



ZWTF

Zapping You Whenever Thoughts Flow

Volume 8, Issue 6

The History of the Universe, Chapter 3.

God has revealed Himself.



It is essential for God to reveal Himself to humanity, otherwise we would be floundering at sea without anchor or lighthouse, left to our own random thoughts about the universe, thoughts concocted while staring into the clouds, dreaming in the middle of the night, or in the aftermath of alcohol or pot. That, and God would be constipated.

I once heard an interview where Paul McCartney said that upon his first ingestion of LSD, he felt as though he had happened upon the secret of the universe. He asked for a pen and jotted down his thought on a napkin. The next day he had completely forgotten about the napkin, but was reminded of it by the band's roadie, Mal Evans. Paul couldn't wait to see what he had written. Mal handed him the napkin, Paul unfolded it and read, "There are five levels."

I could have sworn there were six.

NEXT LEVEL

I once heard from a guy who had hit his head on the bottom of a swimming pool that there were only two levels, and the second one seemed very watery. A friend of mine tried absinthe for the first time, fell asleep, and woke up convinced that there were 8 1/2 levels that smelled chiefly of wormwood. A completely sober Macy's clerk with whom I used to do a radio show said that the first time she took a whiff of Coco Mademoiselle by Chanel she knew that there were 105.95 levels, preceded by a dollar sign. Another business associate of mine was hit by a car. He was only in a coma for a week, thank God. He said that, while in the coma, he knew that there were 12 levels. What he didn't realize



(and I never told him) was that his family had played the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas” over and over to him, to bring him out of his trauma-induced stupor. It worked.

I was at an outdoor jazz festival not long ago here in Ft. Lauderdale, sitting on a blanket with a bunch of other people, drinking white wine and eating Ritz crackers, when an attractive blonde woman named Liz told me that she was “just certain” that we used to be stars before we came to Earth, and that when we die, we will go back to being stars. I said, “Where did you hear that?” and she said, “I read it in a book somewhere from a guy with a Ph.D.” “What was his degree in?” I asked her. “Cognitive Psychology,” she said. “What in the world would that have to do with anything about being stars?”



“I used to be a comet.
C/1854. But you can call
me ‘Klinkerfues.’”

“I don’t know. Maybe I heard it in a Disney movie.” “Do you have any recollection of being a star before you came here?” “No,” she said, “but I remember that, when I was six years old, I fell off my bicycle...” “And you saw stars?” “Yes! Martin, do you think that was *deja vu*?” “No. It’s *deja Jew*. I feel like I’ve wandered in this desert before.” “Are you making fun of my revelation?” “Not at all. I used to be a comet.” “Oh? Which one?” “C/1854. But you can call me ‘Klinkerfues.’ I emerged from the Oort cloud. Mine was an eccentric orbit, I can assure you of that. I out-gassed all the other comets just before becom-

ing heliocentric and escaping the solar system. I’m genuinely hyperbolic.” “I wouldn’t brag about it,” she said. “*Jerk.*”

Some people claim to have died, gone to heaven and then returned to earth. This is especially fantastic when it happens to children, because we all know that it is nearly impossible for children to be manipulated by adults in order to “wow” a gullible public hard enough to sell 1.5 million books to it. (Are there 1.5 million levels?) Some twelve year-old kid supposedly died on an operating table, went to heaven, came back and said that he had seen “a long tunnel,” “lots of lights,” “jasper futons,” “street lamps made of amethyst,” “Jesus in a white suit,” “a noticeable lack of traffic signals,” and “an angel that glowed in the dark and sang like Aretha Franklin.”

Another guy died and went to hell—and of course wrote a bestselling book. When interviewed, the guy wasn’t sure if it was *actually* hell or an eight-hour layover in Newark. He said that there were hideous looking creatures that were trying to stab him with pitchforks and threatening to strip him naked and torture him and his family alive on a spit over an open gas flame. So it definitely turned out to be Newark.

UNGRATEFUL DEAD

As an aside (thank you for indulging my sudden craving for sanity), I have always wondered why people in the Bible (such as Lazarus) who were raised from the dead were not incensed to have been recalled to earth; “jerked back to this hell-hole,” as it were. That’s a buzzkill if ever there was one. If they had actually been high above the starry vaults cavorting with the likes of Aretha Franklin and Jesus, getting all Gene Kelly with the amethyst street lamps, don’t you think that they’d awake from “death” cursing the one who had yanked them from the wonderland of “oblivion?” Yet the resurrected dead of the Bible—without exception—all appear rather sleepy. Their first question is always along the lines of, “Can I have a glass of water?”



Someone gives them the water and perhaps hands them a newspaper. Or maybe hands them the funeral bill. The recently dead are generally startled at the passage of time. To them, the moment of their awakening seems like the moment they entered repose—not that any could recall that precise moment anyway. It is as almost as though the dead did not even know that they'd been dead.

It is likely that Mary, upon witnessing her brother Lazarus walking from the tomb at the command of Jesus, would have asked him, “Where were you, bro?” Throwing his thumb back toward the tomb, Lazarus would have replied, “In *there*, apparently. Do you have a smoke?”

No, the Creator of the Universe is not so cruel as to leave us dependent on a tripping ex-Beatle to answer our most pressing questions:

- 1) Why am I here?
- 2) What is death?
- 3) What happens to me when I die?
- 4) Will I live again?
- 5) Is there a heaven?
- 6) Is all human life restricted to Earth?
- 7) Why did Aretha Franklin leave Atlantic records in 1979 and sign with Arista?

