

## **The Bible Code, And the Spirit of Prophecy**

©2004-2008, All Rights Reserved By David Douglas Bell  
Bell Research Laboratory

My purpose in preparing this paper is to alert the Bible-believing public to the research that is being conducted to decipher messages encoded in the text of the Bible. Many of the messages that have been found relate to prophecy concerning last-day events; and, although this information is out of the common order of things and contrary to human planning, God has established a pattern of presenting information and warnings in a variety of ways (for example: Noah and the flood, Moses and the 10 commandments, Daniel and the handwriting on the wall, Jesus as the ultimate sin offering, etc. . .). The reader will be shown that all pointers indicate that we are near to the profound earth-shaking fulfillment of the prophecies that have been in the pages of the Bible for centuries. This paper shows a resolute<sup>1</sup> connection between: the Holy Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, the Bible code, and the Latter Rain.

My research on the Bible Code began six years ago when I read a best selling book on the topic. It has been my habit to investigate such potentially important ideas in order to solidify my faith. We are told by Ellen White that; “We should search the Scriptures and be able to give the reason for our faith.”<sup>2</sup> When reviewing her writings I soon noticed that at times she seemed to be describing the existence of a code in the Bible and began noting in the margins each time I found this type of discussion. I found that

---

<sup>1</sup> Webster’s New World Dictionary, Third College Edition, defines resolute as: having or showing a fixed, firm purpose; determined; resolved; unwavering.

<sup>2</sup> Fernando Chaij, Preparation for the Final Crisis (Mountain View: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1966), p. 169.

most were concerned with two topics: the shaking and the latter rain. This is how I discovered the connection between the Bible code and these topics.

The Bible itself states that there is coded/concealed information contained within the words of the plain text. Psalm 139:16 in the New International Version states; “your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.” Proverbs 25:2; “It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honor of kings is to search out a matter.” Deut. 29:29; “The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.” Amos 3:7; “Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his Servants the Prophets.” Daniel 12:4; “But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, even to the time of the end. . .”

“The original experiment that proved the existence of the Bible code was published in a U.S. scholarly journal, *Statistical Science*, a review journal of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (vol. 9, no.3), in August 1994, pp. 429-438.”<sup>3</sup> When this paper describing the phenomenon was submitted for publication, it was subjected to rigorous review and critique. The editor stated that: “Our referees were baffled: their prior beliefs made them think the Book of Genesis could not possibly contain meaningful references to modern-day individuals, yet when the authors carried out additional analyses and checks the effect persisted. The paper is thus offered to *Statistical Science* readers as a challenging puzzle. —Robert Kass, Ph.D., Editor Chairman of the Department of Statistics Carnegie-Mellon University”<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Michael Drosnin, *The Bible Code* (Simon & Schuster, 1997), P. 235.

<sup>4</sup> Jeffrey Satinover, M.D., *Cracking The Bible Code* (Quill, 1998), p. xi.

The cryptology world is well aware of the Bible's ability to reveal secret messages: An example of a letter-substitution code is one called *atbash* (אָתבֿשׁ = ATBaSh) in which the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, *aleph* (A = א), is replaced by the last, *tav* (T = ת); the second, *bet* (B = ב), is replaced by the second-to-last, *shin* (Sh = ש), and so on.<sup>5</sup> Thus, the word Babylon becomes Sheshach. Consider “Jeremiah 25:26 and 51:41, where the peculiar word ‘Sheshech’ is openly substituted for ‘Babylon.’ ‘How is Sheshach taken! And the praise of the whole earth seized! How is Babylon become an astonishment among the nations!’ . . .Kabbalistic sages of the Middle Ages referred to this substitution as the ‘permutation’ of letters.”<sup>6</sup> It even looks as if the *atbash* cipher system is described in the Bible itself; “And, behold, there are last [letters] which shall be first, and there are first [letters] which shall be last.” Luke 13:30

Also worthy of note is the following: “So the last [letters in the alphabet; ...X, Y, Z] shall be first [letters in the alphabet; A, B, C...], and the first last: for many be called [letters in the matrix], but few chosen [only a few letters make-up the message].” Matthew 20:16. Jesus may have been playing on words here to place a dual meaning or subtle comment about the hidden codes in the Bible. We have earlier looked at what I believe are the two main methods of encoding the Bible: equidistant letter sequence code and the *atbash* cipher system. Some will believe that what Jesus was saying doesn't have anything to do with the hidden text within the Bible; but the fact that the most commonly

---

<sup>5</sup> This is where the name *atbash* came from; it is the first two letters of the Hebrew alphabet encoded using the *atbash* method.

