

Concerning the diet of the mature Christian

Introduction

The author of The Epistle to the Hebrews advises the Christian that he needs to be spiritually 'weaned' in order to attain maturity in his walk with the Lord (5:12-14); intriguingly, what he means by 'strong meat' in this context is not made clear, but from the tenor of his words we infer that, secure as he may be in his knowledge and acceptance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the believer is likely to find such food unpalatable.

In a recently published commentary, Stuart Olyott challenges the Christian thus,

"Are there truths that seem impossibly difficult for you to understand? They are like meat that you chew, but you can never manage to swallow. Is that how the truth of Christ as a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek appears? And are there parts of the Bible that are still strange to you? You are unaccustomed to them, and can make neither head nor tail of them ... Each of us needs to ask how we measure up."

Taking this as a lead and basing his argument on clear biblical principles, the author of this essay examines the specific nature of this 'solid food'.

The argument

The significance of certain numbers in the divine scheme of things cannot have escaped the eye of the careful Bible reader. Particularly prominent is **seven** – first encountered in the Creation Narrative (Gen.2:1-3), and later: in God's instructions to Moses concerning the design of the candlestick for use in the tabernacle (Ex.25:31-40); His instructions to Joshua for the taking of Jericho (Jos.6:1-20); the procedure required to cleanse Naaman of his leprosy (2Kings 5:10,14); and a host of other instances, largely confined to the Book of Revelation.

Clearly, seven *per se* plays a significant role in the business of heaven and, though such matters are unfathomable to us, we learn the important lesson that God may use number to further His eternal purposes. As we shall find, this matter is brought into sharp relief with the appearance of 666 in the Bible's final Book

The case of Revelation 13:18

Those proposing to read the Lord's 'Revelation to John' are well advised to digest the contents of its opening verses before proceeding. They will be left in no doubt that what John writes about is real and emanates in its entirety from the Lord Himself. Readers will need to keep these things in mind otherwise the tendency will be to attribute what is written to the writer's imagination, or worse!

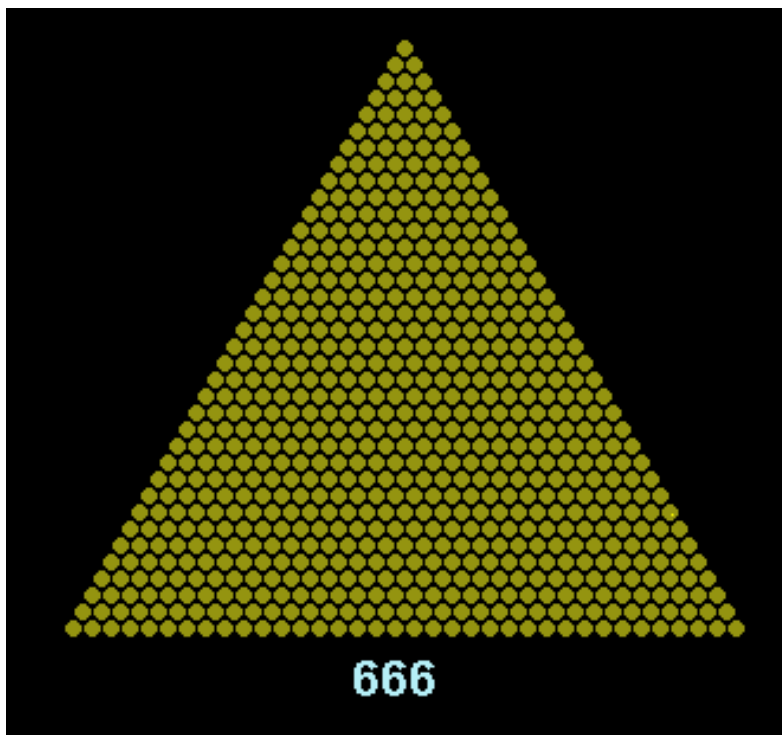
The Lord says "Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is 666". This is surely an example of 'strong meat' – and confirms what has already been deduced above. Who is there that does

not desire wisdom? And who would be so foolish as to ignore or refuse to engage with the Lord's instruction, 'count'? [For those sustained by 'milk', of course, the occult will appear, unaccountably, to have penetrated the text of Holy Writ. They will want to 'switch off' at this point!]. Clearly this is a stern test of one's obedience and desire for maturity.

The verse is loaded with information that the Lord desires we should receive – but there appear to be insurmountable obstacles. For example, who has the necessary understanding in the matter of counting to 666? Fortunately most of us are sufficiently numerate these days to make sense of the following:

$$1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + \dots + 33 + 34 + 35 + 36 = 666$$

In other words, to understand that 666 is the sum of the numbers named when counting to 36 (or 6.6). This operation becomes particularly informative when the numbers involved are represented by equivalent numbers of pennies laid out in parallel lines on a flat surface, thus:



