The Bible Code: Hidden Messages From Another Realm

Jim Willis

Human beings seem to have a natural tendency to look for order and symmetry even in chaos. They find animals pictured in passing clouds, faces in sunbeams striking window panes, and human figures in natural rock formations. That being the case, it is only natural that they seek out codes buried in ancient texts. But what if they are really there?

The Bible Code Predictions

Michael Drosnin, author of The Bible Code and Bible Code II: The Countdown, claims to have discovered a secret code hidden within the letters and phrases of the world's most popular book. If true, the implications are staggering. It would mean that a supernatural consciousness, or, at the very least, a highly evolved entity from an ancient civilization either on earth or elsewhere in the galaxy, had the ability to foresee the future and sought to warn mankind about it in a way totally beyond current comprehension.
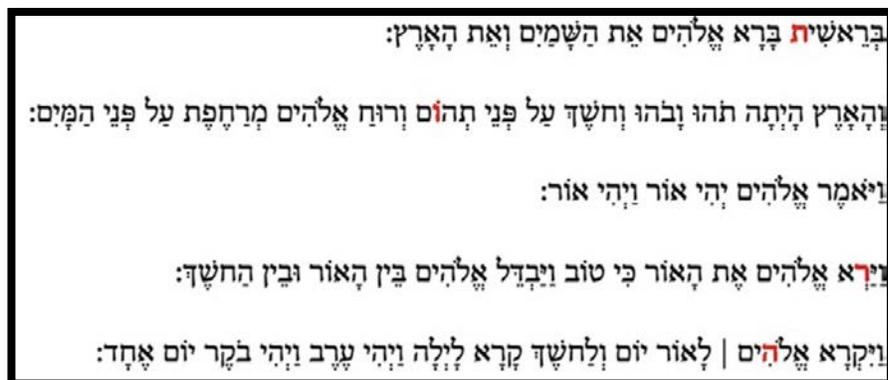
Genesis 1:1–4. Biblia Hebraica from Kittel's edition (BHK) 1909. Four letters, 50 letters apart, starting from the first taw on the first verse, form the word תורה (Torah).(Public Domain)

The code predicted the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Of course, it was not discovered in time to prevent the murder, but that does not always have to be the case, says Drosnin. He sent a letter to Yitzhak Rabin warning him of an attempted assassination. The letter reached Rabin in plenty of time. It apparently was ignored, and the assassination happened.

The Bible Code, if one is to believe Drosnin, predicted World War II and Watergate. The Holocaust, the atomic bomb blast at Hiroshima, the moon walk, the Gulf War, and the New York twin tower attacks of September

President Kennedy in the limousine in Dallas, Texas, on Main Street, minutes before the assassination. (Public Domain)

11, 2001 — all were predicted in a complicated code that is even now only in the first stages of being interpreted. It was there all along, but until the invention of computers it was impossible to decipher. Does this mean the code was meant to be discovered only after humankind had reached a sophisticated level of technology?

Eliyahu Rips

Drosnin does not appear to be a religious fanatic. He insists he does not believe in God. He is an investigative reporter who learned his trade working the night police beat for the *Washington Post* and covering corporate news for the *Wall Street Journal*. He did not even discover the code himself. That honor goes to Dr. Eliyahu Rips, a Jewish mathematician who lived in Jerusalem, and his colleagues Doron Witztum and Yoav Rosenberg. But with the publication of *The Bible Code* in 1997, both Rips and Drosnin were thrown into the international spotlight, where they soon attracted a devout following of sincere believers while at the same time being attacked by those who did not think such a thing possible.
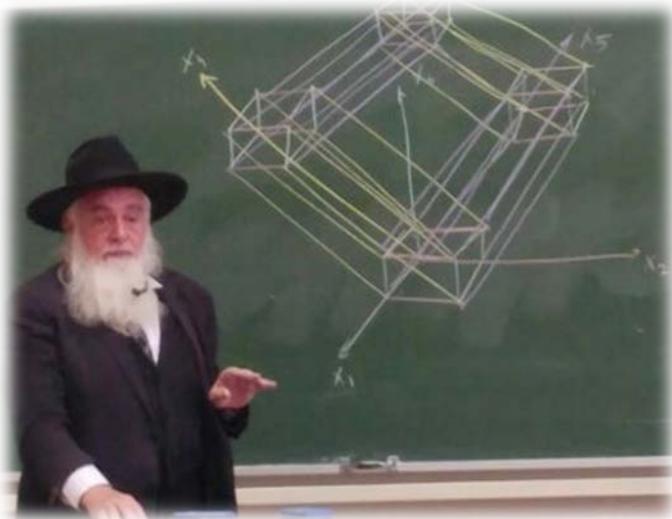
Dr. Eliyahu Rips (Sahkisahki/ CC BY-SA 4.0)

