

# There is No *Gematria* in the Bible

by Jeremy James



Students of God's Word will likely have come across articles on the Internet which purport to find numerological significance in certain Biblical terms based on the use of *Gematria*. This is an arcane practice derived in the main from Kabbalah, where numerical values are assigned to individual letters in a word and the word as a whole is deemed to possess a numerical value. Usually the value of a letter is based on its position in the alphabet. For example, in the Hebrew alphabet, *alef* has a value of 1, *bet* 2, *gimel* 3, and so on. Once the numbers of the words in a sentence have been determined, the relative importance of each has a bearing on how the sentence ought to be interpreted and whether or not it has a hidden meaning. The more skilled a practitioner of *Gematria* has become, the more likely he is to discern a hidden meaning which may have lain unnoticed by previous generations.

It should be patently obvious that *Gematria* is not Biblical. It is, rather, one of several methods that the Enemy has used to dilute and distort the true meaning of God's Word. The rebellious strand within Judaism has long maintained that God gave two versions of His Word, one visible and one hidden. They claim that Moses revealed the latter only to a chosen circle of disciples and that it has remained in their possession to this day. This hidden knowledge is part of the magical corpus known as Kabbalah.

## **The grotesque lie of Magick**

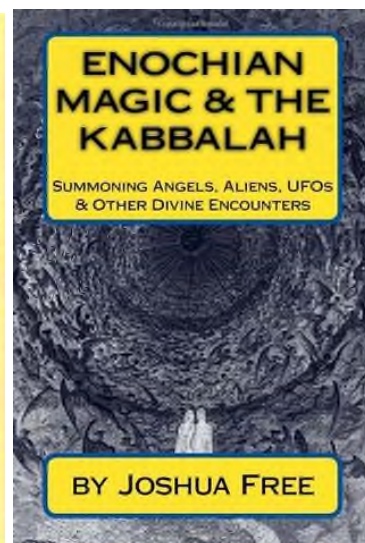
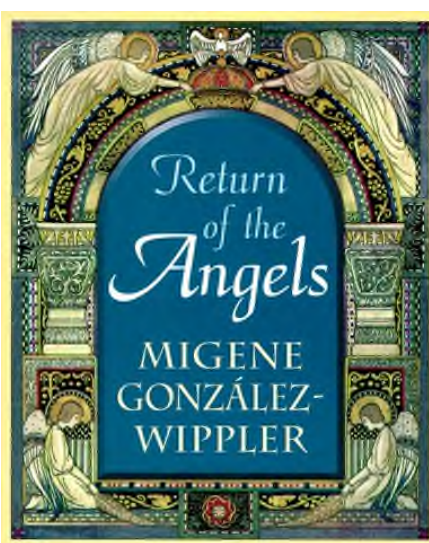
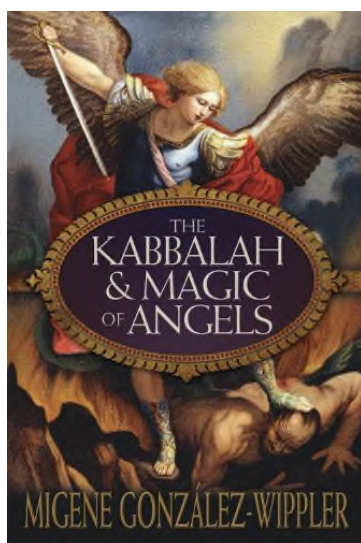
The great embarrassment for those who serve Satan is that their “works” are entirely without substance. Their infernal master is unable to create anything. Even worse, as a created being he is completely subject to the permissive will of God and cannot operate outside of it. His followers try to get around this by pretending that good and evil are relative and co-dependent. They imagine that good cannot exist without evil and that, for this reason, God needs Satan. They are forever destined to oppose each other in a kind of cosmic equilibrium. Within this continuous interplay – as they see it – God keeps his followers under strict discipline, limiting their potential, while Satan allows his devoted disciples to behave as they please.

