

WHAT THE
BIBLE
IS ABOUT

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Session 4

A TALE OF TWO BIBLES
SEE JANUARY 2016 FLBC

Student survey last week

- Any part of the Bible aided by understanding of the course
- Sources, structure, logic, facts in and logic of the Bible
- Stories in the Bible
- Improve my understanding of the Bible and the people who wrote it.

- Themes relating to social justice, e.g., Isaiah, Micah, Sermon on the Mount
- More of the same, the keys to understanding the Bible
- Delving into Hebrew and history is good
- Keys to interpreting sequentially
- Revelations in the OT which relate to the NT

WHAT THE
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STUDYING THE BIBLE

Use the Bible to Study the Bible

- How the Bible came to be (multiple authors, places, languages, eras, etc., yet one message)
- The Hebraic mindset
- Prophecy: pattern and fulfilment
- Bible cross-referencing
- Science and technology
- Bible study tools

An integrated whole

66 books
40 by authors
3 from continents
3 writing in languages
over some
1,600 years.

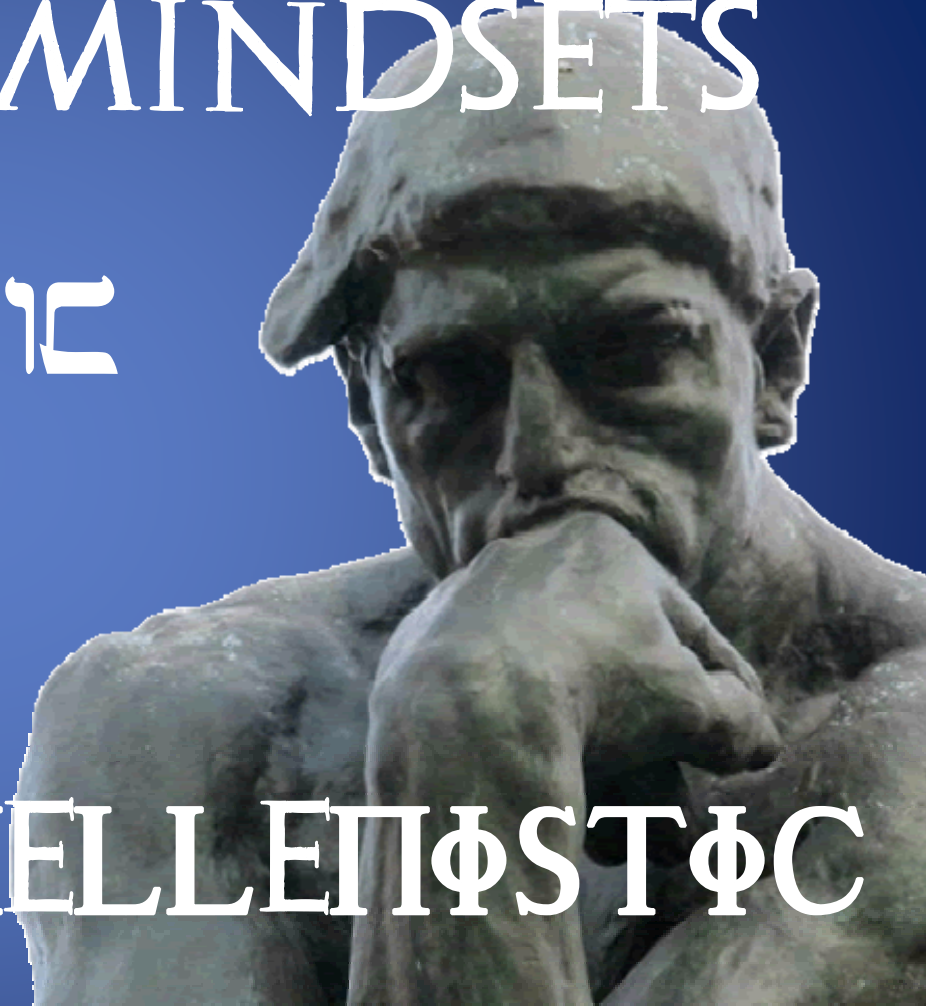
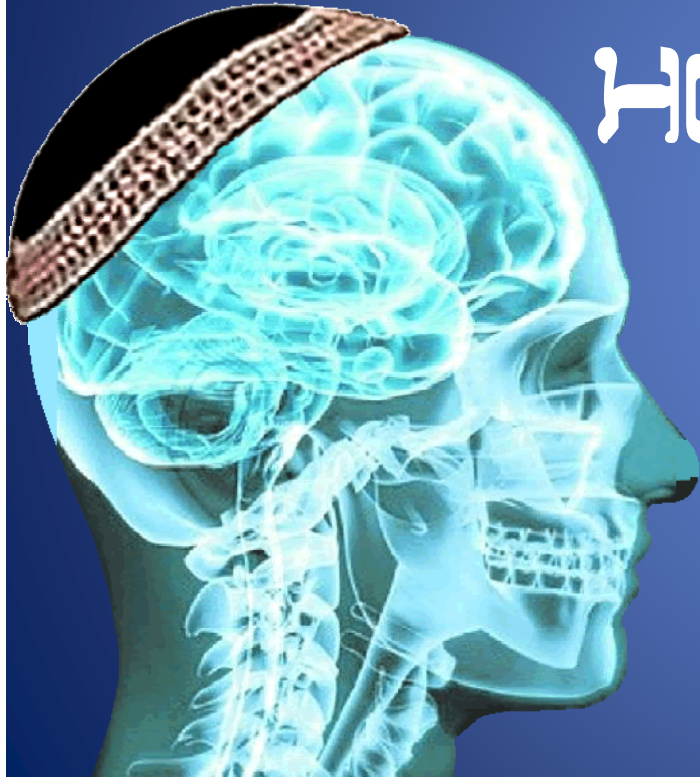
- It contains one basic message of God's nature, His love, and His plan of salvation for fallen humanity.
- The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed, while the Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed.

OPPOSING MINDSETS

ἙΒΡΑΙΩΤΙΚ

VS.

