

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"¹. Another said "Ten" has a connotation of "testing and trial"². 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" connotes "Enough" as in "Plenty" or "Lots". See what you think.

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

1. Scriptures that carry the connotation of "Enough/Plenty/Lots"
2. Scriptures that appear to apply the "Enough/Plenty/Lots" in reverse, to mean a "Fraction". Generally meaning to diminish a large amount by "alot". (See page 7)
3. Scriptures that refer to dimensions or articles in the House of God (either Tabernacle or Temple, earthly or heavenly). These may have symbolic meaning, but are not helpful in trying to understand the connotation of the number.
4. Scriptures that appear to be only literal (ten brothers, ten cities, etc.)

Because the list is lengthy, I've boxed some Scriptures as examples for quick reference. Due to volume, I also separated the Scriptures related to the House of God and those that seem to be only literal (sections 2 and 3) into a separate handout that is available if you want it.

1. ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS:

Gen 16:3 - Gen 16:6 (NASB) ³After Abram had lived **TEN** years in the land of Canaan, Abram's wife Sarai took Hagar the Egyptian, her maid, and gave her to her husband Abram as his wife. ⁴He went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her sight. ⁵And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done me be upon you. I gave my maid into your arms, but when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her sight. May the LORD judge between you and me." ⁶But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your maid is in your power; do to her what is good in your sight." So Sarai treated her harshly, and she fled from her presence. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Gen 18:32 - Gen 18:33 (NASB) ³²Then 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**." ³³As soon as He had finished speaking to Abraham the LORD departed, and Abraham returned to his place. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Gen 24:9 - Gen 24:10 (NASB) ¹⁰Then the servant took **TEN** camels from the camels of his master, and set out with a variety of good things of his master's in his hand; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Gen 24:22 - Gen 24:23 (NASB) ²²When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half-shekel and two bracelets for her wrists weighing **TEN** shekels in gold, ²³and said, "Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room for us to lodge in your father's house?" **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

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

² A.C.Gaebelein, *Daniel*, Our Hope, 19th edition, p. 13

Gen 24:54 - Gen 24:55 (NASB) ⁵⁴Then 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." ⁵⁵But her brother and her mother said, "Let the girl stay with us a few days, say **TEN**; afterward she may go." **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

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

⁶⁰They 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 ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Gen 31:6 - Gen 31:7 (NASB) ⁶⁶You know that I have served your father with all my strength. ⁷⁶Yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages **TEN** times; however, God did not allow him to hurt me. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Gen 31:40 - Gen 31:41 (NASB) ⁴¹These 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 ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Gen 45:22 - Gen 45:23 (NASB) ²³To his father he sent as follows: **TEN** donkeys loaded with the best things of Egypt, and **TEN** female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and sustenance for his father on the journey. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Lev 26:7 - Lev 26:8 (NASB) ⁷But you will chase your enemies and they will fall before you by the sword; ⁸five 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 ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Lev 26:23 - Lev 26:26 (NASB) ²³And if by these things you are not turned to Me, but act with hostility against Me, ²⁴then I will act with hostility against you; and I, even I, will strike you seven times for your sins. ²⁵I 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. ²⁶When 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 ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Num 11:32 - Num 11:33 (NASB) ³²The 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. ³³While 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 ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Num 14:22 - Num 14:23 (NASB) ²²"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, ²³shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

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

³⁰ "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 ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Deut 33:16 - Deut 33:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ “As the firstborn of his ox, majesty is his,
And his horns are the horns of the wild ox;
With them he will push the peoples,
All at once, *to* the ends of the earth.
And those are the **TEN** thousands of Ephraim,
And those are the thousands of Manasseh.” **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Judg 1:3 - Judg 1:4 (NASB) ⁴Judah went up, and the LORD gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hands, and they defeated **TEN** thousand men at Bezek. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Judg 3:29 - Judg 3:30 (NASB) ²⁹They struck down at that time about **TEN** thousand Moabites, all robust and valiant men; and no one escaped. ³⁰So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Judg 4:5 - Judg 4:6 (NASB) ⁶Now she sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali, and said to him, “Behold, the LORD, the God of Israel, has commanded, ‘Go and march to Mount Tabor, and take with you **TEN** thousand men from the sons of Naphtali and from the sons of Zebulun. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**”

