

The Holy Bible, An Intelligent Design

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I'd like to begin by setting the stage for my message today, by reading the first several verses from John chapter 1.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Friends, these scriptures remind us that God the Father and Jesus Christ are Creators.

Romans 1, verse 20 further informs us that "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that mankind is without excuse"

Although the powers that be, strive to suppress this fact, as this verse states, the creation itself reveals an extraordinary and exceedingly complex level of intelligent design.

For all things in this physical universe, as well as the entire spiritual realm, which we commonly refer to as heaven, were created by Jesus Christ, through the express will of the Father.

And as John records, one of the names of Jesus Christ is the Word of God.

As we know the term translated word in John 1 is Logos. One of the ways we might define Logos is as "the expression of God"

Hebrews chapter 1, beginning in verse 1 reads;

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

2 has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

3 who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...

Jesus Christ, the Logos, the Word of God, while in the flesh, was the express image of the Father. A mirror image if you will, of the mind of God.

And God the Father through Jesus Christ has left us a physical expression of themselves, which is commonly referred too, as God's word, the Holy Bible.

Thinking of it in this way, we recognize that God's word, the Bible, is in fact a creation of God's thought process.

As many of us are aware, and as I have mentioned in the past, God has inspired the Bible to be designed, or constructed into 7 overall divisions.

However, upon in depth study, we find that there is a much grander God inspired numerical symmetry, within these 7 divisions of the Bible.

Unfortunately, this grander design has been altered in the vast majority to modern Bible translations today.

So today I thought I would talk a little about the Godly inspired and intelligently designed construction of the Bible itself.

And I will state at the outset, that a lot of this information comes largely from the work of a former Ambassador College Professor Ernest Martin PHD.

In the 3rd addition of his book "Restoring the Original Bible" Dr. Martin wrote; The world has never had a complete Old and New Testament combined together in it's original Godly inspired order.

And he ended this bold statement, by stating "that this is an historical fact!"

The original Old Testament manuscript order that was handed down from the time of Ezra and the Great Assembly, consisted of the entire OT being divided into 22 books.

With each book corresponding with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

Dr Martin states that his decades of research found that Catholic scholar Jerome was well aware of the traditional Old Testament order, and book number, when he translated the Bible into Latin, which became known as the Latin Vulgate.

For Jerome himself wrote " As, then there are 22 elementary characters by means of which we write in Hebrew, and the compass of the human voice is contained within there limits, so we reckon 22 books, by which [we find] the alphabet of the doctrine of God"

Sad to say, Jerome nevertheless disregarded this understanding, and followed the Greek Septuagint version which had expanded the OT into 39 books.

Dr Martin further states, thus the modern English OT has it's roots and origin in Alexandria, Egypt, where the Septuagint was created in the 3rd century BC.

So let's briefly go over the God created order of the OT text.

Division 1- the Law, the 5 Books of Moses.

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

Division 2- The Prophets

This second division comprises 6 sections.

The first, called the Former Prophets combines Joshua and Judges into one book.

Next we have what became known as the Book of Kingdoms, consisting of 1st and 2nd Samuel and 1st and 2nd Kings, all in one book.

Then we have sections 3 through 5, consisting of 3 individual books, that are labeled the Major or Latter Prophets, which are Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

The 6th or last section is called the Minor Prophets, of which we are all familiar. There are 12 minor prophets, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi, all comprising 1 God inspired book.

The 3rd and last division of the Old Testament is commonly referred too as The Writings. There are 11 books that make up this last section.

Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, and Daniel, which all are 9 individual books.

Followed by Ezra and Nehemiah which are 1 book and then concluding with 1st and 2nd Chronicles which are also combined together.

So we find that the over all structure of the OT is 22 books, arranged in 3 major divisions, comprising the 5 books of Law, the 6 books of the Prophets and the 11 books of the Writings.

As many of you may be aware, Fred Coulter has published a complete bible in the original manuscript order.

In the forward to this Bible he writes the following remarks, under the headline "An unacknowledged truth about the OT"

Coulter writes; [although] the OT is used in Judaism, technically speaking it is not a Jewish bible. Nor is it a Hebrew bible.