ἙΛΛΗΝΙΣΤΙΚ



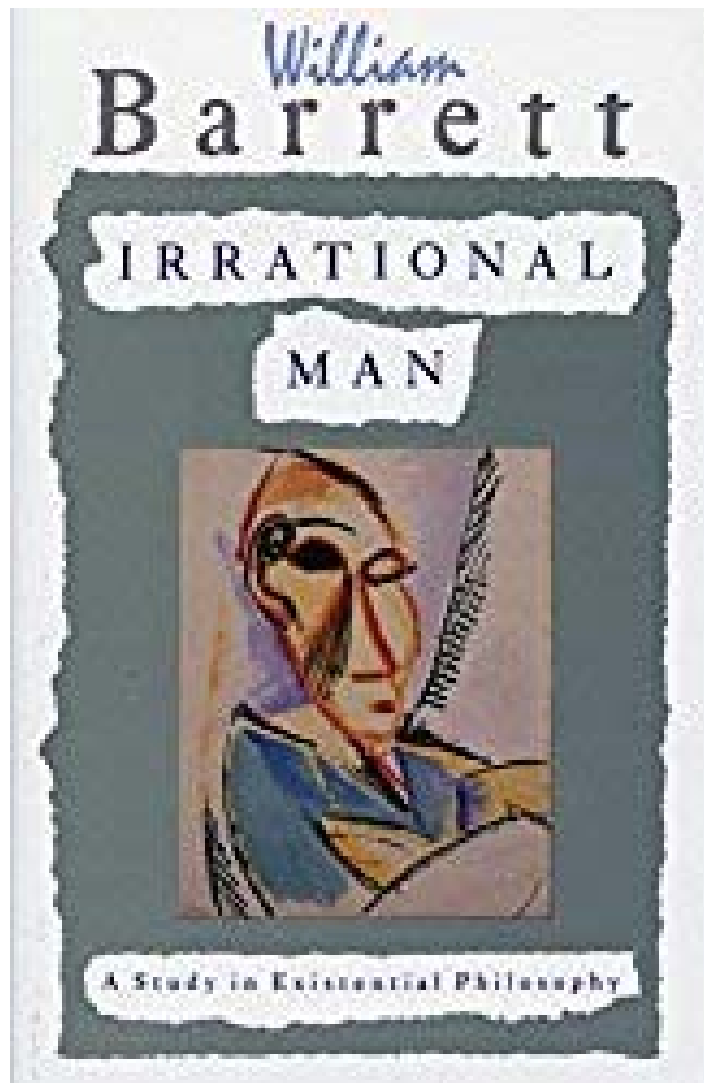
Overview of Opposing Mindsets

Hellenistic (Western)

- Focus on thought (**thinking**)
- Concerned with **knowledge**
- Ultimate concern is **right thinking** (**CREED is No. 1**)
- Extols **intellectual virtues** as the meaning of life
- End goal is **intellectual man**

Hebrew

- Focus on action (**doing**)
- Concerned with **practice**
- Ultimate concern is **right conduct** (**DEED is No. 1**)
- Extols the **moral virtues** as the meaning of life
- End goal is **moral man**

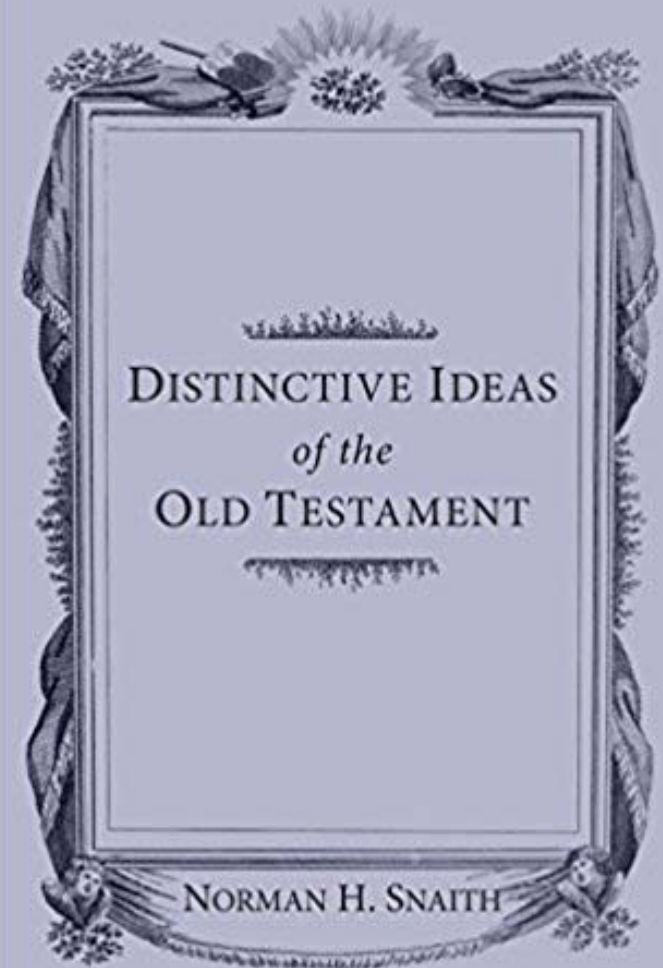


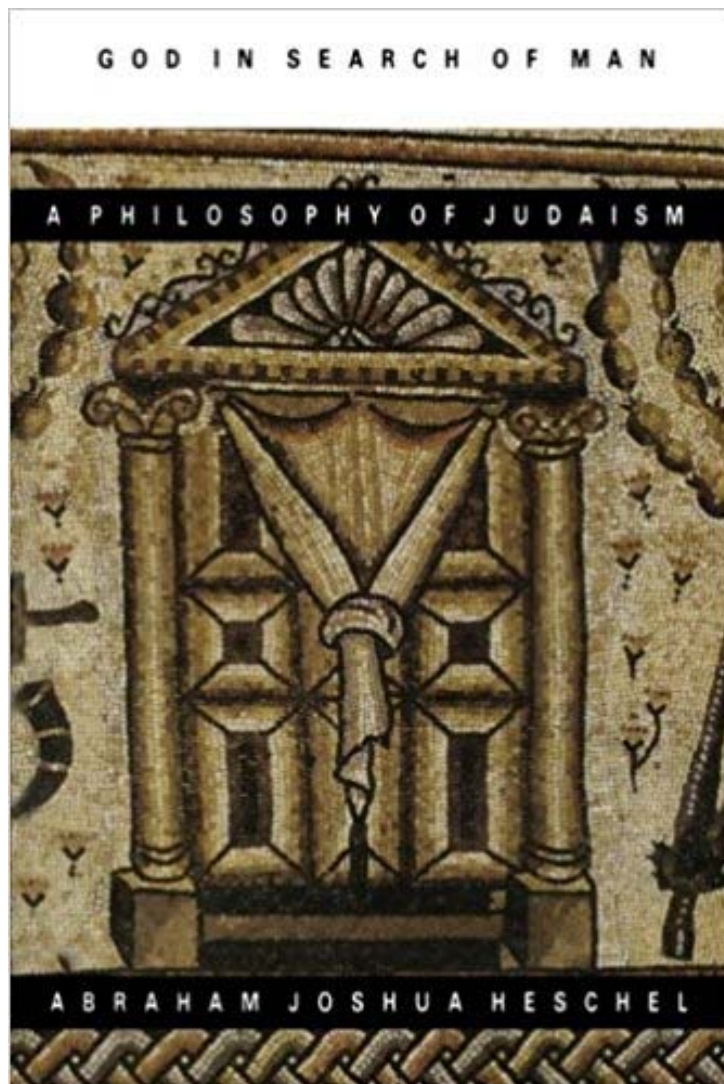
“The Hebrew thus extols the moral virtues as the substance and meaning of life; the Greek subordinates them to the intellectual virtues...the contrast is between practice and theory, between the moral man and the theoretical or intellectual man.”