Judg 4:9 - Judg 4:10 (NASB) Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh. ¹⁰Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali together to Kedesh, and **TEN** thousand men went up with him; Deborah also went up with him. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Judg 4:14 - Judg 4:15 (NASB) So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with **TEN** thousand men following him. ¹⁵The LORD routed Sisera and all *his* chariots and all *his* army with the edge of the sword before Barak; and Sisera alighted from *his* chariot and fled away on foot. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Judg 17:9 - Judg 17:10 (NASB) ¹⁰Micah then said to him, “Dwell with me and be a father and a priest to me, and I will give you **TEN** *pieces* of silver a year, a suit of clothes, and your maintenance.” So the Levite went *in*. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Judg 20:34 - Judg 20:35 (NASB) ³⁴When **TEN** thousand choice men from all Israel came against Gibeah, the battle became fierce; but Benjamin did not know that disaster was close to them. ³⁵And the LORD struck Benjamin before Israel, so that the sons of Israel destroyed 25,100 men of Benjamin that day, all who draw the sword. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

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

⁷The women sang as they played, and said,
“Saul has slain his thousands,
And David his **TEN** thousands.”

⁸Then 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?” ⁹Saul looked at David with suspicion from that day on. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

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

¹¹But 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 ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

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

⁵“Is this not David, of whom they sing in the dances, saying,

‘Saul has slain his thousands,
And David his **TEN** thousands?’” **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

2 Sam 18:2 - 2 Sam 18:3 (NASB) ³But 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 ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

2 Sam 18:10 - 2 Sam 18:11 (NASB) ¹¹Then Joab said to the man who had told him, “Now behold, you saw *him!* Why then did you not strike him there to the ground? And I would have given you **TEN** *pieces* of silver and a belt.” **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

1 Kin 11:31 - 1 Kin 11:35 (NASB) ³¹He said to Jeroboam, “Take for yourself **TEN** pieces; for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and give you **TEN** tribes’ ³²(but he will have one tribe, for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel), ³³because they have forsaken Me, and have worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the sons of Ammon; and they have not walked in My ways, doing what is right in My sight and *observing* My statutes and My ordinances, as his father David *did*. ³⁴‘Nevertheless I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, but I will make him ruler all the days of his life, for the sake of My servant David whom I chose, who observed My commandments and My statutes; ³⁵but I will take the kingdom from his son’s hand and give it to you, *even* **TEN** tribes. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

1 Kin 14:1 - 1 Kin 14:3 (NASB)

¹At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam became sick. ²Jeroboam said to his wife, “Arise now, and disguise yourself so that they will not know that you are the wife of Jeroboam, and go to Shiloh; behold, Ahijah the prophet is there, who spoke concerning me *that I would be* king over this people. ³“Take **TEN** loaves with you, *some* cakes and a jar of honey, and go to him. He will tell you what will happen to the boy.” **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

2 Kin 5:4 - 2 Kin 5:5 (NASB) ⁵Then the king of Aram said, “Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.” And he departed and took with him **TEN** talents of silver and six thousand *shekels* of gold and **TEN** changes of clothes. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

2 Kin 13:6 - 2 Kin 13:7 (NASB) ⁷For he left to Jehoahaz of the army not more than fifty horsemen and **TEN** chariots and **TEN** thousand footmen, for the king of Aram had destroyed them and made them like the dust at threshing. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

2 Kin 20:9 - 2 Kin 20:11 (NASB) ⁹Isaiah said, “This shall be the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that He has spoken: shall the shadow go forward **TEN** steps or go back **TEN** steps?” ¹⁰So Hezekiah answered, “It is easy for the shadow to decline **TEN** steps; no, but let the shadow turn backward **TEN** steps.” ¹¹Isaiah the prophet cried to the LORD, and He brought the shadow on the stairway back **TEN** steps by which it had gone down on the stairway of Ahaz. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

2 Kin 24:13 - 2 Kin 24:14 (NASB) ¹⁴Then he led away into exile all Jerusalem and all the captains and all the mighty men of valor, **TEN** thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths. None remained except the poorest people of the land. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

2 Kin 25:24 - 2 Kin 25:25 (NASB) ²⁵But it came about in the seventh month, that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the royal family, came with **TEN** men and struck Gedaliah down so that he died along with the Jews and the Chaldeans who were with him at Mizpah. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

2 Chr 14:1 - 2 Chr 14:4 (NASB)

¹So Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David, and his son Asa became king in his place. The land was undisturbed for **TEN** years during his days.