For when carefully analyzed, the little known truth is that the OT is an Aaronic/Levitical authored bible, that was written in the Hebrew language.

Moses as God's chosen servant authored the 5 books of the law. Moses was a Levite. God charged Aaron and his descendants with the responsibility of preserving the books of the law and the other OT books that were gradually added.

Many of the OT biblical authors such as Samuel, Jeremiah and Ezekiel were themselves Levites.

Other writes such as David and Solomon and many of the prophets, had there writing submitted to the Levites to be quote "laid up before the Lord"

Such as is recorded when David wrote his first psalm, wherein he gave it to Asaph the Priest. This account is found in 1 Chron. 16.7.

In this way, the written record of the prophets and writings were held in safe keeping by the Levitical priesthood, until God inspired Ezra and the Great Assembly to formally compile and canonize all 22 inspired books, into what became known as the Old Testament, near the end of the 5th century BC.

Josephus, himself a Levite, writing near the end of the 1st century AD, in his expansive work entitled the Antiquities of the Jews, endorses the fact that the original OT canon was arranged in 22 books.

Josephus wrote the following; "We have not a countless number of books, discordant and arranged against each other, but rather only 22 books, containing the history of every age, which are justly accredited as divine"

Also important to mention, is the fact that Jesus Christ, the Logos, the Word of God, inspired not only the writing but also the overall construction. And He specifically mentions the 3 fold nature of the OT text.

In Luke 24.44-45 we find '44 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."

45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

Since I'm referencing Luke, let's now review the original manuscript order of the New Testament as well.

Although Jerome did not change the number of books that comprise the NT, he did nevertheless rearrange them.

Jerome seeking to exalt the religious and political position of the Roman Church, saw fit to move the 14 letters of Paul in front of the 7 General Epistles.

Thus striving to give Paul “the Apostle to the Gentiles” a perceived greater weight and authority over that of the quote “Jewish Apostles”

By placing the Book of Romans directly after the Book of Acts, Jerome sought to shift the central doctrines of the NT church away from the former authority in Jerusalem, to that of Rome itself.

Dr. Martin writes; By Jerome’s new and radical placement of Paul’s letters, before the 7 General Epistles in his Latin Vulgate, he intentionally gave the letter to the Romans, and thus by association Rome, first rank, ahead of the Jewish Apostles who had placed there doctrinal foundation in Jerusalem.

“This rearrangement, Dr. Martin states, to exalt the Gentile section of the Christian Church, and the city of Rome in particular, does not have the slightest justification, when one consults the early Greek manuscripts from the New Testament”

Martin’s extensive studies of these early Greek manuscripts, conclude that the original order of the 27 New Testament Books is as follows.

Division 4 of the Bible comprising;

1]Matthew, 2] Mark, 3] Luke, 4]John, 5] the Book of Acts.

Followed by the 7 General Epistles, named such as they were originally distributed among most, if not all of the first Century Churches

6] James, 7] 1 Peter, 8] 2 Peter, with books 9, 10, and 11 being 1st, 2nd and 3rd John, and then the Book of Jude.

These 7 General Epistles make up the 5th Bible Division.

These are then followed by the 14 letters of the Apostle Paul, comprising Book numbers 13-26 of the New Testament.

13] Romans, 14 and 15 being 1st and 2nd Corinthians,

followed by 16] Galatians, 17] Ephesians, 18] Philippians, 19] Colossians, 20 and 21 being 1st and 2nd Thessalonians, 22] Hebrews

And the books 23 and 24 being 1st and 2nd Timothy, which are then followed by book 25 Titus, and then Paul’s last letter being number 26, written to Philemon.

And then of course we come to the last Book of the Bible, comprising the 7th division, which is the Book of the Revelations of Jesus Christ.

Fred Coulter writing in the forward of his “Bible in the Original Order” states that quote “ It is interesting to note that the book of Hebrews, which falls between Paul’s church epistles and his letters to individuals, is in fact book number 22, in the original New Testament canon.