These questions deserve answers.



ETHER THIS OR THAT

This book must *assume* a Creator of the universe, for how could anyone possibly prove it? No one was there when it happened. Even if the reader believes in Evolution, no one was there when the first cell (or whatever) thought to divide, and eventually considered it best (after rummaging through various options) to become a giraffe. And if there

was a first cell, where did it come from? If there was a Big Bang, who set it off? You must indulge me here. I appeal, first of all, to the gifts of conscience, common sense and logic—and an appreciation of cause and effect. A young boy discovers at a young age that if he pushes his little sister, she will fall down. Then his mother generally takes away a toy and stands him in the corner.

Shit happens after shit happens. This is also true of the universe.

No one with even a smidgen of sense could consider the complexity of creation and imagine that it emerged accidentally out of an ether. Even if it did—who created the ether? This is like saying that an explosion at a printing factory could produce a completed dictionary, with every definition accompanying every appropriate word, flawless spelling, page numbering, and never a semi-colon where a comma should be. An atheist once wrote, “The first cell formed on the back of a crystal.” My young son Gabe once ate all the Scrabble tiles, and his *crap* made more sense than that.

WILL THE REAL DEITY PLEASE CREATE THE SUN

Since the universe has a Creator, then Who was it? As long as the reader accepts my premise, then the answer is obviously, “God.” How many gods are there? In fact, there are many because the word itself (*theos* in the Greek), simply means “subjector.” It’s a generic word (or title, rather) for anyone who subjects something. Hitler was once the god of Germany. It’s the same with the title “lord” (*kurios* in the Greek.) It’s another generic title meaning “master.” Do you have a landlord? Then he’s the master of the land.

There are many small “g” gods and small “l” lords, but there is only one capital “g” God and one capital “l” Lord. President Harry Truman is famous for the sign on his desk that said, “The buck stops here.” This alludes to “passing the buck,” where people keep looking down the line for the ultimate source, the ultimate authority, the one ultimately responsible for things. In our consideration of Who is responsible for *everything*, this cannot but fall upon a single Being.

But Who is God? The Muslims think that Allah is God. The Hindus have more gods than there are cows in Delhi, so they’re disqualified. The Buddhists have Buddha (naturally), the Israel God calls Himself “Yahweh,” which in the Hebrew means “*will-being-was*,” covering every time element known to man: future,

present and past—in that order, which I find interesting. (God sets forth the future first, perhaps to show off His time skills. Future and past are interchangeable for a Being existing outside of time and Who must condescend to even speak to humans in terms related to chronology.) This a handy way of saying that He always existed. In fact, He claims to tell the end *from* the beginning, which is a spectacular feat. (Don't try this at home.) That is, He does not require a giant telescope (as some suppose) with which to look into the future to see what His naughty, unmanageable creatures might do, then come back to "His time" and prophesy "brilliantly" concerning these same creatures, who He's already spied in their random decisions thanks to His powerful gazing tool. No. Everything has been laid out ahead of time—according to Him. When people say, "there is a reason for everything," this is why that is—because everything has been laid out ahead of time. It can't be any other way, that is, if there is "a reason for everything." The only way there can be "a reason for everything" is if everything is perfectly choreographed and then executed in a preconceived order meant ultimately for good, set to be discovered by beings purposely and blessedly ignorant of the next moment.

Not all these religions can be right. The reason I side with the God of Israel is that He has a killer bestseller that does not lower human morality, but rather (when properly translated) raises it. Concerning the Quran, Alexis de Tocqueville wrote—

I studied the Quran a great deal. I came away from that study with the conviction that by and large there have been few religions in the world as deadly to men as that of Muhammad. As far as I can see, it is the principal cause of the decadence so visible today in the Muslim world and, though less absurd than the polytheism of old, its social and political tendencies are in my opinion more to be feared, and I therefore regard it as a form of decadence rather than a form of progress in relation to paganism.

There are only two holy books in the world that are in the running for "the best record of ends, middles and beginnings," containing accounts of why things are and how they came to be. These two books are the so-called Bible (I call it "the Scriptures") and the Quran. It is not my goal to become an apologist for the Scriptures. *The History of the Universe* is too large and too sweeping of an undertaking for that. I will analyze some trees in this forest, but will not be stripping and scrutinizing bark.

I am dedicating only one chapter (this one) to a case for the Scriptures of Israel and the One commonly referred to as "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob"—the Writer of these Scriptures—Who is, in fact, the God of everyone, Who did and does everything, and Who was merely practicing upon the aforementioned patriarchs.

THROBBING GOD

I said that we will not depend on a pharmaceutically-compromised ex-Beatle (or my friend Liz) for revelation, and I'm sticking with that. If God is the all-mighty, all-knowing, eternal, "everywhere-at-once" Deity of Scriptural advertisement, then how can He possibly communicate with humans? And why would He want to?

Oh, He wants to. He has to. No one questions why the sun shines. For the same reason that the sun shines, God throbs by default. The sun is in fact a type of Him. He radiates not only a creative prowess (that sometimes smells like vitamin E), but intelligence—the intelligence by which all things consist. The miracle is not that He is readily known, but that so many people know so little about Him, that so many people can fondle a rose or watch a bee gather pollen and not be consciously aware of Him. (Some like to



call it "Intelligent Design.") But in fact, humans *are* aware of it; chalk that up to the instinct. But the corporate sense of most humanity is dampened by the lies of organized religion and atheism, which are unwittingly in cahoots. (Atheism screws the world by saying that there is no God; religion screws it by making God out to be a petty, short-tempered jerk.)