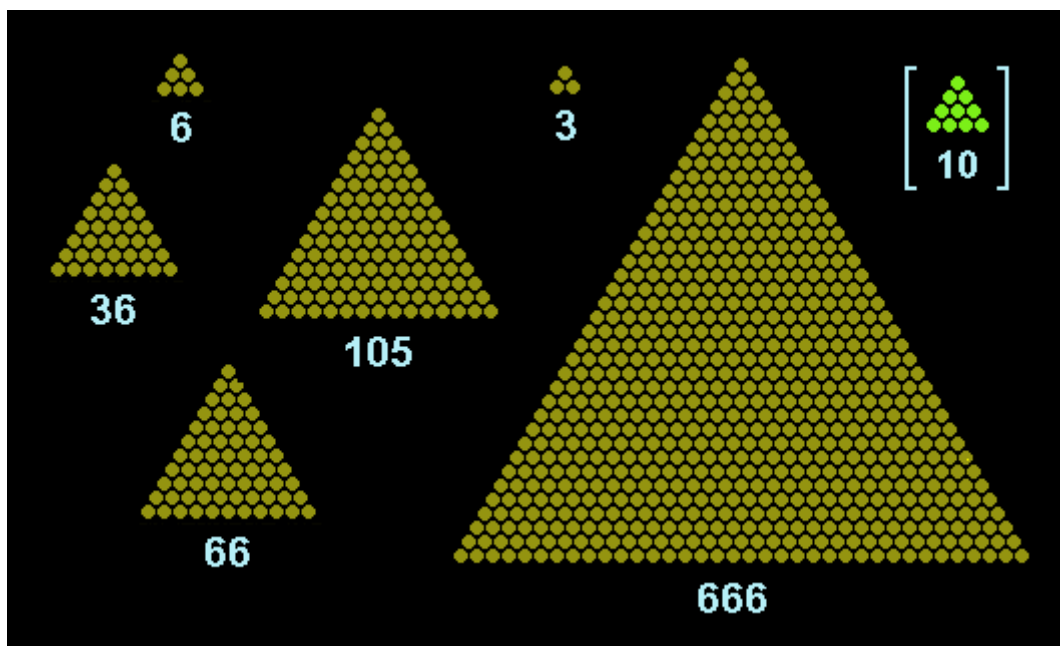
A view of 666 as a triangular number

Observe how the simple operation of counting is mirrored in this structure: proceeding from the top, row by row, we see 1, 2, 3, 4, and so on pennies, the last row having 36.

The Lord's command to count thus leads directly to the understanding that 666 is a *triangular number*. Such numbers, of course, sit well with the concept of a Triune God –

Consubstantial, Co-eternal and Co-equal Father, Son and Holy Spirit! Hence it would be fair to assume that they are of especial interest to Him.

While triangular numbers in general are comparatively rare (becoming more rare as their size increases) the fact that all the principal attributes of 666 are also triangular raises its profile immeasurably. Details of these symmetries emanating from 666-as-triangle are given in the next diagram which includes a reminder of the influence of ten in matters of number representation – the numerical string ‘666’ really meaning $(6 \times 10^2 + 6 \times 10^1 + 6 \times 10^0)$ – in which 10 (*base* or *radix* of the denary or decimal system of numeration) clearly determines the pleasing ‘repdigit’ (i.e. ‘repeated digit’) form of this number.



The triangular attributes of 666-as-triangle

6 – a visual component of ‘666’

66 – also seen in the string ‘666’

36 – the number of counters forming a side

105 – total counters in the outline

3 – the number of sides

Remarkably, the sum of these attributes of 666 is 216, or 6.6.6!

The complete package is thus an expression of *symmetry par excellence*; it follows that among the numbers 666 is unique! And here it is (undoubtedly, chosen deliberately!) openly presented at the Lord’s behest and offered to His followers as the key to wisdom!

Another important matter involving this number is not to be overlooked: we read that ‘victory over the beast’ includes victory over ‘the number of his name’ (Rev.15:2). This would suggest that our understanding of the uniqueness of 666 as a number *per se*, together with all that follows, is tantamount to overcoming it.

Turning now to a second potential problem raised by this verse: what are we to make of the idea that a man’s name is to total 666? Clearly this implies the existence of a system of alphabetic numeration (in which each letter also represents a fixed number – the letters of the name summing to 666) that would have been in use during the early centuries AD. History records two such systems: the Hebrew and the Greek (detailed in the Appendix to this essay). Both are relevant, for our Bibles are compilations of translations from Hebrew and Greek originals.

This section concludes with a summary of the essential information provided by the Lord in Rev.13:18 – its recipients destined to receive wisdom:

- 666 is a unique number which – most appropriately – takes the symmetrical form of an equilateral triangle;
- it factorises thus: $666 = 18 \times 37 = (6+6+6) \times 37$;
- the conversion of names/words to numbers is sanctioned by the Lord

The Lord’s Name

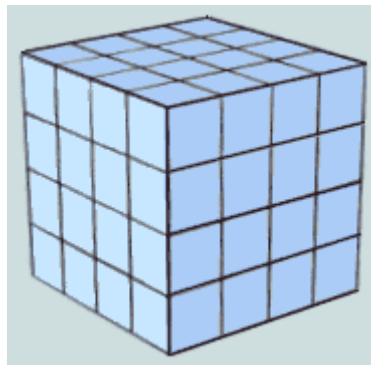
As evaluated from New Testament Greek, we have the following:

1						2						
10	8	200	70	400	200	600	100	10	200	300	70	200
<i>Ἰησους</i>						<i>Χριστος</i>						
JESUS						CHRIST						
888						1480						
THE LORD												
2368												

Above each Greek letter appears its numerical value as recorded in the Greek scheme of alphabetic numeration. Their sum for each component of the Name appears below.

