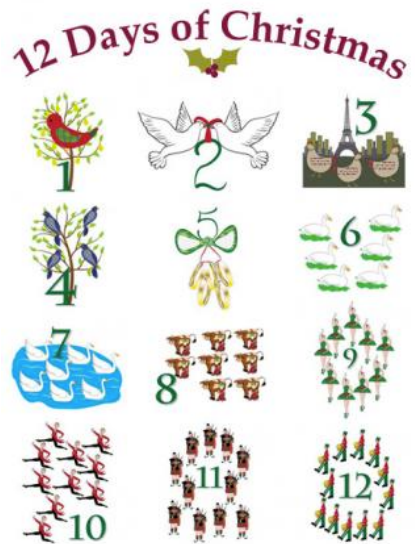


The Twelve Days of Christmas . . .

“I don’t like that song!” my daughter said. “Why, not?” I asked. “Because it is boring, too repetitious and silly!” I couldn’t disagree with her and then I remembered my mother-in-law telling me something about the song and Epiphany. So I decided to look it up! What I found was fascinating! The song was written for a serious religious reason.

The Twelve Days of Christmas are not the twelve days before Christmas as many people believe. They are the days between Christmas and January 6th, which is called **Epiphany**. This is the time in which the three wise men traveled to see the baby Jesus, arriving on Epiphany, January 6th. (<http://noelnoelnoel.com/trad/12days.html>)



Between 1558 - 1829 it was against the law for Catholics in England to practice their faith with severe penalties. Thus the song was created as a memory aid for children to remember important doctrines of their faith by hiding true the true meanings within the silly lyrics. The children sang it openly without the authorities knowing the real meaning.

The “true love” of the song is not a suitor but is actually God Himself. The “me” who receives the presents represents every baptized person. (<http://noelnoelnoel.com/trad/12days.html>)

God giving gifts to his people. This reminded me of the symbols of numbers and wondered if the song and number symbols complimented each other. I found my next project!

My son, Matteo, will be returning from his mission on January 6th, Epiphany! In honor of him and because I love numbers I will share these findings over the next twelve days! If you like history, numbers and/or symbology you will enjoy this journey too! :)



On The First Day of Christmas My Father gave to me . . .

Why a “partridge in a pear tree?” According to the Christmas website

“A partridge in a pear tree” is the symbol for Jesus Christ. This symbol is used because a mother partridge will appear to be injured when a predator is near to lure him away from her helpless chicks, representing the sacrifice she is willing to make. (<http://noelnoelnoel.com/trad/12days.html>)

This was new! I had never thought of the partridge as a Christ figure. The first gift God gave us was His son, Jesus Christ. "For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son." (John 3:16) His sacrifice made it possible for us to return back to God, the perfect 1st gift.

Recently I have studied the symbolism of the hand with its five fingers. The first digit is the thumb. In his talk, "Hold up your Hands," Sterling W. Sill talked about the hand and what each digit represented. He said the thumb is the anchor man to the hand and it represents the knowledge of God's existence.

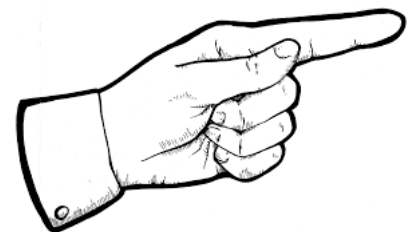
In symbology the number one represents God himself, the Creation, unity, order, omnipresence, faith, eternity, etc. The shape is the point and the circle. The circle has three main parts, the point, circumference and radius. Each of these three parts represent the members of the Godhead. The point is God, himself, eternal, unlimited, with no beginning or end. The circumference represents the Holy Ghost, also unlimited (never ending, pi). The radius represents Christ, lighting the path (line) back to God. Just as Christ chose to be limited in mortality, to live within the bounds of birth and death, the radius has a beginning and an end.

The thumb, the number one and the first gift in the song compliment each other. We can all agree that there is a God, that he created the earth and all of its inhabitants. He loves us and has given us the gift of His Son. Let us remember Him.



On The Second Day of Christmas My Father gave to me . . .

According to tradition the "two turtle doves" represented the two books of the bible, The Old and New Testaments of Christ. I imagine two identical doves looking at each other. One facing east and the other facing west. Which in turn reminds me of the Old Testament looking forward to Christ and the New Testament looking back on His life, both pointing to Christ. The Testaments teaches us about Heavenly Father's

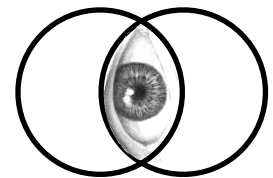


Plan and invites us to look to Christ for direction.

