

on the seventh day to proceed round it seven times when the walls should fall into ruin: Solomon was seven years building the temple which was dedicated in the seventh month, and the public festival lasted twice seven days; the number of Great Passovers referred to in the sacred writings are exactly seven, and the preternatural resurrection of individuals recorded are the same; the generations from Abraham to David are twice seven, from David to the Captivity the same, and from the Captivity to the Christian Era still the same.

These are *but a few* of the illustrations of the number 7 taken from the Old Testament.

The Jews had also a tradition that as the world existed 2,000 years without law, 2,000 years under the law, so should it be 2,000 under the Messiah, and that the last, or seventh thousand would be the Millennium. This opinion was held by Justin Martyr, Irenæus, Lactantius, Jerome and others; and St. Peter declares that with God 1,000 years are as one day, thus the six weekly days labour represent 6,000 years, then comes the great Sabbath of rest, and this opinion is held by many in the present day.

The whole machinery of the Apocalypse is conducted on the same principle. The Iconisms are almost all septenary. It contains seven synchronisms, preceded by a succession of woes addressed to seven churches, recorded in a book with seven seals, denounced by seven angels, to the sound of seven trumpets, and revealed by seven thunders, or oracular voices; the wrath of God against the idolatrous world is let loose by seven angels having seven plagues enclosed in seven golden vials, idolatry is represented under the figure of a scarlet coloured beast with seven heads, and seven idolatrous kings or forms of Polytheism are pointed out for destruction; and if we examine more particularly the machinery of this wonderful book we shall find it almost entirely based on the septenary number.

Among the heathen also, this number was held peculiarly sacred. Cicero in his "Dream of Scipio" calls it the binding knot of the world; and Plato in his "Timæus" taught that what he calls the soul of the world was generated out of the number 7.

In the cave of Mithra was a ladder of seven steps, representing the seven spheres of the planets, by means of which souls ascended and descended. This is precisely the ladder in Jacobs vision.

Pausanias tells us with regard to the monument of Osiris, which stood near Mount Taygetas, that at particular intervals from this monument were erected seven pillars, placed according to some ancient rule and method, which pillars were supposed to represent the seven planets, and the central monument no doubt represented the sun.

Brahma was styled "the being who shines with seven rays." Pan carried a pipe with seven reeds,

and Apollo a harp with seven strings. The Sybil gave Eneas directions to sacrifice seven bullocks and seven sheep before his initiation into the mysteries. Balaam built and offered on seven altars. The Sabeans, according to Maimonidas, sacrificed to their deity seven bats, seven mice and seven other creeping things. Jalkat in his commentary on Jeremiah says that the idol Moloch or Saturn was placed without the gates of Jerusalem; it was of molten brass and stood before his seven chapels with the face of an ox his hands spread abroad as though soliciting a present, and any one might obtain permission to enter either of his chapels according to the value of the present he gave, and to induce him to offer his sons, the high distinction of entering the Sanctum Sanctorum or seventh chapel was offered.

These seven chapels resembled the seven gates with which the Persians honor the sun, and mystically represent the seven days of the week and the seven planets of which the sun was Moloch or king. This image was a personification of Saturn devouring his own children, and emblematical of Chronos or Time, divided into weeks, months and years, by whom all the children of men will eventually be devoured. To the same cause may also be inscribed the origin of the seven vases in the temple of the sun near the ruins of Babian in Upper Egypt; the seven altars which burned continually before the God Mithras in many of his temples; the seven holy fanes of the Arabians; the seven bobuns of perfection in the Hindoo code; The Jewish Sephiroth was composed of seven splendors; the Gothic deities were seven in number, viz. the Sun, the Moon, Tuisco Woden, Friga and Seatur, from whose names are derived our days of the week; the seven planets of antiquity were the Sun, the Moon, Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Venus and Mercury; the seven worlds of the Indians and Chaldeans; the Musselmans reckon seven climates, seven seas, seven heavens and seven hells; the seven virtues, cardinal and theological; the seven constellations mentioned by Homer and Hesiod, Orion, Sirius, Arcturus, the Pleiades, Hyades, Bootes and the Lesser Wain; the seven wise men; the seven wonders of the world; the seven stars, alike in Ursa Minor and the plaustrum of Ursa Major; the seven prismatic colors; the seven notes in music; Thebes had seven gates; the shield of Achilles consisted of seven bull's hides; the seven Pleiades, the seven Hyades; the seven Titans or Titanides; Hydra with its seven heads; the seven Heliades of the Greeks; the seven Cabiri of the Phœnicians, the seven Arnschaspands of the Parsees: the seven pieces in which the body of Bacchus was torn by the Titans.

The Hindoo mythology had its seven Menus, seven Pitris or Rishis, and seven Brahmadas; it had also seven heavens and seven earths, and the serpent deity Jaganatt was represented with seven heads;