

Heart of God Ministries International (HGMI)
Greater Works TEAM Building

The Divine Key of Twelve: Knowing God's Order and Walking in His Purpose

Study requires meditation and reflection guided by intellect and by Holy Spirit!

Romans 12:2 (AMP)

And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].

When we follow twelve (12) through Scripture, a recurring pattern emerges!

God • identifies, • gathers, • orders, and • represents His Covenant people.

Twelve (12) frequently appears where the Lord establishes a people who belong to Him and bear witness to His purpose!

We may therefore understand twelve (12) as a recurring expression of Covenant fullness and the ordered representation of God's people. In this document, Scripture develops the association Covenant and representation through

- The twelve (12) tribes of Israel,
- The twelve (12) apostles of Jesus Christ, and
- The repeated twelves (12) of the New Jerusalem.

The powerful "Divine Key" is the essence of what these passages reveal!

God knows His people, gives them their place, and joins them together within His purpose!

Genesis 35:22–26 identifies the twelve sons of Jacob, from whom the tribes of Israel descend. Their family history includes • rivalry, • failure, • suffering, • reconciliation, and • extraordinary providence!

Numeri's... (biblical numbers) help us contemplate theme and meaning... without becoming a code that determines the meaning.

The study of Numeric(s) is not Numerology! It is the application of relational spiritual and physical realities, not doctrines nor man-made religious traditions.

For a comprehensive study into 'Numeric(s) search "Marvelous Wonders."

The link is posted on Inner Chambers of The Prophetic Voice web page:

https://www.thepropheticvoice.com/inner_chambers.html

God's Covenant purpose is advanced through His • correction and • mercy.

This helps us understand the difference between God's • ways and • mankind's ways.

Human judgment may see a troubled household; divine wisdom sees the unfolding history of a Covenant people. The significance of twelve (12) begins with God's faithfulness, rather than the perfection of the men whose names the tribes would bear!

Exodus 28:15–21 carries this pattern into the high priest's breastpiece.

Twelve (12) precious stones bear the names of the tribes of Israel, one name upon each stone.

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Exodus 28:15-21 (AMP) There is multitude of “numeric(s)” incorporated in this passage:

15 “You are to make a breastpiece of judgment, the work of a skilled and talented craftsman; like the work of the ephod you shall make it: of gold, of blue, purple, and scarlet fabric and of fine twisted linen.

16 The breastpiece shall be square and folded double; a span [about nine inches] in length and a span in width.

17 You shall mount on it four rows of stones: the first row shall be a row of ruby, topaz, and emerald;

18 the second row a turquoise, a sapphire, and a diamond;

19 the third row a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst;

20 and the fourth row a beryl and an onyx and a jasper; they shall be set in gold filigree.

21 The [engraved] stones shall be twelve, according to the names of [the twelve tribes of] the sons of Israel; they shall be like the engravings of a signet, each with its name for the twelve tribes.

Exodus 28:29 explains that Aaron carries those names over his heart when he enters the holy place. He, a called and chosen vessel was the only “one” to carry the twelve stones embedded upon His breast! The tribes are distinguished by name yet gathered together upon “one” breastpiece and carried by “one” priest before the Lord.

Can you “see” the similitude of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Body?

The numeric “One” as described is symbolism that Our God is One... understood as three persons, Father, Son and Holy Ghost/Spirit perpetuating Will, Plan and Ways! [Note: Will = Vision; Plan = Purpose; Ways = Action]

The tribe’s differences belong within a shared relationship with God.

In the fuller revelation of Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, we discover the living reality of His faithful representation of His people to the Father!

We belong to Him, and He knows those whom He brings near!

The stones are placed upon the breastpiece, the location of the heart.

Recall that John the Beloved laid his head upon Christ’s breast (bosom).

[An interesting thought, could John hear the Heart Beat of God?]

John 13:23-25 (NKJV)

23 Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

24 Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke.

25 Then, leaning [back on Jesus’ breast, he said to Him, “Lord, who is it?”

The stones upon Aaron’s breastpiece were carried over his heart, bringing the names of Israel before the Lord (Exodus 28:29).

The twelve precious stones represented people held in the place of remembrance, love, and priestly intercession. Aaron carried their names; Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, carries His people in the fullness of His love.

The breastpiece presents a remarkable gathering of biblical numeric(s):

- Three sacred places,
- One priestly representative,
- Twelve named tribes carried over his heart.

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Together, these features offer a devotional picture of distinction held within unity, with God's people brought before Him through an appointed mediator!

1 Timothy 2:5 (AMP)

For there is [only] one God, and [only] one Mediator between God and mankind, the Man Christ Jesus,

The feature's meaning grows from what Scripture describes!

1. One God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
2. One Mediator (Son of God/Spirit of God)
3. One mankind (Humanity)

The Man Jesus Christ recognized in three-fold (3) distinctive ways (unified).

1 Timothy 2:5 passage opens a beautiful conversation about distinction held within unity! Father God's people are known individually, yet brought together before Him through His appointed Mediator!

