

# **Elder Vernon Johnson**

## **Numbers**

### **Twelve and Seventy**

## **Twelve – The Representative Number**

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The number twelve in the scriptures represents the whole. For instance, Jacob had twelve sons. These twelve sons married and multiplied and their progeny were divided into the twelve tribes of Israel. These twelve tribes were named after the twelve sons of Jacob. There were twelve princes, who in judgment and leadership, were over the twelve tribes and their decisions were binding on the twelve tribes.

In addition, the High Priest in his office had on his garments a breastplate of judgment and in the breastplate of judgment, there were twelve stones with the name of a tribe on each stone. Likewise, the garments had a shoulder piece with an onyx stone in the shoulder piece of each shoulder and six tribes engraved on each onyx stone. Thus, the High Priest represented the entirety of Israel and carried the entirety of Israel on his shoulders.

The number twelve is sometimes referred to as the kingdom number. This is because God used the twelve sons of Israel to establish the Kingdom of Israel. He also used the twelve apostles in the establishment of the Kingdom of Heaven. In this connection, we see an association between the number twelve and the number seventy.

In addition, we see this number twelve used to represent the whole in the twelve lions Solomon set up, the twelve gates in Revelation, the twelve baskets of fragments in the miracle of the loaves, and the twelve stars on the woman's crown.

The number twelve is used to represent the Kingdom of heaven in the twelve oxen, the twelve foundations, the twelve angels, and the twelve thrones.