These remarkable facts invite close examination and comment:

- appropriately, 888 (Jesus) has the same repdigit form as its counterfeit, 666 (the beast); however, 888 is not triangular;
- both components of the Name are multiples of 37; they are thus bound numerically to Genesis 1:1 which, in both whole and part, is saturated with this factor;
- both components are multiples of 296, or 8×37 - 7th word of Genesis 1:1, translated "the earth"; this further link with the Bible's first verse is enhanced by the realization that the subject under discussion is God Incarnate;
- the ratio Jesus : Christ is seen to be 3 : 5, i.e. precisely that between the sides of the 'mercy seat' or 'propitiatory' (Ex.25:17); remarkably, both Paul and John refer to Jesus as 'a propitiation' (Ro.3:25, 1Jn.2:2);
- the *cube* has now become a significant feature of the proceedings, thus (a) the repeated eights representing 'Jesus' - 8 being the cube of 2, and (b) sixty-four (the cube of 4) appearing as factor of 'Jesus Christ'; this latter fact is the more remarkable when it is perceived that in a typical view of a cubical stack of 64 unit cubes, one or more faces of precisely 37 (the other factor) are visible, thus:



- It should not pass unnoticed that the cube represents a biblical symbol of *holiness* - as evidenced by 1Kings 6:20 and Rev.21:16. This is also implied in Exodus 25 re the 'Holy of Holies' - central feature of Tabernacle worship.

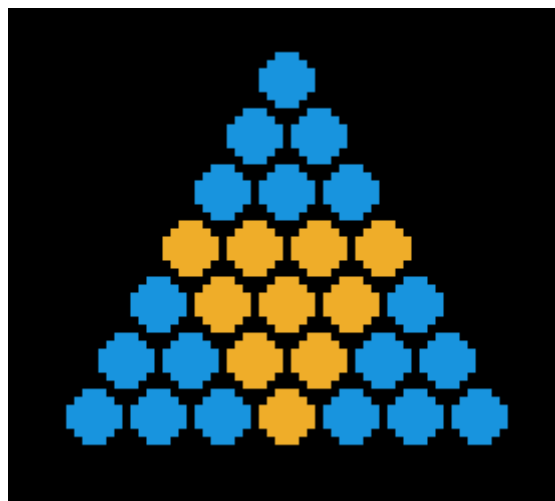
Intriguing Companions

Our attention is drawn to two further numbers that - like 666 - lie 'on the surface' of the biblical text, viz. 153 and 276. These are explicitly and precisely given as the number of fishes caught in a net (John 21:11), and the number of souls saved from a shipwreck (Acts 27:37), respectively. Readers of the New Testament may readily confirm that its allusion to large numbers - exceeding 100, say - are comparatively rare, and that the bulk of those that do occur are either 'round' - i.e. end with one or more zeros, like 144,000 (Revelation 14:3) - and/or are approximate - e.g. 'about 5,000' (Matthew 14:21) - and/or are expressions of a measurement of some kind - e.g. '200 cubits' (John 21:8) - and therefore depend on time and place. Indeed, the only exceptions are 153, 276, and 666! This trio is further distinguished by the common theme 'out of the sea'; further, the fact that 'none were lost' links the first with the second; and 'witness standing on the seashore' links first with third. Again, all three numbers are triangular! But matters do not end there, for we find that these triangles are related in a yet more subtle way - the explanation enabling us to claim that *the Bible is a self-authenticating text!*

A view of perfection

In a simple but remarkable instance of numerical geometry we find 10-as-triangle occupying a central position in a triangular setting of the perfect numbers*, 6 and 28 (3rd and 7th triangular numbers, respectively). The picture is powerfully symbolic: the trio of satellite 6's spell out the number '666', and the outline of the composite 28-as-triangle is 18, or (6+6+6)!

*A number is deemed to be mathematically 'perfect' if it is equal to the sum of its factors (including 1). 6 is perfect because $1+2+3$ (its factors) = 6; similarly, $1+2+4+7+14 = 28$. Such perfection is not common; the next instances of the phenomenon are 496, 8128, 33550336,... All known perfect numbers are even and triangular.



