

BOOK OF GALATIANS – VERSE BY VERSE EXEGESIS

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

See: [Book of Galatians – Introduction](#). Other related docs on our page [99 BIBLE](#) (scroll down to 48th Book)

For a verse by verse calculation of Gematria see our document: [Gal 1 Gematria Analysis](#).

THEME OF CHAPTER

The Gematria of Chapter 1 is 213,843. After 179 rotations of 1189 the remainder is 1,012. Bible number 1,012 means A BRANCH THAT DOES NOT BEAR FRUIT IS CUT OFF.

This links Galatians 1 to the 1,012th chapter of the Bible: John 15 where Jesus says:

“I am the true Vine. My father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit he takes away and every branch that bears fruit He prunes that it may bear more fruit.” (John 15 v 1-2)

“If anyone does not abide in Me he is cast out as a branch and is withered, and they gather them and throw them into the fire and they are burned.” (John 15 v 6)

A ‘branch’ is a gathering of believers. If we keep the faith and worship Christ in the truth of the Gospel our gathering is blessed. If we cease trusting in the blood of Christ to please God and impose the Law of Moses (or any other construction of religious law) we produce the opposite result.

Individual Christians can’t lose their salvation. God will never curse us. But God can withdraw the lampstand of our testimony from before Him. We might continue to meet and observe our religion. But our religious service is unacceptable to God. Our religion might multiply but the true faith will not. Testimony of the true Gospel in the community will diminish and eventually disappear (Revelations 2 and 3).

PARSING THE VERSES INTO SECTIONS

Chapter 1 of Galatians has 24 verses which we divide for insight into 3 sections of 8 verses. (8 = 2 cubed. Cubed numbers are ‘holy’. Chapters naturally divide into the largest prime number divisor or ‘holy’ number.

VERSE BY VERSE EXEGESIS

SECTION 1: GALATIANS 1 v 1 - 8

The Gematria of Section 1 is 76,260. After 64 rotations of 1189 the remainder is 164. Bible number 164 means APOSTATE RELIGION. The 164th Bible Chapter is Deut. 11.

This spiritual number suggests a dark theme. Galatians are quickly losing their faith. It is a life and death emergency. Paul the doctor is recommending surgery. Will the Galatians receive it? Or will they become a footnote in history?

G 1v1 “Paul, an apostle, not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead”

Gematria of verse 1 is 13,362. After 11 rotations of 1189 the remainder is 283. Bible number 283 means KING REJECTED. The 283rd Bible Chapter is 2 Samuel 16.

In 2 Sam 16 King David is fleeing the rebellion of Absalom. He meets Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth, a little past the top of the mountain. Ziba presents him with a couple of donkeys loaded with bread, raisins, fruits, and wine for refreshment. Ziba tells King David Mephibosheth tarries in Jerusalem because he hopes the Kingdom of Saul will be restored to him. The King tells him he transfers all Mephibosheth has to Ziba.

King David of course is a prophetic type of Messiah, who is rejected by men. King Saul is prophetic of the line of ‘Kings of Judah’ who appeared after the return from the Exile, the latest being King Herod, a governor appointed by the Romans. Absalom is prophetic of the Circumcision sect, a group of zealous patriots with connections to power and money who seek to bring meek and gentle believers in Messiah, the King’s concubines, into submission to their authority. To this end he persecutes them: debauching them in public.

Ziba is prophetic of Paul. He once was the servant of Mephibosheth. He had a prominent position in the administration of Judah, specifically serving as a justice on highest court in the land: the Sanhedrin.

Ziba left his post. He gathered all he has and presented himself to King David ‘just past the top of the mountain’ – in other words, shortly after Christ dies on Calvary. Ziba no longer desires a place in government administration. Ziba has turned his back on the cabal of elite Jewish zealots, the Pharisees. Ziba no longer lives to please men. Ziba only wants to serve Jesus and present to Him the things that please his heart.

Paul emphasizes he did not receive the office of apostle from a religious organization. He is a messenger sent from God. He brings a message of the true Gospel of grace by faith directly from God.

How many Christian preachers today have been certified and ordained by religious organizations? Such men can’t speak with the authority of Paul. Paul preached the Gospel but Paul also lived the Gospel.

G 1v2 “And all the brethren which are with me, to the churches of Galatia”

Gematria is 4,211. After 3 rotations of 1189 the remainder is 644. Bible number 644 means WISDOM BETTER THAN GOLD. The 644th Bible Chapter is Proverbs 16.

Proverbs 16 v 16: “How much better to get wisdom than gold. And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.”

Proverbs 16 v 19: “Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly than to divide the spoil with the proud.”

Paul often called himself the bondservant of Jesus [Ziba]. Does a bondservant get wages? No. They are indentured not employed. Paul freely offers his gifts to seek and save the lost among the Gentiles because he knows this pleases the LORD. He receives no silver or gold from the churches. “How much better is wisdom”: Paul’s reward is with Christ, who is able to grant eternal blessings, things more valuable than earthly metals.