Professor William Barrett

“The aim of Hebrew religion was *Da’ath Elohim* (the Knowledge of God); the aim of Greek thought was *Gnothi seauton* (Know thyself).”

Professor Norman H. Snaith





"The Greeks learned in order to comprehend. The Hebrews learned in order to revere. The modern man learns in order to use."

Jewish Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

“[The Greek and Hebrew perspectives] are fundamentally different in *a priori* assumption, in method of approach, and in final conclusion.”

“This approach is so vastly different from the Greek (and modern, Western) mindset, that without some basic appreciation of this foundational truth and perspective, the New Testament can be so totally misunderstood and misused as to render it’s central message null and void.”



The New Testament: The Hebrew Behind The Greek

*The Language and
Mindset of God:
Hellenistic
or
Hebraic?*

Paul F Herring

Western versus Hebraic Thinking

| Western Approach | Hebraic Approach |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Life analysed in precise categories. | Everything is interconnected. |
| Separate natural and supernatural | Supernatural affects everything. |
| Linear logic | Contextual or "block" logic |
| "Rugged Individualism" | Importance of belonging |
| Equality of persons | Value comes from place in hierarchies |
| Freedom orientation | Security orientation |
| Competition is good | Cooperation/collaboration is better |

| Western Approach | Hebraic Approach |
|---|--|
| Man-centered | God/tribe/family-centered |
| Personal worth based on money/ material possessions/power | Worth derived from family relationships |
| Biological life sacred | Social life supremely important |
| Chance + cause & effect limit what can happen | God causes everything in his universe |
| Man rules nature through applying laws of science | God rules everything, so focus on relationship with God |
| Power is achieved through human organisations, politics & business | Power is structured by social patterns ordained by God. |

Western Approach

All that exists is the material.
What you see is all there is.

Linear time divided into neat
segments. Each event is new.

History is recording facts
objectively and chronologically.

Oriented to the past and near
future

Hebraic Approach

The universe is filled with
powerful spirit beings

Cyclical/spiralling time. Similar
events constantly reoccur.

History is an attempt to
preserve significant truths in
meaningful or memorable ways
whether or not details are
objective facts.

Oriented to lessons of history;
history repeats

Western Approach

Hebraic Approach

Change is mostly good = progress

Change is mostly bad =
destruction of traditions

Universe evolved by chance

Universe created by God

Universe dominated and
controlled by science and
technology

God gave man stewardship over
his earthly creation. Ultimate
accountability to God.

Material goods = measure of
personal achievement

Material goods = measure of
God's blessing

Blind faith

Knowledge-based faith

Time as points on straight line
("at this point in time...")

Time determined by content
("In the day that the Lord did..")

A Hebraic view of prophecy

- As Westerners when we think “prophecy” our minds seek prediction/fulfilment.
- Hebraic thought looks for patterns and then fulfilment through a repeat of the patterns.

The Bible is a book of patterns and models,
as Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 10:6,11.

⁶ Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

⁷ Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

⁸ Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

⁹ Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

¹⁰ Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

¹¹ Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

1 Corinthians 10:6,11.

- Bible prophecies are mainly patterns (types).
- When we see a pattern (whether in the Bible or in our lives) we can better understand the consequences (good or bad) if we persist :
 - If the consequences are negative, repent!
 - If they are positive, persevere!
- This is why biblical prophecy is pattern.

Hebrew poetry is also pattern

The Chiastic Structure of Psalm 20 (KJV)

| | |
|----|---|
| 1 | The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee; |
| 2 | Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion; |
| 3 | Remember all thy offerings, and accept thy burnt sacrifice; Selah. |
| 4 | Grant thee according to thine own heart, and fulfil all thy counsel. |
| 5 | We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners: the LORD fulfil all thy petitions. |
| 6a | Now know I that the LORD saveth his anointed; |
| 6b | he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand. |
| 7 | Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God. |
| 8 | They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright. |
| 9 | Save, LORD: let the King hear us when we call. |

- “The whole Bible, the New Testament as well as the Old Testament, is based on the Hebrew attitude and approach... “ (Herring)
- The Hebrew attitude is that to know God is to revere God. To revere God is to listen. To listen is to act (responsive hearing), to obey.
- The most important text of Judaism begins with the call, ‘Hear O’Israel ...’

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל (Sh'ma Yisrael)