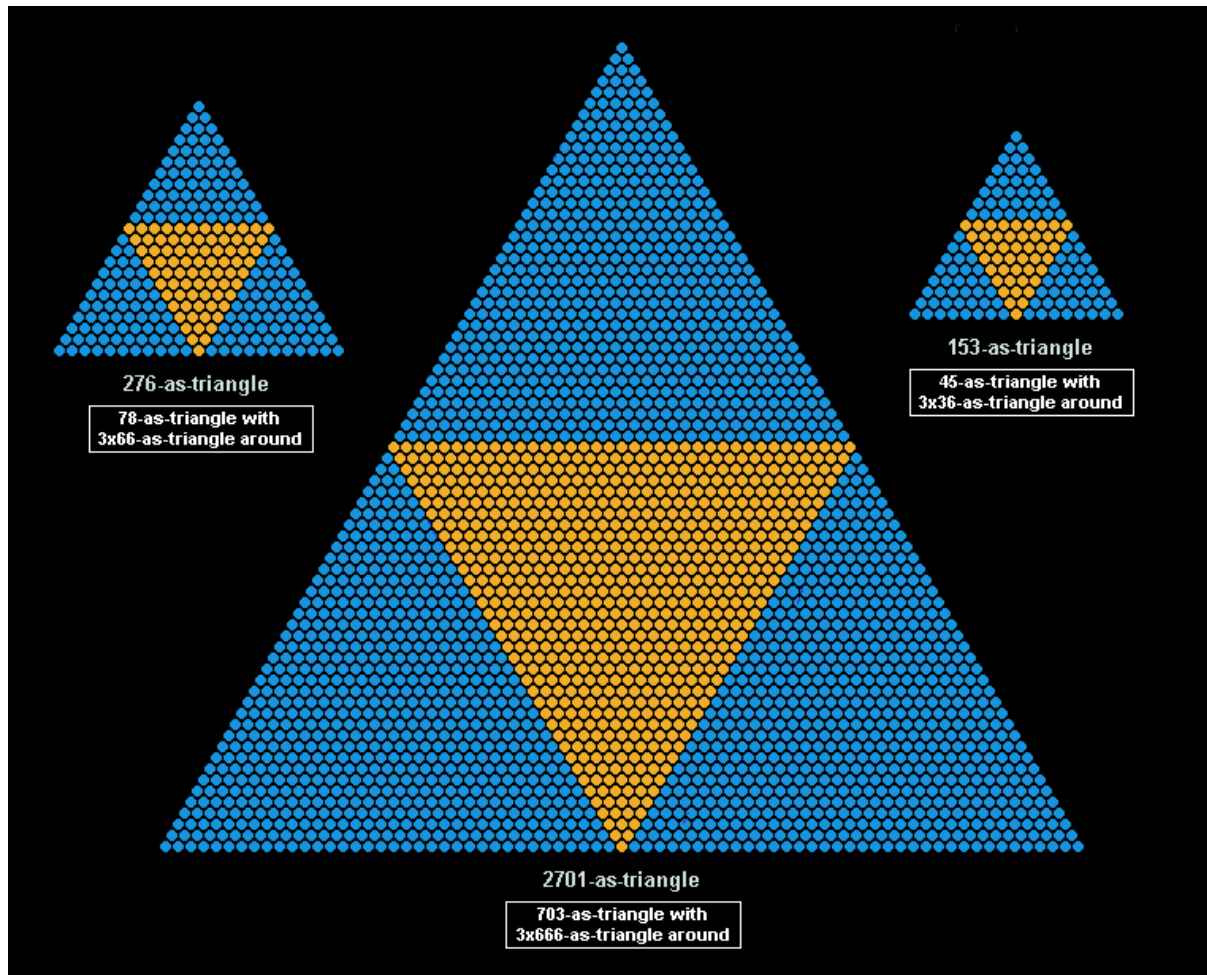
Taking this structure as a template - and observing that the order of the core triangle is one more than that of its satellites - we proceed to make each remaining member of the unique triangular series, 6, 6.6, 66 (all attributes of 666, as revealed earlier), and 666 itself, satellite, in turn. The results are given in the following table.

Satellite	Core	Composite
6	10	28
6.6 (= 36)	45	153
66	78	276
666	703	2701

We observe 153 and 276 - the biblical companions of 666 - appearing in the 'composite' column. But it is to the bottom row of figures, 666, 703, and 2701, that our attention is principally directed. These are the first three triangular multiples of 37 - a uniquely

trifigurate number. Thus: $666 = 18.37$, $703 = 19.37$, and $2701 = 37.73$. And, one additional coincidence, the outline of 2701-as-triangle comprises 216 counters, or 6.6 - sum of the attributes of 666, as observed earlier!

Here is a geometrical representation of these figures:

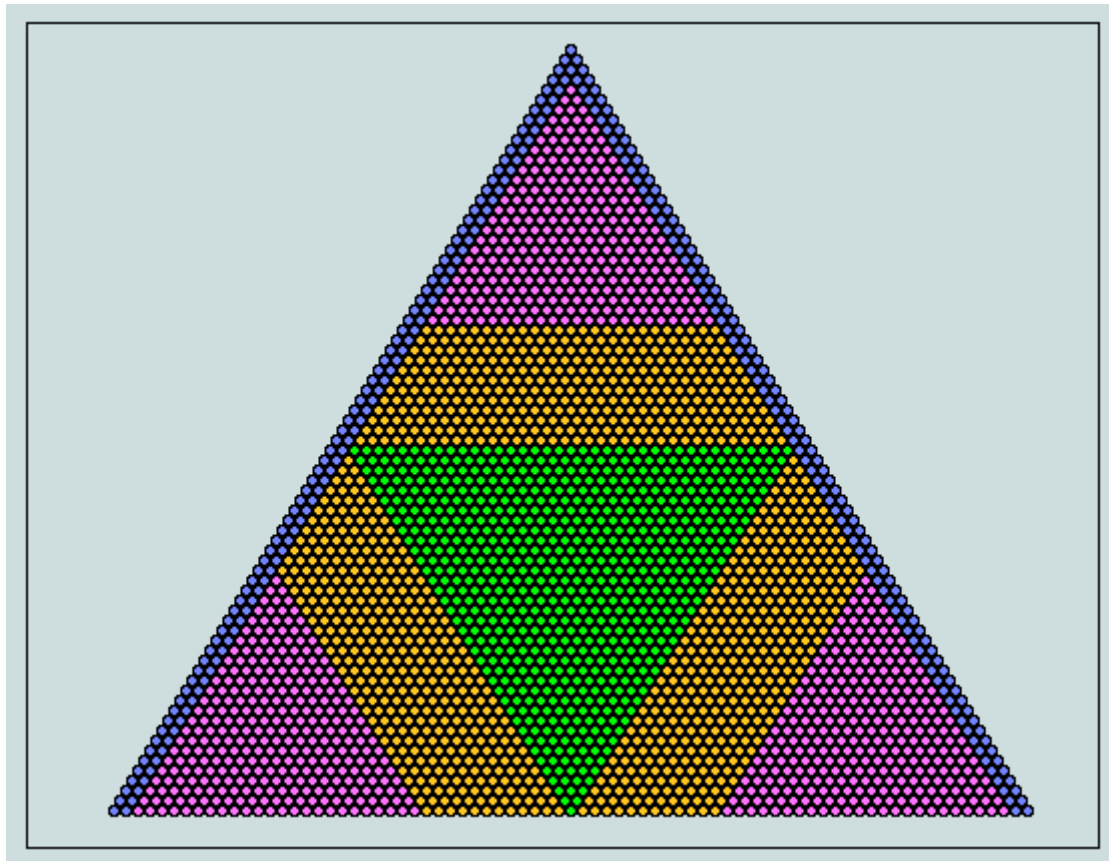


The central structure takes us back to the beginning of the Bible's first book - Genesis - where we find in the opening verse of seven Hebrew words the informative message, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." The foregoing analysis of the New Testament data involving 666, its triangular attributes, 6, 6.6 and 66, its related triangular companions, 153 and 276, taken together with the principle of numerical perfection points clearly to the Bible's opening words, as will now be demonstrated.

The Bible's complementary message

Among the many potent phenomena associated with the opening words of the Hebrew Bible (as recorded in this author's websites) is one that above all leads directly to the question "How do you explain all this if neither God nor supernatural exists?" It is this:

By adding together the numerical worth of each word (as based on the numeric value of each Hebrew letter) in certain unbroken sequences drawn from the first eight words of Genesis (i.e. the Bible's first verse and following word – here referred to as Genesis 1:1&), one uncovers strong evidence of intelligent design and purpose in the form of a symmetrical structure of coordinated numerical geometries, thus:



Whilst the ingenuity demanded of such an exercise is itself immense, the fact that its author clearly had knowledge of the required scheme of alphabetic numeration many centuries before it appeared to the human eye proves the matter to be extraordinary – and, in purely human terms, impossible.

As sanctioned by the Lord in Rev.13:18, here are the alternative readings of the words which underlie this structure – the numbers, fairly based upon the Hebrew scheme of alphabetic numeration (introduced circa 200 BC) and referred to as the ‘characteristic values’ (CVs) of the words:

8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
וְהָאָרֶץ	הָאָרֶץ	וְאֵת	הַשָּׁמַיִם	אֵת	אֱלֹהִים	בְּרָא	בְּרֵאשִׁית
earth the And	.earth the	and	heaven the	*	God	created	beginning the In
302	296	407	395	401	86	203	913

And here are the elements of the numerical geometries which are found integrated in this composite structure:

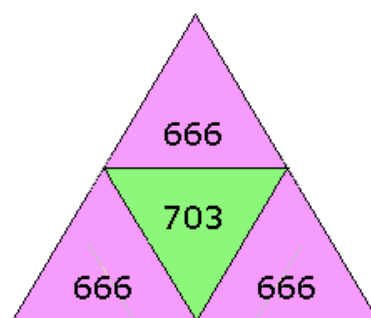
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<p>The coordinated numerical geometries represented within Genesis 1:1&</p>																																													

Observe that each comprises an unbroken sequence of the CVs.

However, before the foregoing diagrams can evoke a positive response there is much groundwork to cover. Thus, it may be that the Christian layman is unacquainted with certain relevant facts – as, for example

1. That the Judeo-Christian Bible is a collection of writings based largely upon translations from the original Hebrew and Greek – dating from the time of Moses (Pentateuch, c.1300 BC) and the 1st century AD, respectively
2. That alphabetic numeration (the *Roman* system already familiar to many) extended to both Hebrew and Greek where complete alphabets were requisitioned for use as numbers (see Appendix)
3. That, in essence, the Bible – as well as being meaningful narrative - may also be fairly regarded as a large set of numbers
4. That this Book contains hints of an ability to defend itself against the assaults of its enemies – it would be logical therefore to expect evidence of this anticipated fact to appear at the very beginning of the Book
5. That whole numbers may be represented as sets of uniform counters (typically, coins of the same denomination, or marbles)
6. That certain numbers may be expressed in one or more ways as regular 2-D or 3-D patterns of counters

While for many the symmetry and coordination displayed in this numerically-derived picture of the Bible's opening words will be acclaimed as firm evidence of divine design and purpose, others will demand further evidence. This may be found in abundance on the internet sites www.otherbiblecode.com and www.whatabeginning.com. However, particularly worthy of mention is the fact that the foregoing structure of numerical geometries incorporates the first three triangular multiples of 37 (itself a uniquely symmetrical number and, with its digit reflection, 73, a factor of 2701 – CV of the first verse). As demonstrated earlier, these triangular multiples form the following substructure [i.e. the overlay of (e) on (a) above] representing Genesis 1:1 – the Bible's first verse:



It is now seen to portray 703 ('and the earth') surrounded and menaced by 666 – number of the beast (see Revelation 13:18) and 'key to wisdom'. The symbolism is striking – and difficult to explain away as yet another random feature of the opening Hebrew words. Appropriate therefore to observe again that the outline of 2701-as-triangle comprises 216, or 6.6.6 counters.

