

The Number “120”

<u>Transitional Time</u>	<u>Dates / Time</u>	<u>Death & Resurrection Theme</u>
1. Pre-flood to Post-flood world Gen. 6:3	1534 AM – 1654 AM <u>120 years</u> till flood	God kills the world, newness comes through Noah.
2. Tabernacle to Temple world I Samuel 4 – I Kings 6 Ark of covenant is stolen in the Battle of Aphek and Eli dies – to the time the Temple is build by Solomon	2881 AM death of Eli 3000 AM temple finished <u>120 years</u> (including the year of Eli’s death)	With the death of Eli begins the death of the Tabernacle Era. David recovers the Ark to Jerusalem, Solomon builds the temple.
3. Jewish Kings to World of Empires <i>(Judah’s death & resurrection)</i> Babylonian-Servitude was to begin with the death of Josiah. The nation was restored to the land when Nehemiah finished rebuilding the walls.	608 BC Josiah dies (II Chr.35) 489 BC walls rebuilt (Neh.13) <u>120 years</u> (including the year of Josiah’s death)	With Josiah’s death, the 70 years of Jerusalem’s desolations begin. The nation is killed and brought back to life through Daniel, Cyrus, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, and Darius I.
4. Jesus’ local work to Apostolic global work Christ death ended His Jerusalem ministry After James’ death, within the next year in 45 AD Paul carries out his 1 st mission	30 AD Jesus crucifixion 44 AD James martyred by Herod 45 AD Paul’s 1 st mission trip	The death of Jesus and Paul’s first mission trip span a total of 15 years. Old Covenant Jerusalem spiritually dies, while the New Covenant Jerusalem then spreads to the Gentiles after the death of James.

An Example Where The “Triangular Multiple” Helps With Interpretation

The triangular multiple of a number is sometimes used to express the fullness of a smaller number. The 153 fish that Peter caught (John 21) represented the fullness of the nations being caught by the church. (see Ezekiel 47:10) The numerical value of the town named “Gedi” was 17. The numerical value of the town “Eglaim” is 153. Add up the numbers 1,2,3,4...until you get to 17; and the sum will be 153 – which is the triangular multiple of 17. Ezekiel 47 says they will fish from the towns of En Gedi and En Eglaim, and catch great fish. The numerical value of these towns explain why it was significant for Peter to catch 153 fish. Peter’s catch demonstrated a fulfillment of Ezekiel’s vision, with 153 being the triangular multiple of 17, which is simply the sum of 7+10. Of course $7 \times 10 = 70$, which is the number of nations in Genesis 10. The meaning of Ezekiel’s vision, significance of the digits 7 and 10 - whether added, multiplied, or triangularized - all helps to explain why Peter’s catch of 153 fish in the providence of God was theologically important. This numerical use of triangular multiples may help explain why God ordained for there to be 120 people in the upper room in Acts 1:15.

Applying The “Triangular Multiple” Interpretation to Acts 1:15

The preceding chart lists three transitional time periods that lasted for 120 years. The themes of new creation, maturity, and death/resurrection can be seen during all of these 120 year periods. There were 15 years between the death of Jesus and Paul’s first mission, during which Jerusalem was hardened against the church. After the death of James (14 years after Jesus’ death, 7×2) the church continued to prosper with Paul’s 1st missionary journey. Those 15 years initiated with Jesus’ death and climaxing with Paul mission journey was a transitional point in history – branching God’s kingdom out to the surrounding world.

Well, the triangular multiple of 15 is 120. In the Spring of 30 AD, 120 people met in the upper room. Over the next 15 years God’s kingdom would be transformed from a Jewish location and identity into a global family with no earthly barriers. Also, after the upper room meeting, a crowd from 15 regions (2:9-11) would hear them speaking in tongues. The 15 years between Jesus’ death and Paul’s 1st mission trip, and the 15 regions listed in Acts 2, all shed light on why there was 120 in the upper room. 120 is the triangular multiple, the fullness, of 15. Starting with the 120, God’s kingdom and the regions of the world, were transformed.