“To the churches of Galatia”: Paul is writing to gatherings of believers in the region of Galatia. The gatherings met independently and freely without obligation to any religious organization. They did not own religious buildings. They did not have paid clergy. They met in homes or any convenient space available.

G 1v3 “Grace [be] to you and peace from God the Father, and [from] our Lord Jesus Christ;”

Gematria is 7,306. After 6 rotations of 1189 the remainder is 172. The 172nd Bible Chapter is Deut. 19.

The 172nd Bible verse is Genesis 7 v 12 “And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights”.

The flood judgment was on the earth. Rain was drowning and killing all that had life and breath. But Noah and his three sons and a remnant of clean and unclean animals were safe and secure in the Ark.

So it was with believers in Galatia. Their souls were safe and secure in Christ: immune from punishment for sin. Resting in the peace of God - lifted by faith above the world’s chaos – seated with Christ in the Heavens.

G 1v4 “Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father”

Gematria is 16,396. After 13 rotations of 1189 the remainder is 939. The 939th Bible Chapter is Matt. 10.

Matt. 10 v 16: “Behold I send you out as sheep among wolves... be wise as serpents and harmless as doves”.

Matt. 10 v 37: “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”

Here is the stark truth: the world is so evil it stains and poisons everything it touches. The Greek word ‘ecclesia’ (wrongly translated ‘church’ in the King James Bible) literally means ‘called-out ones’. The identity of Christians is not with the world or anything in the world. We are called out of this world.

The moment a saint identifies with a worldly organization whose governance is a man or a group of men they switch their allegiance from Christ. History is full of examples of man-made religions headed by bishops, arch-bishops, and popes who dictate all manner of doctrines and religious expectations to believers. Such organizations successfully vacuum up saints and lock them inside.

G 1v5 “To whom [be] **glory for ever and ever. Amen.”**

Gematria is 6,150. After 5 rotations of 1189 the remainder is 205. The 205th Bible Chapter is Joshua 18.

The 205th Bible verse is Genesis 8 v 21: “And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart ‘I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake, although the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; nor will I destroy every living thing as I have done’”

The altar of Noah is the veritable picture of serenity. Noah and his clan have pitched their tent on virgin land. There are no wild animals to threaten them. There are no enemies on the frontier to challenge them. God has set before them a new world to explore, possess, and enjoy. For this blessing they are grateful and an offering of thanks is made up to God.

Noah’s Ark did not come to rest in the Holy Land. It rested in the mountains of Anatolia outside the boundary of land promised to Abraham for his descendants. Noah’s gathering of believers in the mountains of Anatolia pre-figures the salvation of Gentile people worldwide.

Where were the Galatians? Oh yes! They were the Gentiles who dwelt in the land of Anatolia.

The Galatians were blessed with Noah’s blessing. Their inheritance was good fertile land. It was fertile in the sense it was productive for growing food and grazing animals. It was fertile in another more important sense: the hearts of the Gentiles were open to the message of the Gospel. Paul would preach and many would believe. Their testimony was a fragrant aroma as pleasing to God as the first sacrifice of freed Noah.

God would never curse the land. Figuratively, their sins were forgiven. Their faith saved them from death.

G 1v6 “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ to another gospel.**”**

Gematria is 12,715. After 10 rotations of 1189 the remainder is 825. The 825th Bible Chapter is Ezekiel 23.

Ezekiel 23 is the account of two sisters, Oholah and Oholibah, daughters of one woman, who commit harlotry in Egypt. Ezekiel 23 says “Samaria is Oholah and Jerusalem is Oholibah” (v4).

Figuratively, the ‘one woman’ is the body of Christ. The daughters are believers who step out of the grace of God and commit spiritual adultery by joining themselves to human overseers. Their eyes stray from the glories of Christ and they become infatuated by ‘men of the cloth’, arrayed in robes as fine as the priests of Solomon’s temple, who seduce them.

The 825th verse of the Gospels is John 20 v 2: “**Then she ran, and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple Jesus loved, and said to them: ‘They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him’.**”

The ‘another Gospel’ the Galatians are being taught is heresy. It replaces the death of Christ on the Cross as the way of salvation. It confuses the minds of young believers with lies and half-truths.

The author’s opinion is that Oholah, the elder daughter, is the Eastern Orthodox religion, whose roots go as far back as the seven churches of Revelations. Oholibah, the younger daughter, is the Catholic religion.

Both Orthodox and Catholic religions are liturgical. Parishioners sit passively while clergy conduct repetitive religious rituals before their eyes. Priests are arrayed in holy gowns and officiate at altars in chapels.

Like Samaria and Jerusalem long ago, the Orthodox and the Catholics condemn and hate each other.

G 1v7 “Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.”

Gematria is 10,066. After 8 rotations of 1189 the remainder is 554. The 554th Bible Chapter is Psalm 76.

The 554th verse of the Bible is Gen. 22 v 6: “**So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together.**”

God had commanded Abraham “**go to the land of Moriah and offer [Isaac] there as a burnt offering...**”

So Abraham went stealthily, not telling Isaac the intended purpose of the journey.

Abraham was laying a plan to murder his son. This would be an abomination. It could only be an acceptable sacrifice if Isaac willingly laid down his life. As many martyrs through history also accepted their fate.