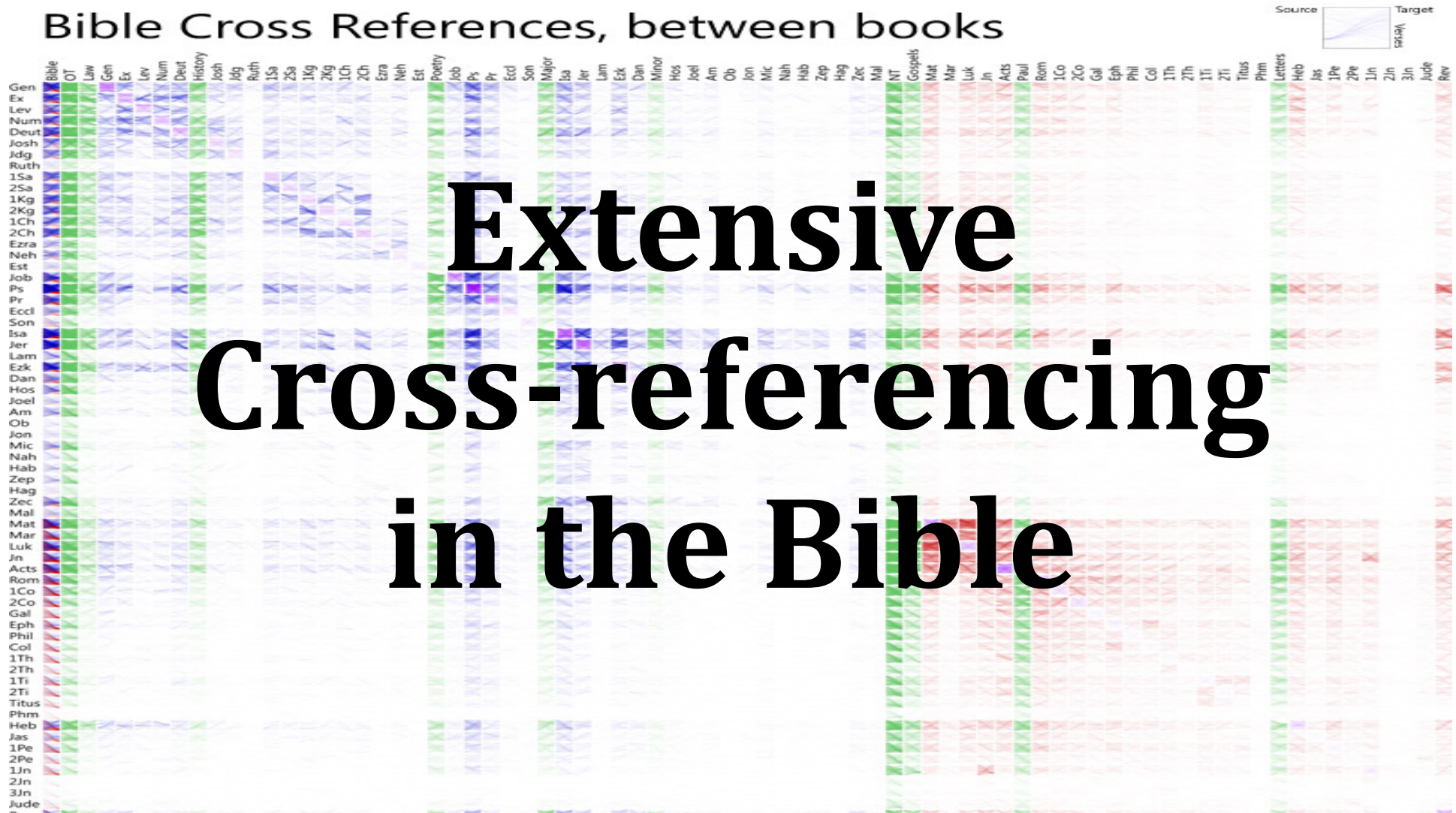
שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד:

"Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one"

Deuteronomy 6:4

⁵ And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. ⁶ And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: ⁷ And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Bible Cross References, between books



IV THE PRIZE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE: THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST, 3:1-21

A The Warning Against Judaizers, 3:1-4a

3 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again,^p and it is a safeguard for you.

²Watch out for those dogs,^q those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. ³For it is we who are the circumcision, ^rwe who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, ^sand who put no confidence in the flesh— ⁴though I myself have reasons for such confidence.^t

*3:1
p Php 2:18

*3:2
q Ps 22:16,20;
Rev 22:15

*3:3
r Ro 2:28,29;
Gal 6:15;
Col 2:11
s Ro 15:17;
Gal 6:14

*3:4
t 2Co 11:21

on, ultimately is related to our fallen humanity. 3:1 the same things. I.e., the content of verses 2-3, a basic lesson that Paul as their teacher had undoubtedly gone over with them many times while with them: Do not let Christianity be based into some form of...

Jer 9:23,24;
Jn 17:3;
Eph 4:13;
S 2Pe 1:2
d Ps 73:25

the surpassing greatness of knowing^c Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ^d ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law,^e but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness^f that comes from God and is by faith.^g ¹⁰I want to know^h Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings,ⁱ becoming like him in his death,^j ¹¹and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection^k from the dead.

