

God-Inspired Words, Numbers, and Amino Acids: The Building Blocks of Life

KEN CHEUNG

The clock was winding down. The Sunbird right-winger dribbled past one defender after another in a flash, her heart pounding, the goal on sight, hamstring muscles flexed her right knee and then extended to connect the foot to the underside of the ball. A brilliant crossing, following a Newtonian parabolic trajectory, the ball sailed past several defenders in front of the goal. The Sunbird center-forward with both hands swinging upwards and feet pushing away from the ground launched herself up into the air, aligning her body with her own momentum, connected her head to the right-half of the ball, and knocked the ball through the outstretched arms of the opposing goalie into the right bottom corner of the goal.

During the football (soccer) game, biochemistry and the energy metabolism of the body muscles functioned automatically, gravity functioned as usual, and the volume of the ball was related to π . Even the ellipsoidal alternate *football*, which is played with the hands by throwing and catching instead of kicking with the foot, except for a handful of set plays, is related to π . Albert Einstein's field equations for cosmology also contain the irrational number π , but there is nothing irrational about π 's relation to the cosmos and the intelligent Creator. The human body is "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Ps 139:14) with all the intricate physiology and biochemistry.¹

Gematria is a form of cryptography where Hebrew and Greek alphabets have alphanumerical equivalents, e.g., $\alpha = 1$, $\beta = 1$, ... $\omega = 24$ as the 24th Greek alphabet or 800 as the standard value.² Ancient Jewish sages used gematria for rabbinic writings and for biblical hermeneutics using the *PaRDeS* approach, which stand for *Peshat* (פְּשָׁט) for literal interpretation, *Remez* (רִמְזָה) for allegorical interpretation, *Drash* (דְּרָשָׁה) or *Midrash* (מִדְרָשׁ) for inquiry into ancient rabbinic writings, and *Sod* (סוּד) for esoteric meaning through inspiration or direct revelation. The Apostle John used gematria to code the name of the "beast" in Rev 13:18. To minimize overly subjective interpretation of the gematria values, it is important that all deciphered words be the original ones used in the Bible.

After the Reformation, the grammatico-historical interpretation was preferred over other approaches. This article questions whether interpreting the Bible only by the grammatico-historical approach, to discern the meaning of original human authors, is sufficient for hermeneutics. Are we in this process ignoring the divine author who inspired the human writers in the first place? Consider, for example, the pre-Reformation Thomas Aquinas' four senses of the Sacred Scripture or the Jewish *PaRDeS* exegesis tradition? In *Summa Theologica*, Article 10 of Question 1 in Prima Pars, Aquinas explains that there is no confusion between literal sense and spiritual sense in the Bible because what is conveyed in the spiritual sense is also taught elsewhere in the literal sense. For example, the rock of Moses in the literal sense is either an actual rock or a metaphor for the strong, faithful and upright God, depending on the context. The rock is a type of Christ in the spiritual sense as interpreted and taught literally by the New Testament writers (1 Cor 10:1–4; 1 Pet 2:4–8). It is this author's view that without the deeper pre-Reformation spiritual sense of interpretation, it is difficult for anyone to know that the values of p and e are encrypted in Gen 1:1 and John 1:1.

Genesis 1:1, for example, consists of 7 Hebrew words and 28 letters (divisible by 7), and the standard alphanumerical-equivalent values are summed to $2701 = 37 \times 73$. The first 14 letters are about the beginning, when God created. This is the subject. The next 14 letters are about the created heavens and the earth, the direct object of the verse. Several contemporary mathematicians have noted that the value of π is hidden in the Hebrew text of Gen 1:1. The value of π is the coefficient portion of the answer expressed in scientific notation of the following equation: ³

$$\text{Value} = \text{Coefficient of } \left[\frac{(\text{Product of alphanumerical-equivalent of each letter}) \times \text{Number of letters}}{(\text{Product of alphanumerical-equivalent of each word}) \times \text{Number of words}} \right]$$

The value of π calculated is 3.141554508 ..., which underestimates π (= 3.141592654 ...) by only 0.001%. The value of π was encrypted about 1200 years before Archimedes (287–212 BC) calculated at the value of $3\frac{1}{7}$ (note the 3 and 7 again).