The 554th verse of Isaiah: “**Woe to those who seek deep to hide their counsel far from the LORD, and their works are in the dark; they say ‘Who sees us?’ and ‘Who knows us?’**” (29 v 15)

When men reputed to be wise appear from the Circumcision sect, the Galatians were oblivious as to their motive. They quickly succumbed to a twisted version of the Gospel.

In the perverted Gospel they carry the wood of the sacrifice [religious legalism] up the mountain [to Zion]. Their works bring merit before God, who dwells in Zion, even achieving salvation for them.

G 1v8 “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.”

Gematria is 6,054. After 5 rotations of 1189 the remainder is 109. The 109th Bible Chapter is Lev. 19.

The 109th verse of the Books of Wisdom is Job 5 v 27, where Eliphaz says: “**Behold, this we have searched out; It is true. Hear it and know for yourself”.**

Eliphaz was a false teacher. Of whom God said: “**My wrath is aroused against you... for you have not spoken of Me what is right as My servant Job has**” (Job 42 v 7)

It is hard to understand how a false teacher could be a genuine believer. If they were a genuine believer wouldn’t they know the way of salvation? But this is precisely the case at hand. The Galatians were genuine believers but their faith was not yet firmly established. They were vulnerable to false teaching, and if they received it, would become false teachers themselves.

Eliphaz was a false teacher but he was also a believer. It was possible for him to repent and be restored. This is exactly what happened. He offered the prescribed sacrifices and Job prayed for him (Job 42 v 8).

However, the Circumcision were not deceived believers in error. They were false brothers who were infiltrating the flock preaching a Gospel of works with the evil intent of busting the true faith.

Paul is declaring spiritual war on the heresy of legalism. If the eternal destiny of men were not at stake, such an extreme ruling would not be aired. The accused one must be driven from the local community of faith.

There is no room for polite debate here. Trying to convince a hawk he should walk like a dove, coo like a dove, and associate with doves is hopeless. Shoo the hawk away! He is preying on the doves.

Paul never says ‘burn him at the stake’. The death penalty is not in the hands of local believers. The Book of Jude addresses what to do when someone brings an evil influence into the community: ‘**I want to remind you... the Lord having saved the people out of Egypt afterward destroyed those who did not believe**’ (v 5).

The 109th verse of the Gospels is Matt. 5 v 19: “**Whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven...**” If a believer makes a mistake in teaching, even a grave error, that wouldn’t cancel their salvation. It would cancel eternal rewards. God’s destruction of false teachers (Jude 5) is only appropriate in the case they were never believers.

Saul was aware of his own misdeeds concerning the rush to judgment of Stephen and his death by stoning. He repented, was restored to ministry, and the rest is history.

SECTION 2: GALATIANS 1 v 9 - 16

Gematria of Section 2 is 86,152. After 72 rotations of 1189 the remainder is 544. Bible number 544 means **THE RICH WILL BE SLAUGHTERED**. The 544th Bible Chapter is Psalm 66.

From the time Emperor Constantine granted Christian bishops the right to own land and gather in churches the ecclesiastical estate in Europe became richer and more powerful each year. At the peak of its prosperity and power clerics in the Catholic Church presided over rich dioceses. They sold relief from purgatory for huge sums. They collected immense tithes from the working poor. The highest seats in the Church were appointed from aristocratic families in return for bequests or other considerations.

Paul uses the example of his own rise to power among the Jewish religious elite as a precautionary tale. Readers who believe in the spiritual worthiness of the Jewish priesthood and Sanhedrin in the time of Christ are unaware of the cutthroat competition among the religious class for advancement and the remuneration that came with it. (Our paper [Seven Years In The Hands of Midian](#) details the fight for control of the high priesthood in Jerusalem down during the years after the return from exile).

The 544th chapter in the Bible is Psalm 66 which says “**You brought us into the net. You laid affliction on our backs. You caused men to ride over our heads. We went through fire and water.**” Such is the oppression of a religious overseer on believers. Paul, formerly as Saul, was one of those oppressors.

Religion is profitable. Profit can always be gained in positions of power. This is the worldly reality. God will judge it. Paul is imperative the Galatians not be snared by it.

G 1v9 “As we said before, so say I now again, if any [man] preach any other gospel to you than that you have received, let him be accursed.”

Gematria is 7,078. The remainder after 5 revolutions is 1,133. The spiritual number 1,133 means YOU OWE ME YOUR LIFE: SLAVERY TO MEN. The 1,133rd Bible chapter is Philemon.

Slavery in the Roman world was common. Slaves were bought and sold like cattle and not treated much better. Slaves were captured on military expeditions. They often belonged to a foreign ethnic group which made it easier to consider them lesser humans.

The Gospel of Paul proclaimed freedom for captives. It was a transformative message completely in contradiction to the norms of ancient society. It is unique. It is distinct. It is direct from the mouth of God.

Any message other than Paul’s Gospel, any covenant offered other than the New Covenant in Jesus Christ, is not freedom but a form of captivity: captivity of the mind to lies, the soul to idols, the flesh to desires. In the case of formal religion it is captivity to men as well.

