

THE USE OF THREE IN SCRIPTURE

- Three in scripture is used to show harmony, new life and/or completeness.
- The primary example is the Trinity.
- Other examples
 1. Holy, holy, holy
 2. The ark of the covenant contained three objects: Aaron's rod that budded, a pot of manna, and the tablets of the commandments.
 3. A cord of three strands is not easily broken (Ecc. 4:12).
 4. Jesus died and was raised on the third day.
- Interestingly, there are 12 sets of words and/or phrases that occur in triplet in the **Book of Jude**.
 1. **Threefold description of the readers:** beloved, kept, called
 2. **Threefold greeting:** mercy, peace, love
 3. **Three examples of judgment:** Israel in the wilderness, angels, Sodom and Gomorrah
 4. **Three examples of error:** Cain, Balaam, Core
 5. **Threefold description of apostates:** ungodly, turning grace into lasciviousness, denying the Lord
 6. **Three activities of the apostates:** defile the flesh, despise dominion, blaspheme dignities
 7. **Three figures of the apostates:** sunken rocks, shepherds, clouds
 8. **Three more figures of them:** trees, waves, stars
 9. **Three persons of the Godhead:** Spirit (v. 20), God, Christ (v. 21)
 10. **Three classes to be considered:** those in dispute, those in danger, those in defilement
 11. **Three stages of time:** before all time, now, forever
 12. **Three spiritual exercises:** building, praying, looking - from A. McShane (**What the Bible Teaches**)