As is found in the 22 books of the Old Testament manuscript order, number 22 is associated with the Hebrew language and the Nation of Israel” end quote.

Brethren, now that we have had this brief overview of God’s inspired construction of the Holy Bible, a few other things come to light.

First, as just noted, when we add the 22 books that make up the OT canon, together with the 27 books from the NT, we find that God has inspired the construction of His Holy word to comprise 49 books, arranged in 7 divisions.

As we are well aware, 7 is God's number for completion and perfection. And thus 7 times 7 or 49, underscores the perfection of God's word in its entirety.

This then is more evidence of God's hand in the inspired biblical design.

However, God's inspiration of biblical design goes much deeper than the mere 49 books arranged in 7 divisions.

Fred Coutler writes "The OT comprises 3 divisions, the Law, the Prophets and the Writings. 3 signifies completion but to a lesser degree than 7.

The 22 books of the OT are formed in 2 patterns of 5 and 6. In which there are 5 Books of the Law, followed by 6 books of the Prophets, making a total of 11.

These are followed by the 11 books of the Writings, which are the sum of 5 and 6. These 2 patterns of 5 and 6 suggest a unity of God's dual witness to the children of Israel and mankind throughout the OT" end quote.

And friends, there is even more to glean from these patterns as well.

In Genesis 26.5 we find recorded that Abraham, obeyed God's voice and kept God's charge, His commandments, His statutes, and His laws."

Notice that there were 5 things that God proclaimed that Abraham did.

Abraham obeyed God's voice, kept God's charge, His commandments, His statutes and His laws, or testimonies.

So we see that just as there are 5 books of the law, we find that God's laws are themselves, divided into 5 areas of obedience. And the number 5, has been defined as God's number of graciousness or goodness towards mankind.

God's graciousness and love for mankind, in revealing His way of life to Israel, is made evident in Deut. 5.32-33.

Where it is recorded that God told Israel to "32 "... be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

33 You shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.

So in essence, the 5 books of Moses, which detail the genesis of God's people, the nation of Israel. Outlines the way we must live, if we truly seek to enter into life, as Jesus refers to it in Matt. 19.17.

Moving on, after the 5 Books of the Law, we have the second major division of scripture, the Prophets.

this second division, to a large degree foretell that curses are that result of not living by the instructions that God gave in the Torah.

And also the promise that God will ultimately bring His repentant children into salvation.

As mentioned earlier, the Prophets division is itself divided into 6 books, but this can be also separated into 3 major portions.

Beginning with the book of the former prophets, Joshua and Judges, combined with the Book of Kingdoms which includes 1st and 2nd Samuel and 1st and 2nd Kings, as the first portion.

The second portion being the 3 books of the Major Prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, combined as one.

And then the 3rd portion being the 12 Minor Prophets.

Looked at this way, we find a pattern of 5 and 3, regarding the first 2 divisions of scripture. Being the 5 books of the Law, and the 3 sections of the Prophets.

And then we have the 3rd or last Division of the Old Testament, that of the 11 books of the Writings.

Which interestingly can itself be divided into 3 sections, of 3, 5 and 3 respectively.

The first section includes Psalms, Proverbs and Job. Ernest Martin writes that “these books were traditionally read, or sung, in the case of the Psalms at the portal of the mens portion of the court of the Israelites... near the priestly section of the Temple”

“The psalms were written by kings for kings, or by and for the priestly rulers”

The second section of the Writings contain 5 books which are known as the Festival Books, because the priests at the Temple traditionally read one of the Books at each of 5 annual Feasts.

The Song of Solomon was to be read during Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread.

The Book of Ruth was read at Pentecost, and Ecclesiastes at the Feast of Tabernacles.

While the other 2 books were read at the Feasts instituted by the Jews.

The book of Esther was read at the feast of Purim, which celebrated God’s deliverance from genocide under Persian rule.

While Lamentations was read on the 9th of Av, which was the date of the eve of the destruction of the Temple in 586 BC.