The second finger is the pointer or direction finger. It is how you show people the way. The word leader means pathfinder, one who helps others find their individual path, but you can only lead others when you know your own way. You must be converted in order to direct and lead. The second finger is two fold, becoming converted and becoming a leader or example for others.

In symbology the number two represents opposites, repentance, polarity, doorway, female, Heavenly Mother, The Fall (second article of faith), The Plan of Happiness. The shape is the vesica pisces, two equal circles sharing a radius. The Law of Polarity states that for every question or problem there is an equal answer or solution we only need a new view to see it. The vesica pisces forms the shape of an eye inviting us to see the solution and the answers and then we can help others see theirs.

You are “Shod [shoed] with the preparation of the [preparatory] gospel of peace” when you put on the Armor of God. This also deals with direction and the basic gospel principle of faith and repentance. Which way are you feet pointing?

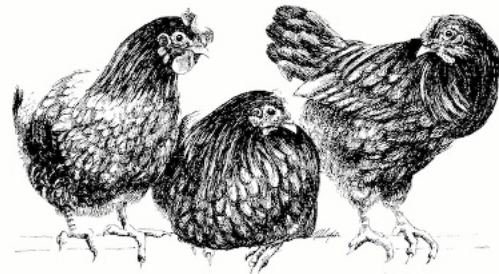


The pointer finger, the number two, the shape of an eye, shoes, and the scriptures all teaches us about direction and leadership. Which way are you facing? Learn a lesson from the two turtle doves and look to Christ for direction on our individual path.

On the second day of Christmas My Father gave to me two directions.

On The Third Day of Christmas My Father gave to me . . .

According to tradition the “three french hens” represents the three’s in the scriptures like faith, hope and charity; or ask, seek and knock. My professor taught me this statement with the threes.



Ask and ye shall receive faith.

Seek and ye shall find hope.

Knock and it shall be opened unto Charity (Christ)

There are many sets of three within the scriptures like the three degrees of glory, another are the offerings found in the Old Testament. They are the SIN offering, BURNT offering and PEACE offering. The sin offering focused on the killing of the sacrifice and the giving up of sin. The burnt offering focused on the burning of the sacrifice and dedicating oneself completely to God. The last offering of peace focused on the giving of the sacrifice (cooked) to others and the sharing of the gospel.

In symbology the number three represents unity (braid), the creation of the sun, moon and stars, Christ, first born (first 3D shape), The Atonement (third pillar in the Plan and third Article of

Faith). The shape is the triangle. Christ is at the top of this triangle looking down, shining light onto our path back to God.

In body language the third finger on the hand is the middle finger, the tallest of them all. This represents the desires of our hearts, our personal mission. The word 'desire' means "of God." Imagine sitting down with God, before you came to earth, and learning about your mission, the desires you would have. You were excited and couldn't wait to come and fulfill those desires. Now on earth our desires are clouded with beliefs. You ought to spend a lot more time than you ordinarily do in increasing the volume and intensity of your righteous desires. Ask to see them more clearly, seek to obtain them and knock down all the walls to receive them.

The third zodiac constellation is Scorpius, the Scorpion. With the heroes foot on his head it is the representation of evil being overcome by Christ our Judge. This reminds us that we are all in the same battle against evil together. Are you fulfilling your individual mission in not heeding the temptations of the devil?

The third gift from God is your mission. Everyone is given an overall mission and an individual mission. Everyone has the mission to overcome Satan. Individually, you have a mission to fulfill your desires by increasing your *faith* and sharing your message of *hope* and spread the *love* of God everywhere and with everyone.

On the third day Christmas My Father gave to me three great desires!

On The Fourth Day of Christmas My Father gave to me . . .

"Four calling birds." What are they calling for or singing to? Tradition tells us that this famous song was written to remember religious things and they portray it in the numbers, but I wonder about the items. Why calling? Why mostly birds? Was it only about meter? I don't know the answers but will to learn.



The four represented the four gospels in the New Testament. The first hand witnesses of Christ's mortal life.

Picture

The fourth constellation is Sagittarius, the archer. He is a centaur, half man and half horse, which represents the dual nature of Christ, being half god and half mortal. He is shown in the act of shooting the scorpion, the adversary. This is the task he was completing during his mortal life on earth

Picture

The number four in numerology means mortality or earth life. The universal symbol for earth is a circle with a cross in it. The earth has four seasons, four directions and four basic elements and four states of matter. It also represents the preparatory gospel of faith, repentance, baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost. Does that remind you of an article of faith? Which number?