God will manifest His intelligence upon the Earth, but what He wants most at present is a general if temporary

ignorance of it. (Until now, of course.) The reasons for this will be explained. The reasons will make sense, as they must. (Hint: God wants intimate friends now; the rest will come to understand Him later.) Above all else, *God* makes sense. He is not often thought of this way. One wouldn't know of His sensible character from the obsessions and nonsensical confessions of those who have stolen His name for their own very *non*-intelligent designs.

HE REJECTED SKYWRITING

God wants other beings with whom He can fellowship and share His secrets. There is nothing more fun—*is there?*—than holding special, confidential information and then beckoning someone into your confidence to lay upon them the big whammy and then watch their faces. God cannot shut up to *everyone*. If there were such a thing as the Big Bang, it would be God exploding with a need to be seen, known, recognized.

God inspired human beings to write what He wanted to say. This did not nearly exhaust God's bottomless well, but it's all He wants us to know for now. It's all we *need* to know. I can't think of how else it could have been done. Write in the sky? Speak audibly? The problem with skywriting is that with the Earth being round and all, not everyone could see the writing simultaneously. Besides, skywriting is way too spectacular. Roses and bees aside, God does not, at present, embrace showy displays; it's not time for these. It *will* be time, but we must wait a few more years. Besides, skywriting—being by necessity a singular display (we have only one sky)—begs a uniform language. As there is not presently a global tongue, forget skywriting.

What about an audible voice? No. Too much reverb needed for that. The reverb would be required to stretch out the words and ring them out into eternity so that the

revelation could be re-assessed at one's convenience—unless of course there were a rewind function. I'm not seeing it—or hearing it.

The record must be common. This is God's way. Books. Print on ink. "Primitive" you may say, and I say, "Yes." But notice that the wheel is also primitive and yet we still drive cars, and massive airliners leaving LaGuardia for Heathrow still land on the wheel. In spite of technology, Earth's citizenry still wants paper in its hands. (God looked into His powerful telescope and saw this ahead of time.) In the digital era, paper comforts. Alternatively, print can be digitized and displayed electronically without the death of a single tree—but still be held in the hand. But the original? Paper. Pen. Ink. With the shadow of lamplight falling across it.

For the same reason that Jesus Christ was born in a stable and laid in a cow trough, God chose a book. And for the same reason Jesus' father's name was "Joe" and His mother's "Mary," He chose a book. Unlike skywriting, a book can be translated into every language. It can be bound to a reasonable size so that it fits into hotel nightstands. It can stand on bookshelves next to *Fifty Shades of Gray* and *The Lord of the Rings*. Bees can land on it and roses can be used to bookmark it. It can unveil the answer to everything, even while most people reading it miss practically all of it. This too is by design. It's the miracle of hiding something in plain sight.

God must set forth a reliable record that will not only stand the test of time and utilize common letters of common alphabets, but that will feel so freaky-real and hum above anything ever crafted by humans that even atheists would privately muse, *Jesus, there's something odd about this book.*

So how did God write it?

That is the trickier question. And yet the answer is simple.

THE "SPRINKLING OF FAIRY DUST"

God is not a man and so does not have a body and certainly lacks any of the human appendages that we've come to appreciate. But He has made creatures that *do* have these appendages (more on appendages in another chapter), who can grasp pens and set them to "paper" made from the pith of the papyrus plant.

I'll never forget the day I realized that Jesus did not speak English. He spoke Aramaic and Greek, but His words were recorded in Greek. Why Greek? For its precision. In English, we love hot dogs, love our wives, and





love God. It's "love" down the line from hot dogs to God; a hefty burden for a single dictionary entry. Greek, on the other hand, has *phileo*, *eros* and *agape*—glittering nuances of the emotion, each fitted for the need. You gotta *agape* those Greeks. The so-called Old Testament was written in Hebrew—another precise language containing no overlapping words or meanings. I'm not sure why God didn't choose English with which to reveal Himself, but let me bat my bat, plane my plane, check my check and untie my Pole from the pole and I'll get back to you on that.

Human beings, by design, sported the necessary appendages needed for the penning of books—of *a* book—so God wrote through them. This He did by means of His spirit. Spirit is simply the invisible power animating everything and causing all to cohere. One can no more see it than the wind, yet evidence of it is everywhere, just as it is with wind. In fact, the same Greek word for "wind" stands also for "spirit," namely, *pneuma*.

People like Moses, Paul, Matthew and John would take up a pen (or dictate), having received what to them must have seemed farfetched notions and yet simultaneously agreeable to the logic (and therefore not *overly* fantastic), and began writing. This happened rarely in human history. It happened over a period of about 1,500 years until the record and revelation was complete. In fact, it only happened to a total of thirty-six people. I know it seems magical—like the sprinkling of fairy dust.

I will make a case as to how magical it truly is; I'll demonstrate a unique feature of Scripture that could not have happened by chance. I call it "internal evidence."

This is no more fantastic, I don't think, than the concept of Evolution. That a single cell decided over millions of years to gradually become a giraffe is, in fact, more fantastic than what I have just proposed to you. Highly so, in my opinion. I am merely speaking of inspiration for writing that comes, for a change, from outside of one's own head. It proceeds relatively silently, scratches its head, licks its pen, clears its throat, shrugs, then keeps writing. When it is finished, it takes a piss. It is different, however—monumentally different—than the grocery list penned minutes before. No one knew just how monumental was the inspiration until the analysis of it thousands of years later found that it stubbornly stood every test from textual to time as science accedes to it bit by microscopic bit and archaeologists unearth its named cities.