Drosnin said over and over again, especially at the beginning of his work, that he wished someone would debunk the code. Many attempts have been made and many claims published but, according to his followers, the mathematics and statistical analysis of the Bible Code have, so far at least, withstood the onslaught.

What Is The Bible Code?

What exactly is the Bible Code? From ancient time, rabbis have passed on the tradition that the *Torah*, consisting of the first five books of the Bible, was given to Moses on Mount Sinai, written on stone tablets by the very finger of God. Tradition claims that the books were written in Hebrew, with no breaks between words. The entire *Torah* contains 304,805 Hebrew letters. If the original text, or at least a close approximation, is reproduced in the form in which it might have been given to Moses and then arranged in columns of 40 rows, each row would contain 7,551 letters. (If one does the multiplication, this does not quite compute and Drosnin offers no explanation.) The letters would form a grid that could be read from right to left, as in Hebrew, or left to right, as in English. It could also be read up and down and corner to corner. In short, it would resemble a larger version of the find-the-words games that appear daily in many newspapers.

Arrange the letters from Genesis 26:5–10 in a 21-column grid and you get a word search with "Bible" and "code". Myriad other arrangements can yield other words. (Cmglee /CC BY-SA 4.0)
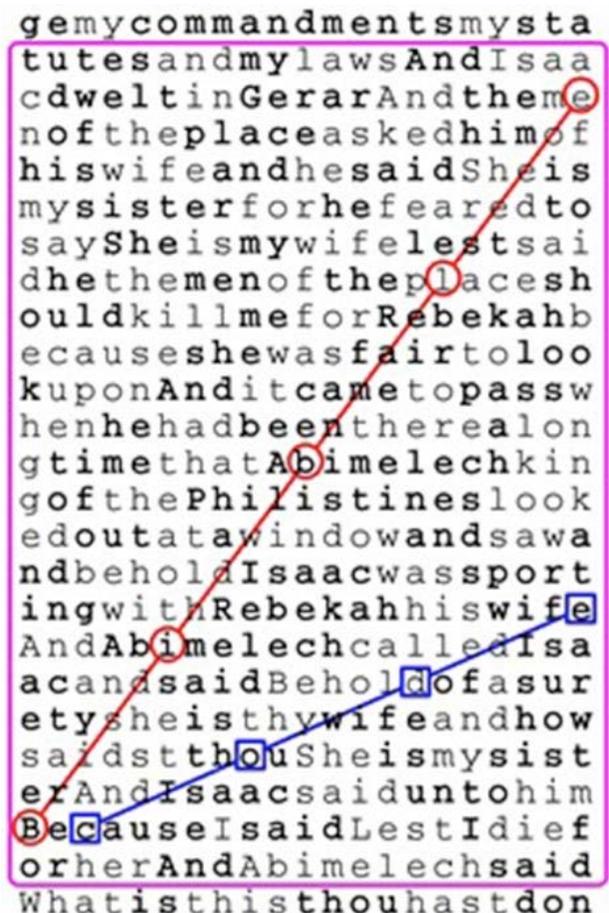
Of course, the code is more complicated than that. Sometimes words and phrases appear to make sense only when a fixed number of letters are skipped. Drosnin gives the following sentence as an example: *Rips explained that each code is a case of adding every fifth or 10th or 50th letter to form a word.*