This is the grotesque lie on which Magick is based. Satan has set up many different types of esoteric philosophy and magical systems to keep his disciples – his victims – in a constant state of confusion. The only way they can maintain any confidence in the promises made by Satan is by dominating others. They supplement this with astrology, numerology and esoteric symbolism, where they imagine their ‘master’ is running the universe and allowing them to gain privileged access to his plans.

*Gematria* is part of this perverse system of mind control.

## **Kabbalah and the summoning of “angels”**

The aim of Kabbalah is to reach a level of supernatural awareness where the “angels” (demons) respond attentively to man’s requests. High-ranking Freemasons are striving for the same kind of relationship or attachment. They believe they are equal partners in this relationship, having attained it through their superior knowledge and their advanced spiritual state, when in reality they are no different from all the unfortunate wretches who sell their souls to Satan in return for worldly success.

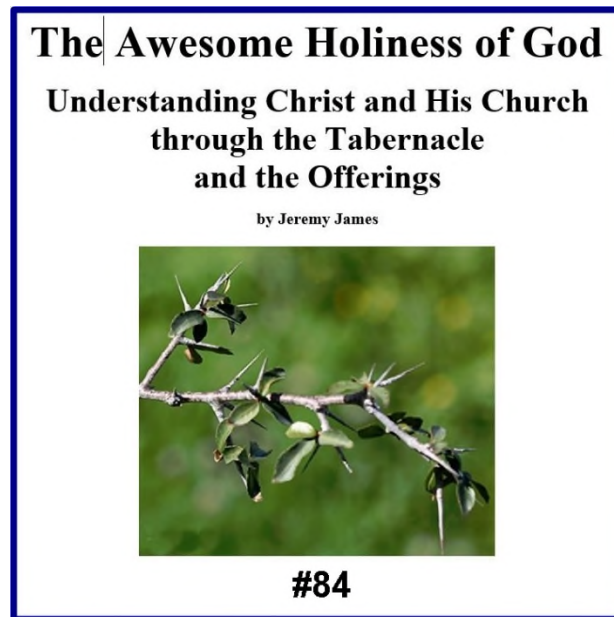


As far as the individual is concerned, Satan has only one goal, namely to possess and destroy his soul. He offers all kinds of enticements to lure his potential victims a little closer to him, all the while beguiling them with lies and clouding their understanding. One of his greatest lies is known as “hidden knowledge”, the notion that the “real” truth is revealed only to those who have advanced into higher levels or circles of ‘initiation’. This craving for hidden knowledge has crippled the minds and hearts of men for generations. It’s as though man had been handed a thousand keys and shown a thousand locks and told to find the right key to the right lock. Those who strive after the hidden knowledge believe they are now able to find the only key that works and identify the only lock it will open.

This is all a delusion, a grand Satanic hoax.

### **Significant numbers in the Bible**

God sent his prophets to tell us what we need to know in order to find salvation. He then sent His Son to set us free. All truth is found in His Word, stated plainly and simply for anyone to read and understand. We will not find it anywhere else.



God does not use numerology, but He does make use of numbers to signify certain spiritual truths. In a previous paper (#84) we gave some examples of this – see chart overleaf.

This brings us to a question which has preoccupied students of Bible prophecy for centuries, namely the number of the Beast:

**“And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.” (Revelation 13:17-18)**

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Number	Typical Significance in Scripture
One	supremacy, unity, self-sufficiency
Two	intensification, witnessing, testimony
Three	fullness, completeness, manifestation
Four	universal, inclusive, worldwide
Five	human responsibility, responsible action
Six	human limitation, the world under judgment
Seven	perfection, divine accomplishment, rest
Eight	new beginning, new era
Ten	perfected universality
Twelve	manifest sovereignty, administration
Forty	testing, completed probation

Sources: *Bible Encyclopedia and Dictionary* by A R Fausset  
*The Numerical Structure of Scripture* by F W Grant  
*The Tabernacle's Typical Teaching* by A J Pollock

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Virtually every attempt that we have found to determine who this person might be has been based on *Gematria*. This is really surprising, for the following reasons:

- (a) The name of this person cannot be known in advance. The “number of his name” (666) is given only as a means of corroboration after the fact. Apart from Jesus, named Emmanuel, the Bible gave the personal names of only two people many years in advance of their birth – Cyrus and Josiah.
- (b) The assumption that the “number of his name” is based on *Gematria* has no Scriptural basis. Rather, it should be understood to mean the number associated with his name. As we shall see, the Word of God gives at least three graphic examples of this.
- (c) The very fact that a line of inquiry based on *Gematria* is a cause of much confusion is evidence that it is not the right approach.

