

Finishing Well

Lesson #22 The Handprint Of God In His Word May 31, 2023

The Treasure of God's Word

Ps. 119:162 I rejoice at Your Word as one who finds great treasure.

Jer. 15:16a Your words became a joy and the delight of my heart...

Ps. 19:8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;

Prov. 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honor of kings is to search out a matter.

John 5:39 Search the Scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and these are they which testify of Me.

Consider: If I read the Word of God only from a sense of duty, then its treasures may never be revealed to me.

Truth: It is the believer who rejoices in the Word, who delights to read and study it day by day, who will find God's hidden treasures.

1. The 66 books of the Bible constitute a pre-designed, highly integrated message system. 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.

God's Word repeatedly authenticates this uniqueness by describing history BEFORE it happens.

2. Penned by 40 different authors from 3 continents over nearly 2000 years. The writers of God's Word were from different backgrounds, part of different cultures and crossed all walks of the socioeconomic spectrum. God's Word was penned by Hebraic and Greek scholars, fisherman, Princes of Egypt, shepherds, Hebrew Kings and pagan kings.

3. We discover there is a cosmic warfare going on and *we are the objects* of this invisible conflict. Our own eternal destiny will result from our *relationship* with the protagonist who emerges victorious! What could be more exciting?

4. There is a theme in the Old Testament which is fulfilled in the New Testament. The New Testament is concealed in the Old Testament. The Old Testament is revealed in the New. Many things in the OT do not seem to make sense until you illuminate them with the NT. It is an integrated whole that evidences supernatural engineering in every detail.

A. Gospel Message Hidden in A Genealogy

Don't skim over this chapter. God always rewards the diligent student. In our Bible, we read the Hebrew names. What do these names mean in English? It will yield some fascinating insights.

Gen. 5 describes the genealogy of 10 people from Adam to Noah

1. Adam = *Man*

2. Adam's son was Seth = *Appointed* - When he was born, Eve said,

"For God hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew." [Gen. 4:25]

3. Seth's son = Enosh = *Mortal, frail, miserable*

Men began to defile the name of the Living God in the days of Enosh. [Gen. 4:26]

4. Kenan = *sorrow, dirge or elegy*

5. Mahalalel = *the Blessed God*

6. Jared = *shall come down*

7. Enoch = *teaching or commencement* -first of 4 generations of preachers

8. Methuselah = *His Death Shall Bring*

9. Lamech = *lament, despairing*

10. Noah = *to bring relief or comfort*

Man is appointed mortal sorrow; but the Blessed God shall come down teaching that His death shall bring the despairing rest. Summary of God's plan of redemption is hidden within the genealogy. The earliest chapters of Genesis reveal God had already laid out His plan of redemption for the predicament of man. This is the beginning of a love story, ultimately written on a wooden cross which was erected in Judea about 2,000 years ago.

Lessons: 1. Summary of the New Testament Gospel tucked away in a genealogy in the Torah.

2. EVERY detail is in Scripture by DESIGN.

3. God's plan of redemption was not a knee-jerk reaction to the fall of man in Genesis 3.

4. God had ordained His plan before the foundation of the world.

Matt. 5:18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

B. Jude 1:14-15 tells us of the oldest prophecy regarding the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ.

"Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying,

"Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, ¹⁵ to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

From Enoch's Prophecy: We know the Lord's coming is sure; who will accompany Him; the purpose of His coming and the result of His coming!

C. *Mystery of Methuselah*

Gen. 5:22-24 And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: ²³ And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:

²⁴ And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

1. Enoch was 65 when he began walking with God.

Methuselah comes from Muth, a root that means death; & shalak = to bring

Methuselah means, "his death shall bring."

Apparently, he was given a prophecy of the coming Great Flood. He apparently was told that as long as his son was alive, the judgment of the Flood would be withheld.

When his son died, the Flood would be sent forth.

2. Enoch named his son Methuselah [his death shall bring] to reflect this prophecy.

3. In the year Methuselah died, the flood came.

- a. Methuselah was 187 when he had Lamech. Then he lived 782 more years. [969 years]
- b. Lamech had Noah when he was 182.
- c. The Flood came in Noah's 600th year. [Gen. 7:11]
- d. $187 + 182 + 600 = 969 =$ age of Methuselah when he died. He died the year of the Flood.
- 4. Methuselah's life was a symbol of God's mercy in forestalling the judgment of the Flood.
 - Symbolizes the extreme extensiveness of God's mercy.