MIDNIGHT AT THE BEDOIN CAVE

Some bedouins named Muhammed edh-Dhib, his cousin Jum'a Muhammed, and Khalil Musad wandered into a cave near what is now known as Qumran near the Dead Sea in the West Bank and found some scrolls. This happened in 1946. A lot of what they found was the so-called Old Testament, that is, the Hebrew Scriptures. The thing is, these manuscripts dated to the third century before Christ. Jesus Christ might have read them; literally rolled and unrolled them before breakfast. They came into the possession of a tribe known as the Essenes, with a penchant for caves. The book of Isaiah was almost completely intact. What remains intact in my mind is that the words of Isaiah the prophet, from a manuscript older than dirt, matches word-for-word the sounder versions of Isaiah today sitting on Barnes & Noble bookshelves.

COPY CATS

Speaking of versions, why are there so many of them? It is because we lack the originals. I must capitalize "Originals" henceforth, so extraordinary are they and would their discovery be. The Dead Sea Scrolls were copies, not the papyri upon which Isaiah's hand rested. And yet the Dead Sea collection may be only one or two copies removed from that august manuscript. Copyists did nothing but copy. They clocked in and looked back and forth from an older manuscript to the papyrus in hand to painstakingly copy, letter by letter, one to the other. Years expired before the completion of some projects and, one assumes, much coffee and cigarettes.

KING BLAMES

The oldest manuscripts would necessarily be the nearest to the mind of God. The goal is still to find those. But those now in our possession will do; they're old enough. I say to you, the copyists were good. The comparison of our modern versions with the Qumran scrolls evidences that.

The Old Testament was written in Hebrew, the New Testament in Greek. The three oldest Greek manuscripts, are *Codex Vaticanus*, *Codex Sinaiticus* and *Codex Alexandrinus*.

"God, Maude. Here he goes. The kid is winding up. He's getting technical on us. I was liking it up to this part. But I have to admit in spite of myself that I want to look at our Bible to check up on what the kid is saying. Where's our Bible?"

"What version do we have, Harold? Is it the King James?"

"You're asking me?"

"Here it is. Sure enough, it's the King James. I think this is the best. It sounds like it. It's named after a King."

"I don't trust it just for that reason. I don't know, Maude. Maybe the kid will tell us."

The King James version is terrible. It was translated, not with a system, but with a warning from King James to adhere to the teachings of the church of England or lose one's head. It has been convicted of containing over 20,000 translating errors.

"20,000 translating errors sounds like a lot."

"It *is* a lot, Harold."

20,000 is a lot of mistakes. Most English versions suffer from lack of method. The source manuscripts are generally interpreted, not translated. It's far too often what the "translators" wanted a passage to say, or what they thought it *should* say, that makes the grade.

The job of a translator is to look at a word in the source language, locate that word in every context in which it appears, and then assign the word an English equivalent for the target language that fits every context. It's all about context. The neighborhood in which a word lives gives it away. After that, the translators are to never use that English word for any other Greek or Hebrew word.

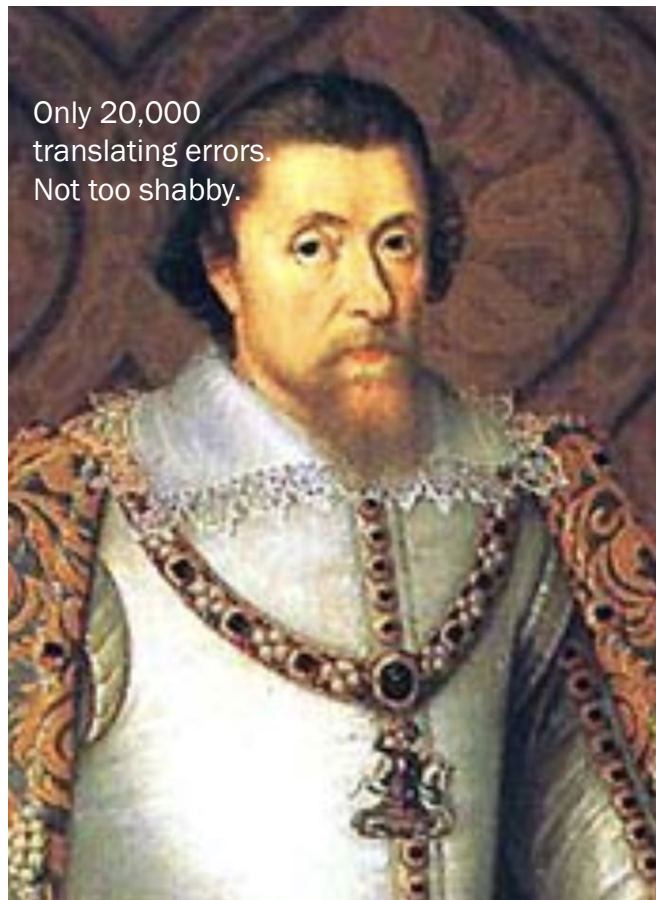
The KJV and other English versions fail on this count. For instance, the Greek word *kosmos* means "world." Once it was determined that "world" fit every context where *kosmos* appeared, then "world" should have stood for *kosmos* and never have done duty for any other Greek word. Did the common English translations do that? No. Not consistently. They also used "world" to trans-

late another Greek word, namely *aion*, which ought to be consistently translated, "eon." This is known as "cross-wiring." Not only do the common English translations use the same English word to translate different Greek words, but they will take a single Greek word and translate it with different English words. For instance, the KJV took the single Greek word *apochoreo*, (it means "depart") and translated it with twenty-one different English words and phrases, including "loose," "clear," "come away," "go," "lead up," "be off," "pass by," "proceed," "recoil," "retire," "withdraw" and "dismiss."