<sup>6</sup> Jeffrey Satinover, M.D., [Cracking The Bible Code](#) (Quill, 1998), p. 90.

used methods of encoding the Bible are described here, in one sentence, is nothing short of incredible.<sup>7</sup>

In Habakkuk 2:2-3, I found this astonishing quote: “And the Lord answered me, and said, ‘Write the vision, and *make it plain upon tables* [emphasis added], that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.’”<sup>8</sup> I believe that Habakkuk was simply writing about the text of the Bible and its de-ciphering mechanism which, when implemented, would make the hidden text easy to read. This quote is significant as tables are the very means used in deciphering the Bible code. Jamieson (see references below) alludes to an interpretation that supports this line of thinking: “**that he may run that readeth it**—commonly explained, ‘so intelligible as to be easily read by any one running past’; but then it would be, that he that runneth may read it. The true sense is, ‘so legible that whoever readeth it, may run to tell all whom he can the good news [. . .].’ Compare Daniel 12:4, ‘many shall run to and fro, ‘namely, with the explanation of the prophecy then unsealed; also, Revelation 22:17, “let him that heareth (the good news) say (to every one within his reach), Come.’ ‘Run’ is equivalent to announce the divine revelation (Jeremiah 23:21)”<sup>9</sup>

This is giving us the decoding instructions for the hidden text. Jamieson; et, al goes on to say: that if we write the text of the Bible in a table, we can run with, or read quickly the encoded text messages. Also Maurer translates the phrase, “. . . at the end it

---

<sup>7</sup> “*So the last shall be first, and the first last*” alludes to the atbash cipher system as the first letter is substituted for the last, and so on. The last part of the sentence, “*for many be called, but few chosen*” is referring to the equidistant letter sequence code in which many letters are important (*called*), but only a few are used (*chosen*) to uncover the hidden text.

<sup>8</sup> Ellen G. White, The Great Controversy (Mountain View: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1911), p. 521.

<sup>9</sup> Jamieson Fausset Brown, Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible; chapter 2, paragraph 2.

shall speak” as “break forth as a blast.” These messages have the appearance of a crossword puzzle with the added dimension of diagonal words. In other words, it allows the hidden/encoded text to be read all at once; i. e., very easily.

In Ellen White’s writings; specific information concerning end times is described as coming in an unexpected form. This information is noted as being part of the latter rain, the refreshing from God above. In fact, after we receive this information, the saints are ready to deal with the end of days. This could only be true if the information contains specific and identifiable prophecies that are meaningful to the human race. Imagine trying to tell someone, about some of our modern day inventions, at the time that Jesus had come to earth as man. That person would be overwhelmed and unable to process and/or comprehend the implications of your words and unable to pass the message on to others in future generations that need it. Some of the information is of no benefit if we obtain it before it’s time. In fact; it may be a detriment. It may have been necessary for God to hide or seal-up information so that it is only used at the correct time in history. If the people in Christ’s time knew that he would be returning over 2000 years later, they might have put less emphasis on the fundamental Christian goal of getting their souls right with God and address it at a later, more convenient time.

The information, buried under the surface text of the Bible, is clearly there for the benefit of mankind. “The Lord has made all necessary provisions for our eternal triumph.”<sup>10</sup> After studying Ellen White’s writings, it was evident that even the words of the Holy Bible were inspired. In speaking of the authors of the Bible, Ellen White wrote; “He guided the mind in the selection of what to speak and what to write. The treasure

---

<sup>10</sup> Fernando Chaij, Preparation for the Final Crisis (Mountain View: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1966), p. 172.

was entrusted to earthen vessels, yet it is, nonetheless, from Heaven.”<sup>11</sup> “...the Bible, with its God-given truths expressed in the language of men, presents a union of the divine and the human.”<sup>12</sup> In fact the words of the Bible are one of the forms of communication between us and God; “It is the medium of communication between God and man.”<sup>13</sup> I have a firm belief that we have all the keys to the hidden knowledge. Know that, “...the light of truth will shine upon all whose hearts are open to receive it.”<sup>14</sup> Not only is the availability of the information stated, but there appears a warning to all of us if the message is disregarded. Hearing God’s voice, the prophet Hosea writes; “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee...”<sup>15</sup>

So what does the new enlightenment consist of. In the words of Fernando Chaij (writer of a compilation of E. G. White’s writings on the subject of last day events), authentic new light must have the following elements of identification:

1. *It will be 100 percent in accord with the Word of God, and it will not depend on any whimsical and unbalanced interpretation of Scripture.*
2. *It will not contradict any of the basic truths already established as immovable pillars in the doctrinal structure of the church.*
3. *Those who proclaim the new light will not be infatuated with the idea that they are superior to their brethren, and that God has chosen them, bypassing His*

---

<sup>11</sup> Ellen G. White, The Great Controversy (Mountain View: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1911), p. vi.

<sup>12</sup> Ellen G. White, The Great Controversy (Mountain View: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1911), p. vi.

<sup>14</sup> Ellen G. White, The Great Controversy (Mountain View: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1911), p. 390.

<sup>15</sup> Ellen G. White, The Great Controversy (Mountain View: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1911), p. 60.

