



The Incredible
Journey

HACKING THE BIBLE CODE

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HOLY
BIBLE

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In the late '90s, a New York reporter, Michael Drosnin, wrote a book called *The Bible Code*, which was followed by a sequel published in 2002 called *The Bible Code II*, which became a bestseller. In the book, Drosnin claimed that Israeli mathematicians had discovered a secret code hidden in the text of the Hebrew Bible. He said the mathematicians had inadvertently uncovered detailed predictions of the future.

Based on this code Michael Drosnin claims to have predicted the

assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, more than a year before his murder took place, the Gulf War, comet collisions and the Holocaust. Mr. Drosnin also claimed that hidden in the Hebrew text, there were predictions of the assassinations of former US President J. F. Kennedy and his brother Robert F. Kennedy, the Oklahoma City terrorist bombing that took place in 1995, mankind landing on the moon and the election of US President Bill Clinton.

The book was highly convincing. It sounded like remarkable evidence of God's ability to foretell the future. A lot of people got excited about *The Bible Code* and wanted to know how the predictions were calculated. It appears to work through something called 'equidistant letter sequences', that use special computer software to analyse blocks of Hebrew text in the ancient Torah by skipping an equal amount of

spaces in any direction – across, down or diagonally, endeavouring to uncover hidden codes within the letters that are chosen. And sometimes they came up with messages that seem remarkable.

On one page, the author believes they uncovered the message: “Second ruler will be killed.” Then they found, spread out horizontally, letters in a sequence that read, “R.F. Kennedy.” And finally, running up and down, diagonally, there was a sequence that spelled out, “S. Sirhan” - the name of the man who murdered Attorney General Robert Kennedy.

In another passage, *The Bible Code* breakers uncovered this sequence - “Fall of Russian” and “Communism.”

It sounds like an amazing prediction of the collapse of Russian communism spelled out right here in the Hebrew Bible written thousands of years ago!

According to Michael Drosnin, the Israeli mathematician have broken a remarkable Bible code. And Drosnin claims this code has been confirmed by famous mathematicians around the world. He says a senior code-breaker at the top-secret U.S. National Security Agency, has confirmed that there is a code in the Bible that reveals the future.

The Bible Code made a re-appearance in 2017 with the work of Timothy Smith who claims to have unlocked the "God code" in the Bible, discovering detailed information about Jesus' birth, crucifixion and resurrection within a passage in Genesis, and claiming knowledge about future events. He has published his findings in the book *The Chamberlain Key*. Smith used the same computer-driven application of the equidistant letter sequences, combined with his intimate knowledge of ancient and aboriginal ceremonial devices, to 'crack the code' for the past and the future.

What are we to make of all this? Does *The Bible Code* contain startling new evidence of God's prophetic knowledge about the future?

To get some answers, we travelled to the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Scholars there, at the Adventist Theological Seminary, have devoted their careers to working with the text of Scripture, to uncover its messages. We wanted to know what they thought of these *Bible Code* discoveries.

One of the Professors was Dr. Roy Gane, a specialist in the Hebrew Bible and ancient Near Eastern languages. He teaches Hebrew Exegesis, or the interpretation of the Bible, at the seminary. Dr. Gane pointed out something very interesting about those Hebrew letters in code sequences. He said Hebrew is a consonantal language, where there are few letters that are used as vowels and many more consonants.

And so, with the method they use to 'crack the code', it is rather easy to take consonants randomly from here and there and then arbitrarily assign vowels to them and make those consonants say something. It is easier to do that in Hebrew than in English.

That's how they come up with words like "R.F. Kennedy" and "S. Sirhan."

Scholars point out something else too about *The Bible Code*. That code is uncovered only because computers run through many, many sequences in the Hebrew text. They examine horizontal sequences with every third letter. They examine diagonal sequences with every fifth letter, etc. There's an almost infinite variety of ways in which you can play with a text in this way. And if you have a computer which can sort through enough sequences, eventually you'll come up with some startling combinations.

In this light, *The Bible Code* seems less and less impressive.

We asked another Scholar - Dr. John Paulien, professor of New Testament Interpretation, who has published many articles on Biblical Research, for his thoughts about *The Bible Code*. Dr. Paulien is concerned less with breaking or un-breaking the code, than with what this approach says about the way in which we read the Bible. He believes the idea that there may be hidden messages within the patterns of the letters beyond the meaning of the words to be a bizarre theory.

Dr. Paulien recalled a story from the 19th century where people realised that the Greek of the New Testament was a very different kind of Greek than that written by Plato or Philo or the other Greek writers of the time.

People wondered why that could be, and they suspected that perhaps it

is because it is a God-given book, so this must be some kind of heavenly Greek, some type of special supernatural language that you need a code to unlock.