As Aaron carried the names of Israel's tribes upon one breastpiece over his heart, we may see a devotional picture of a people whose distinctions are preserved within a shared Covenant relationship! Their names are not erased by their gathering together! In Christ, their names are preserved in the Book of Life!

Revelation 3:5 (AMP)

He who overcomes [the world through believing that Jesus is the Son of God] will accordingly be dressed in white clothing; and I will never blot out his name from the Book of Life, and I will confess and openly acknowledge his name before My Father and before His angels [saying that he is one of Mine].

In the greater reality revealed through Jesus Christ, belonging to Him does not abolish our identity in Him! It brings each life into the fellowship of His love!

"One God" declares the unity of the indwelling Divine Being in Christ!

Colossians 2:9 (AMP)

For in Him all the fullness of Deity (the Godhead) dwells in bodily form [completely expressing the divine essence of God].

The Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct Persons, eternally sharing One Divine Nature. They are not three separate gods, nor three temporary expressions of one Person. Within this Divine Unity (oneness), the Father sends the Son, the Son accomplishes our reconciliation, and the Holy Spirit brings us into the living experience of communion with God! These distinctions reveal the richness of Christ's Life and the Holy Trinity's united purpose of Redemption.

For a comprehensive study into "Divine Holy Trinity," the link is posted on Inner Chambers of The Prophetic Voice web page:

https://www.thepropheticvoice.com/inner_chambers.html

"One Mediator" identifies Jesus Christ Himself. He is the eternal Son of God who truly became man, joining Divine and human natures in One Person. His mediation is therefore profoundly personal!

Christ reveals Father God to each redeemed through His own Life and sacrifice of the Cross. Through Faith He brings humanity before the Father through His own redeeming work!

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The Holy Spirit unites us to Christ and makes His Presence known within us, but “Son of God” and “Spirit of God” should not be treated as interchangeable personal identities. Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Lord! The Son is our Mediator; the Holy Spirit brings us into participation in the relationship the Son has secured!

The Holy Spirit leads us to Jesus Christ and makes the Presence of the Risen Lord known within us. Through His indwelling, our relationship with Christ becomes a living communion!

We receive Christ's love, grow in His truth, and are strengthened to walk in His ways! The Spirit brings us into intimate (close, inseparable) fellowship *with* the Son and, *through* the Son, into fellowship with the Father!

Within this Divine communion, Unity preserves personal distinction: “Son of God” and “Spirit of God!”

The Son is the One who became flesh, gave Himself for our redemption, and rose from the dead. The Holy Spirit bears witness to the Son, glorifies Him, and brings His people into the present life of righteousness and eternal life in His Presence in which He has secured! Jesus expresses this relationship in John 16:14, where the Spirit glorifies Him by taking what belongs to Him and revealing it to His disciples.

John 16:14 (AMP)

14 He will glorify and honor Me, because He (the Holy Spirit) will take from what is Mine and will disclose it to you.

The Spirit's ministry reveals the Son through a communion in which neither loses His personal identity. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct Persons in the Undivided Life of our *One God!* [Note: Does this narrative help You understand the nature and relationship of three (3) Persons of the *One God?*]

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When Paul speaks of liberty where the Spirit of the Lord is in 2 Corinthians 3:17, he directs our attention to the transforming Presence of God among His people.

2 Corinthians 3:17 (AMP)

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty [emancipation from bondage, true freedom].

Holy Spirit is no impersonal influence; He is the Divine Person who teaches, leads, comforts, and sanctifies us. Through Him, Christ's Presence is known within us, and our lives increasingly reflect Christ's character. What a marvelous unity!

The Father receives us through the Son, and the Holy Spirit makes this fellowship living and active within our hearts—Now! Today!

“One mankind” may express our shared humanity, although Paul's verse says “mankind” without assigning it the numeral one. We belong to one human family, yet remain many persons, with different names, histories, gifts, and needs.

Christ's mediation reaches across those human distinctions. No tribe, nation, or social position possesses a separate doorway to the Father. Our unity is found in the same Christ through whom we are reconciled to God and gathered into His covenant people.

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We can therefore contemplate Jesus Christ in three unified relationships.

- As the Son, He eternally shares the Divine Nature with the Father and the Holy Spirit!
- As Man, He truly shares our humanity!
- As Mediator, He reconciles us to God!

These are not three persons within Jesus, but three ways of considering the identity and work of Christ!

His divine identity, His genuine humanity, and His mediating work belong together!

The wonder is that the One who brings us before God also loves us personally!

As the names upon Aaron's breastpiece rested over his heart, so this devotional picture directs our attention toward Christ's faithful love: many people, individually known, and gathered into one Covenant fellowship through one Mediator!

Exodus 28:29 places the names of Israel over Aaron's heart whenever he enters the Holy Place, as a continual memorial before the Lord!

Twelve therefore represents the whole Covenant people in this setting!

Each tribe retained its own name and its own stone, yet all belonged upon one breastpiece.

Their unity did not erase their identity. What a beautiful expression of Covenant belonging: many names, each remembered, gathered together and carried close to one heart!