The Hebrew text of 1 Kings 7:23 is another Bible verse where the value of π is hidden. ⁴ A correction factor ($\frac{111}{106}$) is noted by mathematicians at Bar-Ilan University, Israel, based on the standard gematria values of the written Hebrew word for line, *geweh* (גוּיָהַ) but traditionally read as *qaw* (קוּ). Thus,

the correction factor multiplies the nominal circumference of 30 cubits for the round “sea of cast metal” of 10 cubits in diameter corrects the circumference to 31.415 cubits.

The value of natural exponential e using the above equation on the Greek standard gematria values of John 1:1 is 2.718312812 ..., which overestimates e ($= 2.718281828 \dots$) by only 0.001%.⁵ The gospel of John was written 1600 years before Jacob Bernoulli (1655–1705) discovered e in 1683.

The Greek standard gematria values of Jesus Christ (ΙΗΣΟΥΣ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ) in the nominative case are 888 and 1480, respectively. Sum of the 7 digits $8+8+8+1+4+8+0 = 37$. The sum $888 + 1480 = 2368 = 64 \times 37$; whereas, 64 is the number of RNA codons that translate into the canonical amino acids the building blocks of life. Wisdom in Greek, *sophia* (σοφία), has an equivalent numerical value of 64 based on positions of the alphabets. Whereas, wisdom in Hebrew, *hokmah* (חָכְמָה) has an equivalent numerical value of 37 based on positions of the alphabets. Prov 8:12, 23–24, 30–31 (ESV) reads:

¹² I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I find knowledge and discretion.

²² The Lord possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old.

²³ Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

³⁰ then I was beside him, like a master workman [RSV endnote: little child], and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always,

³¹ rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man.

Wisdom (Hebrew Strong’s 2451) spelled as *hokmah* (חָכְמָה) appears 37 times in the Proverbs, and is spelled twice as *hokmat* (חֻכְמַת), the possessed noun, in Prov 5:1 and 14:8. Greek Strong’s 4678 *sophia* as noun appears 51 times, Strong’s 4679 *sophizō* as verb appears 2 times, and Strong’s 4680 *sophos* as adjective appears 20 times, totaled to 73 times in the New Testament. *Hokmah* in Hebrew standard gematria values summed to 73. It is to be noted again that the total Hebrew standard gematria value of Gen 1:1 is 37×73 .

In *The Language of God*, Francis S. Collins, head of the Human Genome Project and the current director of the National Institutes of Health, explains

that the DNA molecule consists of four chemical bases abbreviated as A, C, G, and T, and that each has a particular shape:⁶

As a first approximation, one can therefore think of DNA as instructional script, a software program, sitting in the nucleus of the cell. Its coding language has only four letters (or two bits, in computer terms) in its alphabet. A particular instruction, known as a gene, is made up of hundreds or thousands of letters of code. All of the elaborate functions of the cell, even in as complex an organism as ourselves, have to be directed by the order of letters in this script.

Due to the unique molecular shapes of the bases, A can only fit tightly with T, and C only with G in the double helix of DNA, thereby enabling reproduction with the availability of a master copy or template.

Collins explains that genetic information flows from DNA to messenger RNA to ribosome for translation into a chain of amino acids called protein, and that there are 64 (note the alphanumeric-equivalent for *sophia* as mentioned above) 3-letter combinations (codons) of the four bases, but only 20 amino acids because of built-in redundancy. This “genetic code” is universal in all known organisms. “No tower of Babel was to be allowed in the language of life”.⁶

Vladimir I. shCherbak of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University reports in *Biosystems* that 37 is the common factor in the arithmetic inside the universal code.⁷ In other words, this is a signal from an intelligent source rather than from random natural evolutionary processes (the null hypothesis) because the statistical *p-value* $< 10^{-13}$ or the probability of less than 1 chance in 10 trillion.⁸ For instance, amino acids translated from codons beginning with A and G are grouped under the purines heading, and those from codons beginning with U (RNA’s demethylated version of T) and C are grouped under the pyrimidines heading in Table 1.