The square is the fourth shape. Think about how we use this word in our language. "Are you dealing squarely with me?", "fair and square", "go back to square one", etc. These all have to do with relationships with ourself and others.

Now the fourth finger is the ring finger, the family relationships. This finger represent the source of most of your eternal happiness, satisfaction and education for both here and the hereafter. You have heard it said you only take to the next life what you learn, but you also get to take your relationships. What are you doing to strengthen your relationships? Our family relationships are our great source of satisfaction and pleasure. God is also our family and if we feel like His work is burdensome and makes us weary and not uplifting then we should reevaluate, repent and reassess. This mortal life is for us to find joy and we can do this through our families.

The first commandment given to Adam and Eve was to “multiply and replenish the earth.” This is exemplifies the essence of the number four and the Hebrew number 4, dalet. Could the four “calling birds” be four baby birds calling for their parents?



On the fourth day of Christmas My Father gave to me
four family members,
three great desires,
two directions...

On the Fifth Day of Christmas My Father gave to me . . .

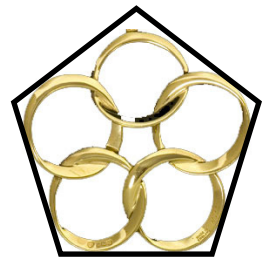
everyone’s favorite, “five gold rings!” Why are gold rings so popular? Their color? Their value? Their beauty? We are unsure the reason why they were chosen in this Christmas song,



but we do know the reason for the number five. It represented the first five books in the Old Testament, the books of Moses. The Hebrews call these books the Torah. Why are they so important? Because they give us all the stories from the creation through the exodus, plus all the laws and covenants they made and lived.

The number five as a pentagon represents life, regeneration and procreation. As a pentagram it means excellence and grace and as a spiral you see balance and cycles. And all of them elude power. God’s power is priesthood (article of faith #5). There are also many words in the scriptures that have five letters like grace and glory.

The human body can be seen as a pentagon when outstretched, two legs, two arms and a head.



There are many examples of five in the scriptures. David picked up five stones, the holy anointing oil was made of five ingredients, there were five kinds of animals used in the sacrifices, the tabernacle was measured in measurements of five.

The Hebrew number for five is Hay, anciently it was written as a man with his hands raised. It represented breath, life, thought, revelation and choice, all qualities of mankind.

Now the fifth finger is the pinky, the smallest of them all. He is not the last in the line-up but takes the quarterback position. He is the worker, he takes care of the production, the check-ups and the follow throughs. He is the “doer of the word” not just the hearers and talkers only. The hand has five fingers all working together. The right hand is the covenant hand, the one we make covenants with, like accepting the sacrament.

I’m reminded of the worker bee, who is small and seems insignificant but the one who produces the honey. Remember “jots and tittles?” they are the commas and apostrophes in the Hebrew language, tiny, but necessary and not forgotten by God.

Five gold rings, little worker, human life, hands, grace are all little things. But the number five also has great power. Procreation Power, Priesthood Power and Production Power. Remember the little things, be grateful for the little things for they have great Power! Can you see that in your life?



On the Sixth Day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . .

What? six geese a-laying, what are they laying? chicks or raw eggs or golden eggs? It would make a difference. Right?

Tradition uses the six to remind the children of the six physical days of creation in which the crowning creations were man and woman. The six has been given a bad reputation because in the book of Revelations it says, the beast is “the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.” This article will not focus on that, but on the positive, amazing aspects of the number six.

Think about all the six letter words, first there is Christ. Then all the seasons have six letters, spring, summer, autumn and winter. Many relationship words have six letters, father, mother, family and friend.

The sixth constellation is Aquarius, the Water Bearer. He represents Christ as the Good Shepherd and Master Teacher sharing His knowledge in the form of water to His students (the church) represented by a big fish. See John Pratt's Zodiac article, <http://www.johnpratt.com/items/docs/lds/meridian/2005/zodiac.html>

Lehi took his family out of Jerusalem Six hundred years before Christ. In modern times, there are six steeples on the Salt Lake temple and in the 1990's President Hinkley introduced his 6 B's.

There are many sixes in the Hebrew culture. In the Tabernacle you'll find six branches on the Menorah, the candlestick in the Holy Room. There are six symbolic foods in the Passover meal and six stone jars for wine at the wedding ceremony.