This pattern continues in the twelve apostles and in the twelve tribal names and twelve apostolic foundations of the New Jerusalem!

Revelation 21:12–14 (AMP) Spiritual New Jerusalem

12 It had a massive and high wall, with twelve [large] gates, and at the gates [were stationed] twelve angels; and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were written. 13 On the east side [there were] three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb (Christ).

The one breastpiece and the one high priest emphasize the unity of that representation.

Aaron, appointed by God, bore the names together before the Lord.

Other priests served in the Holy Place, but the High priest alone entered the Most Holy Place on the appointed Day of Atonement.

Hebrews 9:6-7 (AMP)

6 Now when these things have been prepared in this way, the priests continually enter the outer [or first section of the] tabernacle [that is, the Holy Place] performing [their ritual acts of] the divine worship,

7 but into the second [inner tabernacle, the Holy of Holies], only the high priest enters [and then only] once a year, and never without [bringing a sacrifice of] blood, which he offers [as a substitutionary atonement] for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance.

Thus, the significance of "one" here concerns his distinctive appointment:

one representative carrying the whole people. This once again, directs our attention toward Jesus Christ, the one mediator between God and humanity.

(1 Timothy 2:5). His people have many names, histories, and gifts, yet their access to the Father rests in Him.

1 Timothy 2:5 (AMP)

5 For there is [only] one God, and [only] one Mediator between God and mankind, the Man Christ Jesus,

The Tabernacle arrangement included three principal areas: the outer court, the Holy Place, and the Most Holy Place. Strictly speaking, the tent itself contained the latter two; the court surrounded it. These three areas reveal degrees of access and holiness within the worship God established.

We may contemplate them alongside God's revelation as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but Scripture does not explicitly identify the three areas as the three divine Persons. The Trinity rests upon God's revelation of Himself, rather than upon the number of architectural spaces.

Once again, our reflection upon "one" and "three" opens for rich meditation: our God is one God, eternally Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

- The Father loves and sends!
- The Son accomplishes Redemption and serves as our great High Priest!
- The Holy Spirit brings us into the living experience of that Redemption.

Ephesians 2:18 gathers this relationship beautifully!

Through Christ, believers have access in *one* Spirit to the Father.

God is Spirit and Truth!

One God is therefore deeply personal—

received by • the Father, • through the Son, • in the Holy Spirit!

The three Persons are distinct, yet God is indivisibly one!

Ephesians 2:18 (AMP)

18 For it is through Him that we both have a [direct] way of approach in one Spirit to the Father

Here, numeric twelve (12) becomes an invitation to deeper understanding!

Twelve (12) draws our attention to the Covenant people in their fullness in God's Government!

One (1) draws our attention to their United representation and their mediator.

Three (3) invites reflection upon the fullness of God's revealed life, while retaining the distinction between biblical teaching and devotional symbolism.

Aaron carried twelve names over his heart, but Christ knows and loves every person who belongs to Him. John's resting upon His breast brings the meditation into intimate focus!

The people represented before God are loved by the One who represents them!

The Divine Key is Covenant completion—many persons gathered in Christ, welcomed before the Father and made alive by the Holy Spirit!

John reclined close to Jesus' breast at the supper.

John 13:23-25 (AMP)

23 One of His disciples, whom Jesus loved (esteemed), was leaning against Jesus' chest.

24 So Simon Peter motioned to him (John) and [quietly] asked [him to ask Jesus] of whom

He was speaking. 25 Then leaning back against Jesus' chest, he (John) asked Him [privately], "Lord, who is it?"

Could he have heard the Lord's heartbeat? Physically, it is possible, though Scripture does not tell us that he did. Jesus possessed a real human body with a real beating heart.

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Because He is the eternal Son made flesh, we may reverently describe this as listening to the heartbeat of God incarnate—while recognizing that God's Divine Nature is Spirit and has no physical heartbeat.

The deeper wonder is what John's nearness reveals.

He rested beside the heart of the One who would give His Life for him!

The names carried upon Aaron's heart find their greater expression in the people loved by Christ. John's posture becomes a beautiful invitation for us

- To draw near enough to listen,
- Rest securely in His love,
- Let His compassion shape our own hearts.

We cannot claim that John heard a heartbeat, but we can say that he encountered the heart of God revealed in Jesus Christ!

Leviticus 24:5–9 describes twelve loaves placed before the Lord in two rows of six.

These loaves belong to Israel's continuing Worship and Covenant life.

The number twelve again appears in the Presence of God, where the people's relationship with Him is acknowledged!

When we read this alongside Christ's revelation of Himself as the Bread of Life in John 6:35 (AMP)

35 Jesus replied to them, "I am the Bread of Life.

The one who comes to Me will never be hungry, and the one who believes in Me [as Savior] will never be thirsty [for that one will be sustained spiritually].

Our attention moves toward the One who sustains His people. Through Christ's testimony, a people is gathered and He provides for their life with Him! We walk deeper into understanding when belonging and dependence become inseparable!

The people of the New Covenant continually need the provision of the Covenant Maker!