*people*. This, in general, is the exalted view leaders of so-called “reform movements” hold of themselves.<sup>16</sup>

Now that we understand the guidelines that divine information must follow, let’s look at the question; If there is indeed a code in the Bible, then the hidden text itself [not just the surface text] must also be inspired by God. But do we have evidence, in the spirit of prophecy, to support this? As you might anticipate, the answer is YES! As stated by Ellen White, “The apostles . . . wrote [their contributions to the Bible] at the *dictation* [emphasis added] of the Holy Spirit when on earth.”<sup>17</sup> Notice that the word she chose is “*dictation*”. One of the 27 fundamental doctrines of Seventh-day Adventists (under The Word of God subheading) states that the Bible message is inspired, but does not necessarily suggest that the actual text or words of the Bible being inspired. It states, “In some instances writers were commanded to express the exact words of God, but in most cases God instructed them to describe to the best of their ability what they saw or heard.”<sup>18</sup> Although not expressly stated in the above mentioned beliefs; the fact that the Biblical text itself is inspired needs to be understood more universally.

Since the Bible is the inspired word of God, let’s examine what the coming last day information will be like. In other words; what are we anxiously awaiting as did the 12 virgins? Since this is a very important topic it is no surprise that there are many quotes on the matter within the Spirit of Prophecy. Ellen White writes that the message in the last days will be understood by all the inhabitants of earth. In fact, the message will be heard by all in a language that they can understand. Note the following quote

---

<sup>16</sup> Fernando Chaij, Preparation for the Final Crisis (Mountain View: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1966), p. 31-32.

<sup>17</sup> G. White, Last Day Events (Nampa: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1992), p. 157.

<sup>18</sup> General Conference Ministerial Association, Seventh-day Adventists Believe. . . (Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1988), p. 8.

from Ellen G. White regarding parameters of the coming inspired message: “Then, as at the Pentecostal season, the people will hear the truth spoken to them, every man in his own tongue.”<sup>19</sup> The Bible code is in **THE** universal language . . . mathematics. No matter where in our universe one will travel, there are certain numbers that residents there, even with no contact with our society whatsoever, will know ( $\pi = 3.14159 . . .$ ,  $e = 2.71828 . . .$ <sup>20</sup>). “The universe was made on purpose, [. . .] in whatever galaxy you happen to find yourself, you take the circumference of a circle, divide by its diameter, measure closely enough, and uncover a miracle . . . [the value of  $\pi$ ]”<sup>21</sup> The previous quote, by Ellen White, speaks of the third angel’s message; which I believe will include the message discussed in this paper regarding a biblical code.

In order to clarify the method and means for transfer of this last day information, the following quotations should be noted. “Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning. . . The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness”<sup>22</sup> “In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged. . . God will work a work in our day that but few anticipate. He will raise up and exalt among us those who are taught rather by the function of His Spirit than by the outward training of scientific institutions.”<sup>23</sup> “To souls that are earnestly seeking for light and that accept with gladness every ray of divine illumination from His holy Work, to such alone light will be given. It is through these

---

<sup>19</sup> Ellen G. White, Last Day Events (Nampa: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1992), p. 202.

<sup>20</sup> Robert C. Weast, Ph.D., et al . . . , CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics (Chemical Rubber Publishing Company, 1990), p. A-1.

<sup>21</sup> Kevin Acres, Data Integrity Patterns of The Torah (<http://ad2004.com/biblecodes/articles/mathcodepaper.pdf>) ©Kevin Acres 2004; P. 15.

<sup>22</sup> Ellen G. White, Last Day Events (Nampa: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1992), p. 203.

<sup>23</sup> Ellen G. White, Last Day Events (Nampa: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1992), p. 204.



souls that God will reveal that light and power which will lighten the whole earth with His glory. . . Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them.—GC 606 (1911).”<sup>24</sup> “When divine power is combined with human effort, the work will spread like fire in the stubble. God will employ agencies whose origin man will be unable to discern.”<sup>25</sup>

Some will not accept the new information provided by the Bible code. The following quote could hardly explain the position of my paper more clearly: “In the manifestation of that power which lightens the earth with the glory of God, they will see only something which in their blindness they think dangerous, something which will arouse their fears, and they will brace themselves to resist it. Because the Lord does not work according to their ideas and expectations they will oppose the work. ‘Why,’ they say, ‘should we not know the Spirit of God, when we have been in the work so many years?’—RH Extra, Dec. 23, 1890.”<sup>26</sup>

“The third angel’s message will not be comprehended, the light which will lighten the earth with its glory will be called a false light, by those who refuse to walk in its advancing glory.—RH May 27, 1890.”<sup>27</sup>

“When the third angel’s message closes, mercy no longer pleads for the guilty inhabitants of the earth. The people of God have accomplished their work. They have received ‘the latter rain,’ ‘the refreshing from the presence of the Lord,’ and they are prepared for the trying hour before them . . .”<sup>28</sup>

---

<sup>24</sup> Ellen G. White, Last Day Events (Nampa: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1992), p. 206.