But then, a fascinating thing happened. Within the century, somebody turned over a garbage dump in Egypt and found a huge stash of private letters, receipts, bills, contracts - the kind of stuff that people do every day. And interestingly - it was the very same kind of Greek that was used in the writing of the New Testament. Rather than being some type of super code, the New Testament is not even written in a language of the intelligentsia, a language of the scholars. It's the language of everyday people on the street.

God didn't use a secret, mystical language to communicate with us. He used everyday Greek. He used everyday Hebrew.

So, according to Dr. Paulien, it doesn't make sense to look for the real message of Scripture in a code, to think that God talks to us in spy language.

He further asserts that the purpose of the Bible is to be understood in real language, in everyday language; to make sense to everyday people. The method used by *The Bible Code*, that requires some mathematical or scientific formula in order to understand the Bible, does not seem to fit with the way the Bible itself is put together.

What Bible scholars are telling us is that God's essential messages are laid out in plain sight. They're laid out for us in the flow of Scripture.

One of the best ways to unlock God's messages for us today is to look at how the Bible writers themselves discerned what God wanted to share with them. Biblical New Testament writers extensively quote from Old Testament passages. That tells us a lot.

Take Jesus Himself, for example. In Matthew, chapters 5, 6 and 7, we read His famous Sermon on the Mount. In this sermon, Jesus lays out the principles of His kingdom of heaven.

Do you know what these passages reveal? They show us that Jesus understood the laws, the moral precepts of the Old Testament, very well. He grasped the big picture. And He was able to expand on those principles in His sermon. "You shall not murder" became "don't even curse or get angry with your brother." "You shall not commit adultery" became "don't look at a woman to lust for her in your own heart."

Jesus said He had come to fulfil the law. And this sermon on that mountaintop 2,000 years ago is evidence that Jesus understood the whole moral law of God and what it means.

Jesus summarises the law this way:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40).

Love fulfils the law. Love fulfils what the prophet wrote about. Jesus could grasp the essence of God's message because He had the big picture. He wasn't just grabbing words here and there, hidden within a code. Jesus was looking at the whole of what the Bible said. And scholars tell us that's what really matters when it comes to understanding God's messages.

English professor and Bible teacher Andrew Wheat believes you have to look at the books of the Bible in a holistic way. He says the overall message transcends any isolated passage, and if a passage is taken out of its context, you are

going to miss the deeper wisdom that the Scriptures are trying to convey.

The advice here is to look at what the Bible is saying in its context, in its setting. Look at the big picture and put themes together from various passages. The prophet Isaiah says

"For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line; here a little and there a little" (Isaiah 28:10). The writer of Hebrews shows us how to do that in a powerful way. The 11th chapter of Hebrews is a classic portrayal of faith.

The writer shows us Noah warning people of a coming flood - by faith. He shows us Abraham following God to an unknown land - by faith. He shows us Jacob blessing his sons - by faith. He shows us Moses joining the Hebrew slaves - by faith. Hebrews 11 pictures a procession of men and women through history who accomplished much because

they were focused on the God who is faithful. Why could this Bible writer give us this powerful message? Because he saw the big picture. He put the stories together. He saw the common theme in the stories of the Old Testament – faith in a Faithful God who can be trusted.

Friends, do you want new evidence of God's wisdom in the Bible? Do you want new evidence of its inspiration?

Don't try to uncover some hidden Bible code. Look at the big picture in a new way. Look at what the Bible emphasises. Look at what the Bible says about God. Using a Bible Concordance, trace the theme of salvation through scripture using keywords. Look at the great themes of the Bible. Look at the whole Bible. That's how you'll discover powerful evidence of divine wisdom. That's where you'll discover messages that can change your life.

Dr. Keith Mattingly, chairman of the Department of Religion at Andrews University, specialises in the same Old Testament Hebrew Scriptures that *The Bible Code* breakers pored over. However, Dr. Mattingly has uncovered not a code, but a wonderful picture in the Bible passages. Dr. Mattingly loves the Old Testament. He understands that some people are challenged as they read it, seeing the God of the Old Testament as harsh, angry, and out to kill and destroy anyone who crosses His will and purpose. But as Dr. Mattingly studies the Old Testament, he sees an image of God that is very, very different from this. In these ancient texts, He sees a God that is very patient, kind, and extremely merciful. A God who is anxious to step into the lives of real people like you and me and help them through the challenges and stressors of their daily lives. One of the wonderful things about the Bible is this: as the picture gets bigger, the picture gets

brighter. The most important themes in Scripture are the most heart-warming, the most faith-building.

It is inspiring to see how the writers of scores of many different books of the Bible, over a period of thousands of years, form one united, coherent whole, one basic Bible message.

New Testament professor Dr. John McVay sees the consistency of Scripture between the master theme of Paradise Lost in the book of Genesis and the wondrous story of Paradise Regained in the book of Revelation. And then in between, tying those two statements together, is the story of God pursuing the hearts of people so that He can be in a friendship – a relationship with them. God is faithful and forgiving and never stops loving us, even when we turn our back on Him. Humans, on the other hand, are invariably strange in their relationship both to God and to one another. They're inconsistent,

rebellious and vindictive. But those people have their very best moments when they are in a close relationship with God and when the values of the Divine character are reflected in their own hearts and lives. And so, you have this wonderful story of God's grace in the face of human inconsistency, woven throughout the pages of Scripture.

