

## HANDOUT - "TEN" in Scripture (except Daniel and Revelation)

As always, numbers in Scripture should generally be taken literally, but the numbers often carry with them a spiritual or symbolic connotation. This connotation can be helpful when trying to interpret prophecies that use the number "TEN" symbolically.

In researching this, I came across conflicting opinions from various authorities. One said that "Ten" has a connotation of "testimony"<sup>1</sup>. Another said "Ten" has a connotation of "testing and trial"<sup>2</sup>. I believe we should always look at the Scripture ourselves to verify statements like these. And when I looked, I found a very different connotation. I think the number "TEN" when used symbolically connotes "Enough" or "Lots". See what you think.

The following list of Scriptures that mention the number "TEN" has been divided into sections:

1. A few scriptures that carry the connotation of "Enough"
2. Many, many scriptures that carry the connotation of "Lots"
3. Scriptures that appear to apply the "Lots" in reverse, to mean a "Fraction". Generally meaning to diminish a large amount by "alot".
4. Scriptures that appear to be only literal (ten brothers, ten cities, etc.) or refer to dimensions or articles in the House of God (either Tabernacle or Temple, earthly or heavenly). Some of these may have symbolic meaning, but are not helpful in trying to understand the connotation of the number. These are numerous and are not listed.

### 1. ENOUGH:

**Gen 18:32 - Gen 18:33 (NASB)** <sup>32</sup>Then he said, "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak only this once; suppose **TEN** are found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy *it* on account of the **TEN**." <sup>33</sup>As soon as He had finished speaking to Abraham the LORD departed, and Abraham returned to his place. **LITERAL or ENOUGH**

**Gen 24:54 - Gen 24:55 (NASB)** <sup>54</sup>Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank and spent the night. When they arose in the morning, he said, "Send me away to my master." <sup>55</sup>But her brother and her mother said, "Let the girl stay with us *a few* days, say **TEN**; afterward she may go." **LITERAL or ENOUGH**

**Dan 1:12 - Dan 1:13 (NASB)** <sup>12</sup>"Please test your servants for ten days, and let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink. <sup>13</sup>"Then let our appearance be observed in your presence and the appearance of the youths who are eating the king's choice food; and deal with your servants according to what you see." **LITERAL or ENOUGH**

### 2. LOTS:

**Gen 24:59 - Gen 24:60 (NASB)**

<sup>60</sup>They blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, **Become thousands of TEN thousands**, And may your descendants possess The gate of those who hate them." **LITERAL or LOTS**

**Gen 31:6 - Gen 31:7 (NASB)** <sup>6</sup>"You know that I have served your father with all my strength. <sup>7</sup>"Yet your father has cheated me and **changed my wages TEN times**; however, God did not allow him to hurt me. **LITERAL or LOTS**

**Gen 31:40 - Gen 31:41 (NASB)** <sup>41</sup>"These twenty years I have been in your house; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flock, and **you changed my wages TEN times**. **LITERAL or LOTS**

**Lev 26:7 - Lev 26:8 (NASB)** <sup>7</sup>But you will chase your enemies and they will fall before you by the sword; <sup>8</sup>five of you will chase a hundred, and **a hundred of you will chase TEN thousand**, and your enemies will fall before you by the sword. **LITERAL or LOTS**

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<sup>1</sup> M.R.DeHaan, *The Romance of Redemption*, Kregel Publications, 1996, p. 40

<sup>2</sup> A.C.Gaebelein, *Daniel*, Our Hope, 19<sup>th</sup> edition, p. 13

**Lev 26:23 - Lev 26:26 (NASB)** <sup>23</sup>And if by these things you are not turned to Me, but act with hostility against Me, <sup>24</sup>then I will act with hostility against you; and I, even I, will strike you seven times for your sins. <sup>25</sup>I will also bring upon you a sword which will execute vengeance for the covenant; and when you gather together into your cities, I will send pestilence among you, so that you shall be delivered into enemy hands. <sup>26</sup>When I break your staff of bread, **TEN women will bake your bread in one oven**, and they will bring back your bread in rationed amounts, so that you will eat and not be satisfied. **LITERAL or LOTS**

