

THE A4 ENIGMA

A contemporary standard foretold

Abstract: The author's earlier paper ⁽¹⁾ revealed the existence of coordinated numero-geometrical patterns underlying the Bible's opening Hebrew words. Here, it is demonstrated that the same numbers are to be found among the metric dimensions of an abundant modern artefact. The 'impossibility' of this situation raises further searching questions; as before, these demand supernaturally-based answers.

A4 – What is it?

In 1975 the *International Organization for Standardization (ISO)* ⁽²⁾ introduced ISO 216 – the A-series of cut paper sizes based upon a rectangle (A0) of area one square metre; its sides in the ratio $\sqrt{2}:1$; its dimensions, and those of its progeny, expressed to the nearest whole number of millimetres. Further details are depicted in the following diagram and table:

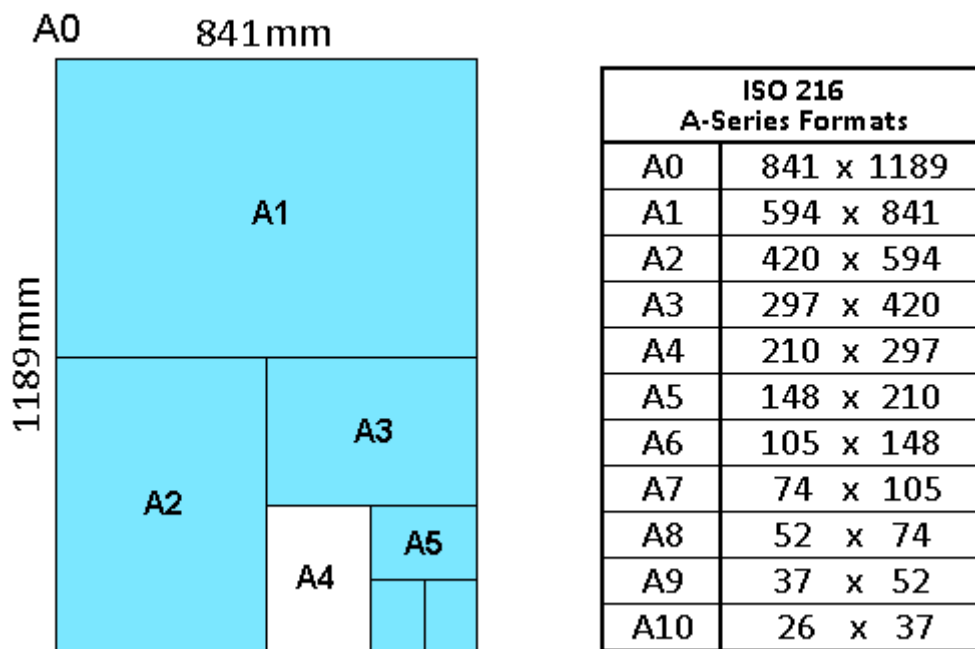


FIGURE 1

⁽¹⁾ The Ultimate Assertion: Evidence of Supernatural Design in the Divine Prologue.

⁽²⁾ ISO is a non-governmental organization established in 1947 to promote the development of standardization and related activities in the world. It comprises a network of national standards institutes for many countries, working in partnership with international organizations, governments, industry, business and consumer representatives.

Observe that the height-to-width ratio of each member of the series is maintained at $\approx \sqrt{2}$ by a process of halving that discards fractions of a millimetre. A4 is its best-known representative, and currently the most popular medium for recording and communicating the written word. It is being used by more than 90% of the world's population – notable exceptions being the United States and Canada. Of particular interest are its nominal dimensions: 297mm x 210mm. It follows that an A4 sheet may be precisely divided into 6 rectangular panels of dimension 105mm x 99mm (Figure 2). These are referred to as PL and PW in what follows.