II Pet. 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that ALL should come to repentance.

Three Groups Of People Faced The Judgment Of The Flood

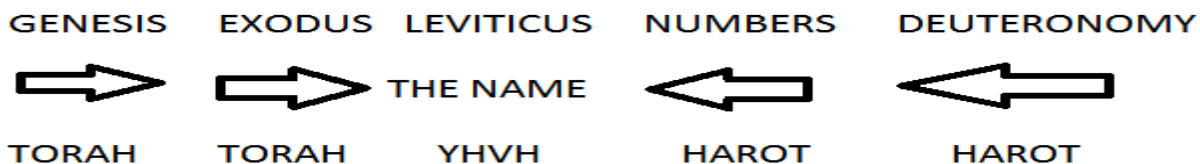
- a. One group PERISHED in the flood > Unbelieving World
 - b. Eight were PRESERVED BY THE ARK THROUGH THE FLOOD > Jewish Remnant & Noah
 - c. One person was TRANSLATED - TAKEN OUT OF THE JUDGMENT > Church & Enoch
- I Thess. 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

D. The Skipping Of Letters

The ancient Hebrew Rabbis believed through and through the Torah was God's inspired word to them, so they scoured it night and day looking for the mysteries that God had hidden there.

Rabbi Moses Cordevaro- "The secrets of the Torah are revealed...in the skipping of letters."

1. Torah in Hebrew is 4 letters = tau [T] vav [O], resh [R], heh [H]
2. Take the opening verses of Genesis in Hebrew.
3. If you find the 1st tau and count an interval of 49 letters, the next letter in the text is vav.
4. Count another 49 letters, and you find resh.
5. Count another 49 letters and you find heh.
6. This pattern is repeated in Exodus, but not Leviticus.
7. The pattern is repeated in Numbers and Deuteronomy, but the pattern is reversed.
8. Leviticus: The square root of 49 = 7. [foundation of the Word; all points to God]
 - a. If you go to the first yod and continue counting every 7 letters, it forms the name of God, YHWH. [YAHWEH]
 - b. It appears that the Torah always points to the Ineffable Name of God.



- c. There are no vowels in YHWH, which in the Hebrew language means it goes on forever! God literally has woven his fingerprints into His sacred text.

E. Prophetic Scriptures:

8,362 Predictive Verses

1,817 Predictions

737 Separate Matters

Old Testament [Tenach] was translated into Greek by 270 BC - ~3 centuries before the Gospels

- Contains over 300 prophecies detailing the coming Messiah

Consider: The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ was not a tragedy. It was an ACHIEVEMENT.

It deliberately fulfilled ~300 specifications.

Incredible Odds Of Jesus Fulfilling Biblical Prophecy- 8 prophecies regarding His 1st Coming.

1. Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

- Born in Bethlehem: What is the probability of any person, taken at random, fulfilling this?

2. King on Donkey Zech. 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon a donkey, and upon a colt the foal of a donkey.

- How many have presented themselves as a king to Jerusalem riding a donkey?

3. 30 Pieces of Silver Zech. 11:12 And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver.

- How many people have been betrayed for 30 pieces of silver?

4. Temple, Potter, etc. Zech. 11:13 And the Lord said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prized at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord.

Matt. 27:5-8 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, "It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood." And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.

The Precision of Zech 11:13. Price: 30 pieces of silver; location of the transaction: the House of the Lord (Temple); who ends up with the money? The potter!

5. Wounds in Hands Zech. 13:6 And one shall say unto him, "What are these wounds in thine hands?" Then he shall answer, "Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends." Thomas' Unbelief John 20:25-29 But he [Thomas] said unto them, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe."

- How many people, taken at random, have been "wounded in their hands" in "the house of their friends?"

6. No Defense Though Innocent Isa. 53:7 He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth.

➤ How many prisoners, accused of a capital crime, make no defense even though innocent?