There are three distinct occasions in the Bible where a number is clearly associated with an individual. We discussed two of them in an earlier paper (#229), as follows:

God uses numbers here and there in His Word to signify something other than the number itself. This is not ‘numerology’, since the number is not being used as a conduit of spiritual power, but merely as a pointer. When He uses the number 7, we know (from the context), that it relates in a special way to His holy will. Equally, when he uses the number 6, we know he is pointing to man and his pride...

The Sons of Belial who control the cities of Washington, London, Paris, Rome, Berlin, Moscow and Beijing, among others, are all scheduled for destruction. They can recite and magnify their number, 666, as often as they like, but when the time is right the LORD will annihilate every last one of them. The testament that He gave to his Son, Christ Jesus, which we know as the Book of Revelation, contains numerous references – through its repeated use of the number 7 – to His absolute sovereignty and to the certain fulfillment of all His judgments...

The Bible gives us another important insight into the number 666. It does this by citing explicit numbers in passages dealing with the preservation of the souls of men. The first is the number 276, which is the total number of souls saved from drowning in Acts 27:37 when the ship in which Paul was being transported to Rome foundered on the rocky shores of Malta. The second is the number 153, which is the number of fish caught in the “Miraculous Draught” in John 21:11 when Jesus said, **“Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find.” (John 21:6)**

The connection between these three numbers – 666, 276, and 153 – may not be obvious at first, but they have an unusual property in common. The first number, 666, is the sum of all numbers from 1 to 36, inclusive. The second, 276, is the sum of all numbers from 1 to 23, inclusive. And, finally, 153 is the sum of all number from 1 to 17, inclusive.

The last two numbers, 153 and 276, refer to those who are pulled from the sea of humanity and saved, while the number 666 represents all whom Jude describes as the **“raging waves of the sea” (Jude 1:13).**

To these conspicuous numbers, 153 and 276, we can add a third, namely 300. If 153 is associated with Peter and 276 with Paul, then 300 is associated with Gideon. This was the number of soldiers approved by God to carry out His plan to defeat the Midianites under the leadership of Gideon.

Interestingly, this number has the same peculiar property as each of the other two. Just as they are the sum of all numbers to 17 and 23, respectively, 300 is the sum of all numbers to 24:

$\Sigma 17$	$1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9+10+11+12+13+14+15+16+17 =$	153
$\Sigma 23$	$1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9+10+11+12+13+14+15+16+17+18+19+20+21+22+23 =$	276
$\Sigma 24$	$1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9+10+11+12+13+14+15+16+17+18+19+20+21+22+23+24 =$	300
$\Sigma 36$	$1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9+10+11+12+... .. 28+29+30+31+32+33+34+35+36 =$	666

[Note: Sigma ( $\Sigma$ ) is the symbol used in mathematics to indicate the summation of numbers. Thus  $\Sigma 17$  is 153,  $\Sigma 23$  is 276,  $\Sigma 24$  is 300, and  $\Sigma 36$  is 666.]

### How this relates to the number 666

To understand the meaning of 666, we need to understand the special character of 153, 276 and 300. Why did God choose them? He could have chosen other numbers for this purpose, or given a rough number only, or perhaps no number at all. All three are ‘Sigma’ numbers. Also, and this is extremely important, all three are closely tied to the salvation of souls. Peter and his crew drew 153 fish from the Sea of Galilee after Jesus had instructed them to cast their net on the right side of the ship. This living parable spoke of the souls among the sea of mankind who would find salvation in Christ. Paul was instructed by God to tell the passengers on the floundering ship that all who remained on board until the last moment would be saved. And Gideon was told by God to select only those volunteers – 300 out of 10,000 – who drank the water from their cupped hands. While commentators differ as to what precisely distinguished the behavior of the smaller group from that of the larger one, we would note that those who kept on their feet were effectively “out” of the water.