<sup>25</sup> Ellen G. White, Last Day Events (Nampa: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1992), p. 207.

<sup>26</sup> Ellen G. White, Last Day Events (Nampa: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1992), p. 211.

<sup>27</sup> Ellen G. White, Last Day Events (Nampa: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1992), p. 211.

<sup>28</sup> Donald Ernest Mansell, The Shape of the Coming Crisis (Nampa: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1998), p. 211.

“ . . . Believers will be given evidence that the Word of God, the warnings He has given, are being fulfilled right among us. Some may make light of *these messages* [emphasis added], misinterpret them, and say untruthful things, which lead others’ minds astray.—7MR 192, 193.”<sup>29</sup> In the context of my research paper, I ask you to make a special note of the words used to describe the inspired information; “*these messages*”.

“It would be impossible for us to state just how this additional light would come. It might come in a very unexpected manner, in a way that would not agree with the ideas that many have conceived.—13MR 334; *Lt* 22, 1889.”<sup>30</sup> “Unless those who can help are roused to a sense of their duty, they will not recognize the work of God when the loud cry of the third angel shall be heard.”<sup>31</sup> But many people will still not believe the truth and I believe that this conscious decision not to believe will cause the shaking. “I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This [the testimony] will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God’s people (*Early Writings*, p. 2709).”<sup>32</sup> “Many resisted what they had to say and abandoned the body of believers. Those who did not respect the value of the gift ‘were left behind in

---

<sup>29</sup> Donald Ernest Mansell, *The Shape of the Coming Crisis* (Nampa: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1998), p. 134.

<sup>30</sup> Donald Ernest Mansell, *The Shape of the Coming Crisis* (Nampa: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1998), p. 147.

<sup>31</sup> Donald Ernest Mansell, *The Shape of the Coming Crisis* (Nampa: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1998), p. 147.

<sup>32</sup> Keavin Hayden, *Surviving The Shaking* (Hagerstown: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2002), p. 70.

darkness, and their places were immediately filled by others taking hold of the truth and coming into the ranks' (p. 271).<sup>33</sup>

Concluding this discussion of the Bible code and the relationship to the Spirit of Prophecy, I quote from Mrs. White. "I have been shown that unbelief in the testimonies has been steadily increasing as the people backslide from God. It is all through our ranks, all over the field. But few know what our churches are to experience. I saw that at present we are under divine forbearance, but no one can say how long this will continue. No one knows how great the mercy that has been exercised toward us. But few are heartily devoted to God. There are only a few who, like the stars in a tempestuous night, shine here and there among the clouds."<sup>34</sup> Based on all the information I have studied and reviewed, it appears, in fact that; there is a resolute connection between: the Holy Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, the Bible code, and the latter rain.

---

<sup>33</sup> Keavin Hayden, Surviving The Shaking (Hagerstown: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2002), p. 85. NOTE: this quote was taken, originally from Early Writings, p. 271 by the author).

<sup>34</sup> Testimonies for the Church; Volume Five, page 76

**The following books I am using as references for this paper:**

Ellen G. White, Last Day Events (Nampa: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1992).

Michael Drosnin, The Bible Code (Simon & Schuster, 1997).

Ellen G. White, The Great Controversy (Mountain View: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1911).

Fernando Chaij, Preparation for the Final Crisis (Mountain View: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1966).

Keavin Hayden, Surviving The Shaking (Hagerstown: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2002).

Donald Ernest Mansell, The Shape of the Coming Crisis (Nampa: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1998).

General Conference Ministerial Association, Seventh-day Adventists Believe. . . (Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1988).

Robert C. Weast, Ph.D., et al . . . , CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics (Chemical Rubber Publishing Company, 1990).

Kevin Acres, Data Integrity Patterns of The Torah  
(<http://ad2004.com/biblecodes/articles/mathcodepaper.pdf>) ©Kevin Acres 2004.

Jeffrey Satinover, M.D., Cracking The Bible Code (Quill 1998).

Jamieson Fausset Brown, Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible.

**Websites that I found useful:**

<http://www.biblecodedigest.com/>

<http://www.ad2004.com/biblecodes/articles/mathcodepaper.pdf>

<http://www.whiteestate.org/>

<http://www.biblestudytools.net/>

**Other media that I found useful:**

DVD Video set (2), Secrets of The Bible Code Revealed (Grizzly Adams Productions1999).