Now read that sentence again, this time emphasizing every fifth letter: *<u>R</u>ips <u>e</u>xpl<u>a</u>ine<u>d</u> tha<u>t</u> eac<u>h</u> cod<u>e</u> is a <u>c</u>ase <u>of</u> ad<u>d</u>ing <u>e</u>very fifth or tenth or fiftieth letter to form a word.* The message says: **Read the code.**

The Torah Scribe by Maurycy Gottlieb, National Museum, Wrocław (1876) (Public Domain)

Predicting 9/11

The software that Drosnin uses and makes available to Internet aficionados finds key words in context with other words or phrases in one direction or another. The combination of words that so startled Drosnin at the beginning of his search consisted of the name YITZHAK RABIN, crossed with the words ASSASSIN THAT WILL ASSASSINATE. When Rabin was shot and killed on November 4, 1995, a little more than a year after Drosnin wrote to warn him of this hidden message, Drosnin came to the astonishing belief that he was dealing with prophecies encoded 3,000 years ago. Many other such messages began to surface, including one supposedly predicting a terrifying event Drosnin witnessed firsthand from his apartment in New York City. After the first (1993) bomb attack at the World Trade Center, Drosnin had found the words TWIN and TOWERS in the Bible, encoded with the words THE WARNING, THE SLAUGHTER and crossed by the word TERROR. In his words: "*It never occurred to me that lightning would strike twice — that there would be another terrorist attack on the same two monoliths eight years later, that it would succeed, and knock both towers down.*"

Plumes of smoke billow from the World Trade Center towers in Lower Manhattan, New York City, after a Boeing 767 hits each tower during the September 11 attacks.
(Michael Foran/ CC BY-SA 2.0)

So right after the 9/11 attack Drosnin returned to his computer. There it was. Embedded in the same text were the words SIN, CRIME OF BIN LADEN, THE CITY AND THE TOWER and the sentence THEY SAW SMOKE RISING ABOVE THE LAND LIKE THE SMOKE OF A FURNACE. Even the name of the alleged leader of the hijackers, Mohammed Atta, appears, along with the words EGYPTIAN MAN. The word PENTAGON appears, crossed by the word DAMAGED and the phrase EMERGENCY FROM ARABIA.

At the same time Drosnin was making these discoveries, Eliyahu Rips, working from his home in Israel, discovered the same message and e-mailed it to Drosnin in New York. The words are in the Bible, and anyone who uses the proper software can find them, whether they read Hebrew or not. No one questions the method per se, only the significance of the results. How likely or unlikely is it that "messages" such as those Drosnin found will occur in a given text? That is the central question driving those who have attempted to discredit the code.

First The Word Then The Act

Drosnin himself professes to be mystified by the existence of the hidden word strings he has discovered. Eliyahu Rips has no problem with believing the code exists, because ancient Jewish tradition claims the *Torah* came first, and then the Creation. First the word, then the act. Does not the *Torah* itself claim God "spoke" the world into existence? "*God said ... and it was so.*" For Rips, a devout Jew, the Bible Code only affirms what the rabbis have been saying for 3,000 years.

Isaac Newton believed the Bible to be '*a cryptogram set by the Almighty*', the '*riddle of the Godhead, the riddle of past and future events divinely foreordained*'. According to Rips, the Bible Code is now beginning to be understood because man has reached 'the time of the end'.

The prophet Daniel foretold this. When he was faced with visions beyond his comprehension, he asked the Almighty's angel: "*My Lord, what will the outcome of all this be?*" He was told: "Go your way Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end" (*Daniel.* 12: 8,9).

