

Questions About Gematria & Numerology

Satan is mentioned 55 times in Revelation. Is the number 55 significant? Concerning the study of Gematria: are Christians permitted to understand the numerical equivalents of Hebrew and Greek words? True or False...Biblical Hebrew and Koine Greek are the only two known alphanumeric languages? Can we access deeper understanding of Scripture by knowing the mathematical sum total of the value of individual and composite Hebrew and Greek letters, words, and verses?

Answer:

That's a deeply insightful question — one that touches both the **mystery of biblical numbers** and the **boundaries of sound interpretation**. Let's explore this step by step with biblical and historical clarity.

1. Is the number 55 significant in Revelation?

The claim that “*Satan is mentioned 55 times in Revelation*” is general because the actual number depends on translation and textual variants.

In the Greek text, *Satan* (Σατανᾶς) and related terms like *dragon*, *serpent*, *devil*, and *accuser* describe him under different titles. Together, they appear frequently — but **not exactly 55 times** in most manuscripts.

That said, Scripture often uses **numbers symbolically**:

- 7 for perfection,
- 12 for divine government,
- 40 for testing,
- 70 for completeness, etc.

But **55** itself is **not a number with recognized biblical symbolism**.

Some numerologists claim that 5 represents “grace,” so 55 (5×11 or double grace) might symbolize “abundant grace” — yet such interpretations are **not grounded in the text of Revelation**.

So while numbers can be symbolic, **the focus in Revelation is spiritual meaning, not mathematical coding.**

2. What is Gematria?

Gematria is a Jewish interpretive method that assigns numerical values to Hebrew letters and seeks hidden meanings through arithmetic relationships.

For example:

- The Hebrew letters of “David” (דוד) equal 14, which explains Matthew’s genealogy structure (3 sets of 14 generations — *Matthew 1:17*).
- The number **666** (Revelation 13:18) is an example of *Greek gematria*, where *Neron Caesar* adds up to 666.

So, gematria existed in both **Hebrew** and **Greek** cultures — and the Bible occasionally *uses* the concept, but it never *commands* us to seek secret codes everywhere.

3. Are Christians permitted to study numerical equivalents of Hebrew and Greek words?

Yes — with caution.

There is nothing sinful about studying the linguistic and numerical structures of Scripture.

Understanding the original languages, their alphabets, and how letters carry numeric value can enhance appreciation for God’s design and literary artistry.

However, it becomes dangerous when we:

- Treat numbers as **hidden codes** for secret revelation,
- Build doctrines or prophecies solely on numerical values, or
- Replace spiritual discernment with numerology.

Paul warned against “endless genealogies” and speculative systems that “*cause disputes rather than godly edification*” (1 Timothy 1:4).

So, use gematria as **a linguistic tool**, not a mystical key.

4. True or False: “Biblical Hebrew and Koine Greek are the only two known alphanumeric languages.”

True — in the ancient biblical context.

Both **Hebrew** and **Greek** used letters as numbers.

- In Hebrew, *Aleph* = 1, *Bet* = 2, *Gimel* = 3, etc.
- In Greek, *Alpha* = 1, *Beta* = 2, *Gamma* = 3, and so on.

Other ancient cultures also had alphanumeric systems (like Latin numerals later on), but **only Hebrew and Greek** are both:

1. Alphanumeric; and
2. **Inspired languages of Scripture.**

That’s why numbers in the Bible sometimes carry layered symbolic meanings — they emerge naturally from languages where letters and numbers overlap.

5. Can we access deeper understanding of Scripture through numerical values?

Partially true — but with limits.

There are **two kinds of “depth”**:

1. **Linguistic depth** — understanding how Hebrew and Greek words are constructed, including poetic patterns, acrostics, and symbolic numbers. This is *safe and fruitful study*.
2. **Mystical depth** — trying to uncover hidden messages or codes that God supposedly concealed behind the text. This is *speculative and risky*.

The Bible’s true “depth” is spiritual, not mathematical:

“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us.” — *Deuteronomy 29:29*

The number 666 in Revelation 13:18 is the one clear place where **God invites calculation** — but even there, the goal is *discernment*, not codebreaking.

So, while numerical patterns can illustrate God's precision and artistry, **our faith and doctrine must rest on plain Scripture, not hidden sums.**

6. Summary

Question	Answer
Is 55 significant?	Not biblically established; not symbolic in Revelation.
What is Gematria?	A Hebrew-Greek system linking letters and numbers, used occasionally in Scripture.
Can Christians study it?	Yes, as language study — but not as secret code-seeking.
Are Hebrew & Greek the only alphanumeric biblical languages?	True. Both use letters for numbers.
Can numerical values reveal deeper meaning?	Only linguistically or symbolically, not doctrinally. True depth comes through the Holy Spirit.

Reflection

Numbers can illustrate the beauty and order of God's Word — but the **greatest revelation** is not in arithmetic, but in the person of **Jesus Christ**, the Word made flesh.

“In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” — *Colossians 2:3*