## Appendix A: The Spirit Of Prophecy, "What Is It?"

The following is taken from Adventist World-NAD | September 2008:

The term "spirit of prophecy" occurs only once in the Bible, only in Revelation 19:10; but the readers in John's day knew exactly what John meant by this phrase. They were familiar with this expression, which was frequently used in the Aramaic translation of the Old Testament. Thus, for example, Genesis 41:38 in the Aramaic paraphrase of the Old Testament text says, "Pharaoh said to his servants, 'Can we find a man like this in whom there is *the spirit of prophecy from the Lord?*'"<sup>35</sup>. And in Numbers 27:18 the Lord said to Moses, "Take Joshua, son of Nun, a man who has within himself the *spirit of prophecy*, and lay your hand on him."<sup>36</sup>

For the early Christians the "spirit of prophecy" was a reference to the Holy Spirit, who imparts the prophetic gift to God's messengers. This also becomes evident when we compare Revelation 19:10 with 22:8, 9.

19:10

And I fell at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of **your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus.**" Worship God for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

As compared to  
22:8, 9

I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that! For I am your fellow servant, and of **your brethren the prophets**, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

The situation in both passages is the same. John falls at the feet of the angel to worship him. The words of the angel's response are almost identical, yet the difference is significant. In Revelation 19:10 the brethren are identified by the phrase, "who have the testimony of Jesus." In Revelation 22:9 these brethren are simply called "prophets."

According to the principle of interpreting Scripture with Scripture, this leads to the conclusion that "the spirit of prophecy" in 19:10 is not the possession of church members in general, but only of those who have been called by God to be prophets. That this is not purely an Adventist interpretation can be seen from the writings of other scholars. The Lutheran scholar Hermann Strathmann, for example, says concerning the phrase "testimony of Jesus" in 19:10: "According to the parallel in 22:9 the brothers referred to are not believers in general, but the prophets. ...

<sup>35</sup> Bernard Grossfeld, *The Targum Onqelos to Genesis*, The Aramaic Bible, ed. Martin McNamara (Collegeville, Minn.; The Liturgical Press, 1988), p. 138.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, *Targum Onqelos to Numbers*, p. 145.

This is the point of verse 10c. If they have the *marturia Iesou* [the testimony of Jesus], they have the spirit of prophecy, i.e., they are prophets, like the angel, who simply stand in the service of *marturia Iesou*.<sup>37</sup>

In summary, we can say that one of the identifying signs of the remnant church, which according to prophecy exists after the 1,260-day period, i.e., after 1798, is the testimony of Jesus, which is the spirit of prophecy, or the prophetic gift. The Seventh-day Adventist Church, from its very beginning, has believed that in fulfillment of Revelation 12:17 the spirit of prophecy was manifested in the life and work of Ellen G. White.

---

<sup>37</sup> Hermann Strathmann, "martu" "ktl.," *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, ed. G. Kittel, trans. G. W. Bromiley, 10vols (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1967), 4:4:501

## **Appendix B: Common Objections**

A friend of mine once wrote me regarding an earlier version of this paper and said: "The Bible Code is interesting as evidence of Divinity in inspiration, but I believe everything I need to know for the End Times has already been provided."

### **I offer the following responses:**

"No one should claim that he has all the light there is for God's people. The Lord will not tolerate this." Gospel Workers (Old edition 1892) pp.126, 122.

"When new light is presented to the church, it is perilous to shut yourselves away from it...And to speak with contempt of those whom God has sent with a message of truth, is folly and madness...They are not to make up their minds that the whole truth has been unfolded, and that the Infinite One has no more light for His people." {CSW32.1}

"Let no one come to the conclusion that there is no more truth to be revealed." {CSW 34.1}

"Great truths which have been neglected and unappreciated for ages, will be revealed by the Spirit of God, and new meaning will flash out of familiar texts. Every page will be illuminated by the Spirit of truth." {CSW 34.3}

## **Appendix C: Rebuttal to: The Bible Matrix**

10-Nov-2004

By: David Douglas Bell

Dear Mark Finley;

I was shocked and saddened by the shallow and intentioned attack on the Bible code presented in the It Is Written television program, Production No. 1013, entitled “THE BIBLE MATRIX”. I am a long time fan of the program and am concerned about its content. Many articles and television shows that have been produced that attack the Bible code issue. I have chosen not to reply to them simply because most are based on material known to produce ridiculous and faulty information. In this case, I was shocked at the claims made on your program because I generally agree with what you present and believe the research done is excellent. I have included the story of how I became interested in the codes as an endnote.<sup>i</sup> In addition I have enclosed a copy of my paper; “The Bible Code and the Spirit of Prophecy”, as well as other material for your review on this important topic. It is my hope and prayer that this information will serve as a starting point for further analysis and study regarding the Bible code.

I will briefly explain our major points of difference, by presenting first the quote or statement in question followed by a rebuttal to it.

- Strict rules of grammar and spelling must be used when searching for the codes.