**Num 11:32 - Num 11:33 (NASB)** <sup>32</sup>The people spent all day and all night and all the next day, and gathered the quail (**he who gathered least gathered TEN homers**) and they spread *them* out for themselves all around the camp. <sup>33</sup>While the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the anger of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD struck the people with a very severe plague. **LITERAL or LOTS**

**Num 14:22 - Num 14:23 (NASB)** <sup>22</sup>“Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet **have put Me to the test these TEN times** and have not listened to My voice, <sup>23</sup>shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it. **LITERAL or LOTS**

**Deut 32:29 - Deut 32:30 (NASB)**

<sup>30</sup> “How could one chase a thousand, And **two put TEN thousand** to flight, Unless their Rock had sold them, And the LORD had given them up? “The LORD came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And **He came from the midst of TEN thousand holy ones**; At His right hand there was flashing lightning for them. **LITERAL or LOTS**

**1 Sam 18:6 - 1 Sam 18:9 (NASB)**

<sup>7</sup>The women sang as they played, and said, “**Saul has slain his thousands, And David his TEN thousands.**” <sup>8</sup>Then Saul became very angry, for this saying displeased him; and he said, “They have ascribed to David **TEN thousands**, but to me they have ascribed thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?” <sup>9</sup>Saul looked at David with suspicion from that day on. **LITERAL or LOTS**

**1 Sam 21:10 - 1 Sam 21:11 (NASB)**

<sup>11</sup>But the servants of Achish said to him, “Is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of this one as they danced, saying, ‘**Saul has slain his thousands, And David his TEN thousands?**’” **LITERAL or LOTS**

**1 Sam 29:4 - 1 Sam 29:5 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup>“Is this not David, of whom they sing in the dances, saying, ‘**Saul has slain his thousands, And David his TEN thousands?**’” **LITERAL or LOTS**

**2 Sam 18:2 - 2 Sam 18:3 (NASB)** <sup>3</sup>But the people said, “You should not go out; for if we indeed flee, they will not care about us; even if half of us die, they will not care about us. But **you are worth TEN thousand of us**; therefore now it is better that you *be ready* to help us from the city.” **LITERAL or LOTS**

**Neh 4:11 - Neh 4:13 (NASB)** <sup>11</sup>Our enemies said, “They will not know or see until we come among them, kill them and put a stop to the work.” <sup>12</sup>When the Jews who lived near them **came and told us TEN times**, “They will come up against us from every place where you may turn,” <sup>13</sup>then I stationed *men* in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, the exposed places, and I stationed the people in families with their swords, spears and bows. **LITERAL or LOTS**

**Job 19:1 - Job 19:3 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup>Then Job responded, <sup>2</sup>“How long will you torment me And crush me with words? <sup>3</sup> “**These TEN times you have insulted me**; You are not ashamed to wrong me. **LITERAL or LOTS**

**Psa 3:5 - Psa 3:6 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup> I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD sustains me. <sup>6</sup> **I will not be afraid of TEN thousands of people** Who have set themselves against me round about. **LITERAL or LOTS**

**Psa 91:6 - Psa 91:7 (NASB)**

<sup>7</sup> **A thousand may fall at your side And TEN thousand at your right hand, But** it shall not approach you. **LITERAL or LOTS**

**Psa 144:12 - Psa 144:13 (NASB)**

<sup>13</sup> Let our garners be full, furnishing every kind of produce, **And our flocks bring forth thousands and TEN thousands in our fields; LITERAL or LOTS**

**Eccl 7:18 - Eccl 7:19 (NASB)** <sup>19</sup>Wisdom strengthens a wise man **more than TEN rulers** who are in a city. **LITERAL or LOTS**