The sixth letter in the Hebrew alphabet is vav, anciently it was presented as a tent peg and its meaning is nail, stake, hook and connection. It represents the scriptures, bridges and links. We are the vav or link between generations and Christ is our vav between us and God.

The sixth Hebrew Holy Day is Yom Kipper, the Day of Atonement. This celebrates the coming of Christ and the fulfillment of His mission.

Christ died on the 6th day of the week. Don't forget that He was both born and resurrected on April 6th and the church was organized on April 6th.

On the Seventh Day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . .

my mother's favorite, "seven swans a-swimming." She loves swans and she also loves alliterations. This seventh day is dedicated to her, the woman who gave me my life and encouraged me to have many fun filled New Years.



Traditionally the seven symbolizes the seven gifts of the spirit. Isaiah wrote them out in chapter eleven. <https://www.lds.org/scriptures/ot/isa/11?lang=eng> They are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, fear of the Lord.



The seventh article of faith lists seven gifts, "We believe in the gift of tongues, prophesy, revelations, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, and so forth." (Article of Faith 1:7)

Seven and three are the most commonly used numbers found in the scriptures. There are 7 days of creation, Enoch is the 7th generation and taken to heaven (complete). Jacob worked 7 years Leah and 7 more for Rachel, Joseph prepared for 7 years of plenty and 7 years of famine, there are 7 Holy days (Lev 23), Naaman dipped seven time in the Jordan

river to be cleansed, John teaches to the 7 churches/cities is Asia. We are to forgive 70X7 times, there are 7 levels of persecution and 7 dispensations to complete the earth's cycle.

Seven in nature is found in cycles. Crystals have seven major systems to be created. Cells go through seven steps to split. Rainbow have seven colors. There are 280 days of gestation, a multiple of seven.

There are cycles in the Hebrew number seven or "shevah." It is from the root "savah" which means "to be full," "to be satisfied," or "to have enough of." (see Beloved Bridegroom) Think about the days of the week, seven days complete the week. The word "week" comes from the Gothic wiko signifying "sequence to which we come" which is derived from the Egyptian uak, the word for festival, a quarter of the moon's monthly cycle of 29.52 days equaling one "moonth." The seven-day rhythm creates and is a familiar cycle to all of us.

The Hebrew word "shevah" can also be read "shabah" which means "to swear" or "to take an oath." Thus, seven not only signifies fulfillment and completion, it also is a number for an oath and a connection to covenants and covenant making. Christ made a seven-fold covenant promise with Israel at Sinai. This covenant is remembered in the wine on on table of shew bread in the Holy Room of the Tabernacle.

Anciently the Hebrews drew a mattock or tool for the number seven. This was to remind them that on the seventh day they were to lay their tools and weapons aside for a day to receive spiritual nourishment. The seventh and last of the Hebrew Holy Days is Yom Sukkoth or Feast of Tabernacles. This celebration is about Christ's coming and taking us home to rest with God again in Heaven (His Tabernacle). The word "rest" means "security in the house of your husband."

On the cross was the seven word description, "This is Jesus The King of the Jews." Christ's last words was a seven word phrase, "Into thy hands I commit my spirit." (Luke 23:46)

The seventh constellation is Pieces, the two fishes that are caught in the bands of death and being dragged down to hell by the sea monster or devil. The two fishes represent the ancient and the latter-day churches. Christ stands at the head of His church (Eph. 5:23), the Great High Priest (Heb. 4:14) as depicted in the main star.

The seven swans were swimming and so were the two fishes in the constellation. There are so many commonalities within the number seven. What will you remember from this study? the word meanings? the seven gifts? or all the cycles? the covenants? The Sabbath Day? Whatever you choose may God Bless you on this New Year's Day.

On the seventh day of Christmas My Father gave to me
seven complete cycles,
six celebrations,
five things of power,
four family members,

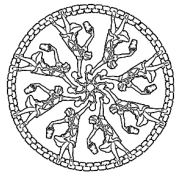
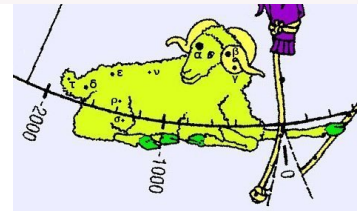
three great desires,
two directions ...

On the eighth day of Christmas my true love gave to me

eight maids a milking. The number eight in tradition was to help remember the eight beatitudes. They are eight consecutive steps to perfection. Each step represents a new level. Just like the octave. There are seven different keys with eighth being the first again only higher, repeating at a new level.