Your program stated, “. . . because the sheer number of possible combinations available means that you can find some words in any text of any length.” This statement is not only inaccurate, it is misleading. It implies that you can find anything that you want in text of any size. The fact is that, given a



- sequence/number of random letters, there is nearly a 100% probability that some words will be found. These finds are statistically insignificant. What makes the Bible code so different is that whole sentences and paragraphs are discovered in modern day research despite staggeringly small probabilities that this would occur; probabilities that often plummet below 1 in millions.
- The program extrapolated the meaning of the codes to say that human kind does not have free will; “Could it be that the fate of modern nations and leaders has already been spelled out, and we are powerless to do anything about it?” I think that, although God knows ALL from the beginning to the end, we still have free will to choose.
  - In a bold statement; it was suggested that the code is of satanic origin. “Many people assume that because something has to do with the Bible, or associates itself with the Bible, it must be true. But don’t forget that throughout history, people have tried to borrow the Bible’s credibility for their own theories—including the devil.” This is a very leading statement. Some will not accept the new information provided by the Bible code. We are told that this attitude will definitely be present in the latter days. Consider for example the following quotation from Ellen G. White: “In the manifestation of that power which lightens the earth with the glory of God, they will see only something which in their blindness they think dangerous, something which will arouse their fears, and they will brace themselves to resist it. Because the Lord does not work according to their ideas and expectations they will oppose the work. ‘Why,’ they say,

- ‘should we not know the Spirit of God, when we have been in the work so many years?’—RH Extra, Dec. 23, 1890.”<sup>38</sup>
- Later in the program it is stated; “Maybe the code isn’t really from God.” This seems to suggest that the code was made by Satan. Do you really believe that the forces of evil had control over the individual letters of the Holy Bible?
  - The following appears to be the main point of refutation for the codes:

“For example, consider what Dr. James Price, Bible code skeptic and professor of Hebrew at Temple Baptist Seminary found in the so-called Bible code. Some Christian writers claim to find the name of Jesus encoded in the Old Testament, and cite it as proof of the validity of the code, so Dr. Price decided to see what he could find.

Starting in Isaiah 53, at the end of a famous Messianic prophecy, Dr. Price starting counting backward every 20 letters in the Hebrew, and he found a rather startling sentence about Jesus. It said, ‘I desire after treachery, Jesus is my violent name.’

Now obviously, this is not a message from God inspired by the Holy Spirit! The Bible tells us that Jesus is God’s beloved Son, the sinless Lamb of God, but then the so-called code tells us that He is not. And Dr. Price was able to find several other phrases in the so-called code that referred to the name of God as an abomination.”

This appears to be the main/central argument against the Bible code. It does seem by these statements that the program concedes that the code is real but strongly implies that the message(s) are/is not from God. Unfortunately, Dr. Price mistranslated the code from Hebrew to English, and did not represent the full code. He could be using on outdated research, and I dare not think that he or your program would deliberately mislead anyone. I believe that Dr. Price did not take his research far enough to discover the truth about this code. Dr. Price’s translation: “I desire/lust after treachery/fraud, Jesus is my violent name”

---

<sup>38</sup> Ellen G. White, Last Day Events (Nampa: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1992), p. 211.

(אשקמצל'ישוצשמיצו). Properly translated the code becomes; “Gushing from above, Yeshua was My mighty Name, and the clouds rejoiced”<sup>39</sup>

(שקמצל'ישוצשמיצוששוצכיט).

- Your program insisted that the Bible has no mention of encoded information within its text; I disagree. The Bible itself states that there is coded/concealed information contained within the words of the plain text. Psalm 139:16 in the New International Version states; “your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.” Proverbs 25:2; “It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honor of kings is to search out a matter.” Deut. 29:29; “The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.” Amos 3:7; “Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his Servants the Prophets.” Daniel 12:4; “But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, even to the time of the end. . .”. . .In Habakkuk 2:2-3, I found this astonishing quote: “And the Lord answered me, and said, ‘Write the vision, and *make it plain upon tables* [emphasis added], that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.’”<sup>40</sup> I believe that Habakkuk was simply writing about the text of the Bible and its’ de-ciphering mechanism which, when implemented, would make the hidden text easy to read. This quote is

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.biblecodedigest.com/page.php/23>

<sup>40</sup> Ellen G. White, The Great Controversy (Mountain View: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1911), p. 521.

- significant as tables are the very means used in deciphering the Bible code.
- Jamieson (see references below) alludes to an interpretation that supports this line of thinking: ‘**that he may run that readeth it**’—commonly explained, ‘so intelligible as to be easily read by any one running past’; but then it would be, that he that runneth may read it. The true sense is, “so legible that whoever readeth it, may run to tell all whom he can the good news [ . . .].” Compare Daniel 12:4, ‘many shall run to and fro, ‘namely, with the explanation of the prophecy then unsealed; also, Revelation 22:17, ‘let him that heareth (the good news) say (to every one within his reach), Come.’ ‘Run’ is equivalent to announce the divine revelation (Jeremiah 23:21)’.<sup>41</sup> This is giving us the decoding instructions for the hidden text. Jamieson; et, al goes on to say: that if we write the text of the Bible in a table, we can run with, or read quickly, the encoded text messages. Also Maurer translates the phrase, “. . . at the end it shall speak” as “break forth as a blast.” These messages have the appearance of a crossword puzzle with the added dimension of diagonal words. In other words, it allows the hidden/encoded text to be read all at once; i. e., very easily.<sup>42</sup>
- The program even suggests that equidistant letter sequence encoding is a fact of all or any text; “One clever person—at least—has discovered many famous assassinations encoded in the text of Herman Melville’s Moby Dick.” Stated another way; Scientists have disproved the existence of Torah codes by showing

---

<sup>41</sup> Jamieson Fausset Brown, Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible; chapter 2, paragraph 2.