The keyhole to a Divine life has only one key that fits the lock. And it is impossible to pick that lock!

The Book of Philemon is a letter from Paul lobbying for a Christian to open his arms and welcome a run-away slave who has converted to Christ. Paul’s Gospel is transformative if obeyed. Not just in the inner man but in wider human relationships, especially in Christian fellowship.

G 1v10 “For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.”

Gematria is 11,833. The remainder after 9 revolutions is 1,132. The spiritual number 1,132 means DIVISIVE ARGUMENTATIVE PEOPLE. The 1,132nd Bible chapter is Titus 3.

The 1,132nd verse of the Gospels is Mark 2v16: “**And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating and drinking with tax collectors and sinners they said to His disciples: ‘How is it He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?’**” Jesus replied “**Those who are well have no need of a physician but those who are sick**” (v17)

Jesus put Himself in socially unacceptable places. He was a missionary. He steered away from comfortable conclaves. He headed to places where sinners and seekers socialize that He might minister to them.

Anyone who has ever been a member of organized religion knows the hypocrisy of it. Attend regularly and tithe generously and the pastoral staff will greet you warmly and give you the best seat. Attend sometimes and give sometimes and they will hardly recognize your face. The system is based on pleasing men.

The religious teacher in organized churches claims to be the servant of God. Gal. 1v10 says “**If I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of God**”. Indeed, they are a servant of the religious organization.

G 1v11 “But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.”

Gematria is 8,849. The remainder after 7 revolutions of 1189 is 526. The spiritual number 526 means MOUNT ZION, CITY OF GOD. The 526th Bible chapter is Psalm 48.

Where is Mount Zion? It's not the temple mount in Jerusalem. That is Mount Moriah. Zion was the stronghold of the Jebusites which David captured. He renamed it City of David (2 Sam 5 v 9).

Zion comes from the Hebrew root word that means ‘castle’. Mount Zion is the ‘Castle’ (Zion) of the ‘King’ (Mount). David is gone. Where is the Son of David? Where is the Castle of the King? Christ has ascended and sits on the throne of David in the Jerusalem that is above – the City of God – Mount Zion. (Heb. 12: 22-23).

Psalm 48 v 2 “**Beautiful in elevation; the joy of the whole Earth is Mount Zion on the sides of the North. The city of the Great King**” [clear allusion to the constellation Cepheus – see [Galatians – Introduction](#) page 6].

God put the stars in the Heavens and fixed them in their place before God made man. The message of the Gospel, salvation from sin provided by a Messiah who was raised from the dead and sits at the right hand of God, pictured in Cepheus, is an eternal immutable truth. Paul preached it. He did not invent it.

FOOTNOTE

‘Zionism’ is not to be confused with Paul’s Gospel. It is a movement to establish and expand a homeland for the Jewish people in the Holy Land. It is a movement of men with a worldly purpose. Likewise, the Circumcision sect was a movement of men to establish a community with a common bond in flesh mutilation.

The Gospel of Paul is a message from God concerning a remedy for sin against God. The Gospel calls men to look away from the earth, behold Jesus raised in glory, and seek eternal life with Him.

Religious movements are of this world. Spirituality is not of this world.

G 1v12 “For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught [it], but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Gematria is 10,410. The remainder after 8 revolutions of 1189 is 898. Bible number 898 means LION AMONG SHEEP MAULS AND MANGLES. The 898th Bible chapter is Micah 5.

Micah 5 : “And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles; in the midst of many peoples, like dew from the LORD, like showers on the grass, that tarry for no man, nor wait for the sons of men” (v 8)

This is the ministry of Paul. It came early in the epoch of the New Covenant: ‘like dew from the LORD’. As the Sun rose on the new Day the dew evaporated. The Gentiles to whom Paul preached were losing faith.

Paul preached his message without sanction or approval by the Jerusalem super-apostles: ‘like showers on the grass that tarry for no man, nor wait for the sons of men’.

Paul’s Gospel was a message from God not from men. Paul was taught the Gospel by the revelation of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, who had just presented Himself to the Jews and proved His authority by many signs and miracles. Later he appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus and left him instructions (Acts 9 v 6 -16).

Mic. 5: “**They will strike the ruler of Israel with a rod on the cheek**” (v1) “**Therefore He shall give them up**” (v4)

The Jews rejected the Messiah. So the nation of Jews lost their place as God’s witness to the world. The remnant of Jews who did put faith in Him were scattered in foreign lands where they witnessed for Him.

Mic. 5: “**Your hand shall be lifted against all your adversaries. And all your enemies shall be cut off**” (v4)

Jerusalem will be reduced to rubble and the Temple where Christ was sentenced to death demolished.

Mic. 5: “**And it shall be in that day**’ says the LORD. ‘**That I will cut off your horses from your midst...**” (v5)

The Romans, whose governors approved the crucifixion of Christ, would be defeated and lose their empire.

G 1v13 “For you have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it.”