The eighth constellation is Aries, the Ram. The Ram's leg is extended to the bands holding the fishes and represents breaking the bands of death. He also has one foot on the head of the Sea Monster meaning he is defeating the enemy. He is an adult ram with a gold fleece that represents Christ's resurrected glory. Joseph Smith describe it as, "whose brightness and glory defy all description."



Chet is the number eight in Hebrew. The number eight represents rebirth, a new beginning and resurrection. Anciently chet was written as a fence. a barrier between our old life and our new life.

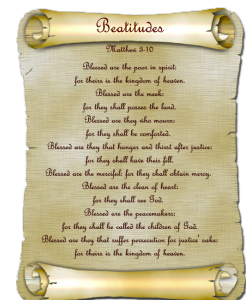
There are many examples of eight in the scriptures, but I'm only going to show you my favorites. First, there were eight survivors in the Ark, The brother of Jared created eight barges to ride to the promised land and it took eight days for Alma to take his people from King Noah's reach. Notice that each of these examples have the number eight, a new change and water. Baptism is a change and takes us to a new level through immersion in water at the age of eight. Baptism is the symbol for the death and resurrection of Christ. Cool?

In architecture a square (4) base and octagon (8) center leads to a spherical (1) dome and point symbolizing the transition (8) between earth (4) and heaven (1). Check out the steeples around you, most of them follow this same pattern.



The number eight, beatitudes and the constellation of the ram all celebrate the resurrection of Christ. They each represent reaching a new level, a change, transcendence. What will you change today?

On the eight day of Christmas My Father gave to me
eight new levels
seven complete cycles,
six celebrations,



five things of power,
 four family members,
 three great desires,
 two directions ...



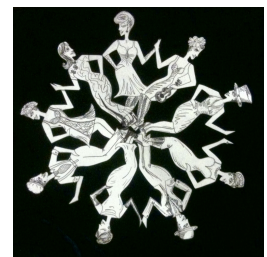
On the ninth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . .

ladies dancing. What are they dancing about? Are they celebrating the coming home of their missionary? I know I am. :) The ninth day is to help us remember the nine fruits of the spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." The gifts of the spirit are tools used to make the tree more fruitful. The purpose of a tool is to bring forth the fruits. For example these tools/value can help change a mans heart causing him to repent.



The ninth constellation is Taurus, the Bull. He is a white wild ox with two large, golden horns. He is charging forward. He symbolizes the tribe of Joseph and his two sons as the horns. The Bull also represents Christ as the Lord of Hosts making ready the Second Coming.

Tet is the number nine in Hebrew. It was anciently written as a closed baskets representing boundaries, keeping the good within and the bad out. It also reminds us of the walls of a home, where we allow goodness to come in and evil to stay at bay.



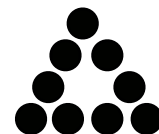
The Family, a proclamation to the world contains nine paragraphs and lists nine principles to help make families successful.

Nines are associated with growth and procreation. Mitosis, cell division, takes place with centriole which are made of nine parallel tubes in a circle. Sperm is made of nine twisted threads. It take nine months to develop a baby in a womb.

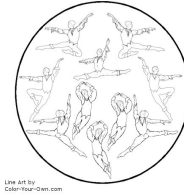
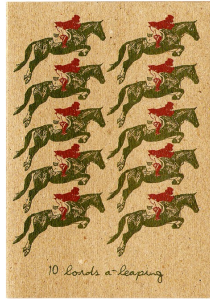
Divine goodness is the power to produce pure from impure, it unities pure and impure to create one entity.

Nine is a square number created by three rows of three. It is also a triangle number with four

On the ninth day of Christmas My Father gave to me
 nine spiritual gifts,



eight new levels,
 seven complete cycles,
 six celebrations,
 five things of power,
 four family members,
 three great desires,
 two directions ...



On the tenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . .

“ten lords a leaping” Traditionally ten was the used to remind us of the Ten Commandments. While the missionaries taught a young lady in our home they shared with us an easy finger play of how to remember the ten commandments and their order. I recommend you ask a missionary the next time you have one over.



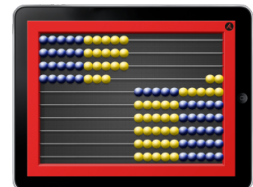
The number ten is unity at another level. We are back at ONE with another value, in this case a place marker, or zero. The root of TEN is ONE. TEN has all the values of ONE, unity, oneness, heaven, father, cycles, etc. Ten is ONE powered by TEN.