<sup>42</sup> David Douglas Bell, The Bible Code and the Spirit of Prophecy, (Copyright © 2004 David Douglas Bell); P. 4.

that such codes exist in other books, like War and Peace and Moby Dick. In response to this, Aish HaTorah group has the following to say:

“For anybody familiar with the basic idea of ELS codes[. . .], it is self-evident that one can find ELSs of words in any text. One could easily find ‘encoded words’ on the side of a box of cereal, in this paragraph, and yes, even in Moby Dick. The question is not one of finding ELSs. **The simple fact is that no critic has found, or even claims to find, the statistically significant effect found in Genesis.** i.e. no critic has succeeded in taking an objective list of pairs of words, and shown that their ELSs appear near each other any more often than what would be expected in a comparably long text.

So what have the critics found? That theoretically one could cheat. That by surreptitiously *not* using an objective list of pairs of words, or by playing around with many alternative spellings of words, or by breaking basic rules of grammar, or by not considering minimal ELSs [. . .], one could concoct a contrived list and deceive people into believing that an objective experiment was performed.

This is precisely the method used by the critics to create ‘counterfeit’ codes in Moby Dick; this is also the technique used in most of the popular books on Bible Codes[. . .].

To summarize, there are no scientists who claim that hidden codes actually exist in different texts. Their claim is the opposite- that in fact, there is no such thing as a codes phenomenon in any text, and that the experiments performed and published are fraudulent.<sup>43</sup>”

- Later on in the program, the following point was made. “It all depended on how the names were spelled.” Here is a quote in response to this by Harold Gans, who spent 28 years as Senior Cryptologic Mathematician with the National Security Agency, United States Department of Defense: “The point I will show here is a quote from a DVD<sup>44</sup> on the Bible code issue that talks about an extended Rabies experiment in which the 12 sons of Haman [found in the Book of Esther 9:7-9]

---

<sup>43</sup> Torah Codes: Responding to the Critics, [http://www.aish.com/seminars/discovery/Codes/responding\\_to\\_the\\_critics.htm](http://www.aish.com/seminars/discovery/Codes/responding_to_the_critics.htm), (Copyright © 1999 Aish HaTorah); P. 3.

<sup>44</sup> DVD Video set (2), Secrets of The Bible Code Revealed, (Copyright © 1999 Grizzly Adams Productions).

were killed on one occasion and talked about (all names had exact spellings) in the text of the Bible.

“Let me show you one more experiment, done by an independent researcher Dr. Alex Rotenberg; and the beauty of this experiment is that there is absolutely no wiggle room. This code found in the book of Genesis that deals with the story of Ester allows no room for manipulation were taking names of people the 10 sons of the arch villain Haman they all died on one day, the 13<sup>th</sup> of Adar, again names of people and date of death 10 people but the spellings are given to us in the book of Esther no changes, no manipulation possible, we use the spellings exactly as they occur and check if they are next to the date of death[. . .]. And lo and behold, one of these dates of death incredibly continues with the word Purim in code the name of the holiday that is celebrated with the book of Esther using this particular date incredibly small probabilities were arrived at in terms of the proximity of the names of those 10 sons to this particular date of death. There is no room for manipulation, there is no place where we could have changed it in any way, the names are given to us in a thousands of year old document; I think that this is the most impressive thing that we have.”<sup>45</sup>

- In another statement, it is implied that the codes would not be important in the grand scenario of things. “God doesn’t deal in uncertainties. And He doesn’t need a secret code to prove to the world that He is God.” When discussing the prophetic nature of the codes, keep in mind this is by no means divination or fortune telling; the Bible code simply clarifies (or elaborates on) the plain text prophecies that are already in the Bible. One of the main themes of Ellen White’s writings is to be keen on exactly where we are in the sequence of events of Bible prophecy. If one carefully studies the codes, one will find that no new prophecies are mentioned but that the prophecies are simply being shown exactly and

---

<sup>45</sup> DVD Video set (2), Secrets of The Bible Code Revealed, (Copyright © 1999 Grizzly Adams Productions).

precisely where we are in history as Ellen White emphasized as being so important.<sup>46</sup> Many times while in the process of discovering new codes or extending word codes into complete sentences or paragraphs, researchers have uncovered information that describes events that have not yet occurred. For example we knew about the invasion of Iraq 15 months before it happened.<sup>47</sup> You will also note that I have included a Bible code matrix from Roy Reinhold, concerning Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. This paper describes many events that have not yet occurred, but and are set to take place later this year (2004) and early next year.<sup>48</sup>

- Your program then goes on to say; “Folks, God doesn’t need a code. Our generation isn’t even familiar with the plain text of the Bible, let alone some mysterious code.” In a certain respect, I agree. If people do not develop the “love of the truth”, then certainly a Biblical code most likely would not sway them. The code is there for serious Bible followers. People who are waiting for the latter rain, the refreshing from above, will be very interested to learn about these (until recently) hidden messages as they will prepare the people of God for the final crisis that lay ahead.

