

## **Significance of the Biblical number Seven**

- Seven is a symbol of divine abundance
- Seven is a symbol of the totality of the created universe
- Seven is a symbol of eternal life
- Seven is a symbol of completeness and wholesomeness
- Seven is a symbol of cycles and completion
- Seven is a symbol of spiritual growth
- Seven is a symbol of divine connection

### **The number seven appears in the Bible over 700 times and has many symbolic meanings, including:**

- Completion or perfection
- The number seven symbolizes a full and complete world, and is associated with divine perfection.
- Rest
- The number seven is connected to the idea of resting, as God rested on the seventh day after creating the world in six days.
- Divine intervention or spiritual completeness
- Some scholars believe that the number seven represents divine intervention or spiritual completeness.
- The Holy Spirit
- The seven or sevenfold spirit in Revelation could be a symbolic description of the Holy Spirit.
- The Messiah
- The number seven is associated with the Messiah, who is described by seven qualities in Isaiah 11:2.
- The Lord's Prayer
- The Lord's Prayer contains seven petitions.
- Jesus' metaphors
- Jesus used seven metaphors to describe himself, including "the bread of life", "the light of the world", and "the gate to salvation".
- The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit
- The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

**The number seven appears in many other contexts in the Bible, including:**

- The seven churches in the Book of Revelation
- The seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls in the Book of Revelation
- The seven deacons chosen by the apostles
- God's sevenfold promise to Israel in Exodus 6:6–8
- The seven pairs of each clean animal on the ark
- The seven stems on the tabernacle's lampstand
- The seven-fold punishment for Israel in Leviticus 26:14–45

**The meaning of Seven in Judaism**

Seven is perhaps one of the most significant numbers in Judaism. The Jewish week is seven days long, because God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. (The Hebrew word for week, shavua, is derived from the Hebrew word for seven, sheva.) The menorah in the ancient Temple also represented the creation with seven branches, three on each side and one in the middle. (The Hanukkah menorah, with nine branches, is modeled on it.) The number seven doesn't just structure the daily cycle of Jewish life, it is also part of a Jewish yearly agricultural cycle. Every seventh year, called the shmita or sabbatical year, the land is not tilled but allowed to lie fallow and rest. According to Jewish tradition, there are 613 commandments that Jews must follow, but just seven for the rest of humanity. These are called the seven Noahide laws. At Jewish weddings, seven blessings (Sheva Brachot) are recited over the bride and groom under the huppah. In some cases, the bride circles the groom seven times, and in other contexts the couple circles one another seven times.