7. Died with Wicked; Buried with Rich Isa. 53:9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

➤ How many died among the wicked, yet were buried with the rich?

8. Crucified For dogs have compassed me: Ps. 22:16 the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet [700 years before crucifixion invented.]

➤ How many, taken at random, have died by having hands and feet pierced?

Probabilities If a population has 60% male and 40% female, what is the probability that one taken at random is female? 40%, or $p = 0.4$ If a population is 60% right-handed and 40% left handed, what is the probability that someone taken at random is left handed? 40%, or $p = 0.4$ What is the probability of selecting a left-handed female? $p = 0.4 \times 0.4 = .16$

Mathematical Analysis: Principles Of Probability by Peter Stoner In Science Speaks

1. Purpose was to demonstrate that coincidence is ruled out by the science of probability

2. Applied the science of probability for 8 prophecies related to Jesus' 1st coming.

3. Stoner said: If only 8 of the OT prophecies concerning Christ were fulfilled, the probability of them actually coming to pass would be 1 in 10 to the 17th degree. 100 quadrillion

➤ Jesus fulfilled ~300 prophecies regarding His 1st coming.

Question: How many is 10^{17} ? - Silver Dollars is our example.

1. Take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them flat on the state of Texas.

2. They will cover the entire state 2' deep.

3. Mark one of the coins and stir up the whole mass.

4. Blindfold a person, tell him he can travel the state of Texas and pick up ONE silver dollar.

5. It MUST be the marked coin.

6. What chance would the man have of picking up the marked coin?

7. This is the same chance the prophets would have had of writing these 8 prophecies and have them all come true in ONE MAN, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote them in their own wisdom.

8. Add 8 more prophecies = 16 Prophecies Combined • Over 300 to choose from

The next 8 would be more specific [each less likely than the previous]

Combine 48 Prophecies of 300! Stoner: The probability of 48 prophecies being fulfilled by chance in one man is $10^{157} = 10$ with 157 zeroes!!!

Stoner: Any man who rejects Christ as the Son of God rejects FACT!

F. New Testament was written in the period of one lifetime. Most New Testament quotes of the Old Testament are taken from the Septuagint. [Greek translation]

Some scholars question the early dating of the New Testament.

Conspicuous Historical Events Not Mentioned in the New Testament

1. Nero's persecution after 64 AD
 - a. Up until this time, much of the persecution came from the Jewish community by zealous Jews
2. Execution of James, leader of the church, in 62 AD
3. Jewish revolt against the Romans in 66 AD
4. Destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD

Conclusion: New Testament documents were completed BEFORE these things happened.
Places an Early Dating and circulation of the NT documents.

G. Design Of The Gospels

It is interesting that each of these "faces" is suggestive of one of the four Gospels:

Matthew:	Lion of Judah	The Promised One is here	See His Credentials
	King Of Kings	Ends with Resurrection	
Mark:	Ox, servanthood	This is how He worked	See His Power
	Christ, obedient servant	Ends with Ascension	
Luke:	Son Of Man	This is what He was like	See His Nature
	Perfect Man	Ends with promise of giving Holy Spirit	
John:	Flying Eagle	This is who He really was	See His Godship
	SON OF GOD	Ends with Promise of Jesus' Return	

It needs all four aspects to give the full truth. As Sovereign He comes to reign and rule.
As servant He comes to serve and suffer. As Son of Man He comes to share and sympathize.
As Son of God He comes to reveal and redeem.

H. The 4 Faces Surrounding The Throne Of God

Rev. 4:6-7 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

⁷ And the first beast was like a LION, and the second beast like a CALF, and the third beast had a FACE AS A MAN, and the fourth beast was like a FLYING EAGLE.

Each time we encounter a view of the throne of God, we notice these strange living creatures, who seem to be associated with the protection of His throne, His holiness, etc.