Gematria is 11,638. The remainder after 9 revolutions of 1189 is 937. Bible number 937 means ALL WHO BELIEVE IN JESUS ARE HEALED. The 937th Bible chapter is Matthew 8.

Paul points to his past life as evidence of what consuming passion for a sect does to a man: it turns him into a religious extremist capable of harming innocents in the name of God.

In Matthew 8 Jesus sails to the region of the Gergesenes. There He met “**two demon possessed men coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce so that none could pass.**” (v28) And they cried out “**what have we to do with you Jesus, Son of God? Have you come to torment us before the time?**” (v29)

These men knew Jesus' identity. They must have been knowledgeable in spiritual matters and familiar with Scriptures. This knowledge made them aware of personal sin. They feared the day God would punish them.

Zeal for their religion drove them to cut themselves off from society. They retreated into a religious precinct [a graveyard] and only socialized among themselves. Sound familiar?

While dealing with the issue of eating meat offered to idols Paul explains how demons are involved:

“...the things the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.” (1 Cor 10 v 20)

Suppose a man pledges obedience to a religious sect and seals that commitment with a rite or a ritual. What just happened? In the spirit realm possession of his soul was transferred to the guardianship of a spirit.

This happened to the Israelites when adopted the Mosaic religion. The entire nation was placed under the guardianship of angels (Exodus 23v23). Angels also mediated between them and God.

“... the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward” (Heb. 2v2)

Concerning the Israelites, when did angels speak and exercise guardianship? Some examples:

“And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him [Moses] in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush” (Exo. 3v2)

“And it came to pass when Joshua was by Jericho that he lifted his eyes... and a Man stood opposite him with his sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua said to Him: ‘Are you for us or for our adversaries?’ So He said ‘No, but as Commander of the Army of the LORD I have now come’. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshipped...” (Joshua 5 v 13-14)

All other religions (and sects of religions) are exactly the same as the Mosaic religion: they are administrations under the authority of spirits. With one important distinction: all other religions (and sects of religions) report to demonic spirits, who report up the chain of command to Satan.

Saul was zealous for a sect of Judaism (Pharisaism). By definition, by belonging to a religious sect, his soul was under the guardianship of a demon, a spirit that reported to Satan.

When genuine Christians appeared before Saul, Stephen for example, Saul's soul was seized by its possessor and used to maim, wound, terrorize, and kill Christians. Saul believed he was serving God. But he was serving the Devil. Historically, Catholics and Protestants killed millions of each other in religious wars.

None of this applies to believers of the true Gospel. We are not a part of any worldly religion. We are reborn and the Spirit of God dwells in us. Our connection to the Son of God is direct. Our guardian is the LORD Jesus Christ, who intercedes with the Father on our behalf. (Book of Hebrews)

G 1v14 “And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.”

Gematria is 18,584. The remainder after 15 revolutions of 1189 is 749. Bible number 749 means HEAD FOR THE HILLS! The 749th Bible chapter is Jeremiah 4.

The 749th verse of the Gospels is Matthew 22 v 21: [When Jesus asked them whose image was on the Denarius] “And they said to Him: ‘Caesar’s’. And He said to them ‘Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s”

Religion is materially and socially profitable for the winners at the top of the hierarchy.

Here is the ugly truth of it: Saul was “above many my equals”. Saul possessed power and privilege by displacing men equal to him before God.

Like any worldly organization competition for the coveted top spots brings out the worst human behavior. It poisons the spiritual atmosphere of the fellowship.

Jer. 4 : “Break up your fallow ground, and do not sow among thorns... lest my fury come forth like fire and burn so that no one can quench it. Because of the evil of your doings” (v 3-4)

Jer. 4 : “For My people are foolish, they have not known Me... They are wise to do evil. But to do good they have no knowledge.” (v 22)

How are these people foolish? How are they evil? They compete for Caesar’s reward: more coins; more fame. Each becomes a thorn that scratches and draws blood in the congregation.

Jesus despises the notion of hierarchy among believers (also known as the ‘doctrine of the Nicolatians’ (Rev. 2v6)). It is a system for the benefit of tyrants above and to the detriment of the oppressed below.

What is the answer? How can we be healed?

Jer. 4 : “Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your hearts” (Jer. 4 v 4). If you belong to the LORD, you are free of man’s religion. And that is what Paul did. He left the religious sect that turned him into a beast, followed the LORD, and redeemed his soul from the Devil.

G 1v15 “But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called [me] by his grace.”

Gematria of Gal. 1 v 15 is 7,754. The remainder after 6 revolutions is 620. The 620th Bible Chapter is Psalm 142 where the Psalmist cries “Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise your name” (v 7).

The number 620 = 62 x 10, which can be translated: JERUSALEM ROYAL CITY <meets> NATIONS OF NOAH.

The 62nd chapter of Genesis is Exodus 12 where Israel celebrated the first Passover. At midnight the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt and all the firstborn of the livestock (v29). The Israelites applied the blood of the Passover Lamb on the lintel and the two door posts. When the LORD saw the blood he passed over that home. That night the Israelites departed Egypt and became a nation of God's people.

