

## The Number 40

The number 40 is mentioned 146 times in Scripture, 40 generally symbolizes a period of testing, trial or probation. During Moses' life he lived forty years in Egypt and forty years in the desert before God selected him to lead his people out of slavery. Moses was also on Mount Sinai for 40 days and nights, on two separate occasions (Exodus 24:18, 34:28), receiving God's laws. Moses' face shone after the 40 days on the mountain. (*Exo 34:29*)

The number forty can also represent a generation of man. Because of their sins after leaving Egypt, God swore that the generation of Israelites who left Egyptian bondage would not enter their inheritance in Canaan (Deuteronomy 1). The children of Israel were punished by wandering the wilderness for 40 years before a new generation was allowed to possess the Promised Land.

Moses also sent spies, for forty days, to investigate the land God promised the Israelites as an inheritance (Numbers 13:25). The Israelites spent 40 years in the wilderness, one year for each day they explored the Promised Land. (Exodus 14:34, 16:35), (Numbers 14:33-34)

Jesus was tempted by the devil not just three times, but MANY times during the 40 days and nights he fasted just before his ministry began. He also appeared to his Disciples and others for 40 days after his resurrection from the dead. (*Mat 3:17 KJV*) (*Mat 4:1-2 KJV*) (*Acts 1:3 NIV*). Jesus, just days before his crucifixion, prophesied the total destruction of Jerusalem (Matthew 24:1 - 2, Mark 13:1 - 2). Forty years after his crucifixion in 30 A.D., the mighty Roman Empire destroyed the city and burned its beloved Temple to the ground.

The Prophet Jonah powerfully warned ancient Nineveh, for forty days, that its destruction would come because of its many sins. The Prophet Ezekiel laid on his right side for 40 days to symbolize Judah's sins (Ezekiel 4:6). Elijah strengthened by two angelic meals, went forty days without food or water on Mount Horeb. Mount Horeb is also where the Lord passed by and Elijah heard the voice of God (*1 Ki 19:8 KJV*).

## Other Appearances of the Number 40

God allowed the ancient Israelites, from time to time, to be harassed and dominated by certain enemies in order to chastise and humble them for their sins. The Philistines, in the southern and western parts of Israel's land, harassed them from 1105 to 1065 B.C. (40 years). God's resolution to the harassment was Samson (see Judges 13:1, 1Samuel 7:13, 15 - 17).

The Bible was written by forty different people, the Book of Exodus, with its 40 chapters and 1,213 verses, is the seventh longest Book. The longest is the Book of Psalms.

From the time they entered the promised land, to the time of King Saul, Israel was sporadically governed by a number of individuals known as Judges. Though they did not rule like a king, they nevertheless had a tremendous influence on the people, as they represented God and were inspired to execute his will. Judges who served 40 years include Othniel, Deborah and Barak, Eli and Gideon.

The first three Kings over the children of Israel, Saul, David and Solomon, each ruled for forty years (1050 to 930 B.C.).

Abraham tried to bargain with God to NOT destroy Sodom and Gomorrah if forty righteous people were found (Genesis 18:29).

Both Isaac and Esau were forty years old when they were first married (Genesis 25:20, 26:34).

Goliath came for forty days before being killed by David (*1 Sam 17:16*)

God flooded the earth by having it rain for forty days and nights (Genesis 7:12).

Noah waited another 40 days after it rained before he opened a window in the Ark. (Gen 8:6)

After the patriarch Jacob (Israel) died in Egypt, the Egyptians spent forty days embalming his body (Genesis 50:3).

Jesus ascended into heaven 40 days after the resurrection. (Luke 24:31; Acts 1:1-11)

In summary, remember that it is not the distance of forty miles but that it is the number 40 that symbolizes that great and important undertaking of becoming a Sir Knight. May you ever remain a part of our Magnanimous Order.

In Hoc!

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