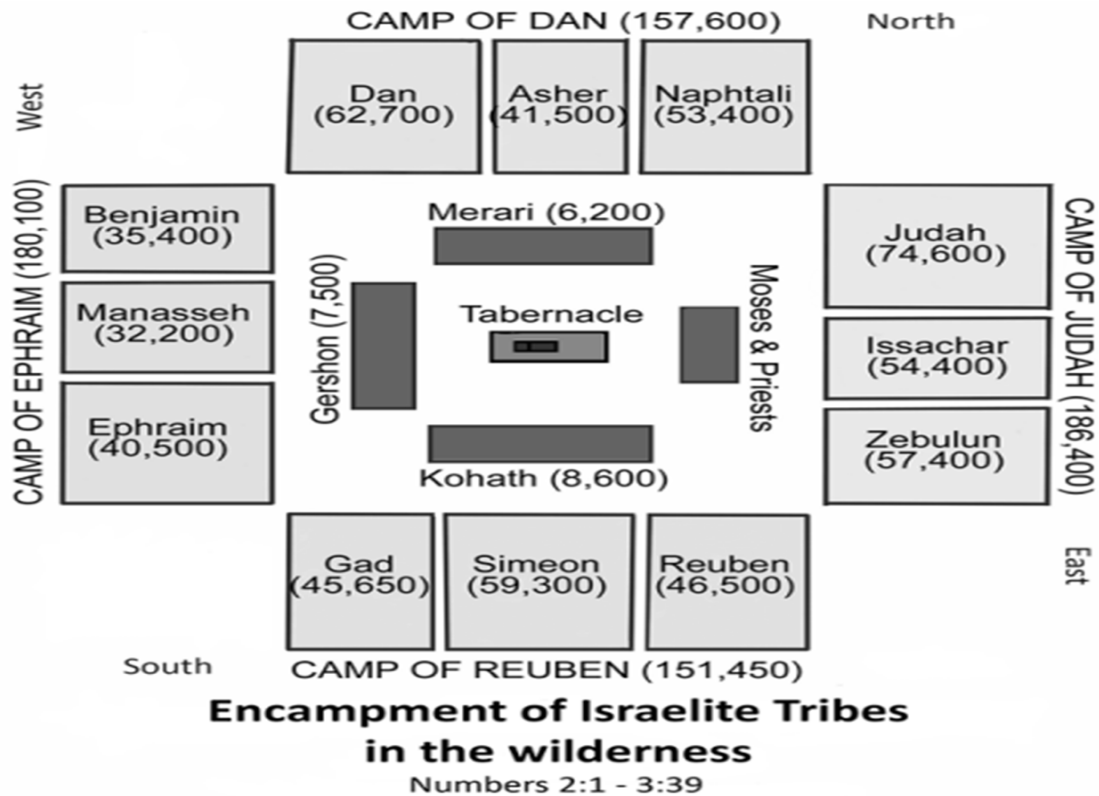
John describes them with 4 different "faces."

1. Like a LION = "King of the beasts" and symbolizes supreme strength, kingship and majesty.
2. The 2nd living creature = "like a calf" or a "bullock" or "heifer" which was frequently used for sacrifice. CHRIST is portrayed as "Sacrifice" for our sins.
3. The 3rd living creature "had a face as a man" and would represent CHRIST as a MAN.
4. The 4th living creature was "like a flying EAGLE" which symbolizes Sovereignty and Supremacy. This living creature represents CHRIST in all his DEITY.

I. What insights are hidden in the numbering of the Tribes of Israel?

When Moses received the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai, he also received detailed specifications and instructions for the building of a portable sanctuary, the Tabernacle, or tent of meeting.

1. The purpose of this unusual facility was to provide a place for God to dwell among His people.
2. The tabernacle was always set up at the center of the Camp of Israel.
3. The tribe of Levi was assigned to care for it and encamp around it.
4. The three families of the tribe of Levi [Merari, Kohath, and Gershon], camped on the north, south and west side, respectively.
5. Moses, Aaron, and the priests camped on the east side next to the entrance.
6. The remaining twelve tribes were grouped into four camps around the Levites.



Each group, of three tribes each, was to rally around the tribal standard of the lead tribe.

- Judah's tribal standard was the lion. Reuben's ensign was a man.
- Ephraim's the ox. Dan's the eagle.

These are the same 4 faces as those in Ezekiel 1:4-14.

These 4 primary tribal standards are the same as the 4 faces of the living creatures in Rev. 4. The ensigns of the 4 living creatures on each side of the Tabernacle show us the attributes of our Savior and Messiah.

