

**HEALING STREAM MINISTRIES** presents...

**THE UNDILUTED, FULL STRENGTH, THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES**  
with enough power to...

- **cleanses from all sin**
  - **set us free from all bondage**
  - **break all the power of the enemy over us**
  - **restore us to total spiritual health**
  - **develop immunity to all last-day deceptions**
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### **The Biblical Meaning of '666'**

There is no shortage of opinions about the meaning of '666,' the number of the beast. Enter this number on a major search engine on the world-wide web, and you will be overwhelmed at the thousands of entries on this topic. However, much of the information and application of 666 rests more on conjecture, sensationalism, extra-Biblical applications of Latin numeral numbers, and headlines from newspapers. It is my purpose in this devotional to let the Bible be its own interpreter in decoding the meaning of this number.

For illustrative purposes, consider the grading system in schools. Grades range from F to A. A expresses excellence, and F expresses failure. Educational institutions also grade on a percentage scale of 1 – 100. In the Bible you will not find such a grading system employing these numbers, but you will find that God uses a scale of 1 to 7, with the number '7' designating His perfect work.

Look at these examples:

- God created the earth in six days, and He expressed His own satisfaction (very good) in the number '7' of the seventh-day Sabbath.
- God's Son, Jesus Christ, rested in the tomb on the seventh-day Sabbath, after He with total perfection had completed His work of redemption.
- The elders [the witnesses] in heaven's open courtroom declare their rating in worship of Christ's redemptive work by giving Him a seven-fold outpouring of worship. *"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory and blessing"* (Revelation 5:11).
- Please answer these questions:

1. Do you agree with the rating by the witnesses in heaven's courtroom of the perfection and completeness of Christ's finished work on Calvary's cross?
2. According to God's rating scale of 1-7, would you without reservation give Jesus Christ the grade of 7?
3. When God, on basis of Christ's shed blood, justifies and forgives you, what rating does God give you? A six or a seven.
4. What grade would you give God for justly having given you a grade of '7' designating that in Jesus Christ you are totally complete?

Look for a moment at these Biblical uses of the number six, remembering that it is the number of man.

- Man was created on the sixth day.
- It was on the sixth day that man crucified the Creator.
- At the wedding feast of Cana there were six water containers, no doubt signifying the best work of man to complete the festivities.
- In John chapter 4 we have the account of Jesus' meeting with the woman at Jacob's well in Samaria. This woman had been in five marriages, and the relationship she was currently in was not a marriage (Jesus knew this and told her so). But this woman, with all the failures of six dysfunctional relationships, is now about to meet man number seven, Jesus the Messiah, who through His love and acceptance totally turned her life around.
- In the story of the rich man and Lazarus, the rich man pleads to return to warn his relatives still on earth. "I have five brothers..." So there were actually a total of six brothers – all headed in the wrong direction.
- Nebuchadnezzar's golden image was made in the dimensions of sixty by six cubits.

Based on these, and numerous other occurrences and uses of the numbers six and seven, it is my sincere belief that the number six represents the grading, or rating, that God gives us when we try to save ourselves. Try hard to be saved by your own good works, and you will receive the rating of six. Work on it really hard, and you will still receive a rating of 66, or 666, but never will you receive God's rating of '7' on your life because you have accepted the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ to cover all your sins.

Are you willing today to accept that right now God will give you a rating of seven when you trust in Christ's sacrifice for your sins. And remember, God doesn't grade on the curve. So quit comparing yourself with the performance of others, somehow believing that because you think you are bet-

ter than others, that this qualifies you for entrance to heaven. According to God's grading scale you will still qualify for a grade of six.

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