the Lord’s enemies.<sup>2</sup>

## CONCLUSION

While some would attribute the voting numbers of Resolution 181 to coincidence, the Bible teaches that there are no coincidences with God.<sup>3</sup>

The number 10, corresponding to the abstain votes, speaks to the Lord’s omniscience and omnipotence. Surely, God was present and in control when the nations voted in 1947.

The number 33, corresponding to the nations who voted in favor of Israel’s statehood, speaks to resurrection and God’s promises. The Lord’s promises to humanity are being fulfilled via the Nation of Israel, “resurrected” by the 33 votes seven decades ago.

The number 13, corresponding to the nations who voted against Israel’s statehood, symbolizes rebellion, or those in opposition to God.

Why is the original rebel, Satan, opposed to the resurrection of the Jewish State?

Because he knows that as soon as the “fig tree” puts forth leaves his days are numbered:

*“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree [Israel]: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near ... Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened” (Matt. 24:32, 34).*

On November 29, 2017, it will have been 70 years—the length of a biblical generation—since the United Nations voted in favor of the establishment of the Modern State of Israel.

Jesus is coming soon.

Are you ready?

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#### NOTES:

1. It seems fitting, in view of Ishmael’s association with the number 13, that the 13 nations who voted *against* the creation of a Jewish State are mostly inhabited by the descendants of Ishmael:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Nations\\_Partition\\_Plan\\_for\\_Palestine#Final\\_vote](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Partition_Plan_for_Palestine#Final_vote)

2. Bullinger, *Numbers in Scripture*, p. 187.

<https://www.richard-2782.net/numberinscripturebullinger.pdf>

3. The Bible teaches that there are no coincidences. The administration of the universe is based not on serendipity but, rather, the mindful actions of an omniscient and omnipotent Creator (Prov. 16:33; Luke 12:7; Matt. 10:29).

More Numbers in Scripture:

<http://www.biblestudy.org/bibleref/meaning-of-numbers-in-bible/10.html>

<https://www.richard-2782.net/numberinscripturebullinger.pdf>