For a wonderful deeper study, consider: "Covenant_Maker"

and "Covenant Maker Revisited" listed on Inner Chambers of The Prophetic Voice.

https://www.thepropheticvoice.com/inner_chambers.html

Christ, the Bread of the Presence: The Divine Nature Revealed in Covenant Fellowship

Leviticus 24:5–9 (AMP)

5 "Then you shall take fine flour and bake twelve cakes (bread of the Presence, showbread) with it; two-tenths of an ephah shall be in each cake (loaf).

6 You shall set the bread of the Presence (showbread) in two rows, six in a row, on the pure gold table before the Lord.

7 You shall put pure frankincense [in two censers, one] beside each row, so that it may be with the bread as a memorial portion, an offering by fire to the Lord.

8 Every Sabbath day Aaron shall arrange the showbread before the Lord continually; it is an everlasting covenant for the Israelites.

9 The bread of the Presence shall be for Aaron and his sons, and they shall eat it in a sacred place, for it is for Aaron a most holy portion of the offerings by fire to the Lord, his portion forever."

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Within the sanctuary of Israel, twelve loaves rested upon a pure gold table before the Lord. Their placement declared that the Covenant people belonged before Him continually.

- Beyond the wilderness,
 - Beyond their changing circumstances,
 - Beyond the limitations of their own strength,
- God had appointed a place for them in His presence!

The bread was a tangible expression of Covenant Relationship:

- Provision received from God,
- Presented before God,
- Shared by those appointed to serve God.

When we contemplate this ordinance through Jesus Christ, its imagery opens a rich meditation upon Divine Presence, Holiness, Faithfulness, and Fellowship!

Within that meditation, the bread also provides a fitting picture of the nourishment we receive through the Word of God!

Each of these provide a theme to open other “Patterns of the Son!”

Leviticus does not explicitly identify the showbread as Scripture. This spiritual connection develops through the wider biblical witness concerning

- Bread,
- Divine provision,
- God’s life-giving Word.

Matthew 4:4 (AMP)

But Jesus replied, “It is written and forever remains written,
‘Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.’”

This proclamation establishes a “governing” truth for our study.

Physical bread sustains the body, while the Word proceeding from God sustains our life of faith and obedience! Jesus spoke these words during His wilderness testing, drawing upon the lesson of Israel’s wilderness journey!

Deuteronomy 8:3 (AMP)

3 He humbled you and allowed you to be hungry and fed you with manna, [a substance] which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, so that He might make you understand [by personal experience] that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.

God’s provision of manna taught His people to depend upon Him!

Bread was necessary, but bread alone could never explain or sustain their Covenant life.

Their existence depended upon the God who spoke, provided, guided, and preserved them!

Jesus, hungry in the wilderness, remained obedient to His Father’s Word.

- He refused to make bodily appetite the governing authority of His actions.
- His answer calls us into that same dependence!
- We receive God’s provision while allowing His Word to direct how we live!

The designation “bread of the Presence” draws our attention first to relationship.

The bread stood before the Lord, continually associated with His Holy dwelling among His people. In Jesus Christ, this theme reaches a greater depth!

The eternal Son truly entered human life and made the Father known!

John 1:1–14 (AMP) reveals Him as the eternal Word who became flesh:

The Deity of Jesus Christ

1 In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself. 2 He was [continually existing] in the beginning [co-eternally] with God. 3 All things were made and came into existence through Him; and without Him not even one thing was made that has come into being. 4 In Him was life [and the power to bestow life], and the life was the Light of men. 5 The Light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness did not understand it or overpower it or appropriate it or absorb it [and is unreceptive to it].

The Witness of John the Baptist

6 There came a man commissioned and sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe [in Christ, the Light] through him. 8 John was not the Light, but came to testify about the Light. 9 There it was—the true Light [the genuine, perfect, steadfast Light] which, coming into the world, enlightens everyone. 10 He (Christ) was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. 11 He came to that which was His own [that which belonged to Him—His world, His creation, His possession], and those who were His own [people—the Jewish nation] did not receive and welcome Him. 12 But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the right [the authority, the privilege] to become children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name— 13 who were born, not of blood [natural conception], nor of the will of the flesh [physical impulse], nor of the will of man [that of a natural father], but of God [that is, a divine and supernatural birth—they are born of God—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified].

The Word Made Flesh

14 And the Word (Christ) became flesh, and lived among us; and we [actually] saw His glory, glory as belongs to the [One and] only begotten Son of the Father, [the Son who is truly unique, the only One of His kind, who is] full of grace and truth (absolutely free of deception).

Here the relationship between Bread and the Word becomes especially rich! Christ is the living Word, and He identifies Himself as the Bread of Life. The Scriptures bear witness to Him, conveying the truth through which we come • to know, • trust, and • follow Him. The • written Word and the • incarnate Word are closely related, while remaining distinct!

Scripture is God's inspired testimony, and Jesus Christ is the Divine Person to whom that testimony leads! Christ brings us into fellowship with God because He Himself shares the Divine Nature!