In the very next chapter, the LORD spoke to Moses saying: "**Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, of man and beast; it is Mine.**" (Exodus 13 v2)

When Paul says God "**separated me from my mother's womb**" he means that he was a firstborn son. So long as there was a temple with a Mosaic priesthood officiating, under the Law firstborn sons were redeemed (Exo 34 v 20). In their place the Levites served the LORD. (Not only in Tabernacle service but in ministry to the people's needs in the congregation – notably education).

These regulations applied to Israelites under the Law of Moses. After the Cross of Christ the requirements of the Law of Moses no longer applied to believers.

As a believer in Jesus, Paul is likening his call to ministry to the LORD's right to firstborn sons in the Mosaic system. In such a case Paul is the servant of the LORD for life - just like Levites. He will work for the LORD but he will give up being a landowner in this world – just like the Levites – because his reward will be in the next life. His ministry will glorify the LORD's sacrifice on Calvary – just as the Levites worked perpetually to offer sacrifices on an altar – and keep the testimony of the LORD before the eyes of the people.

The 10th chapter of Genesis is Genesis 10. This chapter presents the genealogies of all the sons of Noah who became the forefathers of the nations of the world.

The number 620 = 62 x 10. Spiritual number 62 means JERUSALEM ROYAL CITY and refers to the Jerusalem that is above, which is Mount Zion, the city of the great King. Spiritual number 10 means NATIONS OF NOAH.

Paul is the bondservant of Jesus Christ, a minister of the Gospel, to all the nations of the World.

Paul will not be a clergyman who rules over the saints. He will be a bondservant who washes their feet.

Like the Israelites of old, believers who respond to the Gospel are liberated from bondage to Egypt, slavery to sin, and join a new nation, the people of God, the body of Christ. The LORD Himself is our King eternally.

G 1v16 "To reveal his Son in me that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood"

Gematria of Gal. 1 v 16 is 10,006. Remainder after 8 revolutions is 494. Bible number 494 means UNSPOILED INHERITANCE. The 494th Bible Chapter is Psalm 16.

The 494th verse in the Bible is Genesis 19 v 36: "**Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father**"

Lot was a righteous man who was distressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (2 Pet 2v7). However, he did not have the grace to love his brother. There were disputes with Abraham over sharing pasture. He left Abraham to blaze his own path in a place where his flocks would prosper.

After the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah Lot lived in a cave with his daughters. They made him drunk and laid with him. They committed incest for the purpose: “[to] **preserve the lineage of our father**” (v492).

Lot's daughters and their offspring show the folly of preserving the tradition of the fathers. Lot was a misguided believer with strong ideas which did not agree with Abraham. Preserving the tradition of men is counter-productive. It binds descendants to incorrect ideas for generations.

This is why Paul says “**immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood**”. If he were to ask the opinions of men he would risk imprinting man-made ideas.

Psalm 16 says “**Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten after another [god]. Their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, nor take up their names on my lips**” (v4)

We don't know how far astray Lot went in his departure from the faith. What we know is the people of Ammon and Moab, the descendants of Lot, were idol worshippers. So efforts to preserve the heritage of Lot only succeeded in deceiving more people.

Paul sought wisdom from the LORD. He obliged until Paul's cup was overflowing with correct instruction.

Psalm 16 says “**O LORD, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup. You maintain my lot. The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; yes I have a good inheritance**” (v5-6)

In later chapters Paul will elaborate the mystery of God to Galatians through the concept of inheritance. But he never would have had that radical insight unless he had learned it directly from the LORD.

SECTION 3: GALATIANS 1 v 17-24

The Gematria of Section 3 is 51,431. After subtracting 43 rotations of 1189 the remainder is 304. Bible number 304 means PAGAN ALTAR. The 304th Bible Chapter is 1 Kings 13.

In 1 Kings 13 God sends a prophet to Bethel with a message against the altar “**priests of the high places who burn incense on you... shall be burned on you**” (1 Kings 13 v 2).

In Section 3 of Galatians 1 Paul emphasizes how briefly he kept his visit to Jerusalem and how little he cared to interact with the apostles. Paul knew God was going to judge the Jews for crucifying Christ. He knew Jerusalem was going to be besieged and the Temple was going to be put to the torch. It was a lost cause.

Apparently the apostles who continued to congregate in Jerusalem were expecting Christ to return in their lifetime. This in spite of Christ's charge to them to “**Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creatures**”. They were in disobedience. Paul was called as an apostle to fulfil the mission they set aside.

The interaction between Peter and Paul concerning the Circumcision, described later in Galatians, shows how damaging it was for Peter to stay in close contact with religious society. Religious scruples seeped into his sub-conscious. Before long the man who preached “**Be saved from this perverse generation**” (Acts 2 v 40) withdrew himself from Gentile believers (Gal. 2 v 12) and ate with observant Jews.

In 1 Kings 13 God instructed the prophet “**You shall not eat bread or drink water nor return by the way you came**” (v 9). This should be the attitude of everyone who is free in Christ: avoid religious gatherings. Do not eat or drink with religious people. Not because you are better than them. Religion is seductive. Avoid it.