In all three instances, a great number of souls were saved by the miraculous – and direct – intervention of God.

The number 666, on the other hand, deals with the Satanic damnation of a large number of souls. We can discern its connection with the other three numbers from the fact that it too is a Sigma number ( $\Sigma 36$ ) and, that – to emphasize the connection – the number 36 is *also* a Sigma number ( $\Sigma 8$ ) [ $1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8 = 36$ ].

The Antichrist will be proud to identify himself with this number! He will see it as a badge of honor. Both he and his followers will display it in various ways, holding it aloft, as it were, to show in symbolic terms their blasphemous rejection of the order established by God.

## The vain quest for extra-Biblical revelation

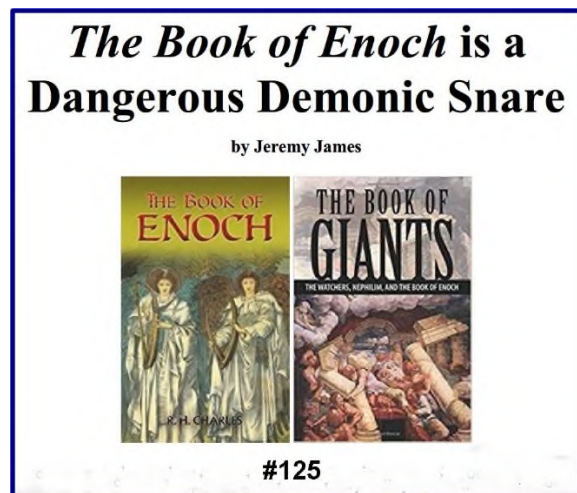
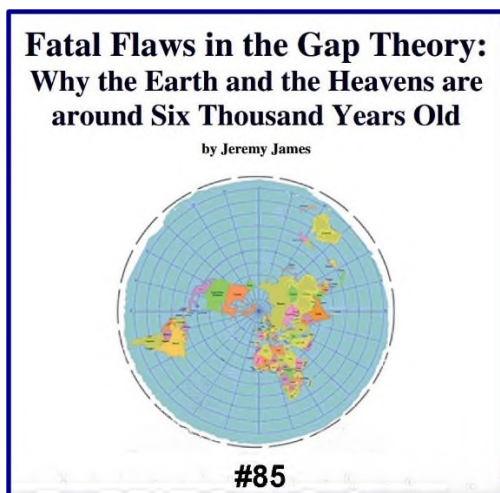
In his fallen and rebellious state, man has always struggled to accept the inerrancy and sufficiency of God's Word. The Enemy continues to taunt the unwary, just as he did in the Garden of Eden: "Yea, hath God said?" We ought to have unshakeable confidence in His Word, but many do not.

The LORD described this dreadful spiritual disease to Ezekiel in the following terms:

**"And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not." (Ezekiel 33:31-32)**

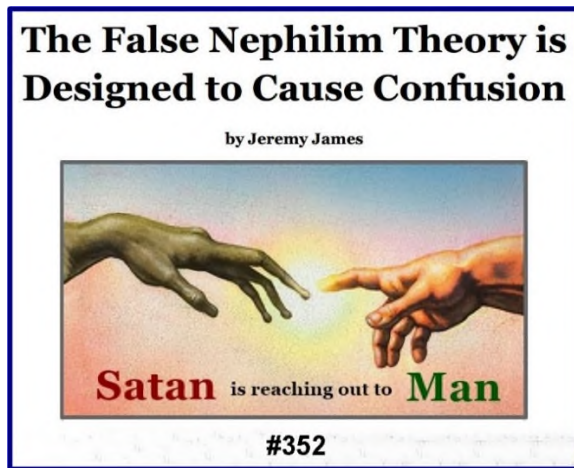
These unsettled individuals allow themselves to be troubled by the cunning doubts and uncertainties devised by the Enemy. One of the most common is the "possibility" that the Bible we have today may lack one or two books which "ought" to have been included. The apocryphal *Book of Enoch* is often cited.