Hebrews 1:3 (AMP) describes the Son as the radiance of God's glory and the exact expression of His Nature!

3 The Son is the radiance and only expression of the glory of [our awesome] God [reflecting God's Shekinah glory, the Light-being, the brilliant light of the divine], and the exact representation and perfect imprint of His [Father's] essence, and upholding and maintaining and propelling all things [the entire physical and spiritual universe] by His powerful word [carrying the universe along to its predetermined goal]. When He [Himself and no other] had [by offering Himself on the cross as a sacrifice for sin] accomplished purification from sins and established our freedom from guilt, He sat down [revealing His completed work] at the right hand of the Majesty on high [revealing His Divine authority],

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- He reveals God with a fullness that the sanctuary's furnishings could only anticipate.
- His mercy reveals divine compassion;
- His righteousness reveals divine holiness;
- His faithfulness reveals the steadfastness of God's love.

As we receive the Bread of the Word of God, we learn to recognize these qualities in Him! Scripture nourishes our understanding so that our view of Christ is formed by God's revelation rather than by our own imagination.

For a comprehensive deep study into "Glory to Glory," the link is posted on Inner Chambers of The Prophetic Voice web page:

https://www.thepropheticvoice.com/inner_chambers.html

Here we must hold together • the wonder of His deity and • the reality of His humanity. Jesus entered the ordinary conditions of human existence while remaining the eternal Son!

- He experienced hunger, weariness, sorrow, and suffering.
- His humanity was real,
- His divine nature was undiminished.
- His wilderness proclamation is especially powerful in this light!

The One Who is the eternal Word lived a genuinely human life of obedience to the Father's Word! The Son's becoming flesh did not mean that the • Father and • Holy Spirit became interchangeable identities with Him. The Son made the Father known, and through the Holy Spirit believers • receive and • experience the life of the risen Christ.

The fine flour invites a devotional consideration of the • purity and • integrity of Christ's human life. Leviticus specifies the quality of the flour without explaining it as a symbol of His character. Yet, when we read this sacred preparation alongside the New Testament's witness to His sinlessness, the connection becomes fruitful! In Christ there was • no corruption of motive, • no falsehood within His obedience, and • no division between His love and His righteousness!

- His gentleness never compromised truth;
- His authority never served selfish ambition.
- Every expression of His humanity faithfully manifested His holy character.

The Bread of the Word of God nourishes this same integrity within His people!

As we receive its • instruction, • correction, • promises, and • wisdom, Holy Spirit brings our • thoughts and • conduct into greater agreement with Christ. We learn:

- Truthfulness in speech,
- Purity in intention,
- Faithfulness in service, and
- Love expressed through action.

Spiritual nourishment involves more than accumulating biblical information.

The Word is received deeply when its truth becomes obedience and its wisdom shapes our relationships.

Our preparation in the Bread also brings suffering into our meditation.

Flour becomes a loaf through a process that includes heat!

The passage does not explicitly identify this baking with Christ's passion, but the image can help us contemplate the obedience through which He gave Himself for us!

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His suffering did not produce His deity or purify Him from sin. He was already Holy!

Through suffering, however, His obedience was lived out within the full cost of our human condition! His love endured • rejection, • betrayal, • humiliation, and • death.

The One who sustains life entered death to bring His people into the Life of His Resurrection!

The twelve (12) loaves naturally recall the twelve (12) tribes of Israel. The entire Covenant community was represented before the Lord. No tribe supplied the whole picture by itself! No ministry provides the whole Gospel by itself nor does it express and promote the Kingdom of God by itself! Together all the Tribes were the people God of which had gathered to Himself! This is symbolic of Christ calling His twelve (12) disciples who were gathered to gather a people to Himself!

Twelve (12) therefore has a clear biblical association with the ordered fullness of a Covenant people. Jesus' appointment of twelve (12) apostles later carries that association into His Kingdom ministry! Its beauty here is the assurance of belonging! The people were many, yet their place before God was shared!

This shared provision also illuminates our relationship with the Word!

God's truth nourishes the whole community of faith! Each believer receives its instruction, and together we learn to walk in its Light! The Bread of the Word of God strengthens our unity by drawing us toward • the same Lord, • the same gospel, and • the same calling to love. Its nourishment equips us to build one another up, bearing witness together to the character of Christ!

The two rows of six (6) loaves deepens the visual impression of distinction within a common fellowship! There were • separate loaves, • an ordered arrangement, and • one table before one Lord. Leviticus does not explain the two (2) rows as a prediction of particular groups or as a formula for the Divine Nature. Its stated arrangement is already meaningful!

God's people were presented with order and care. In Christ, unity likewise preserves the reality of individual persons. Each believer has • a life, • a calling, and • responsibilities, yet all depend upon the same Savior. • His Word directs our different gifts toward a shared purpose, and • His Presence gathers us into faithful service!

The pure gold table provided a setting worthy of this Holy offering. Gold was a precious material used throughout the sanctuary, expressing the honor due to God!

