



19-Minute Studies: Grand Themes Key Words

Old Testament Themes & Words

Angel of the LORD
Circumcision
Fasting
Line of the Savior
LORD
Sabbath
Tithes and Firstfruits
Zion

New Testament Themes & Words

Apostles
Body of Christ
Children of God
Gospel
Kingdom of God
Persecution
Reconciliation
Repentance

Figures of Christ

David's Son
King
Priest
Prophet
Rock
Shepherd and Sheep
Slaves and Servants
Son of Man

Salvation Words

Covenant
Faith
Glory of the Lord
Grace
Holiness Redemption
Resurrection
Righteousness
Sacrifice for Sin

Important Symbols

Anointing
Fire
Idolatry and Adultery
Light and Darkness

Seven

Twelve
Water
Wind and Spirit
Yeast

Christian Life Themes & Words

Abraham's Children
False Teaching
Holy Spirit's Presence
Law
Miracles, Signs, Wonders
Names
Presence of Christ
Retribution and Restitution
Testing Faith
Witnesses

Seven

Genesis 2:2,3—*On the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy.*

1. What did God accomplish in the first seven days? What does this allow us to do every day of our lives?

Deuteronomy 5:12-15—*Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor the alien within your gates, so that your manservant and maidservant may rest, as you do. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.*

Leviticus 25:4—*In the seventh year the land is to have a sabbath of rest, a sabbath to the LORD.*

Leviticus 25:8,10—*Count off seven sabbaths of years—seven times seven years... Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants.*

2. How were the Israelites to honor God with the number seven? What did it show?
3. If someone asked me, "What book of the Bible has more 'sevens' than any other?" I would have guessed Revelation. Actually it is the book of Leviticus. Here are some of the ways seven is used in Leviticus:
 - Blood was often sprinkled "seven times" to cleanse
 - Ritual uncleanness often lasted seven days
 - Some offerings were offered in sevens
 - More festivals were celebrated in the seventh month than any other; most festivals incorporated the number seven into their remembranceWhen you put these "sevens" together, what do they have in common?
4. The book of Revelation also has many sevens, these and more:
 - seven letters to seven churches (1:11)
 - seven seals (5:1ff)
 - seven trumpets (8:2ff)
 - seven plagues

Revelation 1:20—*The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.*

Leviticus 4:17-21—*“[The priest] shall dip his finger into the blood and sprinkle it before the LORD seven times in front of the curtain... This is the sin offering for the community.*

5. In the Scriptures, “seven” is the special number of God’s interaction with people. Fill in the blanks: “Seven” is the number of God’s _____ with people, but in regard to sin, it is the number of _____.

A couple other examples of seven:

Matthew 18:21-22—*Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.*

6. What was Peter’s point in using the number seven? Jesus’ point?

Matthew 12:43-45—*When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, “I will return to the house I left.” When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first.*

7. Seven doesn’t *a/ways* describe something about God’s covenant with people.

Hymn

As we begin another week,
In Jesus’ name your grace we seek.
God, grant that through these seven days No
evil may befall our ways. (CW 223:1)

Prayer

O Holy God, give to us wisdom and understanding by way of your Holy Word. Enable us to treasure our partnership with God which has been established by Jesus Christ. Enable us to serve our Lord in complete peace and quietness, knowing that God’s covenant promise is sure and certain. Amen.

Helps

(1.) God rested on the seventh day, that is, he ceased his creating work because everything was perfectly complete. We can rest in the fact that God has created everything we need for our lives on earth and that he will always take care of us. (2.) They were to cease work on the Sabbath (which means rest). Resting demonstrated their faith in God’s willingness to care for them. God’s care was not just for their physical needs but for their spiritual needs as well. (3.) All of these rituals and ceremonies were God’s rules about how the Israelites should worship him. Each one demonstrated or remembered God’s undeserved forgiveness. (4.) Revelation is full of sevens. These are highly symbolic language. If you study these passages, it is very helpful to have a Lutheran Study Bible or commentary. The flip side to God’s forgiving love for his people comes out in these verses. Only when his enemies are destroyed will we enjoy God’s complete victory over sin. (5.) The Revelation passage shows Christ’s special protective care for his people. The Leviticus passage looks at forgiveness for sins, but a forgiveness that comes at a price. (6.) Peter thought that forgiving seven times would be worthy of God. Jesus points out that godly forgiveness is unlimited: seven squared, times ten more. That is how forgiving God is! (7.) As with most figures of speech, one must be careful of painting with too broad a brush. We use the plain sense of the passages to understand them, rather than forcing a preconceived idea on them.