*3:9
ever 6: Ro 10:5
1 Jer 33:16
g S Ro 9:30

*3:10
h S ver 8
i S 2Co 1:5
j S Ro 6:3-5

*3:11
k S Jn 11:24;
S Ro 6:5;
Rev 20:5,6

*3:12
l 1Co 13:10
m 1Ti 6:12
n Ac 9:5,6

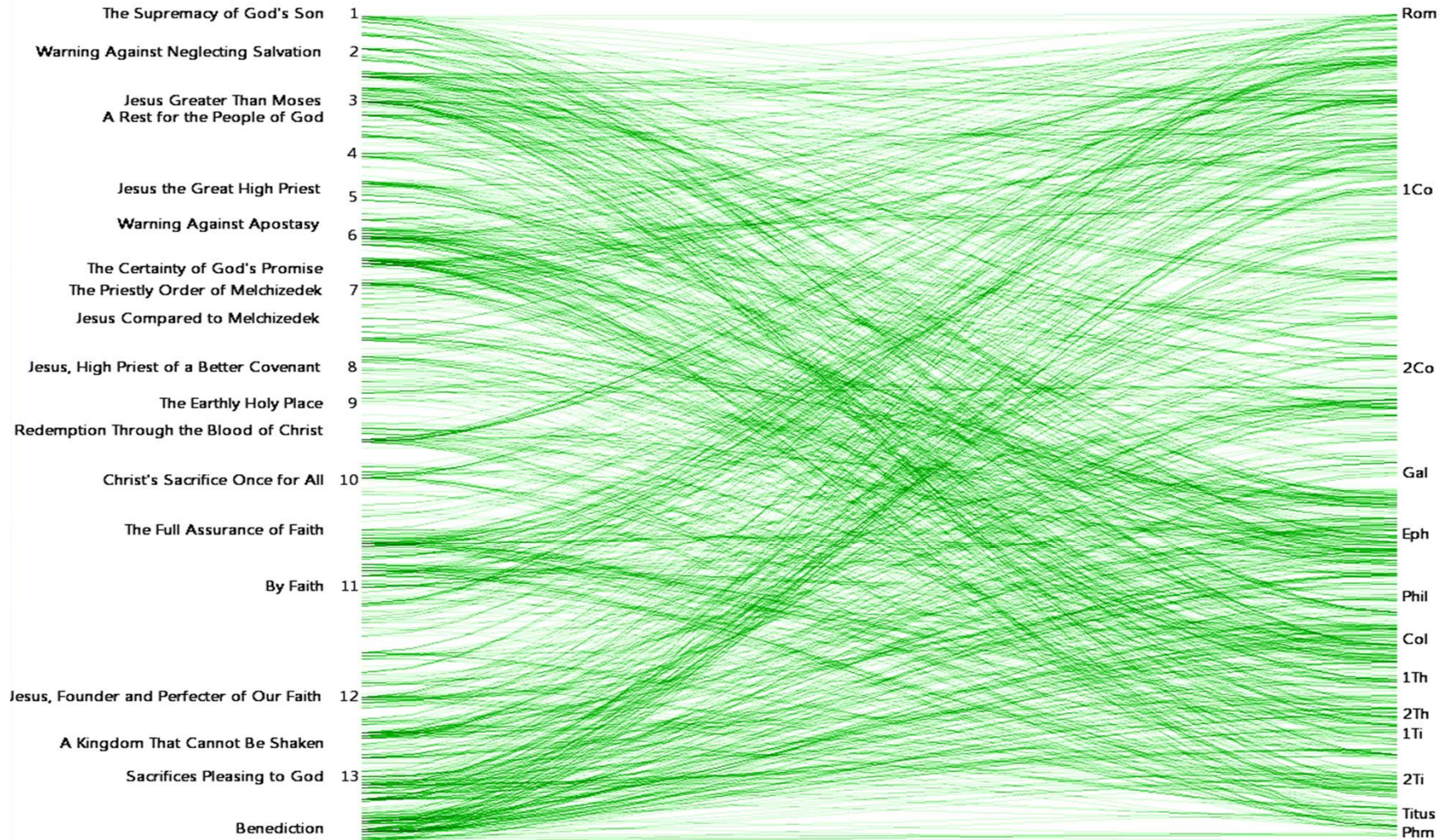
*3:13

¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect,^l but I press on to take hold^m of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.ⁿ ¹³Brothers, I do not consid-

church (v. 6), and in his righteous life (v. 6). 3:9 Here Paul contrasts works-righteousness which is based on the law, with faith righteousness, which is from God through faith in Christ. Rom. 3:21-5:21 is a commentary on...