"Pshaw! Do you hear that, Maude? The kid is saying that the Bible we've been reading translated the same goddamn Greek word "come" in one place and "go" in other. How can one word have opposite meanings? How the hell are we supposed to know if we're coming or going?"

"I don't see how we can."

"I'll say. What gets my goat *now* is that when we see the word "world" in our Bible, is it the Greek word *kosmos* or *aion*? Christ a'mighty, who can know? I assume that when God said *kosmos* that He meant *kosmos* and not *aion*, and that if He had wanted to say *aion* He would



have damn well said it.”

“The thing is, He *did* say it, Harold, but these so-called translators gummed it up. They assumed to know better than God what He wanted to say.”

“It disgusts me, Maude. It just disgusts me.”

GETTING IT RIGHT

Throughout this book, when I need dead-on accuracy, I will use either the *Concordant Literal New Testament* or the *Concordant Version of the Old Testament*. This “concordant” business translates with a method (“concord” meaning “agreement”), giving God credit for saying what He wanted to say while avoiding the cross-wiring of the common versions. But if I want to get feeling across, I will use Eugene Peterson’s *The Message*, a paraphrase. It reads easier than the literal stuff, but it’s loosey-goosey. I will use it as long as it doesn’t compromise literal meaning.

Having said all this, I won’t to be burying you in references. From here on out, this will read more like a novel than an auto repair manual. Keep in mind throughout that this doesn’t mean I don’t have references. I just want to smell the roses without burdening myself or you with the genus and species.

Again, the reason I avoid the term “Bible” and prefer “Scripture” is that the Scripture is what God wrote. Admittedly, we lack the Originals. Most of the translations we possess are a cross-wired mess. The *Concordant Version* is the most consistent and readable I’ve found. It employs a translating *method*, straining with every syllable to preserve what God said. It respects God’s vocabulary, refusing to fiddle with it. Everything else is just a Bible.

INSIDE BASEBALL

There is internal evidence that the Bible is inspired. It has to do with numbers. Allow me to tiptoe into this topic.

God’s universe hums with numbers. Everything is math, somehow. Number pulsate through God’s creation *and* throughout the Scriptures. A divine Mind orchestrates this. Numbers are never wrong, and they never change. Numbers don’t give a damn for anyone’s opinion. I will first look at numbers in the physical creation, then in the Scriptures.

NUMBERS IN CREATION

The grains in Indian corn (maize) are set in rows

that are usually straight, but sometimes they spiral. The rows are always set out in an even number, and never odd. (Never.) The rows range from 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, and sometimes as high as 24. But never in 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, or any odd number. So much for corn.

The gestation periods of animals, birds and humans are always a multiple of seven, which is the number of resurrection and spiritual perfection:

- mouse—21 (3x7) days.
- hare and rat— 28 (4x7) days.
- cat— 56 (8x7) days.
- dog— 63 (9x7) days.
- lion— 98 (14x7) days.
- sheep— 147 (21x7) days.
- hen— 21 (3x7) days.
- duck— 42 (6x7) days.
- humans— 280 days (or 40x7).

Bees are loaded up with the number three, which is the number of divine completion:

- In three days the egg of the queen is hatched.
- It is fed for nine days (3x3).
- It reaches maturity in 15 days (5x3).
- The worker grub reaches maturity in 21 days (7x3).
- The worker works three days after leaving its cell.
- The drone matures in 24 days (8x3).
- The bee is composed of three sections—head and two stomachs.
 - The two eyes are made up of about 3,000 small eyes, each (like the cells of the comb) having six sides (2x3).
 - Underneath the body are six (2x3) wax scales with which the comb is made.
 - It has six (2x3) legs. Each leg is composed of three sections.
 - The foot is formed of three triangular sections.
 - The antennae consist of nine (3x3) sections.
 - The sting has nine (3x3) barbs on each side.

Music is infused with the numbers seven (again, the number of perfection) and eleven. There are seven notes in the scale (Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol, La, Ti—Julie Andrews brings us *back* to “Do”; it is not an eighth note.) The number of vibrations per second comprising each note is a factor of eleven. Notice:

- *Do*.
- Vibrations per second: 264 (24x11)



- *Re.*
Vibrations per second: 297 (27x11)
- *Mi.*
Vibrations per second: 330 (30x11)
- *Fa.*
Vibrations per second: 352 (32x11)
- *So.*
Vibrations per second: 396 (36x11)
- *La.*
Vibrations per second: 440 (40x11)
- *Ti.*
Vibrations per second: 495 (45x11)

Additionally, the difference between the vibrations is always a multiple of eleven. For instance, the difference between Do and Re is 33, as is the difference between Re and Mi. The difference between Mi and Fa, however, is 22; still a multiple of eleven. The difference between Fa and Sol is 44, as is the difference between So and La. The difference between La and Ti is 55.

God did this; Evolution can't do math.