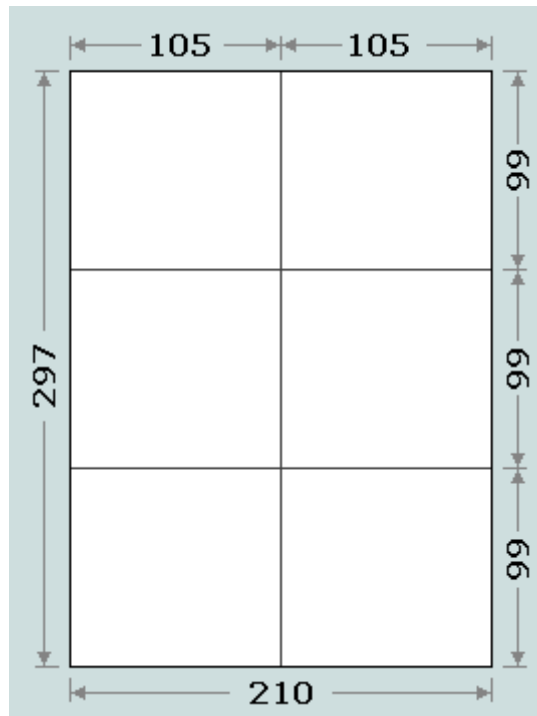


FIGURE 2

As we shall find, this picture may be interpreted as a segment of a plane lattice of infinite extent.

Where's the Enigma?

The second element in these proceedings concerns the Hebrew Bible's first verse and following word (i.e. Genesis 1:1⁺). Hebrew, being an alphanumeric language, each of its 22 letters⁽³⁾ may be read as a numeral. Here is the scheme – dating from c.200 BC – that leads to a fair alternative reading of its 8 words as numbers – these termed their *Characteristic Values* (CVs).

⁽³⁾ Observe that five of these have 'end-forms' - used to terminate a word (and rendered in red in Table 3). It is important to observe that, following tradition, these take on the same values as the normal forms.



FIGURE 3

Observe that the top line records the alphabetic position of each letter, and the bottom line, its value as a numeral.

Based upon these data, Figure 4 reveals the fair alternative numerical reading of Genesis 1:1+ – the CV of each word obtained by summing the letter-numerals (which appear above the words).



FIGURE 4

Most interestingly, if G_i be taken to represent the Bible's i^{th} word, each CV of words 1 to 8 is then described precisely by the following parametric equation:

$$G_i = 105 \cdot x_i + 99 \cdot y_i + 512 \cdot z_i$$

(where $1 \leq i \leq 8$)

This relates to a standard left-handed system of coordinates – the values of the variables x_i , y_i and z_i , being as set out in the following table:

| i | G_i^+ | x_i | y_i | z_i |
|-----|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1 | 913 | -2 | 1 | 2 |
| 2 | 203 | -2 | -1 | 1 |
| 3 | 86 | -5 | 1 | 1 |
| 4 | 401 | -2 | 1 | 1 |
| 5 | 395 | -3 | 2 | 1 |
| 6 | 407 | -1 | 0 | 1 |
| 7 | 296 | -3 | 1 | 1 |
| 8 | 302 | -2 | 0 | 1 |

FIGURE 5

Here is the verification of these data:

$$\begin{aligned}913 &= -210 + 99 + 1024 \\203 &= -210 - 99 + 512 \\86 &= -525 + 99 + 512 \\401 &= -210 + 99 + 512 \\395 &= -315 + 198 + 512 \\407 &= -105 + 512 \\296 &= -315 + 99 + 512 \\302 &= -210 + 512\end{aligned}$$

Observe that

- Contrary to expectations, the CVs (like the words from which they derive) are related.
- The parameters 105, 99 and 512 are, respectively, PL, PW and 8^3 (= 8.8.8).
- The variables are all small integers.
- The opening CV ($G_1 = 913$) is different from the rest; first, in respect of size (it is more than twice the value of 407, the second largest) and again, while $913 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$, $G_2 - G_8$, inclusive $\equiv 2 \pmod{3}$. [In simple terms, when divided by 3, 913 yields the remainder 1; all the others, the remainder 2].

Here is the heart of the enigma! Why should such relationships exist between a simple derivative of A4 (a popular modern artefact) and the Bible's first 8 Hebrew words – their appearances on the earth's stage so widely separated in time? Can this be anything but clear evidence of intent? – of Supernatural Intelligent Design?

Experiencing a Miracle

But there is yet a more pressing consequence of The Enigma: Figure 6 depicts a pair of segmented A4 sheets (see Figure 2) laid side by side. Clearly, the vertical and horizontal lines represented are spaced precisely at 105mm and 99mm intervals, respectively. The points of intersection of these two sets of lines (and sides) now become sites of special interest. Populating the lattice by allocating 86 (the smallest of the Genesis set) to a position on the leftmost vertical, we observe that all the remaining values – apart from the first, 913 – are revealed, as follows: taking two steps right (equivalent to adding 210) obtains the seventh, 296; a step up here of 99 obtains 395, the fifth, while a step right obtains 401, the fourth; here, a step down (equivalent to subtracting 99) obtains 302, the eighth, and so on. What is made abundantly clear is the fact that these 7 numbers are not independent (as may have been fairly supposed) but represent a single idea in the mind of their Author; they speak of design and purpose – the dimensions of A4 being key to the establishment of this remarkable truth.