When we look at the big picture revealed through the stories and themes of the Bible, we see that God has a plan for us. It's a plan that can rescue us from our predicaments. It's a plan that can deal with our biggest problems and challenges. And that plan isn't hidden away in some secret code. You don't need higher maths training to try and figure it out. You just need spiritual eyes to see and spiritual ears to hear. You just need a receptive heart. You just need to see what is laid out in plain sight for you to understand.

Jesus said it this way:

"No one, when he has lit a lamp, puts it in a secret place or under a basket, but on a lampstand, that those who come in may see the light" (Luke 11:33).

The Bible is not some secret code with random hidden messages. The Word of God is described as a lamp for our feet and a light for our path.

Jesus himself said,

"I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12-30).

Jesus is the light of the world – a light that is not hidden under a basket. It's not hidden in some secret place. It's shining clearly for all to see.

And when you fix your eyes on that beautiful light, so many other things begin to make sense!

Roy Gane enjoys exploring the theme of God's dwelling place – the Sanctuary that is found in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Daniel, and Hebrews, right down to the very last book – the book of Revelation. The Sanctuary reveals a God who wants to be with His people. God established a temporary dwelling place on earth among the Israelites in their camp so they could interact with Him on a day-to-day basis and so that they could learn about God – a God who loves sinners so much that he would allow himself to become the lamb that was slain to pay the price of the one who sinned through breaking God's law.

"Your way [to salvation], O God, is in the Sanctuary. Who is so great a God as our God?" (Psalm 77:13).

The theme of God's dwelling place also shows up very prominently in the books of Hebrews and Revelation in the New Testament, where we as Christians

can look right into the throne room of heaven, the control centre of the universe. There we can have access to Christ who is interceding for us before the Father.

In the book of Hebrews, we are invited to

"Come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

It is wonderful to know that Jesus is just a prayer away and we can bring our petitions to the most powerful place in the universe right now – God's throne of grace!

The whole of the Bible shows us a great plan that includes a great invitation. God is there for us. He has our best interests at heart. He is eager for us to come to Him. That is the greatest message you could possibly hear! It is a message that is echoed and re-echoed

over and over again in the pages of the Bible.

We need to do more than pick up a random text here and there in Scripture. Isn't it time that you, personally, began taking to heart the messages that are laid out plainly for you to see in the Bible?

So many people seem to be fascinated by some secret Bible code. They're looking for some speculative message. They're wondering about the next earthquake, the next assassination, the next major earthly event.

But the Bible is a book that reveals the most important messages in the world. How to be saved, how to have faith, how to know Jesus, how to pray. Yes, the Bible does clearly outline events in the future, but they too are explained in the Bible itself, not through some secret code that only a mathematician can decipher.

Isn't it time that you and I make the effort to study God's word, and ask Him to reveal to us the messages he really wants us to understand? Our time left on this earth is short!

"And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armour of light" (Romans 13:11-12).

I invite you to be like the people of Berea, who were praised in the book of Acts, because *"they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily"* (Acts 17:11).

I invite you to get to know the Living God in His Living Word. I invite you to become acquainted with Scripture and to study it for yourself and be part of God's wonderful plan of Paradise Restored in a world made new.

Will you make that covenant with God, that you will daily search the Bible – to daily seek the presence of Jesus in order to understand His plan for your life? The promise is,

"And you will seek me and find me, when you search for me with all your heart" (Revelation 3:20).

Discover the beauty of Scripture, not by man's faulty interpretations, but by discovering the great themes of God's love and truth woven throughout the Bible that have the power to transform your life forever! If you would like to find the keys to the real Bible code, and unlock fascinating Bible Prophecies about the past, present and future, come with us on a journey of Discovery through our free life-changing Bible study guides – DISCOVER. Order your first two studies today by emailing info@tij.tv

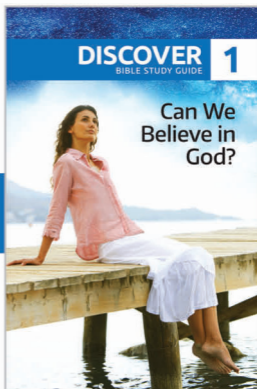
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Startling claims have been made that there is a secret code in the text of the Bible, that there are messages about our future hidden there, which only computers can decipher.

In this booklet, we're going to find out if God is really speaking to us - in spy language.



Pastor Gary Kent is Speaker for The Incredible Journey ministry. He holds a B.A. in Theology, M.A. in Ancient History & Archaeology, and M. in Divinity. He has produced and presented numerous documentaries on subjects including the Bible, Bible prophecy, world events and natural health. His passion is to share the good news of Jesus' imminent return.

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