In 1998 Drosnin gave a sealed envelope to his lawyer, not to be opened until 2002. In the letter he predicted: "*The world will face 'global economic collapse' starting in the Hebrew year 5762 (2002 in the modem calendar). This will lead to a period of unprecedented danger, as nations with nuclear weapons become unstable and terrorists can buy or steal the power to destroy whole cities. The danger will peak in the Hebrew year 5766 (2006 in the modem calendar), the year that is most clearly encoded with both 'world war' and 'atomic holocaust'.*"

Fresco Angel Gabriel giving a prophesy to Daniel by Cyrus Emanuel Eugenicus, Tsalenjikha Cathedral (14th century) (Public Domain)

Of course, when 2006 came and went without consequences of this nature, the whole controversy began to fade into the mists of conspiracy theories past and present. But still, true believers search the Scriptures for more information.

Alien Intervention?

Drosnin is a master storyteller. He believes that the code came from aliens from another planet. They 'seeded' the earth with DNA to produce life, and because they were able to observe time from outside, they could also warn mankind when its self-destruction approached. They did this with a code that came equipped with a time lock. Mankind would not be able to destroy itself until he had perfected the technology to do so. That technology involves the invention of computers. Computers are also the key that unlocks the Bible Code. It could not be deciphered without them.

Ancient Site of Göbekli Tepe in Southern Turkey (Brian Weed/ Abode Stock)

Drosnin even claimed to know when and where the Bible Code was delivered. He says that the code itself reveals this information. The event occurred at the time of the birth of civilization, the agricultural revolution of some 6,000 years ago. The place was what Drosnin calls the Lisan Peninsula, a tongue of land extending into the Dead Sea from Jordan. The spacecraft landed there and perhaps even placed two obelisks that will one day be recovered. These contain the complete key to the Bible Code. The time frame he gives is significant. When Drosnin was in his prime and commanded his largest audience, most of academia agreed that civilization began just the way he presents it. But since the discovery of Göbekli Tepe and the Agricultural Revolution, the rise of civilization has now been relocated and re-dated. It is now believed that it happened further north, in Turkey, and much earlier in time, at least 11,800 years ago. Still, the art of writing began, to the best of current knowledge, at about this time, in ancient Mesopotamia. Why this sudden spurt of human progress some 6,000 years ago? According to Drosnin, it was because mankind had help.

Many people have wondered if there is other intelligent life in the universe. If evidence were discovered, they say, perhaps the world would change its ways. Maybe if mankind knew they were not alone, all might band together and work for the common good.

President Reagan meeting with Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev at the Soviet Mission during the Geneva Summit in Switzerland in 1985. (Public Domain)

For The Common Good

This is not simply idle thought. During a 2009 joint interview by Charlie Rose with George Schultz, President Ronald Reagan's Secretary of State, and President Gorbachev of the USSR, it was revealed that something strange had happened during a summit meeting between Reagan and Gorbachev on November 19, 1985. The encounter took place in Geneva, Switzerland. *"All of a sudden you and President Reagan took a walk," Schultz explained. "You went down to some cabin on Lake Geneva where there was a fire in a fireplace and sat down there. I wasn't there, but I know when you came back, there were two friends, almost. Talking about what was going to happen. Then we went to the next —". "At the fireside house," Gorbachev cut in, through an interpreter. "President Reagan suddenly said to me, 'What would you do if the United States were attacked by someone from outer space? Would you help us?' I said, 'No doubt about it.' He said, 'We too.' So that's interesting."*

Reagan was later quoted at a 1987 address at the United Nations: *"I couldn't help but — one point in our discussions privately with General Secretary Gorbachev — when you stop to think that we're all God's children, wherever we may live in the world, I couldn't help but say to him, just think how easy his task and mine might be in these meetings that we held if suddenly there was a threat to this world from some other species, from another planet, outside in the universe. We'd forget all the little local differences that we have between our countries, and we would find out once and for all that we really are all human beings here on this Earth together. Well, I don't suppose we can wait for some alien race to come down and threaten us, but I think that between us we can bring about that realization."*

Drosnin claims that there *is* evidence that earth have been visited and mankind is not alone. That evidence is the Bible Code. It is irrefutable proof that other, more mature life forms are even now affording mankind a chance to grasp at the straw of a hopeful future rather than endure the gloomy tragedy of extinction.

