

ROMAN NUMERALS

Many Bibles (particularly older prints) have chapter numbers marked in Roman Numerals. That is, letters which represent numbers. Such a numbering system is not often taught in schools today. This can lead to difficulties when trying to find references in some Bibles and in some older publications.

Here is an exercise on understanding Roman Numerals.

Roman Numerals

I=1; V=5; X=10; L=50; C=100; D=500; M=1000.

Basic Rules

The highest denomination letters usually occur first; e.g. VI = 6; XVI = 16; the lower denomination being added to the higher value.

If a lower denomination letter occurs before a higher one, then the value is subtracted from the higher one; e.g. IV = 4; IX = 9; XIV = 14; XL = 40

Note: I only occurs before a V or X and not before any higher denomination. Therefore 49 is not IL but XLIX.

Two letters together of the same type are additive; e.g. XX = 20; CCC = 300.

It is not usual to have more than 3 letters of the same type together; e.g. not CCCC, but CD = 400.

Questions

What numbers do these Roman Numerals represent?

1. VII
2. XXIII
3. XXXIV
4. XLI
5. CLIX
6. MD

What Roman Numerals represent the following numbers?

7. 15
8. 29
9. 64
10. 99
11. 273

Extra question:

An old Bible states it was printed in MDCCXXV. What year was that?