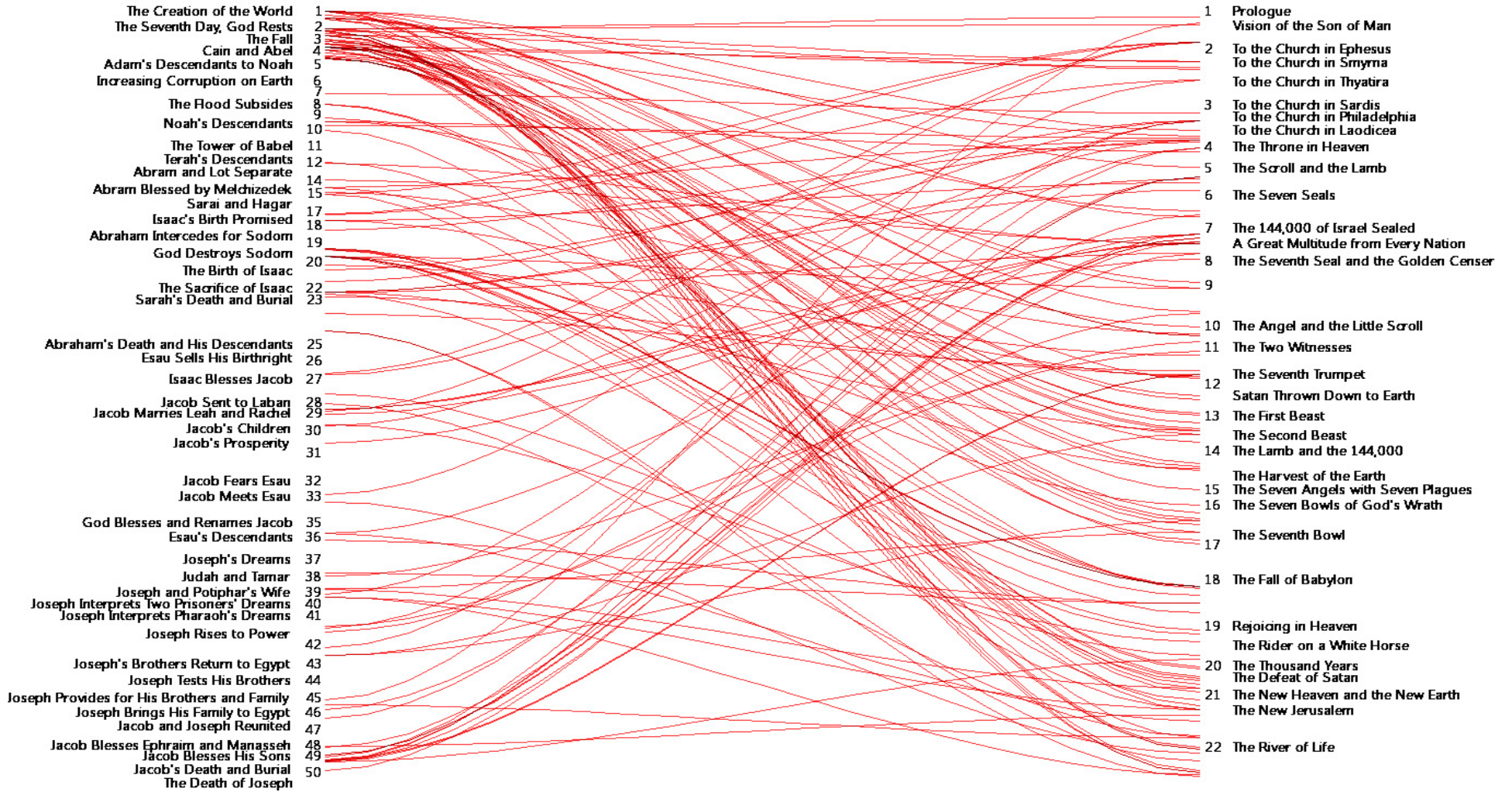
Heb

Paul



Gen

Rev

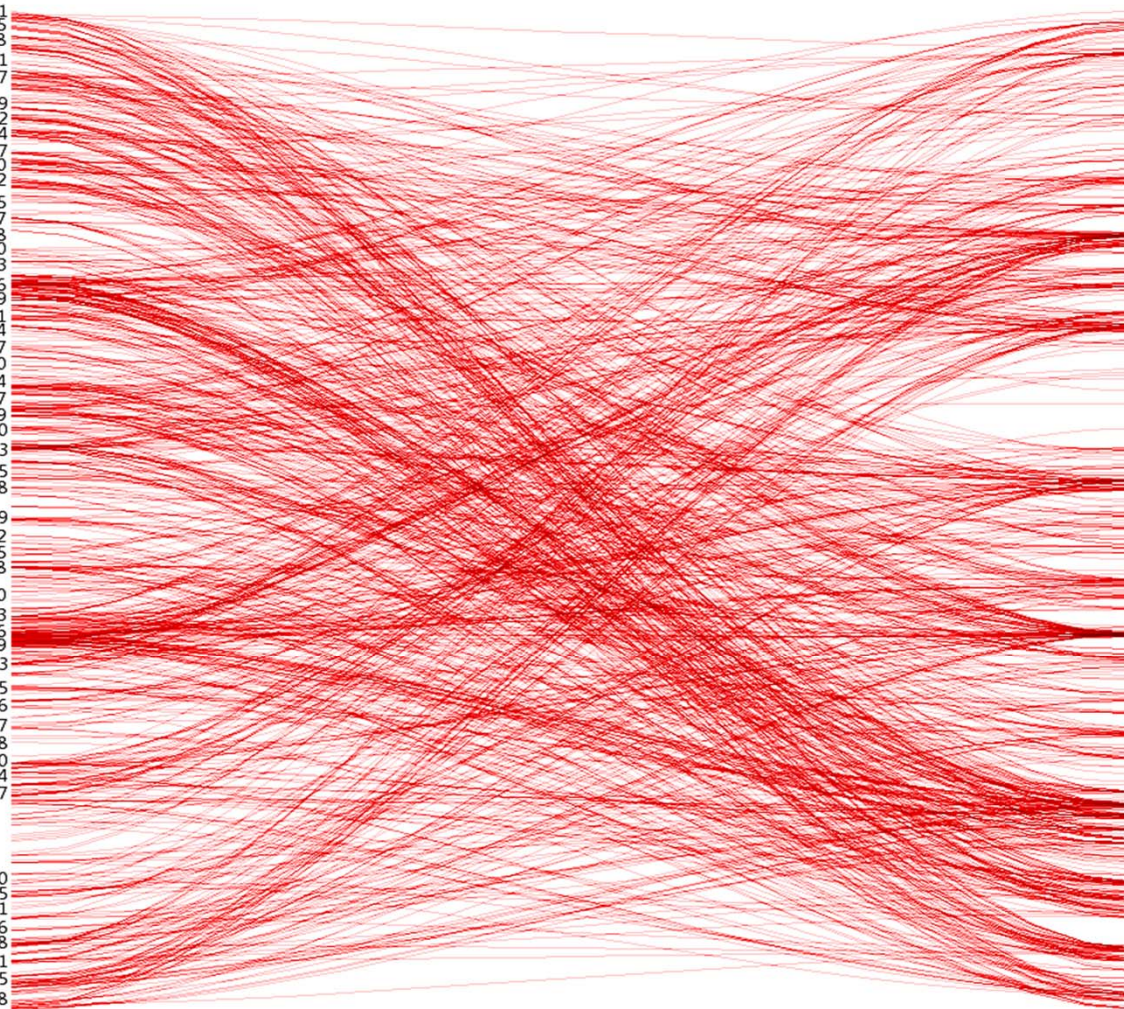


Ps

Rev

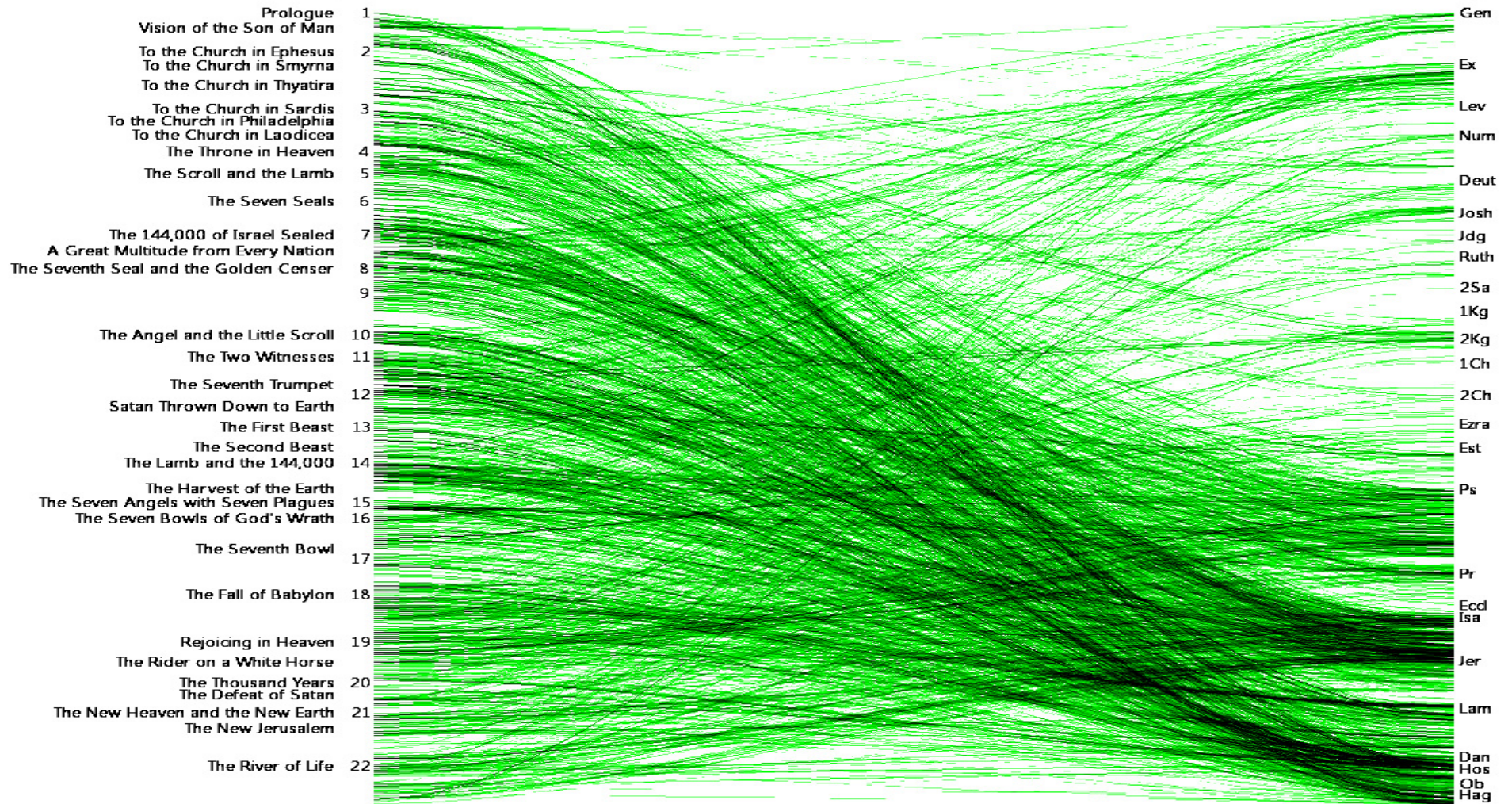
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5 The Scroll and the Lamb
6 The Seven Seals
7 The 144,000 of Israel Sealed
A Great Multitude from Every Nation