Paul spent most of his life as a religious addict. For him in particular it was important to keep his distance.

G 1v17 “Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.”

Gematria of Gal. 1 v 17 is 8,727. The remainder after 7 revolutions is 404. The 404th Bible Chapter is Ezra 1.

Ezra 1 is the account of Cyrus releasing the Jews to sojourn back to Jerusalem to rebuild a temple. Cyrus gave them articles taken from the previous temple. Like the Persian Jews in the time of Cyrus, Paul left his old life completely behind. Like the Jews who returned to the Promised Land, re-establishing the Faith was a struggle.

The difference for Paul was “Neither went I up to Jerusalem”. Paul’s destination was the Jerusalem above. Unlike the Persian Jews he had no desire to build temples or to impose religious laws on the congregation.

G 1v18 “Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.”

Gematria of Gal. 1 v 18 is 6,656. The remainder after 5 revolutions is 711. The 711st Bible Chapter is Isa. 32.

What did he discuss with Peter? Isaiah 32 says “**On the land of my people will come up thorns and briars... because the palaces will be forsaken, the bustling city will be deserted**” (Isa. 32 v 13-14).

Bible number 711 means DEATH TO THE HOUSE OF FOOLS.

The first time he went up to Jerusalem God warned Paul to keep away (see v17 above). This time Paul arrived in Jerusalem to warn Peter to keep away. Does he not realise God will soon judge Jerusalem? ‘The bustling city will be deserted’. There will be an exodus of Jews from the Holy Land. Why is he hanging around? We know Peter eventually heeded this warning because he left before the conflagration and moved to Rome.

G 1v19 “But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.”

Gematria of Gal. 1 v 19 is 7,785. The remainder after 6 revolutions is 651. The 651st Bible Chapter is Prov. 23.

Prov. 23 has one of the author’s favorite Bible verses: “**Buy the truth and do not sell it**” (v 23).

Paul was a bird of another feather. He would pay his own expenses. He would tire out his ailing eyes stitching tents for a living rather than demand a salary from local believers¹. In terms of ministry Paul had not much in common with the Jerusalem apostles, a group that did not work with their hands to provide their own means.

The 651st verse of the Gospels is Matt. 20 v 3: “**And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace**”.

With apologies to ministers with a true servant heart who work diligently all week to tend the flock in home visits and pastoral care, can we all agree that being paid a salary to preach a sermon on Sunday means all the other days of the week the typical preacher or clergyman is idle?

Paul says “**but other of the apostles saw I none**”. Here is a man who has travelled a great distance to have a conversation with spiritual leaders and they are nowhere to be found.

Bible number 651 means DRUNKARDS AND GLUTTONS. I see. The Devil makes use of idle hands.

G 1v20 “Now the things which I write to you, behold, before God, I lie not.”

Gematria of Gal. 1 v 20 is 6,805. The remainder after 5 revolutions is 860. The 860th Bible Chapter is Dan 10.

Bible number 860 means OVERCOME WITH ANGUISH.

Daniel records how his insight drained him: “**Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, ... for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength**” (v 8) and “**because of the vision my sorrows overwhelmed me**” (v 16)

After an extended absence Paul went to Jerusalem. Why? It wasn’t his mission field. He was in Daniel’s agony: burdened by the dark days ahead for his kin in Jerusalem, his own people. He needed to warn them.

He took a side trip. Not for pleasure. He poured out his soul to Peter, thinking if he warned the chief apostle perhaps it might shock him to his senses. Then Peter could take care of spreading the word to the rest of the believers in Jerusalem. Paul had no time for that. He had to return to the work of his calling.

G 1v21 “Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.”

Gematria of Gal. 1 v 21 is 3,745. The remainder after 3 revolutions is 178. The 178th Bible Chapter is Deut. 25. Bible number 178 means TWO WITNESSES.

Paul begins to preach the Gospel in earnest to Gentiles in rural areas: the ‘regions’ of Syria and Cilicia. He does not go alone. He takes Barnabus with him.

¹ Later in his ministry Paul regressed and wrote to churches cajoling them to send him money. In the early days after his conversion Paul’s faith and life were the most true to the Gospel they ever would be.

Deut. 25 v 5-10 addresses a case where a woman's husband dies and she is without a son. She has the right to ask the brother of her husband to fulfil the duties of the deceased so she may give birth to a son and carry on the family name. If the brother refuses the woman can take him to court. If he still refuses the jilted woman spits in his face and removes his sandal. Such a thing would be a gross public humiliation.

The woman is the Gentile bride for whom Jesus Christ died. The apostles are Christ's brothers. It is their obligation to fulfil the duties of the deceased husband and preach to the Gentiles. The goal is to carry on the family name, Jesus Christ, by bringing forth Gentile believers.

If the apostles refuse to fulfil the duties of the husband the result would be losing their sandal, losing their ministry for the LORD. Paul is driven to preach to the Gentiles. They are not his 'wife'. He would much rather witness to his own people, the Jews. But as a brother of Jesus, Paul is duty bound to fulfil his obligation.

The 178th verse of the Gospels is Matt. 7 v 6: "**Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces**".