The yet recalcitrant Christian may be taxed further with, for example, the 'star of stars' phenomenon, the development of the metric dimensions of an A4 sheet and the derivation of an accurate value of π from these data - all to be found at www.whatabeginning.com

Implications

We witness clear evidence here of the method by which our Creator intends to bring down the pretensions of all who currently deny the supernatural – and **that He exists**. It involves two simple observations: (i) that the Bible is potentially far more informative than has been regarded hitherto and, (ii) that whatever one's core beliefs, all must agree that mathematics stands apart as a primary source of objective truth - as exemplified by those of its features which display both number and form - the figurate numbers. Most appropriately, it is in this strategically-placed opening verse (the first of 31,102!) and following word of the world's best-selling book that we find exceedingly rich structures of such absolutes - these further enhanced by apposite symbolisms, by data drawn from elsewhere in Holy Writ and, even more arrestingly, by their relatedness to the metric dimensions of a widely-known and used present-day artefact, the A4 sheet.

Much as a conventional photograph begins its life as a latent image on a roll of film - only achieving its final form when properly developed, fixed and printed - so the full potential and significance of Genesis 1:1& (originally, merely an idea in the mind of its Author!) rests upon a development which was to take place many centuries later - viz. the introduction of alphabetic numeration into Jewish society. Can there be a reasonable *natural* explanation for such wonders? Surely not! Included among the many significant implications that follow are these:

- Without further argument, it is now reasonable to expect that all of sound mind should understand and acknowledge the Bible to be God's inspired word to man.
- In that Darwinism challenges certain clear biblical statements (as, for example, the evolutionists' requirement that birds appeared *after* the creation of land animals; that man has *animal ancestry*; and that the creative process is *ongoing*) it must, logically, be recognised as a *false doctrine* - and discarded.
- Methodological naturalism, in that it rejects the existence of the supernatural, can no longer be justified as a proper basis for the practice of science.

[It is appropriate at this juncture that the Christian read again the prologue to the Book of Job (chapters 1 and 2), for its words will now have acquired a new power and significance. Clearly, the natural phenomena and processes established at the Creation (whose study forms the staple diet of the scientist) may be overridden, as divine wisdom ordains, and those enemies of God who advance scientific 'proofs' intended to weaken and, ultimately, destroy His Word may thereby even be encouraged in their unbelief.]

Conclusions

Having worked in this field for some thirty or so years the writer can testify to the inherent aversion most Christians have to the proclamation of these findings. Because these phenomena are undoubtedly real and self-evidently true, it appears to him that this reaction can only be explained by a failure on their part to discern between good and evil – an unwillingness to believe that the

Lord would do such things! So it appears that the 'strong meat' of Hebrews 5 is to be associated with the Lord doing something radically different in our day – and we witness the inability of any pattern of Christian tradition to cope! Clearly, a freeing of minds is required. Answers to prayers are not necessarily predictable and in keeping with expectations based upon earlier movements of the Spirit (e.g. the Revival of 1904). People adopt set views of how they believe God should behave and act - an unwillingness to accept that God – apart from keeping His promises - is a completely free Agent!

Clearly the 'strong meat' of God's work – the Genesis phenomena - takes nothing away from the Gospel; it is complementary to it, and strongly encourages belief in it! By its appeal to the intellect, God thus graciously reveals Himself to us, and to the world!

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12/10/11

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APPENDIX - The Hebrew and Greek Schemes of Alphabetic Numeration

A significant feature of the Christian scriptures - though hardly ever referred to by theologians - is that all translations rest upon Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek originals whose letters and words may also be fairly read as numbers. Evidences of these yesteryear *alphabetic numbering systems* confront us still - as, for example, on the dials of many townhall clocks and in the verse and chapter numberings of some of the older books on our shelves.

What distinguishes the Hebrew/Aramaic and Greek systems from the Roman are, (a) *all* (not just the seven: I, V, X, L, C, D and M) alphabetic characters were requisitioned for use as numerals and, (b) the value represented by a string of letters was the simple sum of its constituent parts. Clearly, wherever found, the words of Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek are thereby firmly (and unavoidably) linked with discrete numbers; and though such words may, from time to time, be "interpreted" so as to mean something different from what their author intended, it is clear that the number upon which each rests is unchanging.

Believing that the words of the Scriptures were authored by God himself it is but a short step to believe also that the numbers we now find indelibly linked with these words were also contrived by him. It follows that Paul's Spirit-led teaching, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness..." (2Tm.3:16), must encompass these numbers also together with any information they may be found to contain.

In the following sections the term *characteristic value* (CV) is used to describe the number obtained by summing the letter-values of a word or portion of text.