Observe that 401 is coloured differently from the rest. This is because, combined with 512, it leads directly to the missing CV, 913. It follows that a second pair of A4 sheets is required to accommodate 913 and its companions – this situated 512mm above the first and parallel to it (Figure 7).

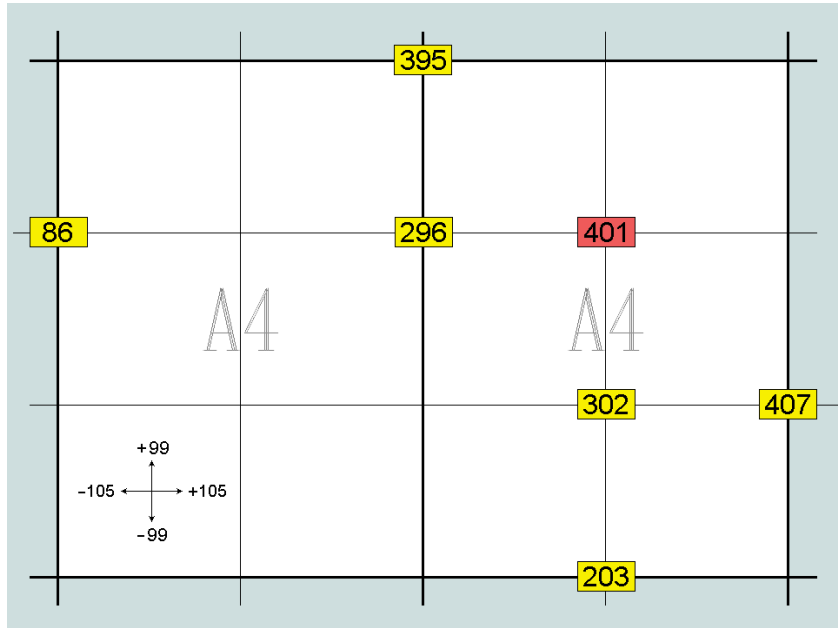


FIGURE 6

Remarkably, most of the numbers associated with 913 are revealed to be composites of CVs 2 – 8, in the form of doubles and sums of pairs – thus demonstrating that all 8 opening words of the Hebrew Bible are replicated by the precise metric dimensions of this abundant modern artefact, A4.

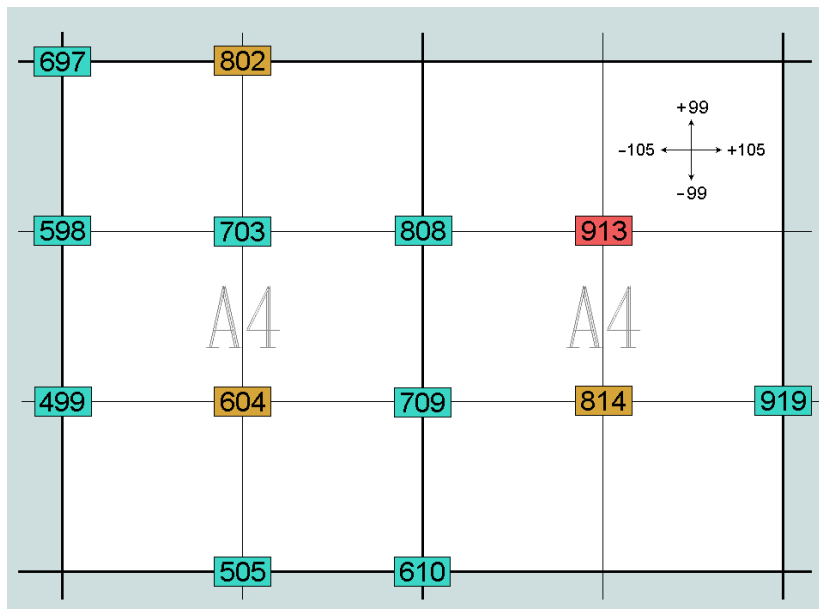


FIGURE 7

The colour coding used above is explained in the following table.