²Asa did good and right in the sight of the LORD his God, ³for he removed the foreign altars and high places, tore down the *sacred* pillars, cut down the Asherim, ⁴and commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers and to observe the law and the commandment. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

2 Chr 27:4 - 2 Chr 27:5 (NASB) ⁵He fought also with the king of the Ammonites and prevailed over them so that the Ammonites gave him during that year one hundred talents of silver, **TEN** thousand kors of wheat and **TEN** thousand of barley. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Neh 4:11 - Neh 4:13 (NASB) ¹¹Our enemies said, “They will not know or see until we come among them, kill them and put a stop to the work.” ¹²When 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,” ¹³then 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 ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Esth 3:8 - Esth 3:9 (NASB) ⁹“If it is pleasing to the king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed, and I will pay **TEN** thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who carry on the *king’s* business, to put into the king’s treasuries.” **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

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

¹Then Job responded,

²“How long will you torment me
And crush me with words?

³“These **TEN** times you have insulted me;

You are not ashamed to wrong me. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

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

⁵ I lay down and slept;

I awoke, for the LORD sustains me.

⁶ I will not be afraid of **TEN** thousands of people

Who have set themselves against me round about. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Psa 33:1 - Psa 33:2 (NASB)

² Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre;

Sing praises to Him with a harp of **TEN** strings. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

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

⁷ A thousand may fall at your side

And **TEN** thousand at your right hand,

But it shall not approach you. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Psa 144:9 - Psa 144:10 (NASB)

⁹ I will sing a new song to You, O God;

Upon a harp of **TEN** strings I will sing praises to You,

¹⁰ Who gives salvation to kings,

Who rescues David His servant from the evil sword. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

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

¹³ Let our garners be full, furnishing every kind of produce,

And our flocks bring forth thousands and **TEN** thousands in our fields; **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Ecc 7:18 - Ecc 7:19 (NASB) ¹⁹Wisdom strengthens a wise man more than **TEN** rulers who are in a city. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

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

¹⁰ “My beloved is dazzling and ruddy,

Outstanding among **TEN** thousand. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

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

¹⁰ “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 ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Isa 38:7 - Isa 38:8 (NASB) ⁸“Behold, I will cause the shadow on the stairway, which has gone down with the sun on the stairway of Ahaz, to go back **TEN** steps.” So the sun’s *shadow* went back **TEN** steps on the stairway on which it had gone down. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Jer 41:1 - Jer 41:2 (NASB) ¹In the seventh month Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the royal family and *one* of the chief officers of the king, along with **TEN** men, came to Mizpah to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam. While they were eating bread together there in Mizpah, ²Ishmael the son of Nethaniah and the **TEN** men who were with him arose and struck down Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, with the sword and put to death the one whom the king of Babylon had appointed over the land. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Hos 8:11 - Hos 8:12 (NASB)
¹² Though I wrote for him **TEN** thousand *precepts* of My law,
They are regarded as a strange thing. **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Mic 6:6 - Mic 6:7 (NASB)
⁷ Does the LORD take delight in thousands of rams,
In **TEN** thousand rivers of oil? **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Zech 8:22 - Zech 8:23 (NASB) ²³“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 ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

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

²¹Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” ²²Jesus said* to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. ²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴“When he had begun to settle *them*, one who owed him **TEN** thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵“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. ²⁶“So the slave fell *to the ground* and prostrated himself before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.’ ²⁷“And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸“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 ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Matt 25:27 - Matt 25:28 (NASB) ²⁸“Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the **TEN** talents.’ **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Luke 14:30 - Luke 14:31 (NASB) ³¹“Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with **TEN** thousand *men* to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? **LITERAL or ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Luke 15:8 - Luke 15:8 (NASB) ⁸“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 ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

Luke 19:12 - Luke 19:27 (NASB) ¹²So He said, “A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and *then* return. ¹³“And he called **TEN** of his slaves, and gave them **TEN** minas and said to them, ‘Do business *with this* until I come *back*.’ ¹⁴“But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’ ¹⁵“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. ¹⁶“The first appeared, saying, ‘Master, your mina has made **TEN** minas more.’ ¹⁷“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.’ ¹⁸“The second

came, saying, 'Your mina, master, has made five minas.'¹⁹ And he said to him also, 'And you are to be over five cities.'²⁰ Another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief;²¹ 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.'²² 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?'²³ Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?'²⁴ Then he said to the bystanders, 'Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the **TEN** minas.'²⁵ And they said to him, 'Master, he has **TEN** minas *already*.'²⁶ 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.²⁷ "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 ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

1 Cor 14:18 - 1 Cor 14:19 (NASB) ¹⁸I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all; ¹⁹however, 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 ENOUGH/PLENTY/LOTS**

2. FRACTION

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

³ 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**

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

Hag 2:15 - Hag 2:16 (NASB) ¹⁵But now, do consider from this day onward: before one stone was placed on another in the temple of the LORD, ¹⁶from 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**