Suffering servant: the man Messiah	the lion:	His leadership and power
the ox: His strength & determination	the eagle:	Swift execution of judgment

It seems that the camp of Israel--with the tabernacle in the middle--seems to be a model of the throne of God: His presence in the center, represented by the tabernacle, encircled by the four faces, all surrounded by His people.

The Numbering Of The Tribes is detailed in Numbers 1. The actual population represented is obviously somewhat larger than these enumerations, since only men over twenty, able to go to war, were counted. Most analysts assume that women, children, and the elderly, would multiply the count by some factor: 3 or whatever. The total camp would thus appear to approximate two million. While the numbers of each tribe may not seem to be very revealing, the totals for each of the four camps are. Camp Of Israel Shows The Preeminence Of Jesus Christ.

J. Does Noah's Ark Prophecy The Resurrection of Christ & Salvation Through Him?

Did you know the Date the Ark landed in the mountains of Ararat is prophetic?

- a. In I Pet. 3:18-22, the Ark is referenced as a type of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and salvation in Him.
- b. In Genesis, God specified the exact day the ark came to rest: the 17th day of the 7th month which represented a New Beginning on the earth [Gen. 8:4]
 - Why are we given this date in the story of the Ark?
- c. The Jewish New Year is celebrated in the fall, on the 1st day of the month of Tishri.
- d. When God established the Passover in Exodus, He told Israel the month of Nisan in the spring would be the first month of the year to them. [Ex. 12:1]
- e. Therefore, the Jews have 2 calendars: 1 civil calendar starting in the month of Tishri
1 Religious Calendar starting in the month of Nisan
- f. In Genesis the civil calendar is referenced with the month of Tishri being the 1st month and Nisan being the 7th month.
- g. The 7th month of Genesis, Nisan, is therefore the month in which the Passover would later be instituted.
- h. It can be shown Christ was crucified on Passover, the 14th of Nisan.
- i. When did Jesus rise? 3 days later on the 17th of Nisan! Feast of Firstfruits
- j. Jesus' resurrection was: the 17th day of the 7th month on the civil calendar.
- k. The new beginning on the earth in the time of Noah occurred on the future anniversary in anticipation of our new beginning, the resurrection of Christ! Coincidence or design?

Evidence Of Design

The numerical structure of the Bible has been studied very closely. Ivan Panin was born in Russia on December 12, 1855. Having participated in plots against the Czar at an early age, he was exiled and, after spending some years studying in Germany, he came to the United States and entered Harvard University. After graduation in 1882, he converted from agnosticism to Christianity. In 1890 he discovered some of the phenomenal mathematical designs underlying both the Greek text of the New Testament and the Hebrew text of the Old Testament. He was to devote over 50 years of his life painstakingly exploring the numerical structure of the Scriptures, generating over 43,000 detailed, hand-penned pages of analysis. He went on to be with the Lord in his 87th year, on October 30, 1942.

The Heptadic Structure

The recurrence of the number 7- or an exact multiple of seven - is found throughout the Bible and is widely recognized. "7's" occur in the Bible in over 600 passages.

- The Sabbath on the 7th day
- 7 years of plenty and 7 years of famine in Egypt
- 7 priests and 7 trumpets marching around Jericho
- the Sabbath Year of the land
- Solomon's building the Temple for seven years
- Naaman's washing in the river 7 times
- 7 churches, 7 lamp stands, 7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls, 7 stars, in Revelation

All show the consistent use of the number seven.

But there turns out to be much more below the surface. Ivan Panin noted the amazing numerical properties of the Biblical texts - both the Greek of the New Testament and the Hebrew of the Old Testament. These are not only intriguing to discover, they also demonstrate an intricacy of design which testifies to a supernatural origin!

Design Challenge: A Genealogy

- The number of words must be divisible by 7, evenly.
- The number of letters must also be divisible by 7, evenly.
- The number of vowels and the number of consonants must also be divisible by 7.
- The number of words that begin with a vowel must be divisible by 7.
- The number of words that begin with a consonant must be divisible by 7.
- The number of words that occur more than once must be divisible by 7.
- The number of words that occur in more than one form must be divisible by 7.
- The number of words that occur in only one form must be divisible by 7.
- The number of nouns shall be divisible by 7.
- Only 7 words shall not be nouns.
- The number of names shall be divisible by 7.
- Only 7 other kinds of nouns are permitted.
- The number of male names shall be divisible by 7.
- The number of generations shall be divisible by 7.