As a devotional picture, the table can direct our attention to the • dignity and • stability of the fellowship Christ establishes. Our acceptance before God rests upon His faithful mediation! We are upheld by the One who knows us completely and has given Himself for us! The sanctuary table bore the bread; our Savior brings His people before the Father. Within this fellowship, the Word of God becomes daily nourishment for those learning to abide in Him.

Beside the bread stood pure frankincense, an appointed a memorial portion and an offering by fire. The fragrance belonged to worship, directed attention toward the Lord before Whom the bread was placed. God's gifts call forth • thanksgiving, • consecration, and • praise! Receiving the bread of His Word should therefore awaken worship! Yes! Indeed, adulation!

- His promises inspire gratitude!
- His holiness inspires reverence;
- His mercy inspires love.

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Through Christ, the life we receive becomes a life we offer: a life founded upon our • words, • labor, • generosity, and • patience! Obedience becomes expressions of thanksgiving! We come to His table hungry, and we rise from fellowship ready to serve!

The memorial portion for the High Priest also speaks within the language of Covenant Remembrance! It points to the 'Passover meal with Christ's twelve (12) chosen forerunners! Luke 22:19 (AMP)

And when He had taken bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

God does not require reminders because His knowledge fails!

Such appointed acts give His people a way to acknowledge and participate in the Covenant relationship He has established! They bring His faithfulness into the practice of worship!

The Word of God continually calls His people • to remember His works, • trust His promises, and • honor His commands! In Christ, remembrance becomes an active response to saving love! What we remember becomes visible in how we live!

Every Sabbath, Aaron arranged fresh bread before the Lord. The recurring service joined continual presence with regular renewal. For Christian meditation, this beautifully illustrates Christ's abiding faithfulness and our need for renewed attention to Him.

His life remains sufficient, while our attention can become distracted!

We therefore return to • prayer, • Scripture, • thanksgiving, and • fellowship, receiving afresh the nourishment available in Him. The Bread of the Word of God remains before us as an invitation to • listen, • believe, • obey!

Matthew 4:4 gives this daily dependence its clear proclamation: our life requires every Word that proceeds from God! We cannot sustain spiritual maturity solely upon yesterday's attention to His truth. The Word remains faithful, and we continually deepen our response to it!

A familiar passage may • expose a neglected attitude, • strengthen us through a new trial, or • open a greater understanding of Christ! Through Holy Spirit, the truth we have read becomes truth we • recognize, • embrace, and • practice!

The Sabbath setting joins provision with rest. Even as Israel ceased from ordinary labor, the bread remained before the Lord. Their Covenant Relationship did not disappear when their work stopped. Through Christ, we learn to serve from dependence upon God rather than from the fear that everything rests upon our own effort! His Word teaches us to

• trust His promises and • honor His wisdom. We still • labor, • give, • build, and • minister, but we do so as people sustained by God's Grace!

The Bread of Life nourishes the servant as surely as He receives the servant's offering!

The description "Everlasting Covenant" must first be heard within its stated setting!

This ordinance belonged to God's Covenant Relationship with Israel.

Reading it through Christ does not require Christians to reproduce the sanctuary arrangement! We are the New Creation sanctuary! Its enduring emphasis upon Covenant faithfulness draws us toward the greater fellowship established through Jesus Christ!

The repeated presentation of bread in the "Old Testament Order," testified to an ongoing relationship! Christ's priesthood provides the lasting foundation of our approach to God.

His Bread of Life, His Word, declares the promises by which we understand and participate in that fellowship!

Finally, the bread was eaten by Aaron and his sons in a sacred place. It was both presented before God and received as nourishment by His priests. This is a profound picture of fellowship! Those who ministered were themselves sustained by what God had appointed! We cannot faithfully serve Christ while neglecting our dependence upon Him!

- Those who teach the Word must also receive its correction!
- Those who proclaim its promises must also trust them!
- Those who encourage others to obey must themselves walk in obedience!

Ministry grows from • receiving His truth, • abiding in His love, and • yielding to His Spirit!

The bread of the Word of God must therefore be personally received!

We may speak about nourishment while remaining spiritually hungry if we do not embrace the truth we proclaim! To receive Christ is • to trust Him, • abide in Him, and • allow His life to form our own!

- His holiness calls us into integrity.
- His compassion enlarges our love.
- His faithfulness steadies our obedience.

Through the Scriptures, we hear His truth; through the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to respond and bear its fruit!

The twelve (12) loaves before the Lord thus become a beautiful witness:

- Covenant belonging, • Holy provision, and • Shared fellowship!

In Jesus Christ these themes converge upon a living Person!

- He is the eternal Word who reveals God,
- He is the true Man who walks our path,
- He is the faithful Priest who brings us before the Father,
- He is the Bread of Life who nourishes us.

His proclamation in Matthew 4:4 calls us to live in continual dependence upon God's Word!

Matthew 4:4 (AMP)

4 But Jesus replied, "It is written and forever remains written,

'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.'"

- Received Grace of this passage becomes offered gratitude;
- Sacred fellowship becomes faithful service;
- Divine nourishment becomes visible fruitfulness!

