

Interoffice

AC 1048-2

DATE Feb 27, 1987

To: Dr. Ward

DEPT

From: Ken Herrmann

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Subject: Are some Biblical Numbers a few zeros too large?

John Wenham from Eerdmans Handbook of the Bible says, Yes. But John J. Davis in his Biblical Numerology (which our library does not have) says no, that except for a few copyists errors the numbers are okay. I've Xeroxed a whole chapter from Davis.

Then putting down thoughts on Genesis 1 & 2. What purpose did these chapter serve when they were originally written? To straighten out Israel on geology and cosmology? Or to effectively separate them from their Egyptian practices and beliefs. I ran onto an author who says the latter.

Instead of a 10 day decan (36 to a year, followed by a 5 day celebration) Israel would now step back to the 7 day week and a rest day. Instead of worshipping the created things, ie. sun, moon, stars, bulls, cats, they were to worship the Creator, an everliving entity. Whether this first chapter should be viewed as a rigorous sequencing of how God did it; surely the first items are the intent of the message, and I would suggest that this message was delivered early in the Exodus.

Then the question of clothing and Adam and Eve. Again in the Exodus we have nakedness and immoral conduct. Moses had a problem on his hands in weaning the people from their culture. The intent of this chapter is to show briefly that marriage and family are correct, but that being covered is proper modesty, and reflects a shame for misdeeds. Again whether the account should be viewed as "rigorously historic" and every morsel of "truth" extracted from it, that I question. These accounts are rigorously true for the intents and purposes of Moses at the time, and for the intents and purposes of God through the millennia.

Now if Moses was "slow of speech" in Hebrew, but highly educated as an Egyptian student, then retaught by Jethro and by his wife. Then in putting information in writing for Hebrews to read, phonetic Hebrew writing is invented about this time; and in 2 weeks everyone can read and be held accountable. The early chapters of Moses give the feel of pictographic and ideographic writing, like Chinese, Egyptian and cuneiform writing. Are they Moses' sermon notes? Delivered to Israel when??