This is the genealogy of Jesus Christ as found in Matthew 1:1-11 (in Greek).

The first 17 verses of the Gospel of Matthew are a logical unit, or section, which deals with a single principal subject: The Genealogy Of Christ.

It contains 72 Greek vocabulary words in these initial 17 verses.

The number of words which are nouns is exactly 56, or 7×8 .

The Greek word "the" occurs most frequently in the passage: exactly 56 times, or 7×8 .

Also, the number of different forms in which the article "the" occurs is exactly 7.

There are two main sections in the passage: verse 1-11, and 12-17.

In the first main section, the number of Greek vocabulary words used is 49, or 7×7 .

Of these 49 words, the number of those beginning with a vowel is 28, or 7×4 .

The number of words beginning with a consonant is 21, or 7×3 .

The total numbers of letters in these 49 words is 266, or 7×38 - exactly!

The number of vowels among these 266 letters is 140, or 7×20 .

The number of consonants is 126, or 7×18 - exactly.

Of the 49 words, the number of words which occur more than once is 35, or 7×5 .

The number of words occurring only once is 14, or 7×2 .

The number of words which occur in only one form is exactly 42, or 7×6 .

The number of words appearing in more than one form is also 7.

The number of the 49 Greek vocabulary words which are nouns is 42, or 7×6 .

The number of words which are not nouns is 7.

Of the nouns, 35 are proper names, or exactly 7×5 .

These 35 names are used 63 times, or 7×9 .

The number of male names is exactly 28, or 7×4 .

These male names occur 56 times or 7×8 .

Three women are mentioned - Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth.

The number of Greek letters in these three names is 14, 7×2 .

Number of compound nouns is 7. The number of Greek letters in these 7 nouns is 49, or 7×7 .

Only one city is named in this passage, Babylon, which in Greek contains exactly 7 letters.

Gematria = study of the numerical values of words

Both Hebrew and Greek use the letters of the alphabet for numerical values.

Therefore, any specific word - in either Hebrew or Greek - has a numerical value of its own by adding up the values of the letters in that particular word.

The 72 vocabulary words in Matt. 1:1-17 add up to a gematrical value of 42,364 or $7 \times 6,052$.

Exactly! If one Greek letter was changed, this would not happen.

The 72 words appear in 90 forms - some appear in more than one form.

The numeric value of the 90 forms is 54,075, or $7 \times 7,725$. Exactly

Matthew 1:18-25

161 words: 7×23

105 forms: 7×15

77 vocabulary: 7×11

Words of the Angel: 28 words: 7×4 value: 52,605 = $7 \times 7,515$

35 forms: 7×5 value: 65,429 7×9347

There is no human explanation for this incredible and precise structure.

It has all been supernaturally designed. We simply gasp, sit back, and behold the skillful handiwork of the God who keeps His promises. Isn't God - and His remarkable Word - Amazing!

Every phrase, every word, and every letter in the Bible is there by deliberate design. Every fleck, stroke, dot and line of the Hebrew language point to the coming Messiah, Yeshua. His name is literally written on our right hand.

Ps. 18:35 You have also given me the shield of Your salvation;

Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great.

Ps. 16:8-9 I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.

The name of God shouts through time and space across the ages to you.

It says, Behold the Hand, Behold the Nail

That's my Son! By Him all things were made! In Him all things consist!

He lived the perfect life, and I turned my back on Him so that you MIGHT live!"

TORAH in Hebrew = a. Tav was originally a cross

b. Vav = a nail

c. Resh = head of a man

d. Heh = breath or Spirit of God

Man, with the spirit of God, nailed on the Cross.

This term was in existence well before the Messiah walked on the earth.

Isa. 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning,

Gen. 1:1 In the beginning...

Beit

Resh

Aleph

Shin

Yod

Tav

The Son of God will be consumed with His hands on a cross.

Jesus' words: It is finished!