We live before the Lord, • sustained by Christ, • nourished by the Word of God, and

- made responsive to His Presence through Holy Spirit—today, and every day!

Joshua 4:1–9 presents twelve (12) stones taken from the Jordan, with one man selected from each tribe. These stones become a memorial of the Lord bringing Israel through the torrent river. The twelve (12) tribes are represented in one testimony of Divine faithfulness. Future generations were to ask what the stones mean, and the answer being to recount what God has done!

Joshua 4:1-9 (AMP) Memorial Stones from Jordan

4 So it was when all the nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, 2 "Take for yourselves the twelve men [chosen] from among the people, one man from each tribe, 3 and command them, 'Pick up for yourselves twelve stones [one each] from here out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet are standing firm; carry them over with you and lay them down at the place where you will spend the night tonight.'"

4 Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the sons of Israel, one man from each tribe; 5 and Joshua said to them, "Cross over again to the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Israel,

6 so that this may be a sign among you; when your children ask later, 'What do these stones mean to you?' 7 then you shall say to them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall become a memorial for Israel forever."

8 So the [twelve men chosen from the] sons of Israel did as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones out of the midst of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Israel, just as the Lord had spoken to Joshua; and they carried them over with them to the place where they were spending the night and put them down there.

9 Then Joshua set up [a second monument of] twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan at the place where the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant were standing, and they are there to this day.

Here twelve (12) speaks through Remembrance once again!!

A people who remember God's works can teach their children to recognize His ways!
Spiritual understanding deepens when we preserve the testimony of His faithfulness
and allow that testimony to shape our present obedience!

In 1 Kings 18:30–39, Elijah repairs the altar of the Lord with twelve stones, according to the tribes descended from Jacob. This occurs while the nation is politically divided. Elijah's altar recalls Israel's covenant identity before God. The people's divisions have not erased the Lord's claim upon them. The restored altar calls them back to the worship of the true God!

1 Kings 18:30-39 (AMP)

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people approached him. And he repaired and rebuilt the [old] altar of the Lord that had been torn down [by Jezebel].

31 Then Elijah took twelve stones in accordance with the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name."

32 So with the stones Elijah built an altar in the name of the Lord. He made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two measures of seed. 33 Then he laid out the wood and cut the ox in pieces and laid it on the wood. 34 And he said, "Fill four pitchers with water and pour it on the burnt offering and the wood." And he said, "Do it the second time." And they did it the second time. And he said, "Do it the third time." And they did it a third time.

35 The water flowed around the altar, and he also filled the trench with water.

[Note the "numeric(s)" pattern of (12) (2) (4) and (3), we have seen as a "Pattern of the Son" throughout this study!]

Elijah's Prayer (Observe Elijah asks God three (3) times!!

This is a shadow of the "pattern" of Jesus' instruction to ask, seek and knock.

Matthew 7:7-8 (AMP) Prayer and the Golden Rule

7 "Ask and keep on asking and it will be given to you; seek and keep on seeking and you will find; knock and keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who keeps on asking receives, and he who keeps on seeking finds, and to him who keeps on knocking, it will be opened.

Page 15 The Divine Key of Twelve

Here is a searching application for the Church: Should God's people allow their belonging to Him to govern their relationships with one another? The twelve (12) stones on Aaron's breastpiece summon our attention to:

- Covenant faithfulness,
- Restored worship, and
- The Lord who turns hearts toward Himself.

Luke 6:12–16 records that Jesus spends the night in prayer before choosing twelve (12) apostles from among His disciples. Against the background of Israel's twelve (12) tribes, this choice carries profound significance! Jesus gathers representatives around Himself as He announces and embodies the Kingdom of God!

Luke 6:12-16 (AMP) Choosing the Twelve

12 Now at this time Jesus went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. 13 When day came, He called His disciples and selected twelve of them, whom He also named [a]apostles (special messengers, personally chosen representatives): 14 Simon, whom He also named Peter, and his brother Andrew; and [the brothers] James and John; and Philip, and Bartholomew [also called Nathanael]; 15 and Matthew (Levi, the tax collector) and Thomas; and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot; 16 Judas [also called Thaddaeus] the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor [to the Lord].

Matthew 19:28 explicitly connects the apostles with the twelve (12) tribes.

- Their authority comes from Him,
- Their teaching must remain faithful to Him,
- Their mission proceeds under His lordship.

Twelve (12) directs us toward an ordered people whose life and calling find their center in Jesus Christ!

Matthew 19:28 (AMP)

28 Jesus said to them, "I assure you and most solemnly say to you, in the renewal [that is, the Messianic restoration and regeneration of all things] when the Son of Man sits on His glorious throne, you [who have followed Me, becoming My disciples] will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

The apostles themselves teach us that appointment must be accompanied by transformation! Appointments need • instruction, • correction, • courage, • humility, and • the empowering Presence of Holy Spirit!

- Their disputes about greatness reveal mankind's ways!
- Jesus' teaching about service reveals God's ways!

The numeric twelve (12) does not make these men mature!