The etymology of the word ‘ten’

The word “ten” is derived from the Indo-European word *dekm*, signifying “two hands” a reference to our ten fingers. From Sanskrit *dasa*, Greek *deka* and Latin *decem*. The Germanic branch changed the “d” to a “tz” in “zehn” and from this came “ten.” In Hebrew and Arabic the word for “ten” is ‘kinsman’ or ‘tribe.’

Hands are the simplest examples which show the law of number. Both are *alike* and each is *opposite* from the other. Hands are the most versatile parts of our body and the only ones capable of reaching any other part.

In our school we use the AL Abacus to teach math. This is a base ten manipulative with ten beads on each wire, five of one color and five of another. This is just like our hands, five and five. It makes counting visual for children and they don’t have to count on their fingers. The picture shows 38, easily seen and understood.



Our currency is also a base 10 system. The coins equal to one dollar and the

bills can equal to the hundred dollar bill. I remember reading a book about a man who immigrated to America. Years later he was mentoring another young man and telling him all the things he could be grateful for and one of them was our currency based ten system. It is so easy to learn and grasp an understanding.

God enjoys using the number ten also. There are the TEN commandments, the TEN plagues, and the TEN tribes. There are TEN generations between Adam and Noah and another TEN before Abraham. The tabernacle and Solomon's temple were each TEN-part structured and measured. Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, the holiest of Jewish holy days marks the end of the TEN Days of Awe. The Levites received 1 /TENth of all income as their inheritance (Num. 18:22) and the Lord asked us to give tithing of 1 / TENth our income. Oh, don't forget the TEN virgins, they are still waiting for their bridegroom. :)

TEN represents the Power to Act. Multiplying by ten doesn't change the number but only act to expand its power! 50 is an expression of 5. It is expanded power.

'Yod' is the tenth letter and number in the Hebrew Alphabet. It is the smallest of all the letters, but the most powerful. Anciently it was written as an arm and a hand reprinting work and worship, wholeness and oneness, and the power to act. Yod' is suspended in midair and has two right angles implying the covenants that we make with our right hand.

'Yod' is small and seemingly insignificant just as our hand are small, but do the more work than any other member of our body. Just as one drop of oil hold the whole essence of the plant from which it come. Our cells hold the whole essence of the entire body.

Gemini, the twins are the tenth constellation. They are identical twins, one dressed in red and the other in white, holding a harp and a bow and arrows, holding a club. The twins represent that Christ is both the Father and the Son. We take upon us His name when we are baptized and He becomes our Father. He is the only begotten son of the Father and our brother. The twins also depict the first and second coming of Christ.

**On the tenth day of Christmas My Father gave to me
ten commandments,
nine spiritual gifts,
eight new levels,
seven complete cycles,
six celebrations,
five things of power,
four family members,
three great desires,
two directions ...**

On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . .

“eleven pipers piping” the message of the gospel to the world. Those who are blowing their horns in preparation for the second coming are faithful disciples of Christ. Traditionally eleven reminds the church members of the eleven faithful



apostles of Jesus. We are each disciples of Christ.

Uchdorf's talk about the child who was eleven years old.

Some say that eleven means disorder: $10 + 1$ or $12 - 1$; also disorganization, lack of fulfillment, imperfection.

The eleventh letter in Hebrew is Kaf. KAF literally means 'the palm of the hand', implying productivity and potentiality. It also means 'coerce', implying the power of man to suppress nature with his physical labour. The words that describe kaf are crowning, accomplishment, receiving, selflessness and hard work. The Hebrew number eleven is Yod (10, power to act) and Aleph (1, heaven). Eleven embraces all the principles of both these numbers.

The eleventh constellation is Cancer, the Crab. It is an animal which can descend into the sea and come back out onto dry land with its treasure securely held in its strong claws. The crab represents the descent of Christ into the Spirit Prison, to bring forth the captives from that prison in his tenacious grasp. **He is our Deliverer!** This is different than our Savior (see #8). To save is to preserve or guard against and deliver is to carry from one place to an intended destination.

The number eleven is thought of as a "master" number in numerology because it is a double digit of the same number. When this occurs - the vibrational frequency of the prime number doubles in power. Meaning, the attributes of the Number One are doubled.

