

# The Chapter in the Bible With the Most Numbers



Practicing Reading Numbers in Word  
Form, Writing Numbers in Standard Form,  
Place Value, Addition, and Subtraction

Jim Bennett

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## Introducing the Lesson

Which chapter in the Bible has the most numbers?

The Bible has so many numbers in it that it's very difficult to say which chapter actually has the most. One of the books of the Bible has so many numbers that it was even named Numbers.

Most people would surmise that the book of Numbers must have more numbers in it than any other book of the Bible. However, which chapter has the most numbers?

I could be wrong, but it seems to me that Ezra 2 and Nehemiah 7 tie for having the most numbers of any chapters. They tie because they basically have the same information—a count of all the Israelite people who returned to their homeland from Babylonian captivity.

## Read Ezra Chapter 2

Note: It is important which version you use for this lesson. The King James, New King James, Revised Standard, and New Revised Standard versions give the numbers in word form. This is important for the first part of this lesson. The New International, Living, and New Living versions list the numbers in standard form.

For convenience, Ezra 2 from the King James version is reproduced on the following pages.

## Things to Think About

1. What is the subject of this chapter? (*It's a census*)
2. Why do you think a chapter that is so full of numbers is included in the Bible? What can we possibly learn from it? (*Accept all reasonable answers. Possible answers: These numbers are a way to honor and preserve the memory of the people who by faith and courage survived the captivity and returned to their homeland. Families are especially honored in these verses. This matters because it's history; our place in history matters too.*)

## **EZRA 2—KJV**

<sup>1</sup>Now these are the children of the province that went up out of the captivity, of those which had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away unto Babylon, and came again unto Jerusalem and Judah, every one unto his city;

<sup>2</sup>Which came with Zerubbabel: Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mizpar, Bigvai, Rehum, Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:

<sup>3</sup>The children of Parosh, two thousand an hundred seventy and two.

<sup>4</sup>The children of Shephatiah, three hundred seventy and two.

<sup>5</sup>The children of Arah, seven hundred seventy and five.

<sup>6</sup>The children of Pahathmoab, of the children of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred and twelve.

<sup>7</sup>The children of Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four.

<sup>8</sup>The children of Zattu, nine hundred forty and five.

<sup>9</sup>The children of Zaccai, seven hundred and threescore.

<sup>10</sup>The children of Bani, six hundred forty and two.

<sup>11</sup>The children of Bebai, six hundred twenty and three.

<sup>12</sup>The children of Azgad, a thousand two hundred twenty and two.

<sup>13</sup>The children of Adonikam, six hundred sixty and six.

<sup>14</sup>The children of Bigvai, two thousand fifty and six.

<sup>15</sup>The children of Adin, four hundred fifty and four.

<sup>16</sup>The children of Ater of Hezekiah, ninety and eight.

<sup>17</sup>The children of Bezai, three hundred twenty and three.

<sup>18</sup>The children of Jorah, an hundred and twelve.

<sup>19</sup>The children of Hashum, two hundred twenty and three.

<sup>20</sup>The children of Gibbar, ninety and five.

<sup>21</sup>The children of Bethlehem, an hundred twenty and three.

<sup>22</sup>The men of Netophah, fifty and six.

<sup>23</sup>The men of Anathoth, an hundred twenty and eight.

<sup>24</sup>The children of Azmaveth, forty and two.

<sup>25</sup>The children of Kirjatharim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred and forty and three.

<sup>26</sup>The children of Ramah and Gaba, six hundred twenty and one.

<sup>27</sup>The men of Michmas, an hundred twenty and two.

<sup>28</sup>The men of Bethel and Ai, two hundred twenty and three.

<sup>29</sup>The children of Nebo, fifty and two.

<sup>30</sup>The children of Magbish, an hundred fifty and six.

<sup>31</sup>The children of the other Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four.

<sup>32</sup>The children of Harim, three hundred and twenty.

<sup>33</sup>The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred twenty and five.

<sup>34</sup>The children of Jericho, three hundred forty and five.