The Lord Who calls them forms them by His written Word and Holy Spirit.

For us, understanding must produce the same movement of transformation from seeking prominence toward serving faithfully, from self-confidence toward dependence, and from merely recognizing a biblical pattern toward living under Christ's authority to full reliance on the "One" Who calls and appoints... Jesus Christ!

Acts 1:15–26 records the selection of Matthias after Judas's betrayal and death. The attention given to restoring the apostolic company to twelve (12) shows the importance of its representative role at this foundational moment!!!

[Note: For access to Acts 1:15–26 consult <https://www.biblegateway.com>]

Ephesians 2:19–22 then describes God's household as built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone.

The foundation derives its • unity and • alignment from Him.

This is central to the Divine Key of Twelve!

- The people are gathered around Christ,
- The witnesses testify to Christ,
- The household grows into a dwelling place for God through the Spirit!

Ephesians 2:19-22 (AMP)

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens [outsiders without rights of citizenship], but you are fellow citizens with the saints (God's people), and are [members] of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the [chief] Cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure is joined together, and it continues [to increase] growing into a holy temple in the Lord [a sanctuary dedicated, set apart, and sacred to the presence of the Lord]. 22 In Him [and in fellowship with one another] you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Matthew 14:13–21 records twelve baskets of fragments remaining after Jesus feeds the multitude. In a Gospel where Jesus has appointed twelve apostles, this abundance fittingly resonates with His provision for His people. The explicit testimony is clear: He feeds the hungry, and the disciples gather what remains. His sufficiency exceeds what human calculation anticipated. We learn God's ways by bringing our limited resources into obedience to Christ and receiving His provision with thanksgiving. The twelve baskets belong within that revelation of His abundant care.

Ephesians 2:19-22 (AMP)

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens [outsiders without rights of citizenship], but you are fellow citizens with the saints (God's people), and are [members] of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the [chief] Cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure is joined together, and it continues [to increase] growing into a holy temple in the Lord [a sanctuary dedicated, set apart, and sacred to the presence of the Lord]. 22 In Him [and in fellowship with one another] you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Mark 5:21–43 places two occurrences of twelve within one account: a woman has suffered from bleeding for twelve years, and Jairus's daughter is twelve years old. The woman receives healing, and the child is raised. Their shared number draws our attention to the intertwined stories, though the passage does not assign twelve a separate symbolic definition. Its unmistakable revelation is the authority and compassion of Jesus over chronic suffering and death. Biblical numeric(s) serve us best when they deepen our attention to the Lord whom the passage reveals.

[Note: For access to Mark 5:21–43 consult <https://www.biblegateway.com>]

Revelation 21:12–21 brings the covenant pattern into a magnificent vision. The New Jerusalem has twelve gates bearing the names of Israel's tribes and twelve foundations bearing the names of the Lamb's apostles. Its measurements include twelve thousand stadia and a wall measured at one hundred forty-four cubits—twelve multiplied by twelve.

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These repeated numbers reinforce the city's ordered fullness as the dwelling of God with His people. The tribes and apostles appear within one vision centered upon God and the Lamb. Covenant history finds its unity in the divine purpose they reveal.

[Note: For access to Revelation 21:12–21 consult <https://www.biblegateway.com>]

The twelve precious foundation stones enrich this vision with beauty. Each foundation has its particular adornment, while all belong to one city. Together they portray a splendor greater than any single stone could express. Their named association with the apostles directs our attention toward the testimony upon which God's household is built. The vision invites us to contemplate a people whose shared life displays the glory of God. Distinction, belonging, order, and beauty come together in His presence.

Revelation 22:1–2 continues with the river of the water of life flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb, and the tree of life producing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. Twelve now accompanies a picture of continuing fruitfulness and provision!

The source is the throne; the life is God's gift! the fruit expresses the abundance of that life! The people whom God gathers and orders are sustained by His Presence. Their purpose includes fruitfulness, healing, and the manifestation of the life they receive from Him.

What, then, does the "Divine Key of Twelve" open for our daily walk?

It helps us recognize that belonging to God includes belonging among His people!

- His calling carries responsibility;
- His order serves His life-giving purpose; and
- His provision enables our fruitfulness.

We can ask:

- Am I allowing Christ to form my character?
- Am I honoring my place within His household?
- Am I preserving the testimony of His faithfulness?
- Am I receiving His provision and sharing its fruit?

These questions carry biblical understanding into obedience!

God's ways remain higher than our ways, and His thoughts higher than our thoughts!

Yet His Word gives Light, and His Spirit brings understanding!

Across the biblical witness, twelve (12) repeatedly directs us toward a people known by God:

- Represented before Him,
- Established in His purpose, and
- Sustained by His life.

The deepest revelation is the Lord Himself:

- Jesus Christ, the cornerstone,
- The Great High Priest,
- The giver of living bread, and
- The Lamb at the center of the city.

As we follow the "Pattern of the Son,"

- Knowledge becomes understanding,
- Understanding nourishes faith, and
- Faith bears fruit in a life that increasingly expresses His ways.