Table 1. The numbers of nucleons are listed for the side-chain (R) and backbone (B) of the amino acids. Codon is a 3-letter combination of the four bases in RNA. The 20 amino acids are encrypted by 64 codons with built-in redundancy. The nucleon sums are all divisible by 37.

Purines					Pyrimidines				
Codon	Amino Acid	R	B	Total Nucleons	Codon	Amino Acid	R	B	Total Nucleons
AA(U,C)	Asn	58	74	132	UA(U,C)	Tyr	107	74	181
AA(A,G)	Lys	72	74	146	UA(A,G)	Stop	0	0	0
GA(U,C)	Asp	59	74	133	CA(U,C)	His	81	74	155
GA(A,G)	Glu	73	74	147	CA(A,G)	Gln	72	74	146
AG(U,C)	Ser	31	74	105	UG(U,C)	Cys	47	74	121
AG(A,G)	Arg	100	74	174	UG(A)	Stop	0	0	0
GG(U,C,A,G)	Gly	1	74	75	UG(G)	Trp	130	74	204
AU(U,C,A)	Ile	57	74	131	CG(U,C,A,G)	Arg	100	74	174
AU(G)	Met	75	74	149	UU(U,C)	Phe	91	74	165
GU(U,C,A,G)	Val	43	74	117	UU(A,G)	Leu	57	74	131
AC(U,C,A,G)	Thr	45	74	119	CU(U,C,A,G)	Leu	57	74	131
GC(U,C,A,G)	Ala	15	74	89	UC(U,C,A,G)	Ser	31	74	105
Nucleon Sums:		629	888	1517	CC(U,C,A,G)	Pro	41	74	115
		Nucleon Sums:					814	814	1628

shCherbak and collaborators are not creationists but rather mathematical evolutionary biologists involved with the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI) project.⁹ Hugh Ross argues that “the universe was far too young to permit the possibility of a physical, intelligent, and technologically advanced species of life. For many reasons, we humans must be the first, or at least among the first, such species to exist in the history of the universe.”¹⁰ Therefore, the idea of life on earth originating from alien planets is impossible, which in my view leaves only one intelligent source, the Creator God of the Bible who encrypted the signature 37 into the genetic code in the beginning.

The number 888, which is the Greek gematria for Jesus, is what first caught my attention and led to further investigation about whether the nucleon sums might be codes for actual human words. The decryption key used is the Bible according to what Jesus said in John 16:12–16 (ESV):

¹² I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to

come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Here are the decrypted words in New Testament Greek from the nucleon sums:

629 = 17 x 37 “loved by God or loves God” Θεόφιλε (*Theophile* from Luke 1:3 and Acts 1:1)

888 = 24 x 37 “Jesus” ΙΗΣΟΥΣ (*Iēsous*)

814 = 22 x 37 “Holy” as in the Holy Spirit ἅγιω (*agiō*)

For the purines: 629 + 888 = 1517 ἀποκαλύψεις (*apokalypseis*) from 2 Cor 12:1, which means unveiling hidden secrets or revelations. For the pyrimidines: 814 + 814 = 1628, two highly relevant words for this generation of Christians: προσευχομένη (*proseuchomenē*) from 1 Cor 11:5, which means keep praying:

⁴ Every man who prays or prophesies, ⁵ but every wife who prays or prophesies,

and προφητευομεν (*prophēteuomen*) from 1 Cor 13:9, which means we prophesy:

⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

The word “holy” (814) appears twice, which means husband and wife are equal in Christ (Gal 3:28), and are created in the image of God, *imago Dei* (Gen 1:27). Each spouse is to keep the marriage bed undefiled (Heb 13:4), and is devoted to prayer (1 Cor 6:12–7:12).

Like a master painter, the triune God signed his masterpiece “the creation of life” using the amino acids. However, the nucleon sums (629 + 888 + 814) is only 63 x 37. Thus an additional 37 is required to complete the name of Jesus Christ (64 x 37).