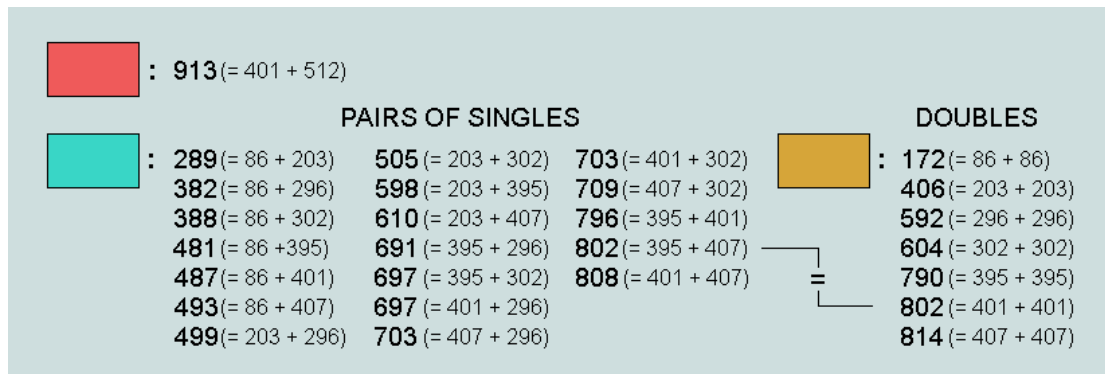


FIGURE 8

Observe that not all doubles and pairs appear in Figure 7 – the view being restricted by the A4 boundaries; however, all are seen in Figure 11. Further, note the duplicates 697, 703 and 802 in the above.

We conclude that the CVs of the 8 words of Genesis 1:1⁺ represent a highly coordinated set of numbers!

A View of Integer Space

As an additional outcome of the foregoing analysis we may regard Figures 6 and 7 as segments of two parallel planes, separated precisely by a distance of 512mm. These planes are infinite in extent. The higher one is the repository of all integers $\equiv 1 \pmod{3}$; the lower, of all integers $\equiv 2 \pmod{3}$. Still lower, we may envisage a third plane in which all multiples of 3 reside [i.e. $\equiv 0 \pmod{3}$]. This sequence of 3 planes is repeated, without limit, to fill the entirety of integer space. Figure 9 captures a unit of volume within this structure and reveals the proximity of the Genesis CVs to its origin.

A further independent feature revealed by the foregoing analysis is that the Genesis CVs occur as clusters – rather than being scattered throughout integer space. This of course adds power to the claim that the complete scheme speaks loudly of Intelligent Design!

Another matter concerns repetition. Because the LCM (least common multiple) of 105 and 99 is 3465 (= 33.105 = 35.99), there is an infinite repetition of every integer (and group of integers) on each of the planes of integer space. Thus, from every point of intersection on these planes, 33 steps of 105 minus 35 steps of 99, and vice versa, leads to the same value! Figure 10 establishes this principle – the number 395 being used as a test case:

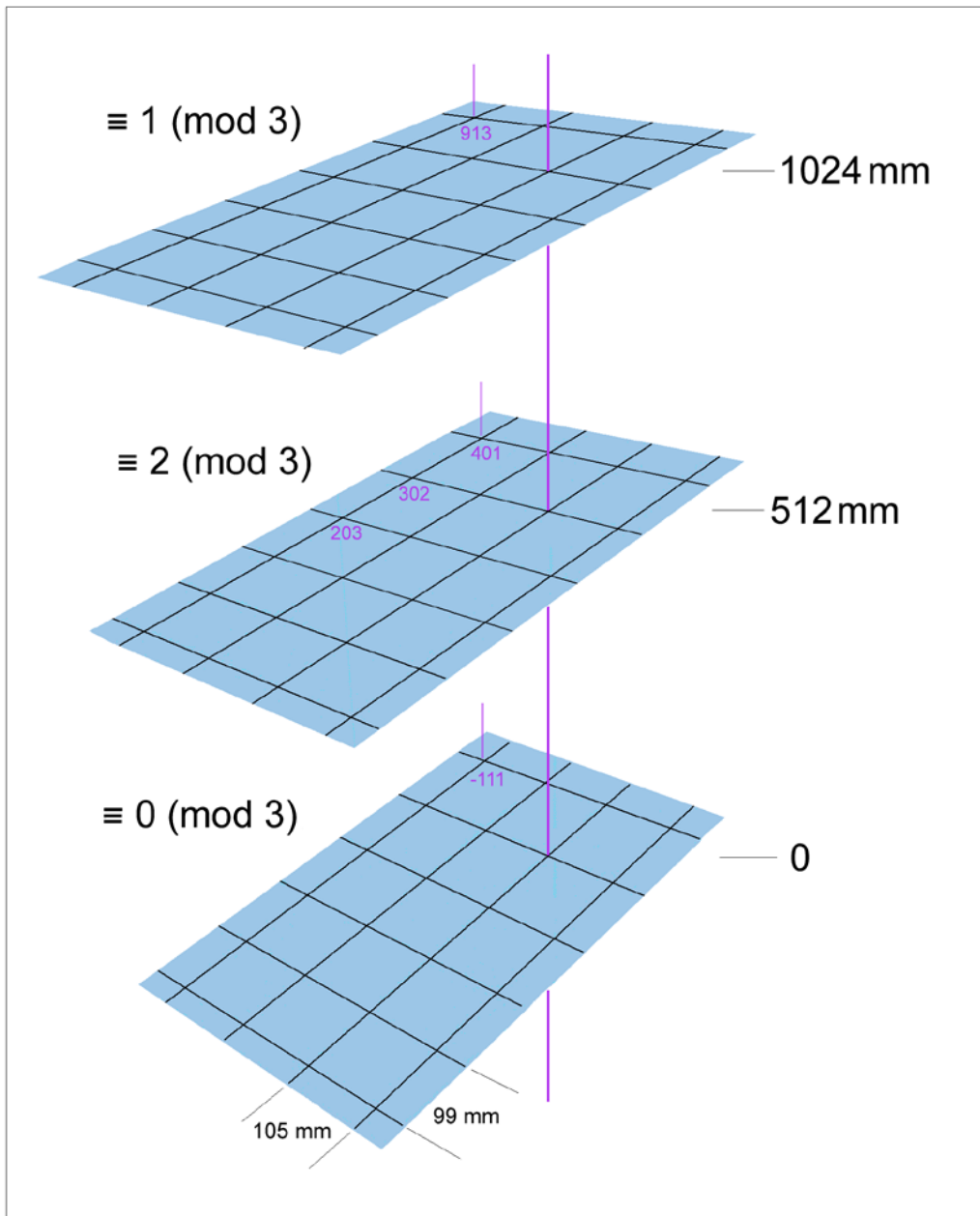


FIGURE 9

Observe that this situation is repeated without limit throughout the lattice.