The Hebrew/Aramaic scheme of alphabetic numeration

Place:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Letter:	א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט
Value:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Place:	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Letter:	י	יא	יב	יג	יד	טו	טז	יז	יח
Value:	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
Place:	19	20	21	22					
Letter:	כ	כא	כב	כג					
Value:	100	200	300	400					

This scheme dates from c.200 BC. Of the 22 letters, 5 are observed to have alternative *end-forms*. The first Bible verse to display a numerical structure of interest is Genesis 1:1 - comprising the first 7 of the Torah's 68,504 Hebrew words! Here are the details:

GENESIS 1:1						
7	6	5	4	3	2	1
200 90	400	300 40 10	400	40 10 5	200 1	400 300 10
5 1	6 1	5 40	1	1 30	2	200 1
90	400	300 40 10	400	40 10 5	200 1	400 300 10
הארץ :	ואת	השמים	את	אלהים	ברא	בראשית
. earth the	and	heaven the	*	God	created	beginning the In
296	407	395	401	86	203	913

The numerical expression of Genesis 1:1

Reading from right to left we find the 28 individual letter-values inscribed above the words of the text, and their respective sums (the CVs) below. Observe that the untranslatable 4th word indicates that the following noun is the definite and direct object of the transitive verb. This appears again in the latter part of word 6. The verse total (sum of the 7 CVs) is 2701.

The Greek scheme of alphabetic numeration

Place:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Letter:	Aα	Bβ	Γγ	Δδ	Eε	Zζ	Hη	Θθ
Value:	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9
Place:	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Letter:	Iι	Kκ	Λλ	Mμ	Nν	Ξξ	Oο	Ππ
Value:	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
Place:	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Letter:	Pρ	Σσζ	Tτ	Υυ	Φφ	Xχ	Ψψ	Ωω
Value:	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800

This scheme was instituted before the Hebrew and dates from c.600 BC. There are 24 letters - presented here as uppercase/lowercase pairs. Observe, (a) that because the values 6 and 90 were represented by *non-alphabetic* characters, they do not feature in this table, and (b) that the character occupying the 18th position ('sigma') is the only one possessing an *end-form*. There are two applications of particular interest - the first involving John 1:1 and the second, the Lord's name and title as they appear (nominative case) in the New Testament

(interestingly, also in the Septuagint - a Greek translation of the Hebrew of the Old Testament – c.300 BC!).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5 50	1 100 8+10 800	8 50	70	30 70 3 70 200	20 1 10	70	30 70 3 70 200	8 50
<i>Εν</i>	<i>αρχη</i>	<i>ην</i>	<i>ο</i>	<i>λογος,</i>	<i>και</i>	<i>ο</i>	<i>λογος</i>	<i>ην</i>
In (the) beginning	was	the	Word,	and	the	Word	was	
55	719	58	70	373	31	70	373	58

10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
80 100 200	300 70 50	9 5 50	20 1 10	9 5 70 200	8 50	70	30 70 3 70 200
<i>προς</i>	<i>τον</i>	<i>θεον,</i>	<i>και</i>	<i>θεος</i>	<i>ην</i>	<i>ο</i>	<i>λογος.</i>
with	-	God,	and	God	was	the	Word.
450	420	134	31	284	58	70	373

The numerical expression of John 1:1

Here we read from left to right - the 17 words comprising a total of 52 letters. Observe that the last letter of the second word is subscripted by another, viz iota, this being the second element of a long vowel diphthong. In fact, therefore, the word has 5 letters; hence the entry "8 + 10" above the diphthong - 8 and 10 being the respective values of letters 4 and 5. The CV for the verse is 3627.

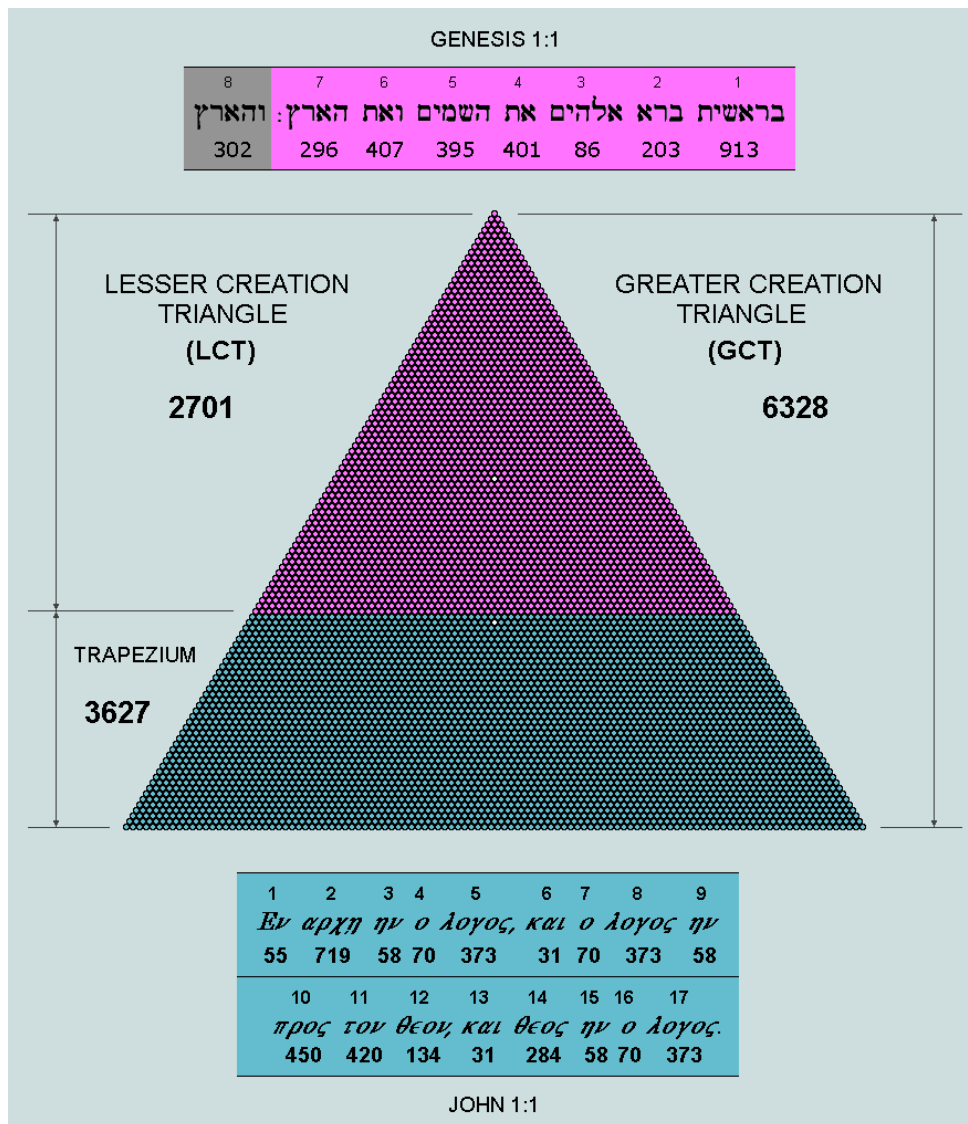
1	2
10 8 200 70 400 200	600 100 10 200 300 70 200
<i>Ιησους</i>	<i>Χριστος</i>
JESUS	CHRIST
888	1480
THE LORD	
2368	