8 The Seventh Seal and the Golden Censer
9
10 The Angel and the Little Scroll
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19 Rejoicing in Heaven
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21 The New Heaven and the New Earth
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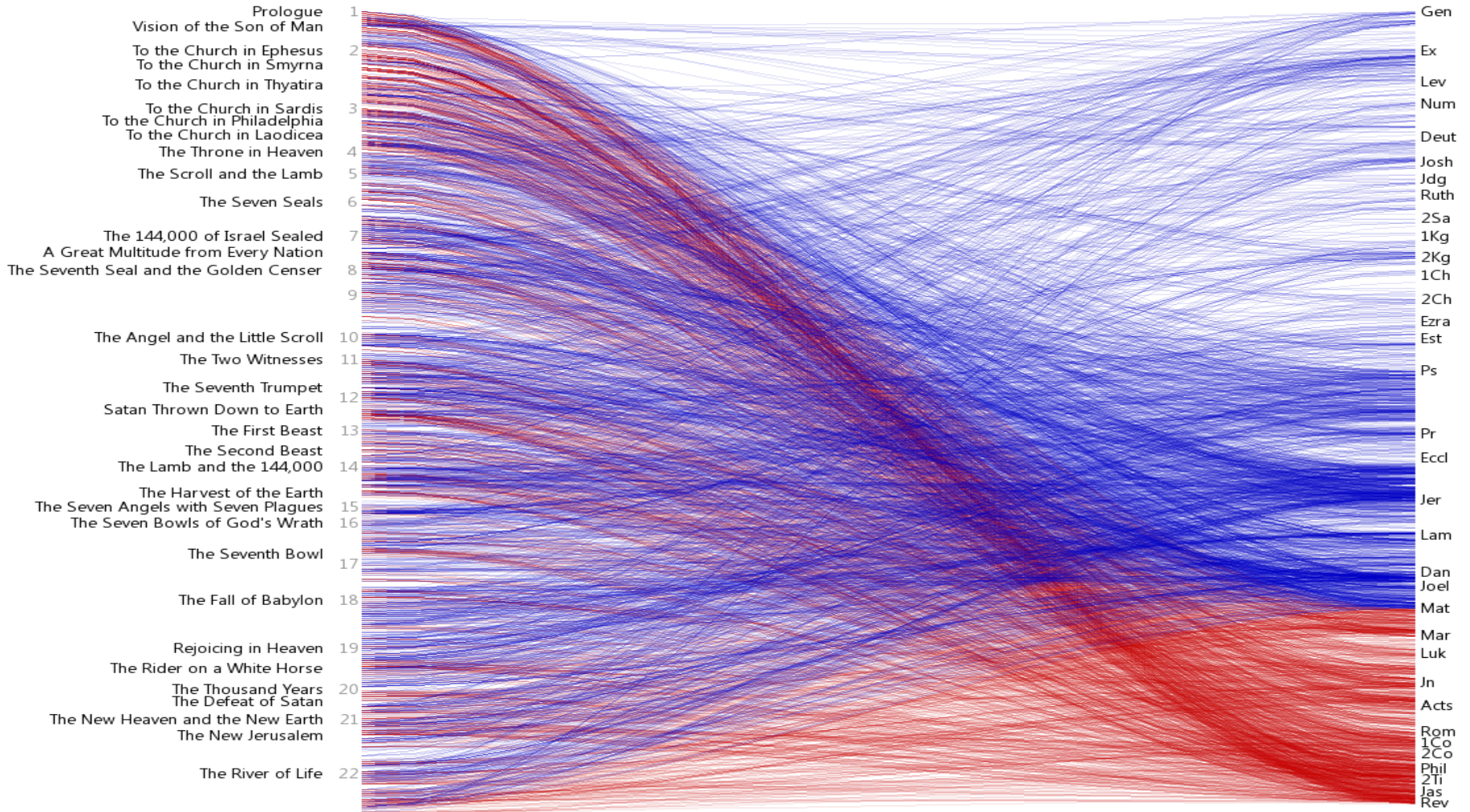
Rev