And notably, and also most likely not by coincidence, the 9th of Av, was also the date of the Roman siege that led to the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD.

Thus history reports that as the Priests were in the Temple reading the Book of Lamentations on the 9th of Av in 70 AD, commemorating the first Temples destruction.

That was in fact, the very same time that the Romans were storming Jerusalem, and thus in the process of destroying the rebuilt Temple as well.

The 3rd and final section of the Writings, also contains 3 books. The first being Daniel, then Ezra/Nehemiah, as the 2nd, and then with the Book of 1st and 2nd Chronicles completing, this 3rd major Division of scripture, that being the Writings.

This 3rd section of the Writings can also be viewed as an historical timeline, to some degree. For although much of Daniels book is prophetic in content, it was written while Daniel was in captivity, with the Jewish nation in Babylon.

Whereas, the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah record the return of the Jews from captivity, after the 70 years in Babylon.

While in the book of 1st and 2nd Chronicles, Ezra primarily focused on recording the history of the kings of Judah down through time.

So to sum up the overall structure of the OT, we have the 5 Books of the Law, the 6 books of the Prophets and the 11 Books of the Writings, equaling 22 in all.

However, within these 3 main divisions, we find a recurring pattern of 5 and 3.

The 5 Books of the Law, 3 sections of the Prophets, and then the 3, 5, and 3 pattern repeated in the 11 books of the Writings.

Let's now turn our attention too an overview of the embedded structure of the NT as well.

Interestingly, the 4th major division of the Bible contains the 4 books of the Gospels, and the book of Acts.

These 5 Books are divinely set in the center of the 7 Divisions of the Bible, as they bridge both the Old and New Testament together, by and through the direct teachings of God the Father and Jesus Christ.

As John writes in the first chapter of his recorded Gospel, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

This central or 4th division of scripture, which begins the NT, contains 5 books, and so repeats the pattern found, with the 5 books of the Law, at the beginning of the Bible.

Jesus's teaching fulfill or embellish God's law, and His way of life, by underscoring the spiritual intent of the law.

With the 5th and 6th divisions of the bible, giving more in depth instruction into fulfilling God's purpose of living by the spirit of the law, which can be summed up as developing the mind of Christ Himself.

God admonishing us to be Holy, for I Am Holy.

After these first 5 books that comprise the beginning of the NT, we find the Godly inspired 5th Division of scripture, being the 7 General Epistles.

After which we find the 14 [2 times 7] letters or books written by the Apostle Paul, which comprise the 6th Division of the bible.

So we see a pattern of 5 and 7 in the NT, just as we have a pattern of 5 and 3 in the OT.

Finally we come to the 7th and final division of scripture, the 49th Book of the Bible, which is the Revelation of Jesus Christ to His church.

Note the way the opening verse of the book of Revelations is written.

Rev. 1.1 "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place."

This book, as well as the entire bible for that matter, is primarily written for the benefit of God's servants, those that possess the Spirit of God.

The bible may well be written as a witness for the world, but in this church age, it is primarily written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 1 Cor. 10.

And this 49 book, which completes God's word for mankind, more than any other book of scripture, is specifically addressing those within whom the Spirit of God resides, at the very end of the church age.

Rev. 1.1, I believe makes this point clear, for it is "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God, the Father, gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place."

As I have tried to highlight today, the Bible is the product of Supreme intelligent design. Fashioned by the Father Himself, through the inspired writings of several dozen people over the course of several millennia.

One commentator summarizes the creation of the Bible as follows;

“The Bible is unlike any other religious book. Despite forty authors writing from three continents over nearly two thousand years, it maintains a perfect consistency of message. Its words point unerringly to Christ, whose work on the cross was ordained by God—the true author of the Bible—before the world began”

And to my mind, the book of Revelation, has an added layer of structural complexity.

While there are multiple ways one might dissect this book. I’d like to present one that I find quite fascinating. It’s something that came to my realization as I was developing this sermon.

As we have seen, the bible has been divinely inspired to be constructed in 7 major divisions. 49 books in all with the Book of Revelation being the 49th.