Now, color. The number seven holds sway here again as there are seven primary colors: 1) red, 2) orange, 3) yellow, 4) green, 5) blue, 6) indigo and 7) violet.

This is no accident. The number seven infuses the universe as well as Scripture.

The numbers 7 and 11 are marvels of divine order. The following is taken from Dr. E.W. Bullinger's book, *Number in Scripture*, because I could never have come up with it and am incapable of paraphrasing it—

As 7 is to 11, so is the height of a pyramid (whose base is a square) to the length of its base. As 7 is to 11 expresses also the ratio between the diameter of a circle and its semicircumference; or between a semi-circle and its chord.

Further, as 18 in Scripture and in nature is divided

into 7 and 11, so 7 is divided into 3 and 4 ($3+4=7$), and 11 is divided into 5 and 6 ($5+6=11$).

These numbers, 3, 4, 5, and 6, are related by a perfect arithmetical progression, whose difference is unity (1). Their product gives us the well-known division of the circle into 360 degrees ($3 \times 4 \times 5 \times 6 = 360$). No one can tell us why the great circle of the heavens (the Zodiac) should be divided into 360 parts, instead of any other number, for apart from this it appears to be perfectly arbitrary.

This is the number, however, which gives us the great Zodiacal, Prophetic, and Biblical year of 360 days, which was given originally to Noah, and employed by the Babylonians and Egyptians.

The number 360 is divisible without a remainder by all the nine digits except seven. It is the multiplication of seven of these great Zodiacal circles, or years, by seven, which gives us the great number expressive of chronological perfection ($360 \times 7 = 2520$).

The number 2520 is, perhaps, the most remarkable of all others, for 1) it is the summary of all the primary rectilinear forms, 2) it is the product of the four great numbers of completion or perfection, as shown above (for $3 \times 7 \times 10 \times 12 = 2520$), 3) it is the Least Common Multiple (LCM) of all the ten numbers from which our system of notation is derived; for the LCM of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, is 2520.

Finally, in the musical scale, as we have already seen, we again meet with these numbers seven and 11 as the expression of the seven primary notes and the 11 semitones. What there is of design or chance in all this



we must leave to the judgment of our readers.
 “Somehow, Maude, I understood every word of that.”
 “I never knew you had it in you.”
 “The kid is altering my soul. Please fetch me another beer.”

NUMBERS IN SCRIPTURE

You are more than welcome to skim or skip the next three pages without hurting my feelings—much. I hope you don’t, however. At least contemplate them. What I am about to show you is an astounding reality that I’m certain most of you are unaware of. Not everyone attracted by the title this book needs what I’m about to set forth. Others will not go on without it. You have heard some say that every single letter of the Scriptures is inspired. It has seemed an incredible assertion, but it is no more incredible than what follows.

When orderly groupings of Hebrew and Greek letters are assigned numerical values, something astounding emerges. Consider for starters the number 13. This is in fact a terrible number. There is a reason why it has been thought to be unlucky. It is not superstition. Multiples of 13 show up everywhere in Scripture where lists of evil people occur. Or references to Satan himself. On the other hand, whenever lists of the righteous are listed, or reference to Christ Himself, it is always a multiple of the number 8, as 8 is the number not only of Jesus Christ, but of new beginnings.

But first I must show you the numerical values of the letters used by God to communicate with humanity—first from the Hebrew alphabet, then from the Greek. The study of this is called, “Gematria.” This is not Numerology. I don’t know who discovered this, but it was as earth-shattering a discovery as that of the cell, the atom, and the double-helix. As no human could have invented the double-helix, no human could have invented what I am about to show you. It could only be discovered.

HEBREW

Place:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Letter:	א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט
Value:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Place:	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Letter:	י	כ	ל	מ	נ	ס	ע	פ	צ
Value:	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
Place:	19	20	21	22					
Letter:	ק	ר	ש	ת					
Value:	100	200	300	400					

GREEK

Place:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Letter:	Αα	Ββ	Γγ	Δδ	Εε	Ζζ	Ηη	Θθ
Value:	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9
Place:	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Letter:	Ιι	Κκ	Λλ	Μμ	Νν	Ξξ	Οο	Ππ
Value:	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
Place:	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Letter:	Ρρ	Σσς	Ττ	Υυ	Φφ	Χχ	Ψψ	Ωω
Value:	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800

To find the gematria value of a word or phrase, one adds the numerical values of each letter in the word or phrase. This phenomenon occurs in both the Hebrew and the Greek. I can only give a few examples of a few numbers, because the examples are endless.

I just referenced the number 13. The following is copied directly from Dr. Bullinger’s book, which is in the public domain. This is but a partial list. I do this purposely so as to overwhelm you—

Let us begin with the great enemy himself, always remembering that though we may give the English for the sake of clearness, the gematria always refers to the original Hebrew or Greek:

- Satan, in Hebrew = 364 (13x28)
- Satan, in Greek = 2197 (13³)
- "That old serpent, even Satan" (ο οφεις ο αρχαιος...και ο Σατανας) = 2756 (13x212)
- "Ha-Seraph" (Num 21:8) = 585 (13x45)
- Beelzebub (with art.) = 598 (13x46)
- Belial = 78 (13x6)
- Δρακων (Drakon), Dragon (Rev 12:9) = 975 (13x75)
- Όφης (Ophis), Serpent = 780 (13x60)
- Murderer = 1820 (13x140)
- Tempter = 1053 (13x81)
- The Scape-goat = 585 (13x45)
- The Lion (Psa 91:13) = 338 (13x26)
- "As a Lion" (1 Peter 5:8) = 1885 (13x145)
- "The Power of the Enemy" (Luke 10:9) = 2509 (13x193)
- "Your adversary, the Devil, as a roaring lion" = 6032 (13x464)
- Fowler (Psa 91:3) = 416 (13x32)
- "Who is called the Devil and Satan" (ο καλουμενος διαβολος και ο Σατανας) = 2197 (13³)
- "Seven Devils" = 572 (13x44)
- "Because the Prince of this world is judged" (John 16:11) = 5577 (13²x33)
- "When he speaketh a lie he speaketh of his own, for he is a liar" (John 8:44) = 7072 (13x544)

Genesis 3

where the Devil is first mentioned and revealed. The opening words:

- "The Serpent was more subtle than all the beasts of the field" = 1521 (13²x9)
- The history of the Temptation, vv 1-7 = 24011 (13x1847)
- The second section (vv 8-11) = 49478 (13²x1903)
- The third section (vv 22-24), which records the expulsion from Eden = 10894 (13x838)
- The whole chapter = 84383 (13x6491)
- Eve's confession (v 13) = 3692 (13x284)
- Verse 8, which describes the act of the LORD God, is, on the contrary, 4064 (8x508)
- Verse 21, which records the Divinely prepared clothing in grace = 2856 (7x8x51)
- Verse 15, which we might expect to find significant, being the great primeval prophetic promise, is 4266 (3³x158); where we have the 42, the 66, of Antichrist, and the 9 of judgment.

- Verse 16, containing the hope of the promised seed, added to v 15 = 8512 (8000+8³)

Isaiah 27:1
Revelation 9:11

- The whole verse = 12090 (13x930)
- The locusts = 351 (13x3³)
- "They have a king, the angel of the abyss" = 3978 (13x306)

Ephesians 2:2

- "According to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air" = 9178* (13x706)
- "The power of the air" = 2600 (13x200)

* Ninety-one hundred being 13x700; and 78 being 13x6.

Luke 10:18

- "Lightning from heaven" = 2626 (13x202)
- "And He said, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven" = 6903 (13x531)

Ephesians 6:12

- "But against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" = 16211 (13x1247)

THE ADVERSARIES OF CHRIST

- "The Scribes" = 780 (13x60)
- "The Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites" = 2704 (13²x16)
- "Woe!" = 481 (13x37)
- "Leaven of Pharisees and Sadducees" = 3718 (13²x22)
- "A wicked and adulterous generation" = 1365 (13x105)

The Scriptures concerning Barabbas

- Matt 27:20: "But the chief priests and elders persuaded the people that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus" = 10127 (13x779)
 - The elders = 1352 (13x104)
 - The multitude = 2340 (13x180)
- Matt 27:16: "And they had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas" = 2743 (13x211)
- Mark 15:6: "Now at that feast he released unto them one prisoner, whomsoever they desired" = 910 (13x70)
- Luke 23:18: "And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas" = 9347 (13x719)
- John 18:40: "Then cried they all again, saying, Not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber." In this verse we have--
 - "Then cried they all again" = 2600 (13x200)
 - "Not this man, but = 1300 (13x100)
 - "Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber" = 1833 (13x141)
 - Total = 5733 (13x441)

The Scriptures concerning Judas Iscariot

- Luke 22:3: "Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve" = 8359 (13x643)
- Verse 47, "And he that was called Judas, one of the twelve" = 3458 (13x266)
- John 12:4: "Judas Iscariot, he that should betray Him" = 4511 (13x347)
- John 13:26: "Jesus answered, He it is to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when He had dipped the sop, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon" = 19435 (13x1495)
 - The last clause ("when," etc.) = 7371 (13x567)
- Matt 26:48: "Now he that betrayed Him gave them a sign, saying Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is He; hold Him fast" = 9867 (13x759)

So with Acts 1:16; Mark 14:44,45, and all the corresponding passages.



OTHER ADVERSARIES

- Simon Magus (with art.) = 1170 (13x90)
- Elymas = 676 (13²x4)
- "Certain sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, seven" (Acts 19:14) = 4953 (13x381)

The Adversaries named by St. Paul

- Hermogenes (2 Tim 1:15) = 481 (13x37)
- Philetus (2 Tim 2:17) = 1118 (13x86)

The Whole Group

- Hymenaeus and Alexander (1 Tim 1:20)
- Phygellus and Hermogenes (2 Tim 1:15)
- Hymenaeus and Philetus (2 Tim 2:17)
- Demas (2 Tim 4:10)
- Total = 5226 (13x402)

On the other hand, the titles of Christ are stamped with the number 8—

- Χριστός, Christ, 1480 (8x185).
- Κύριος, Lord, 800 (8x100).
- Κύριος ημών, Our Lord, 1768 (8x221).
- Σωτήρ, Saviour, 1408 (8²x 32).
- Ἐμμανουήλ, Emmanuel, 25600, (8³x50).
- Μεσσίας, Messiah, 656 (8x82).
- Υἱός, Son, 880 (8x110).

EIGHT IN THE APOCALYPSE

We see not only the number seven stamping the book throughout with spiritual perfection, but as it contains also the history which leads up to resurrection and the new heavens and earth, the number eight is also seen.