Catherine de Medici gazing at Protestants massacred in the aftermath of the massacre of St. Bartholomew by Édouard Debat-Ponsan (1880) Musée d'Art Roger-Quilliot (Public Domain)

Religious Wars

Why the Bible? Why that particular book? Drosnin's answer is that the warfare occupying the world today is wrapped in religion. The *power* is technological. The *forces* are economic. But the people doing the *acts* are often inspired by religion. Muslim terrorists rage against America — the "Great Satan." American leaders pray that God will "bless America." Israeli troops carry the *Torah* in their packs. Jew against Muslim. Christian against Jew. Muslim against Christian. And all these religions revere "The Book." That is why it is there, in the Bible, that one reads about what might be man's end, but what must be man's hope.

Critics and Detractors

Drosnin's detractors were legion. Foremost among them was Brendan McKay, a mathematician who taught in the Department of Computer Science at the Australian National University in Canberra. McKay insisted that the code merely illustrates mathematical probabilities inherent in any text of sufficient length. Using a Hebrew translation of Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace*, McKay demonstrated that messages could be found supposedly encoded in texts other than the Bible. He also pointed out that the Hebrew of the *Torah* contains no vowels, making it easier to concoct meanings where none, in fact, exist.

Site near to Lady Diana's fatal road accident, Paris, France. (CC BY-SA 2.0)

McKay was so vocal in denouncing Drosnin's research that Drosnin issued what amounted to a challenge. He was quoted in the June 9, 1997, issue of *Newsweek* magazine as saying: "*When my critics find a message about the assassination of a prime minister encrypted in Moby Dick, I'll believe them.*" Such a challenge could not be ignored. Using the same software and techniques with which Drosnin supposedly deciphered the Bible Code, McKay went to work on *Moby Dick*. There he found revealed the assassinations of, among others, Indira Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., John F. and Robert Kennedy, Abraham Lincoln, and Yitzhak Rabin. He also discovered the exile of Leon Trotsky. Besides all that, he discovered the name of Princess Diana and, in close proximity, the words MORTAL IN THESE JAWS OF DEATH.

If all that were not enough, McKay discovered in *Moby Dick* a prediction of Michael Drosnin's death. The letters M. DROSNIN are crossed by the words HIM TO HAVE BEEN KILLED. With the other words scattered throughout the letter-picture, McKay deduced that Drosnin would be killed by someone DRIVING A NAIL INTO HIS HEART that SLICES OUT A CONSIDERABLE HOLE. The event will transpire in ATHENS or at least in GREECE (both words appear in the code) and apparently happen on the FIRST DAY of Drosnin's visit there. Even the names of the murderers are revealed. They happen to be two famous code researchers.

Heated exchanges continued between followers of Drosnin and followers of McKay. Drosnin's camp insisted that although mathematical coincidences appear in other books, the certifiable predictions found in the Bible far outnumber those of other books and fewer 'skips' are needed to form words in the original Hebrew of the *Torah* than in books written by other authors. McKay counters that this is not the case at all, and he and other scientists continued to offer evidence in support of this point.

The End of the World , painting also known as The Great Day of His Wrath by John Martin (1853)(Public Domain)

As with most matters of religion, it appears that whether people believe in the code is a matter of whether they *want* to believe in it. Drosnin's followers are finding new messages and posting them on the Internet almost every day. McKay's followers say that the Drosnin camp is finding key prophetic hits because, mathematically speaking, in this kind of system one finds what one expects to find. In other words, it is a rigged study done by people predisposed to find what they are looking for, whether it is really there or not.

The two camps show no evidence that they will ever agree. Meanwhile, the Bible Code remains a fascinating enigma. Every year the data is updated. In 2020 some claimed to have found evidence in the Bible Code that the Covid 19 virus would cause a massive pandemic, prompting others to question why prophecies are always discovered after the fact. Meanwhile, whole websites are still dedicated to continuing Drosnin's work. Does this prove that super-intelligent, perhaps even supernatural, entities are working behind the scenes in human history? In the end, only time will tell.

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