- <sup>35</sup> The children of Senaah, three thousand and six hundred and thirty.
- <sup>36</sup> The priests: the children of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy and three.
- <sup>37</sup> The children of Immer, a thousand fifty and two.
- <sup>38</sup> The children of Pashur, a thousand two hundred forty and seven.
- <sup>39</sup> The children of Harim, a thousand and seventeen.
- <sup>40</sup> The Levites: the children of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the children of Hodaviah, seventy and four.
- <sup>41</sup> The singers: the children of Asaph, an hundred twenty and eight.
- <sup>42</sup> The children of the porters: the children of Shallum, the children of Ater, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Shobai, in all an hundred thirty and nine.
- <sup>43</sup> The Nethinims: the children of Ziha, the children of Hasupha, the children of Tabbaoth,
- <sup>44</sup> The children of Keros, the children of Siaha, the children of Padon,
- <sup>45</sup> The children of Lebanah, the children of Hagabah, the children of Akkub,
- <sup>46</sup> The children of Hagab, the children of Shalmal, the children of Hanan,
- <sup>47</sup> The children of Giddel, the children of Gahar, the children of Reaiah,
- <sup>48</sup> The children of Rezin, the children of Nekoda, the children of Gazzam,
- <sup>49</sup> The children of Uzza, the children of Paseah, the children of Besai,
- <sup>50</sup> The children of Asnah, the children of Mehunim, the children of Nephusim,
- <sup>51</sup> The children of Bakbuk, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhur,
- <sup>52</sup> The children of Bazluth, the children of Mehida, the children of Harsha,
- <sup>53</sup> The children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Thamah,
- <sup>54</sup> The children of Neziah, the children of Hatipha.
- <sup>55</sup> The children of Solomon's servants: the children of Sotai, the children of Sophereth, the children of Peruda,
- <sup>56</sup> The children of Jaalah, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel,
- <sup>57</sup> The children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth of Zebaim, the children of Ami.
- <sup>58</sup> All the Nethinims, and the children of Solomon's servants, were three hundred ninety and two.
- <sup>59</sup> And these were they which went up from Telmelah, Telharsa, Cherub, Addan, and Immer: but they could not shew their father's house, and their seed, whether they were of Israel:
- <sup>60</sup> The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred fifty and two.
- <sup>61</sup> And of the children of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai; which took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called after their name:
- <sup>62</sup> These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priest-

hood.

<sup>63</sup> And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim.

<sup>64</sup> The whole congregation together was forty and two thousand three hundred and threescore,

<sup>65</sup> Beside their servants and their maids, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven: and there were among them two hundred singing men and singing women.

<sup>66</sup> Their horses were seven hundred thirty and six; their mules, two hundred forty and five;

<sup>67</sup> Their camels, four hundred thirty and five; their asses, six thousand seven hundred and twenty.

<sup>68</sup> And some of the chief of the fathers, when they came to the house of the LORD which is at Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of God to set it up in his place:

<sup>69</sup> They gave after their ability unto the treasure of the work threescore and one thousand drams of gold, and five thousand pound of silver, and one hundred priests' garments.

<sup>70</sup> So the priests, and the Levites, and some of the people, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

## Things to Think About

1. What is the subject of this chapter? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Why do you think a chapter that is so full of numbers is included in the Bible? What can we possibly learn from it?

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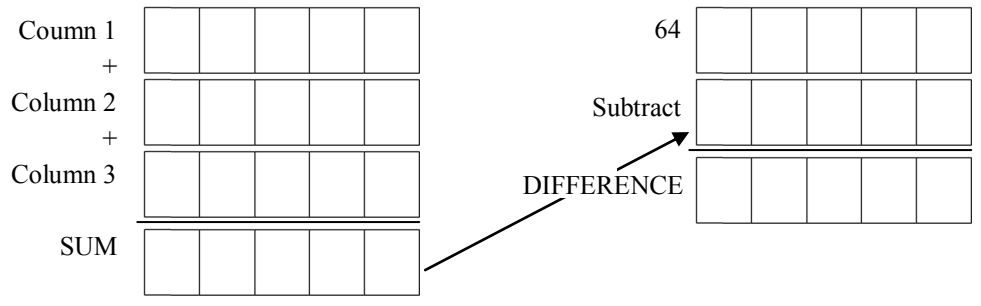
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Enter the number from each of the verses. Add each column. Then add the three columns together. Subtract the final total from the total in verse 64.