- There are 24 elders (3x8)
- Four beasts, each with six wings = 24 (3x8)
- Twelve thousand from each tribe, 12000 = (8x15x100)
- 144000 for all the tribes = 8²x15²x10; the same number of virgins who follow the Lamb
- 1600 furlongs, the measure of the winepress (8x8x25), or (8²x5²)
- The 1000 years (8x125)
- The 12000 cubits' length of the "four-square" city (8x15x100)

The number of souls saved in the ark of Noah? Eight. Hebrew boys, according to the Law of Moses, were to be circumcised when? On the eighth day.

I could continue with examples in Scripture of the multiples of the number 4 (the world), 5 (grace), 6 (weakness of man), 10 (ordinal perfection), 12 (governmental perfection), 40 (trial, testing, probation), 666 (antichrist), and so on. The gematria of words, phrases, sentences and whole passages will be suffused with content corresponding to the number and its meaning. For instance, anything to do with the weakness of man (Adam was created on the sixth day), God will overwhelm with multiples of six. Concerning the number 666, however (a number that most are fascinated by), it would be well to share the following.

The number 666 represents the full concentration of everything man can do (falling one short of seven, or perfection), and as such comes to represent the antichrist.

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As to the triple number 666, we have already seen (page 121) that while one figure (6) is significant, two figures (66) are still more so; and three figures (666) seem to denote the concentration or essence of the particular number.

We see further examples of this in

Jesus, 888, the dominical number;
Sodom, 999, the number of judgment;
Damascus, 444, the world number;
The beast, 666, the number of man.
"Verily, verily, I say unto you," 888;
The Lord God made, 888; etc., etc.

"The children of Adonikam" who returned from the Captivity (Ezra 2:13) numbered 666. Adonikam means the lord of the enemy. This is suggestive, even though it may be vague.

The number 666 has another remarkable property. It is further marked as the concentration and essence of 6 by being the sum of all the numbers which makes up the square of six! The square

of six is 36 (6², or 6x6), and the sum of the numbers 1 to 36 = 666, i.e., 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7 + 8 + 9 + 10 + 11 + 12 + 13 + 14 + 15 + 16 + 17 + 18 + 19 + 20 + 21 + 22 + 23 + 24 + 25 + 26 + 27 + 28 + 29 + 30 + 31 + 32 + 33 + 34 + 35 + 36 = 666.

I have one more number with which to regale you, and it is the number 153. Why this number? Because of John 21:4-11—

Now as it already is becoming morning, Jesus stood on the beach. Howbeit, the disciples had not perceived that it is Jesus. Jesus, then, is saying to them, "Little children, have you no viands?" They answered Him, "No!" Now He said to them, "Cast the net on the right parts of the ship and you will be finding."

They cast, then, and they no longer were strong enough to draw it, for the multitude of fishes. That disciple, then, whom Jesus loved, is saying to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Simon Peter, then, hearing that it is the Lord, girds on his overcoat (for he was naked) and cast himself into the sea. Yet the other disciples came in the other boat (for they were not far from the land, but about two hundred cubits off), dragging the net of fishes.

As, then, they stepped off to the land, they are observing a charcoal fire laid, and food fish lying on it, and bread. Jesus is saying to them, "Bring of the food fish which you now net." Simon Peter, then, went up and draws the net to the land, *distended with a hundred and fifty-three large fishes*. And, being so many, the net is not rent.

There were not "about 150 fish" in that boat. Neither were there 151, 152, or 154. There were precisely 153 fish caught by Peter that morning. My question is, why in the world would anyone care? Most people would assume that

this is just some random number thrown into the Bible by God for the hell of it. No. *Nothing* in Scripture is done for the hell of it. It comes back to numbers—as you may have guessed.

The number 153 represents in gematria, throughout Scripture, the "sons of God."

The expression "sons of God" appears seven times (number of perfection) in the Scriptures. The gematria of the phrase "sons of God" in the Greek is 3213, or 3x7x153. Additionally, the expression "the creation of God" is 1224, or 8x153. The phrase "joint-heirs" (Romans 8:17) has a gematria of 1071, or 7x153. In the record of the miracle itself, there are some remarkable phenomena.

The word for "fishes" ἰχθυες (ichthues), is by gematria 1224, or 8 x 153.

The words for "the net" are τὸ δίκτυον, and by gematria this also amounts to 1224, or 8 x 153, for it is unbroken, and carries the precious freight from "the right side" of the ship safely to the shore, and "not one is lost."

But there is more. The number 17 plays a part in 153. 17 is the sum of 7 (divine perfection) and 10 (ordinal perfection). Seventeen is not a multiple of any other number, and therefore it has no factors. Thus, it is called one of the prime (or indivisible) numbers. Even more importantly in our consideration of the 153 fish is that seventeen is the seventh (the number of perfection) in the list of prime numbers: 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17. Thirteen is also a prime number, but it is the sixth of the series (one shy of seven) and thus partakes of the significance of the number six, which as we have seen is the number of man, not God (one short of God). Since seventeen is the seventh of the series, it benefits from seven and is, again, the sum of two perfect numbers: 7 and 10.

But here's the thing. Watch what happens when we add up all the numbers up to and including the number 17, beginning with 1—

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7 + 8 + 9 + 10 + 11 + 12 + 13 + 14 + 15 + 16 + 17 = 153.

Is God the God even of fish? You tell me.

* * *

In light of all this, God can be trusted to know what He is talking about. He is not a liar.

Scripture is the history of the universe, communicated to humanity by the only One Who was there.

—MZ