Eleven is found in the scriptures. The last two Kings of Judah each reigned eleven years before the Babylonian conquest of Judah: Jehiakim and Zedekiah. Joseph was the eleventh son of Jacob, he dreamed of eleven stars bowing down to him (Gen 37:9)

Here are some fun 11's

- Martin Luther was baptized on Nov. 11
- Fort Wood on Liberty Island has the shape of an eleven-pointed star and is the base for the Statue of Liberty (New York).
- New York was the eleventh state
- The first plane to hit the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, was American Airlines Flight 11
- September is the 254th day of the year. $2+5+4=11$
- Apollo 11 was the first manned spacecraft to land on the moon
- There are eleven players on a soccer team, on an American football team, on a cricket team, as well as on a field hockey team.
- The First World War ended on the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month.
- "The eleventh hour" suggests urgency. Because the clock runs to twelve, this is the last hour to get things done.
- In Numerology number 11 is a Master number. A Master number is a double-digit number which also comes from a single root number. Number 11, 22, and 33 are Master numbers.

November 11th is Remembrance Day. My grandma called it, Poppy Day and it is also Veterans Day. It was to commemorate those who were killed in times of war. We wore artificial poppies to commemorate the veterans. Poppies have been the symbol of eternal sleep and death.

**On the eleventh day of Christmas My Father gave to me
eleven apostle's of Jesus
ten commandments,
nine spiritual gifts,
eight new levels,
seven complete cycles,
six celebrations,
five things of power,
four family members,
three great desires,
two directions ...**

On the twelve day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . .

“twelve drummers drumming” the rhythm while walking the path back to God. The Catholic’s repeated “The Apostle’s Creed” every day to help the remember Christ. It has 12 points of doctrine. It reads:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He arose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

The twelfth and final zodiac constellation is Leo, the Lion, the King of Kings. He is crushing the head of the serpent. Christ is referred to as the “Lion of the tribe of Judah” (Rev 5:5) Leo is the symbol of Christ conquering Satan and then reigning as King of Kings.

‘Lamed’ is the twelfth letter in the Hebrew Alphabet and the tallest. It is known as the majestic letter, the King of all other letters. Anciently it was written as a shepherd’s staff. Symbolically it represents Christ as the leader of the flock.

The twelfth article of faith is about government. “We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law.”

Just for Fun:

- * twelve signs of the zodiac
- * twelve months in the year
- * twelve tribes of Israel
- * twelve stones on the High Priest breastplate
- * twelve statues of oxen helped up the water basin in Solomon’s Temple (1 Kings 7:25)
- * twelve apostles
- * twelve gates to the New Jerusalem (Rev 21:12)
- * twelve kinds of fruits on the trees of life in the new creation (Rev. 22:2)

Twelve can be found in 187 places in God's word. The meaning of 12, which is considered a perfect number, is that it symbolizes God's power and authority, as well as serving as a perfect governmental foundation. It can also symbolize completeness or wholeness. For example, Jacob (Israel) had twelve sons, each of which represented a tribe begun by one of his sons or a prince.

The eagle has twelve tail feathers. These are the most powerful of all its feathers. These are the white feathers with the black tips, the steering, landing feathers. The Native Americans illustrated these feathers as lightning. Lightning produces chemical changes by uniting nitrogen and oxygen, thereby bringing nitrates to the soil of the earth with the rain. This helped the plants to grow. This symbolized the white surge of enlightenment that expands the mind. Can you see why they did rain dances? They believed that “rain is the liquid spirit - or essence or soul - of clouds.” (see my next series on eagles for more)

The traditional sweat lodge and tepee structures are still ritually constructed to look like the zodiac pattern of a calendar resting on twelve poles. Each section had an object or symbol representing a month and a constellation.

Twelve is double six and called the dodekad or “two ten” in Greek.

The wonder of twelve is that it has so many divisors (one, two, three, four, and six), making it the supreme number. This is one of the reasons why our founding fathers chose it to be our system of measure. Other reasons was to remember its symbolic connection to God and Christ. Three of these divisors shape (triangle, square, hexagon) tessellate, covers a flat surface without leaving gaps.

How do you choose what to write about with the number twelve, it is so rich!

The theme of twelve is power (tail feathers), order (months), government

On the twelfth day of Christmas My Father gave to me

twelve
eleven apostle's of Jesus
ten commandments,
nine spiritual gifts,
eight new levels,
seven complete cycles,
six celebrations,
five things of power,
four family members,
three great desires,
two directions ...

With lightning comes thunder, the voice of heaven. Together lightning and thunder speak visually and audibly, from heaven to earth. Thunder is not only a represented by feather but by crystal stone or flint. Fint has the properties of lightning because fire comes format when it is struck. wore on the head dress.

Twelve is a solar number, twelve month in a year.

On the thirteenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . .

what? there is not a thirteenth day of Christmas? That's ok, may I share with you my discovery of the number thirteen? Many consider it to be the "unlucky" number and I want to show you its power!