3	17	31
4	18	32
5	19	33
6	20	34
7	21	35
8	22	36
9	23	37
10	24	38
11	25	39
12	26	40
13	27	41
14	28	42
15	29	58
16	30	59



## Lesson Suggestions

Break the lesson into two parts:

First, make sure the students can write the numbers correctly in standard form that they read in word form.

Second, add the columns and find the final difference. You may elect to have your students use calculators on part or on all of the adding and subtracting. There are a lot of numbers!

## ANSWERS

Column 1 = 14,851

Column 2 = 3,019

Column 3 = 11,948

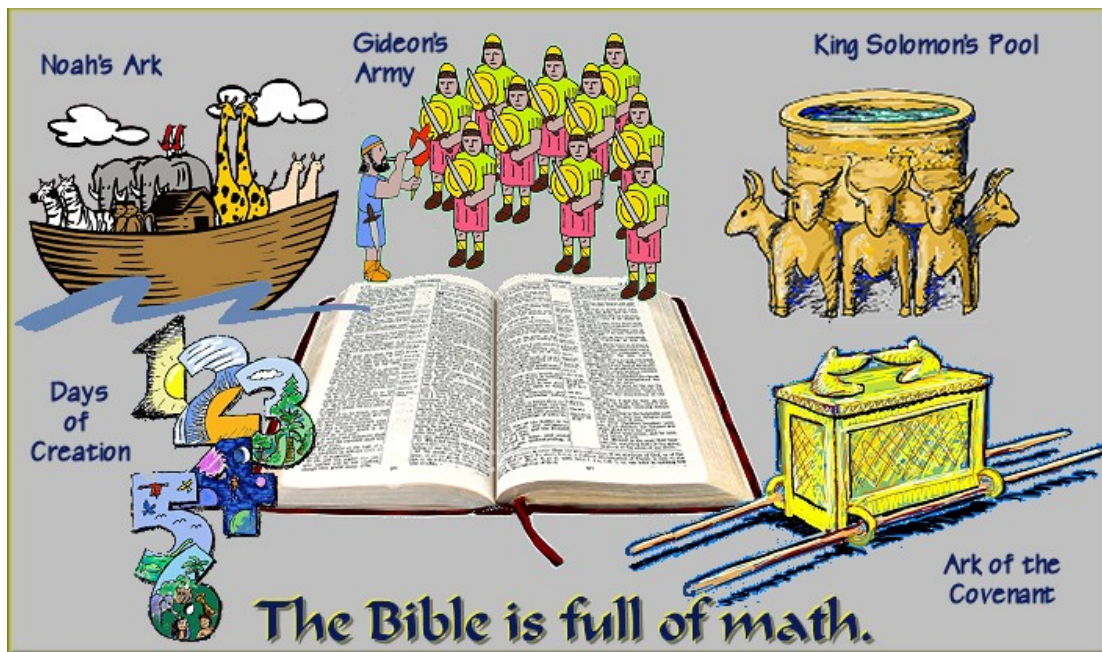
Total of the columns = 29,818

Difference = 12,542

The difference is caused by the fact that there are several families listed in this chapter where no numbers are given. It could also include people from tribes other than Judah and Benjamin.

Ezra 2 is repeated essentially in Nehemiah 7. The minor difference between the two lists may be explained by the fact that people on the original list made in 536 B.C. were removed for some legal reasons from Nehemiah's list a century later. You might say that Nehemiah's list was a revised and corrected version of Ezra's list..

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