A numerical expression of "The Lord"

To summarize:

- Genesis 1:1, the Bible's first verse, has 7 words and 28 letters and is represented numerically by the set of CVs {913, 203, 86, 401, 395, 407, 296} and their sum, 2701 – 73rd triangular number

- John 1:1 (restating the theme of Genesis 1:1 - the Creation) has 17 words and 52 letters and is represented by the set of 17 CVs {55, 719, 58, 70, 373, 31, 70, 373, 58, 450, 420, 134, 31, 284, 58, 70, 373} and their sum, 3627
- The Creator's name and title are represented by the CVs {888, 1480} and their sum, 2368; 13 letters are involved
- The sum of the CVs of Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1 is 6328 – 112th triangular number; its outline is 333 (or 9.37) – the difference between 2701 and 2368 (i.e. between Genesis 1:1 and the Creator, Jesus Christ)
- As the next diagram reveals, John 1:1-as-trapezium forms a perfect plinth for Gen.1:1-as-triangle:



ADDENDUM - A Theory of Divine Intent

The proposition that the Creator would want to underwrite the truth of a statement that He foresaw would, one day, be flatly denied or watered down by the majority of the world's intelligentsia, seems eminently reasonable. There can be little doubt that the authority of the Bible as a whole rests, ultimately, upon the authority of its opening verse, "*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*"(Genesis 1:1). Taken at face value these are the received words of a Sovereign God for whom nothing is impossible; a God more than capable of creating all things from nothing in six literal days some 6,000 years ago. Yet the sad fact is that over the centuries - and particularly since the 1850s - the biblical account of a special creation has been vigorously denied. Our scientific establishment - discarding its customary rigour - has preferred an explanation of primary origins that does not require the involvement of a Sovereign God - nor any appeal to the miraculous, and though still officially designated *theory* there can be little doubt that the *concept* of evolution has itself evolved into hard fact as far as this establishment and the media are concerned. Indeed, this philosophy has become an essential peg supporting a host of other theories and speculations.

Clearly, therefore, for one reason or another people are not readily convinced that they should believe words first recorded more than 3,000 years ago. How then is it possible to restore respect and belief in the face of such resistance? Observe that God has already promised to deal effectively with this situation (witness [Psalm 2](#) and [Isaiah 29:13-16](#)). Of the many methods at his disposal he has chosen to reaffirm, from the beginning, the words of Genesis 1:1 in a unique and wonderful manner, and so confound those who refuse to acknowledge and fear him. It is both interesting and instructive to observe His method:

To carry any weight with an establishment that is largely hostile to his message any verifying principle would need to satisfy at least three important criteria, viz

- it would need to be universal in its scope, i.e. be completely independent of language, of intellect, of time and of place;
- it would need to appeal strictly to self-evident truth and logical argument, i.e. no step of faith would be required to grasp its import;
- it would need to be decisive, i.e. leave no room for doubt that the Creator is its Author.

Only the language of *number* appears to fulfil these exacting requirements. But how can the words of an ancient language lead uniquely to a meaningful set of numbers? By what generally-acceptable method can this first and crucial step be accomplished?

By arranging that, at the appointed time, Hebrew letters would also function as numerals!

And by what means can such numbers acquire a generally-acknowledged significance?

Simply by taking a prominent and absolute number structure as a basis, and guiding the development of vocabulary, syntax and semantics to achieve coincidence with it!

Whether or not we believe that God plays such an active role in the affairs of mankind, those of sound mind must accept the obvious, as represented by the empirical evidence presented at www.whatabeginning.com and www.otherbiblecode.com, and in so doing, not overlook the fact that the principal object of attention, Genesis 1:1, is both a challenging and strategically-placed verse! It is indeed difficult to avoid the conclusion that these are all carefully co-ordinated features of purposeful design - intended to meet the demands of a desperate human situation.

There can be little doubt that man's *God-given reason, and its proper application*, are essential factors in bringing this divine plan to fruition. But there are disturbing signs that these fundamentals can never be taken for granted!

VJ 04/04/11