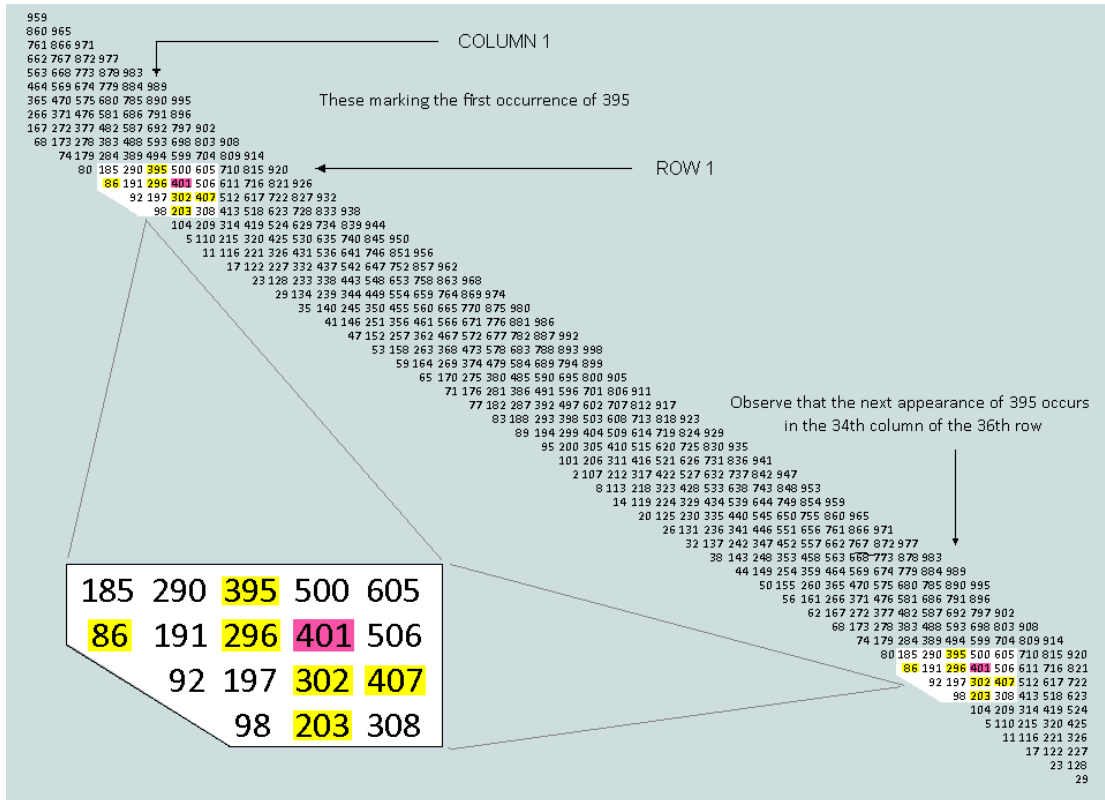


FIGURE 10

The numbers represented here lie within the range 2 – 998 (and so accommodate the Genesis CVs 2 – 8); all are $\equiv 2 \pmod{3}$.

Observe that the clusters of CVs 2 – 8 occur at regular intervals within this band, and that likewise the plane above (containing 913 and its associates) will involve the repetition of a different cluster, viz.

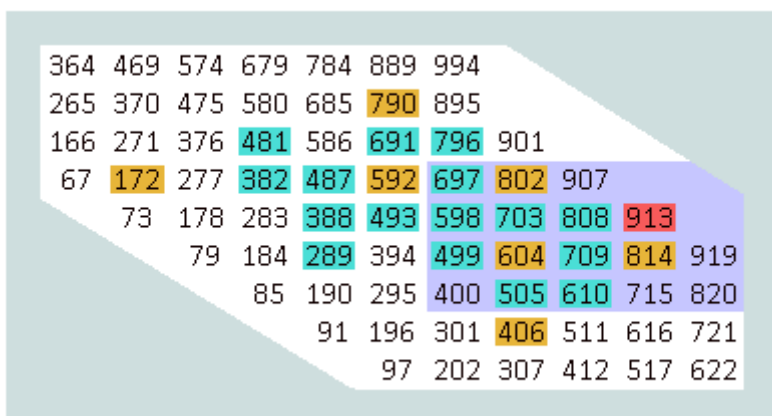


FIGURE 11

Here, the shaded area on the right represents the full extent of Figure 7 (colour coded, as described in Figure 8).

The Genesis of a standard

It is profitable that we briefly review the sequence of events that has led inexorably to the appearance of A4 in our day:

- He who created the earth must already have decided what size it should be – a decision that would become a key factor in determining the absolute length of the metre in the 18th century;
- He who created the earth also created man – having already made decisions concerning his physical, mental, and other attributes which, ultimately, would determine a suitable and preferred document shape and size for general use;
- He who created had also made it clear that ten was a significant number – particularly suitable for use, (a) as radix for man's systems of number representation and, (b) as a multiplier and sub-multiplier to complement the metre in the establishing the *metric system's* dominance in 21st century metrology;
- man's decision to choose the square root of 2 ($\sqrt{2}$) as the ratio of the sides of his preferred shape, the rectangle, has arisen from considerations of utility, economy, and simple logic – as befitting those created in God's image;
- man's need to communicate and calculate has led to the development of language and an evolving system of numeration.

It is therefore exceedingly difficult to avoid the conclusion that all who, though unwittingly, had a hand in bringing about the Genesis 1:1 / A4 phenomenon were simply responding to the dictates of a Higher Authority! An adequate explanation clearly demands the existence of an Omniscient, Omnipotent, Interested and Purposeful *Supervisor*. Surely, He can be none other than (for the Jew) *Elohim*, the God of Creation – and (for the Christian) *the Lord Jesus Christ* (Jn.1:1-3,14)!

Conclusion

As a direct consequence of these matters, we at last have the Ultimate Christian Apologetic – a body of empirical evidence that challenges the unbeliever – evidence which confirms God's Being and Sovereignty, the reality of the supernatural, and – by implication – the inerrancy of the Christian Scriptures.

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Please note: the author's book The Second Edge – A Role for Number in the Pursuit of Truth may be freely downloaded from www.whatabeginning.com/book.pdf