When the founding fathers began designing the United States Seal they wanted to use the Exodus from Egypt as their design as they were leaving their mother country, England. After much discussion they changed it for a design that portrayed the purpose of the Exodus, leaving world Egypt to Mt. Sinai to make covenant with God. They used a pyramid as the mountain where God above and the world below.

The square base of the pyramid represented physical life or mortality (see number 4). It represented strength and duration. The thick foundation below represents our "outward expressions, our energetic psyche and denser body."

The triangle, all seeing eye floats above representing the spiritual life or heaven (see number 3). The eye represents our "ever-awake, deep divine spiritual self." Three above and four below is a symbol of the Sphinx trapezoidal head dress, which implies an unseen trinity or spiritual life above it. The three above and the four below implies our divine nature, inward (spiritual, unseen) and outward (physical, seen) expression. As a bigger picture, all on earth (4), physical life is growing upward, striving to become complete with Christ (3) becoming equal (equilateral triangle - equal, same in all areas of life) with God.

The ribbon at the bottom is in the shape of an open circle meaning birth. The words within the ribbon read, "Novus Ordo Seclorum" Latin for, "a new order of the ages (is born)," referring to the new American era. At the base of the pyramid are Roman numerals, MDCCLXXVI, for the year 1776, the year of the birth of our Nation.

How many thirteens can you find on the Seal? To the founding fathers the number thirteen represented "progress, perpetuity and perfection." They designed the seal with twelve surrounding the one. Example of this idea are: the twelve tribes surrounding Moses or twelve apostles surrounding Jesus or the twelve zodiac surrounding the sun.

On the "Reverse" side, the pyramid is the most prominent object:

1.

There are 13 steps on the unfinished pyramid meaning there was still room for growth as a nation. It is said the steps represent the thirteen cycles of the First-Sun Age in Mesoamerican pyramids. An obligation was assigned to each step. 1) treat others as you would be treated, 2) "Seek the whole truth", 3) "Do your own share of the work. You cannot enter heaven on the back of servants." and 4 - 10) identical to those of the ten commandments. The last three steps "cannot be disclosed."

2.

There are 13 letters in the title, "Annuit Coeptis" which is Latin for "He (God) has favored (smiled upon) our undertakings." The founding fathers believed that God provided providentially for the success during the struggle for freedom.

3. There are 26 (2x13) letters in "MDCCLXXVI" plus "Novus ordo seclorum" at the base of the pyramid.

On the obverse side (the US was the first to have a two sides) of the seal:

"Obverse" means the object has a counterpart, an indication there two things about the object. This is the side used on all the official documents. Both sides can be seen on the one dollar bill.

4.

The eagle is the most prominent feature. Across the breast of the eagle is a shield with 13 alternating red and white stripes (the pales) representing the 13 original States. The stripes on the seal begin and end with the white stripe unlike the flag the begins and ends with red. This represents the desire for peace. Across the top of the shield is a blue field (chief) that unites all the stripes into one. It represented the United States Congress. Charles Thompson, Secretary of the Continental congress, introduced the design for the new Seal and said, "The colors of the pales are those used in the flag of the United States of america; White signifies purity and innocence, Red, hardiness and valour, and Blue, the color of the Chief signifies vigilance, perseverance and justice." The eagle became our national "Coat of Arms."

5.

In his right talons the eagle grasps an olive branch with thirteen berries representing peace. He is looking to the right saying he prefers peace.

6.

In his left talon the eagle grasps 13 arrows representing war meaning our willingness to defend our nation.

7.

Above the eagle are 13 stars inside a circular design, representing a “New Constellation”, the same constellation referred to in the blue union of the United States Flag. This constellation is in the form of the Star of David or two triangles, one pointing up and the other pointing down. It is also 12 surrounding one. The surrounding circle is both a cloud and fire representing the pillar of fire by day and cloud by night that God used to guide the Israelite back to their promised land. Here it represents the guidance God is still giving those who choose to follow Him.



8.

In his beak the eagle grasps a flowing ribbon bearing the first Motto of the United States, “E Pluribus Unum.” There are 13 letters in this motto which is Latin for, “Out of many, One,” reminding us that out of many States is born One New Nation. It can also be viewed on a spiritual level out of many (all of us) we will return to and be One with God. On June 30, 1956 the words, “In God we Trust” were designated as our National Motto.

There are eight thirteens found on the Seal representing the “rebirth” (see number 8) of a great Nation.

If thirteen was good enough for the founding fathers it is good enough for us! Thirteen is a number