**S of S 5:10 - S of S 5:10 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup> "My beloved is dazzling and ruddy, **Outstanding among TEN thousand. LITERAL or LOTS**

**Isa 5:9 - Isa 5:10 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup> "For **TEN acres of vineyard will yield only one bath of wine,** And a homer of seed will yield *but* an ephah of grain." **LITERAL or LOTS**

**Hos 8:11 - Hos 8:12 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup> Though I wrote for him **TEN thousand precepts of My law,** They are regarded as a strange thing. **LITERAL or LOTS**

**Amos 6:8 - Amos 6:9 (NASB)** <sup>9</sup>And it will be, if **TEN men are left in one house,** they will die. **LITERAL or FRACTION**

**Mic 6:6 - Mic 6:7 (NASB)**

<sup>7</sup> Does the LORD take **delight in thousands of rams, In TEN thousand rivers of oil? LITERAL or LOTS**

**Zech 8:22 - Zech 8:23 (NASB)** <sup>23</sup>"Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'In those days **TEN men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew,** saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'" **LITERAL or LOTS**

**Matt 18:21 - Matt 18:28 (NASB)**

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said\* to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. <sup>23</sup>"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>"When he had begun to settle *them,* one who **owed him TEN thousand talents** was brought to him. <sup>25</sup>"But since he did not have *the means* to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. <sup>26</sup>"So the slave fell *to the ground* and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>"And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>"But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and *began* to choke *him,* saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' **LITERAL or LOTS**

**Matt 25:27 - Matt 25:28 (NASB)** <sup>28</sup>"Therefore take away the talent from him, **and give it to the one who has the TEN talents.'** **LITERAL or LOTS**

**Luke 15:8 - Luke 15:8 (NASB)** <sup>8</sup>"Or what woman, **if she has TEN silver coins and loses one coin,** does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? **LITERAL or LOTS**

**Luke 19:12 - Luke 19:27 (NASB)** <sup>12</sup>So He said, "A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and *then* return. <sup>13</sup>"And he called **TEN** of his slaves, and gave them **TEN minas** and said to them, 'Do business *with this* until I come *back.*' <sup>14</sup>"But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' <sup>15</sup>"When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he might know what business they had done. <sup>16</sup>"The first

appeared, saying, ‘Master, **your mina has made TEN minas more.**’<sup>17</sup> And he said to him, ‘Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in **authority over TEN cities.**’<sup>18</sup> The second came, saying, ‘Your mina, master, has made five minas.’<sup>19</sup> And he said to him also, ‘And you are to be over five cities.’<sup>20</sup> Another came, saying, ‘Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; <sup>21</sup>for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.’<sup>22</sup> He said\* to him, ‘By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave. Did you know that I am an exacting man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow?’<sup>23</sup> Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?’<sup>24</sup> Then he said to the bystanders, ‘Take the mina away from him and **give it to the one who has the TEN minas.**’<sup>25</sup> And they said to him, ‘Master, **he has TEN minas already.**’<sup>26</sup> I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.<sup>27</sup> But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence.” **LITERAL or LOTS**

**1 Cor 14:18 - 1 Cor 14:19 (NASB)** <sup>18</sup>I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all; <sup>19</sup>however, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind so that I may instruct others also, **rather than TEN thousand words** in a tongue. **LITERAL or LOTS**

### 3. FRACTION

**Amos 5:2 - Amos 5:3 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup> For thus says the Lord GOD, “The city which goes forth a thousand *strong* Will have a hundred left, And the one which goes forth a **hundred strong** Will have **TEN left** to the house of Israel.” **LITERAL or FRACTION**

**Hag 2:15 - Hag 2:16 (NASB)** <sup>15</sup>But now, do consider from this day onward: before one stone was placed on another in the temple of the LORD, <sup>16</sup>from that time *when* one came to a *grain* **heap of twenty measures, there would be only TEN**; and *when* one came to the wine vat to draw fifty measures, there would be *only* twenty. **LITERAL or FRACTION**