Acts 4:12 (ESV) says that “there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved”. The *rhēma* (ῥῆμα) of Christ must thus be the hidden 37, the gematria value for *rhēma* based on positions of the Greek alphabets, and the word “saves” all of those that missed the mark (Rom 10:8–10, 14–15 ESV):

⁸ ... “The word (*rhēma*) is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word (*rhēma*) of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

Even when the total nucleons of purines and pyrimidines (1517 + 1628) in Table 1 are added together to equal 85×37 , this brings us back to Gen 1:1, where it all began. The 3rd word among the 7 words (note the 3 and 7 again) in the Hebrew text of Gen 1:1 is God, *Elohim*, of which the standard gematria value is 86. The needed 37 to complete 86×37 is the power and the wisdom of God, Christ Jesus (1 Cor 1:23–24) and Wisdom (Prov 9:3–6, ESV):

³ She has sent out the young women to call from the highest places in the town,
⁴ “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!” To him who lacks sense she says,
⁵ “Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.
⁶ Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”

A final question: Why did the Apostle John use the word *logos* (λόγος) instead of *sophia* or *rhēma* in John 1:1? One possibility is that *logos* is a masculine grammatical term to match the incarnate male Jesus; whereas, *sophia* and *rhēma* are feminine and neutral, respectively. John instead wrote *logos*, of which the numerical-equivalent 373 is the concatenate of 37 and 73 of *hokmah*, so that the natural exponential e is encoded into John 1:1. It is unlikely that John was aware that he encrypted the value of e (2 Pet 1:20–21, ESV):

²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation.²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

The Bible declares its divine inspiration (2 Tim 3:16–17, ESV):

¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

A definite article is not used with *pasa graphē* in 2 Tim 3:16, and it is this writer’s interpretation that the Apostle Paul intended to mean that every word is divinely inspired to make us “wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim 3:15). Thus, the Bible is useful for all aspects of spirituality, morality, and wisdom.

NOTES

- ¹Cosmological constant. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cosmological_constant (accessed Mar 15, 2017).
- ²John J. Parsons, *Hebrew Gematria*. http://www.hebrew4christians.com/Grammar/Unit_Eight/Hebrew_Gematria/hebrew_gematria.html (accessed Oct 21, 2016); *Gematria*. <http://www.amat-teroftruth.com/666-and-gematria> (accessed Oct 21, 2016).
- ³Vernon Jenkins, *The evaluation of ‘pi’ from within Genesis 1:1*. http://www.whatabeginning.com/ASPECTS/Pi_evaluation.htm (accessed Oct 21, 2016).
- ⁴Boaz Tsaban and David Gerber, “On the Rabbinical Approximation of p.” *Historia Mathematica* 25 (1998): 75–84.
- ⁵Vernon Jenkins, *The evaluation of ‘e’ from within John 1:1*. http://www.whatabeginning.com/ASPECTS/E_evaluation.htm (accessed Oct 21, 2016).
- ⁶Frances S. Collins, *The Language of God*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2006.
- ⁷Vladimir I. shCherbak, “Arithmetic Inside the Universal Code.” *Biosystems* 70, no. 3 (2003): 187–209.
- ⁸Vladimir I. shCherbak and Maxim A. Makukov, “The ‘Wow! Signal’ of the Terrestrial Genetic Code.” *Icarus* 224 (2013): 228–242. <https://arxiv.org/vc/arxiv/papers/1303/1303.6739v1.pdf> (accessed July 19, 2017).
- ⁹Peter Bluer, *The Signatures Encoded in DNA and Scripture*, 2014, 28–30. http://www.biblemaths.com/pdf_seti_dna.pdf (accessed June 4, 2017).
- ¹⁰Hugh Ross, *Did Aliens Put a Wow Signal in our DNA?* <http://www.reasons.org/blogs/today-s-new-reason-to-believe/did-aliens-put-a-wow-signal-in-our-dna> (accessed July 19, 2017).