OT



Rev

Bible



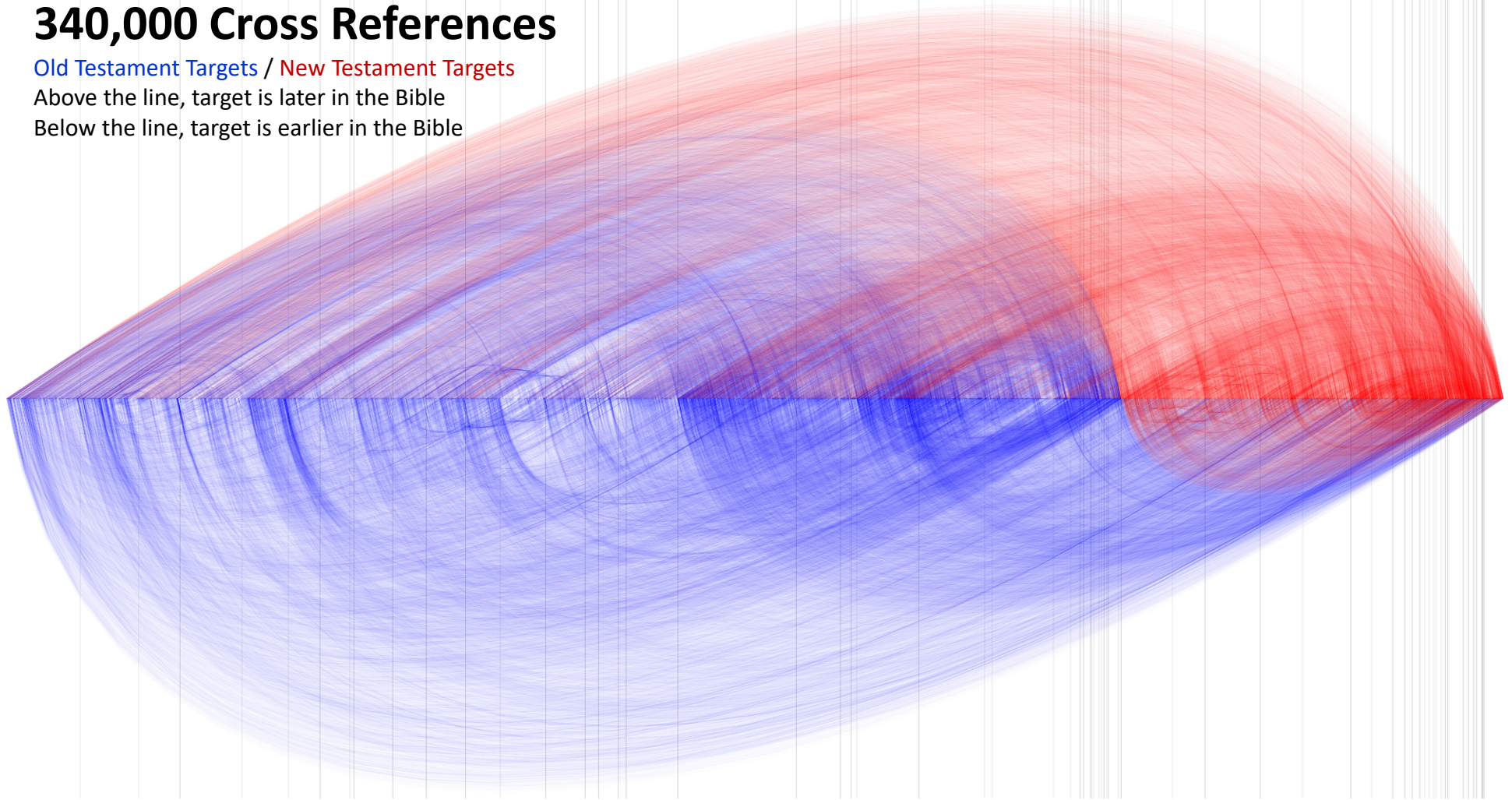
Gen Exod Lev Num Deut Josh 1Sam 1Kgs 1Chr Ezra Ps Prov Isa Jer Ezek Hos Matt Luke JohnActs Rom Gal Hb Re

340,000 Cross References

Old Testament Targets / New Testament Targets

Above the line, target is later in the Bible

Below the line, target is earlier in the Bible



Psalm 23 (KJV)

- ¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
- ³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
- ⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.



Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I
will fear no evil:

for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will
dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

The Seven beneficial acts of God in Psalm 23

| | | |
|---|---|-------------|
| 1 | He makes me lie down | Psalm 23:2a |
| 2 | He leads me beside still waters | Psalm 23:2b |
| 3 | He restores my soul | Psalm 23:3a |
| 4 | He guides me in the right paths for his name's sake | Psalm 23:3b |
| 5 | You are with me | Psalm 23:4b |
| 6 | You prepare a table before me | Psalm 23:5a |
| 7 | You anoint my head with oil | Psalm 23:5b |

Scientific Proof of the Bible

Dead sea scrolls, fragments, documents, and the authenticity of scientific facts the ancient discovered by centuries after New scientific to confirm



ancient manuscripts and archaeology, historical other sources confirm of the Bible. Many and principles in weren't actually people until it was written. discoveries tend the Bible.

| Scientific Fact or Principle | Bible ref. | Discovery |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Air has weight | Job 28:25 | 16th Century |
| The Earth is round | Isaiah 40:22 | 15th Century |
| Oceans have natural paths in them | Psalms 8:8 | 1854 |
| Both man and woman possess the seed of life | Genesis 3:15 | 17th Century |
| There is a place void of stars in the North | Job 26:7 | 19th Century |
| Earth is held in place by invisible forces | Job 26:7 | 1650 |
| Taxonomic classification of matter | Genesis 1 | 1735 |

| Scientific Fact or Principle | Bible ref. | Discovery |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Certain animals carry diseases harmful to man | Leviticus 11 | 16th Century |
| Early diagnosis of leprosy | Leviticus 13 | 17th Century |
| Quarantine for disease control | Leviticus 13 | 17th Century |
| Blood of animals carries diseases | Leviticus 17 | 17th Century |
| Blood is necessary for life | Levit 17:11 | 19th Century |
| Earth was in nebular form initially | Genesis 1:2 | 1911 |
| Most seaworthy ship design ratio is 30:5:3 | Genesis 6 | 1860 |
| Light is a particle and has mass (a photon) | Job 38:19 | 1932 |

| Scientific Fact or Principle | Bible ref. | Discovery |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Radio astronomy (stars give off signals) | Job 38:7 | 1945 |
| Oceans contain fresh water springs | Job 38:16 | 1920 |
| Snow has material value | Job 38:22 | 1905, 1966 |
| Infinite number of stars exist | Genesis 15:5 | 1940 |
| Dust is important to survival | Isaiah 40:12 | 1935 |
| Hubert Spencer's scientific principles | Genesis 1 | 1820 |
| Light can be split up into component colours | Job 38:24 | 1650 |
| Matter is made up of invisible particles | Romans 1:20 | 20th Century |

| Scientific Fact or Principle | Bible ref. | Discovery |
|--|------------|--------------|
| Plants use sunlight to manufacture food | Job 8:16 | 1920 |
| Arcturus and other stars move through space | Job 38:32 | 19th Century |
| Water cycle | Eccles 1:7 | 17th Century |
| Life originated in the sea | Genesis 1 | 19th Century |
| Lightning and thunder are related | Job 38:25 | 19th Century |
| Human beings were the last living things created | Genesis 1 | 15th Century |

Source: <https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Scientific-Proof-of-Bible.php>