In conclusion; I am disappointed with the quality of the program’s research and conclusions. Among other issues, the program: 1.) does not take into account the fact that strict rules of grammar and spelling must be used when searching for codes, 2.)

---

<sup>46</sup> “We are to see in history the fulfillment of prophecy, to study the workings of Providence in the great reformatory movements, and to understand the progress of events in the marshaling of the nations for the final conflict of the great controversy.—8T 307 (1904)” Ellen G. White, Last Day Events (Nampa: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1992), P. 15.

<sup>47</sup> War in Iraq ([www.biblecodedigest.com/page.php/151](http://www.biblecodedigest.com/page.php/151)), (Copyright © 2003 BibleCodeDigesst.com); P.1.

<sup>48</sup> WMD from Iraq Matrix, (<http://biblecodes.us/pages/WMDinIraqarticle.pdf>), (Copyright © April 2004 Roy A. Reinhold), P. 1-9.

implies that we do not have free will if the codes exist that predict future events, 3.) suggests that evil forces had control of the lettering of the Torah, if the code exist, 4.) mistranslates and misrepresents hidden messages, 5.) proposes the idea that we already know all there is within the text of the Bible because God does not conceal matters, 6.) offers the idea that all works of literature contain statistically significant encoded information, 7.) implies that if the codes exists (hidden messages and/or instructions from God), they are not important to us, and 8.) proclaims that the messages in the code are “uncertainties” that are false and have nothing to do with prophetic truth. All of these ideas and tangent lines of thinking I have shown to be false. I think that the It Is Written program should reconsider its stand on the Bible code pending further investigation into this important issue.

Thank you for your time, and God bless.

---

<sup>i</sup> My involvement with the codes began sometime between 8 and 9 years ago. I recall having the most vivid dream I have ever experienced. The dream started out with me at my parents’ house in their back yard. I remember thinking that even though this was real, I couldn’t help noticing how vivid and alive the bark pieces in one of the planter looked. I then heard a familiar sound, as a Army helicopter approached. My parents live along the flight path of the Los Alamitos Armed Forces Reserve Center. I looked up to view the craft as it seemed to be traveling in an unusual direction. As I glanced at it, items appeared to be falling to the ground after being pushed out of the open cargo door. Curious as to what was sprinkling the ground, I followed one of the items to a neighboring house only to find that they were books (all the same) with a paper attached to each of them with a single piece of tape at the top of the sheet. The sheet read, “The truth is coming.” Instantly filled with intrigue as to the name of the book underneath I lifted the sheet to see the title: The Great Controversy. At this point in life, I had a very limited knowledge of Ellen White or her writings. I don’t even think that I could name more than a few of her books and I certainly had never heard of the book that I had dreamed about. I remember years later asking my wife, Debbie, if that was possibly the title of one of Mrs. White’s books. She said it was and asked how I had heard of it; I shared my dream with her. I told her that I thought that I needed to read it. A few weeks later she handed me a black, hardback book and said; “Here it is”. I was shocked as the lettering font and everything about the book was identical to the one that I saw in my dream!

I placed the book on my bookshelf, and did not think too much else of it. In the news, a few months later, I heard about Michael Drosnin’s book entitled; The Bible Code. I was very interested in secret codes but was sure that the whole thing was nonsense. I read the book; carefully looking into the alleged existence of a hidden code in the Bible.

I began my research in an extremely skeptical manner. I simply did not believe nor think that God would use such a means to pass information to his children. I read several books on the subject. Even though I greatly disagreed with some of the authors, I was able to see through the clouds and discover the truth of the matter. It has been my habit to investigate such potentially important ideas in order to solidify my faith.



---

My attention was then brought to books on end of time related topics. I read the book, Last Day Events and was fascinated at the details of the message. As I read this compilation, I soon noticed that at times she seemed to be describing the existence of a code in the Bible and began noting in the margins each time I found this type of discussion. After completing that book, I was soon looking to read another book of her writings. I thought about the markings that I had made in the margins. I reviewed these marks and found that most were concerned with two topics: the shaking and the latter rain. I decided to read the book that was quoted the most with these markings next to it; that book was The Great Controversy. I have since: read the book, studied its content, made an amazing discovery, wrote a research paper discussing my discovery, and copyrighted the paper.