368 Three (*Tria*)

The third number contains many mysteries, for Abraham obeying God led his son to be sacrificed. Again, the three days, Gen. 22[:2-4].

Again, after the departure from the Egyptians after a journey of three days, Exod. 8[:27]. The people sacrificed and were purified, [Num. 10:33]. And Jacob removed his flock from the flock of Laban by the journey of three days, Gen. 30[:36].

¶ And Ezechias weakened on the third day went up into the temple, 4 Reg. [20:8].

¶ Again, “Joseph put his brothers in prison three days,” Gen. 42[:17].

Again, the spies of Josue stayed away for three days, Jos. 2[:22].

Again, Mark 8[:2] Christ said, “I have compassion on the multitude, for behold they have now been with me three days.”

Again, when man commonly labors under three spiritual sicknesses, pride against God, envy against his neighbor, lust against himself, he needs a remedy, Osee 6[:3]: “He will revive us after two days: on the third day he will raise us up.”

Again, Gen. 40[:12-13]: “Yet three days: after which Pharaoh will remember.” Wherefore Seneca, book 1, of the *Declamationes*,[[1]](#endnote-1) whoever had done three stints of military service was able to rest, so the Christian after he has conquered three enemies, rests.

Again, [2 Kings 13:38] David did not permit his son to come to him until he had fought with King Gessur for three years. So, neither shall we return as a member unless we have fought under the three parts of penitence. It is reported that a heavy bird cannot fly from the earth unless he first makes three leaps above the ground. Thus neither can a heavy sinner be able to go from the earthly things to God unless through the three parts of penitence which are designated by the three cities of refuge which God ordered through Moses to be separated for refuge of the sons of Israel, Jos. 20[:2], and Deut. 19[:2]. But homicide is sinning mortally.

Again, Christ “said he could rebuild the temple after three days,” Matt. 26[:61].

Again, Peter quietly said three times he loved Christ against the three denials which first he had made, John last chapter [21:15-17].

Again, Luke 13[:7] when Christ came to the barren fig tree he said, “Behold, for these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down therefore: why does it cumber the ground?”

1. Seneca the elder, *Controversiae* 1.8 (LCL 463:176-177): Ter fortem pater in aciem quarto volentem exire retinet; nolentem abdicat.

   Anyone who has acted heroically three times shall be exempt from military service. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)