It never occurs to these sceptics that this line of reasoning is absurd. They imagine that our wonderful Creator, who made all things, was for some inexplicable reason unable to preserve His Word as intended! It defies belief. Nevertheless a great many professing Christians have fallen into this trap. They have allowed themselves to be gulled by the possibility that a few drops of divine knowledge may have crystallized in the pages of other "inspired" writings and that questions regarding the interpretation of certain passages in the Bible can only be answered by referring to those sources.



We would strongly encourage any Christian who has been influenced by this school of thought to carefully examine its implications. A believer who cannot accept the inerrancy and sufficiency of God's Word is wide open to deception. He has not yet placed all his trust in the power of the Holy Spirit and continues to reserve a tiny closet in his heart where God is not permitted to enter. One even has to broach the unthinkable and ask whether or not the individual is born-again.

As the prophet Ezekiel records, “**they sit before thee as my people**”. In other words, they profess to be one of God’s people, but their failure to heed His Word shows that they are not.



Adolph Saphir, a Jewish convert to Christianity in the 19th century, wrote several fine books on Scriptural matters. His background gave him a keen understanding of the many ways the Enemy has sought to diminish the power and purity of God’s Word. He even warned that the distinction between the ‘Old’ and the ‘New’ Testament, which effectively divided the Bible into two parts, was erroneous and “productive of mischief”:

"The very names, Old and New Testament, I believe to be erroneous, and to have been productive of mischief. For what is meant by calling the writings of Moses and the Prophets "Old Testament"? Do they not set forth the covenant of grace? The doctrine of justification by faith: does not Paul in his Epistle to the Romans prove it from Genesis (case of Abraham) and from the Psalms (case of David, Psalm 32)? Where is the doctrine of substitution and the vicarious sufferings of the Messiah set forth more clearly than in Leviticus and in the 53rd of Isaiah? The term "Old Testament" leads people to fancy it is an antiquated book; whereas, in many respects, it is newer than the New Testament, referring more fully to the age of glory and blessedness on the earth which is still before us."

- *Christ and Israel*, Adolph Saphir, Chapter 8

This is the attitude we need in our current age, where the Enemy is doing everything he can to lure believers away from the glorious purity and strength of God’s Word. By and large Evangelicals today have a poor knowledge of the ‘Old’ Testament and a strong tendency to interpret the books of the ‘New’ Testament in isolation from the 39 books that went before them.



**Extract from a rebuke sent recently by a Christian woman to several YouTube channels that purport to be Christian but promote *The Book of Enoch* and other 'hidden' books which, they claim, should have been included in the Bible.**

“You keep getting further and further away from the Bible and into these untested, unproven pieces of literature (Dare I say "trash", with the names of the fallen angels and their numerous accomplishments – pardon me but they love to be recognized and worshipped and you are doing a fine job of accommodating them). What is more you have absolutely no verifiable proof of who wrote these books...

“As for me and my house we will stick to the Bible. There is so much in there that we will never be able to probe and comprehend it all. The Bible is more than enough for me, as it has been for numerous Bible scholars way smarter than me. You claim these books have been "hidden". So, did God hide them from us only to be revealed to a select few in the end times? Think about this claim you are making. Then please back it up with Scripture. I don't serve a God who is in the habit of hiding things from His followers, but maybe you guys do.”

## **CONCLUSION**

We have written several papers which expose the serious errors that arise when sloppy or biased Bible scholarship is used to justify fables and “old wives tales.” As the Apostle put it: **“For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ...” (2 Peter 1:16).**

The Word of God warns that this tendency will increase dramatically in the End Time:

**“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” (2 Timothy 4:3-4)**

*Gematria* is a remarkably versatile tool for those who promote “cunningly devised fables” and wish to stamp them with a mark of authority. Numerology is occultic. It rejects the sovereignty of God and portrays His wonderful Creation as a *Matrix* governed by the emanations of Kabbalah.

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**April 22, 2024**

**- SPECIAL REQUEST -**

**Time is running out...**

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