However this 49th book, can itself be divided into 7 sections, within which we find an arrangement that can again be subdivided into 7 subsections.

Thus the Book of Revelation, the 49th Book can itself be viewed as comprising 7 sets of 7 parts, 49 separate parts, which are bookended by an introduction and a summation.

Let’s briefly do an overview of God’s inspired embedded structure of this last book of the bible.

Chapter 1 being the first distinct section, which in a sense is a prologue for the rest of the book.

Chapters 2-3 may be defined as a 2nd section, that of the Christ’s letter to the 7 churches, which in fact can be said to have 7 distinct parts, with each letter constituting a separate part.

Chapters 4-8 are a 3rd section which covers the opening of the revelation itself, which is outlined by the 7 seals.

Chapters 8-11, section 4, describe the 7 Trumpets. And within this 4th section, there is embedded a further division of 7, that being the 7 Thunders found in chapter 10.

I do not count the Thunders as a separate section, because there is no revelation attached to them.

So then we come to chapters 12-14, which although can be subdivided in numerous ways. And we can indeed find the pattern of 7 repeated.

In what might be called 7 unnumbered visions, broken down in the following manner. To save time I am not doing to go into detail on each one.

I’ll just list them by chapter and verse, and leave further review up to all of you, if you are so inclined.

Rev 12, being the 1st part.

Rev. 13.1-10, part 2.

Rev. 13.11-18 part 3.

Rev. 14.1-5 number 4.

Rev. 14. 6-13, part 5.

Rev. 14.14-16 vision number 6.

And Rev. 14.17-20 being the 7th part or vision.

These chapters 12-14, which comprise these 7 visions may be thought of as the book of Revelations section 5.

Next we come to section 6. Let me point out that throughout the bible, the number 6 is equated with man.

God has given mankind 6 days to work, and God has allotted mankind 6000 years to live by the dictates of human reasoning, feeding from the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Thus it's revealing that this 6th section of the Book of Revelation, describes the conclusion of satans reign over mankind.

For with the complete destruction of Babylon the Great, the present evil age of man comes to an end.

This 6th section, can itself be divided into 2 subsections. With the first describing the 7 last plagues or the 7 bowl judgments, found in chapters 15-16.

And then with more in depth description regarding these bowl judgments found in chapters 17 and 18

And then the last section, number 7 may be described as 7 more unnumbered visions.

And again I find it interesting, that just as section 6, being man's number, describes the end of the age of man.

Section 7, being God's number, introduces the establishment of the 7th millennial day, with the Kingdom of God being established on earth.

These 7 parts of this 7th section may be viewed as follows;

Rev. 19.1-16, being the first vision.

Rev. 19. 17-21, part 2.

Rev. 20.1-10 part 3.

Rev. 20.11-15, part 4.

Rev. 21.1-8 vision number 5.

Rev. 21.9-27 part 6.

And Rev. 22.1-5 being the 7th separate recorded vision of the Apostle John.

And then just like the book of Revelation began with a prologue in chapter 1. After this 7th section of 7 visions, God concludes this Revelation to His church with an epilogue which comprises the remaining verses of chapter 22.

So again just to point out, the book of Revelation, the 49th book of the bible, can itself be viewed as having 49 parts, which are book ended by a prolong and epilogue.

So in summation we find that this 49th book, is itself constructed in the same pattern as the overall bible itself, consisting of 7 sections and 49 inspired revelations.

So to conclude, upon closer examination we find that the entire bible has been hand crafted by God, and that there is a divinely inspired structure that runs through the entirety of His Holy word.

And I believe that this outline may only be scratching the surface. For just as the physical creation is woven together into a complex matrix, I'm sure there are many more layers of embedded structure throughout God's word.

On example that comes to mind, is found in the book of Psalms, which itself is divided into 5 parts. Moreover, Psalm 119, is itself divided into 22 sections, each after a letter in the Hebrew alphabet.

So let this message today, suffice as an appetizer, for our further study into the depth and grander of Gods Holy and inspired word.