

The Number “Forty” In Scripture

The number **forty** echoes throughout the Old and New Testaments, and recalls such events as:

- a) **Noah & company’s** 40 Days in the Ark during the storm and then 40 more days in the ark waiting for the waters to subside. (Genesis. 7:4, 12; 8:6)
- b) **Moses’** 40 days fasting on Mt. Sinai before receiving the Law (Exodus 24:18)
- c) **Israel’s** 40 year migration in the desert (Deuteronomy 8:2, 4; Psalm 95: 7-10)
- d) The number of days the twelve spies spend investigating the Promised Land (Numbers 13:25)
- e) 40 years of peace Israel enjoys under **the Judges** (Judges 3:11, 30)
- f) Goliath taunts the Israelites for 40 days before David slays him (1 Samuel 17:16)
- g) **Elijah’s** 40 day journey to Mt. Horeb (1 Kings 19:8)
- h) The 40 year reign of each of Israel’s first three kings: **Saul** (Acts 13:1); **David** (2 Samuel 5:4-5); **Solomon** (1 Kings 11:42)
- i) Ezekiel lays on his side for 40 days (Ezekiel 4:6)
- j) 40 days of penance by the citizens of **Ninevah** after Jonah announces God’s judgment (Jonah 3:4)
- k) **Jesus’** 40 day testing in the desert (Matthew 4:2; Luke 4:2; Mark 1:12)
- l) **Jesus’ 40 days with the disciples** from the Resurrection to the Ascension (Acts 1:3)