Why was Paul preaching in these remote rural villages in Syria and Cilicia?

We have to remember the whole world was under the domination of Rome. 'Dogs' is a Scripture type of soldiers. 'Swine' is a Scripture type of pagan believers: more intelligent than you think, violent and dangerous if provoked, undiscerning in diet, unrestrained in satisfying carnal appetites.

If you look at the map of Anatolia you will see a concentration of ancient pagan temples along the coast of the Adriatic Sea. Roman forts and cultural attractions were common in the large rich cities of Western Anatolia.

The area that Paul and Barnabas chose to concentrate their ministry was in the foothills of mountainous Eastern Anatolia, inland away from the coast.

They met resistance from Jews. There is no record of them interacting with Romans.

G 1v22 "And was unknown by face to the churches of Judaea which were in Christ."

Gematria of Gal. 1 v 22 is 9,099. The remainder after 7 revolutions is 776. The 776th Bible Chapter is Jer. 31.

Paul sorrowed at being separated from Jewish society and fellowship with Jewish believers in Christ. The sentiment was mutual:

"A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel weeping for her children... because they are no more". (Jer. 31v16)

Paul was a Benjamite². He descended from Rachel. So the child wept. And the mother wept also.

As Paul puts his hand to the task the LORD comforted him and imbued him with fresh energy for the work.

² Jerusalem is in the territory of Benjamin. Jerusalem is the capital city of Paul's ancestral homeland.

Jeremiah speaks of his refreshment: “**For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every weary soul**” (31v25).

Jeremiah promises the ministry will be blessed: “**Refrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears. For your work will be rewarded.**” (31v16)

But the ministry of Paul among the Gentiles will be unlike anything seen in the Jewish experience: “For the LORD has created a new thing – A woman shall encompass a man” (31v22)

Paul will go to Gentile believers (the figurative ‘woman’) as a servant not as an overseer (the figurative ‘man’).

Paul must become less. Christ must become more in their hearts.

One wonders whether Paul was comforted by this thought:

Jeremiah promises “**There is hope in your future, says the LORD, that your children shall come back to their own border**” (31v17)

Paul was keenly aware that Jerusalem would soon be sacked and the temple destroyed. Did Paul comprehend that in the plan of God the conversion of Gentiles across Europe would create the conditions ultimately for the Jewish people to return to the Holy Land after they were dispersed?

Was Paul encouraged in his work with Gentiles because it would ultimately serve to better his own people?

The 776th verse of the Bible is Genesis 28 v 2: “**Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother’s father and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother’s brother.**”

Isaac gave Jacob these instructions because Rebekah said “**I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth. If Jacob takes a wife of the daughters of Heth... what good will my life be?**” (Gen. 27v46).

Heth settled in Anatolia and became the Hittites. The ‘daughters of Heth’ were the Galatians who occupied this ancient region in the time of Paul. By typology Galatians represent Europeans in general³.

Isaac, son of Abraham (by faith in Jesus), represents (mostly European) Christians in power. Rebekah represents the diaspora Jews who live in Europe and who provide valuable services to Christian Europeans but are persecuted with pogroms and many indignities for hundreds of years at their hands.

Rebekah pleads with Isaac to allow Jacob to take a wife from the daughters of Laban, who lived in Paddan Aram, which was a town in the Levant, part of the larger land promised by God to Abraham as a homeland for his descendants. Jacob’s trip to Paddan Aram symbolizes the second return of the Jews. ‘Getting a wife’ is a clear allusion to possessing land. (It won’t be easy – just as it was for Jews who returned the first time).

³ See our paper: [Book of Galatians – Introduction](#).

Rebekah says “**what good will my life be?**” This foreshadows the holocaust. If Jacob doesn’t return to the Promised Land, the Jews may be wiped out. But he does. In spite of all the Jews survive to live another day.

The author believes Paul saw this and it renewed his motivation. O Paul! So human in loves and drives. So sublimely spiritual in connection with the LORD. So Christ-like in his calling:

“**who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame...**” (Heb 12v2)

G 1v23 “But they had heard only, that he who persecuted us in times past now preaches the faith which once he destroyed.”

Gematria of Gal. 1 v 23 is 7,582. The remainder after 6 revolutions is 448. The 448th Bible Chapter is Job 12.

It is verse 23 of Galatians 1. The spiritual number 23 means DEATH. The dark theme continues.

To succeed in his mission Paul must die to himself. He must set aside all he has learned and live a new life in Christ. His state of mind is described in Job 12.

His new life in Christ will be humbling. He won’t be preaching to the converted. His message will be resisted. In Gentile lands he will be reviled and insulted by most of his listeners: “**I am the one mocked by his friends, who called on God and He answered him. The just and blameless who is ridiculed.**” (v 4)

Paul accepts the role of a servant of Christ because his old life based on man’s wisdom was fruitless: “**He leads counselors away plundered and makes fools of judges** [his old role as Sanhedrin justice]” (v 17)

Like Moses before him, God removed him from the precincts of worldly power and caused him to trek into uncivilised places: “**He takes away the understanding of the chiefs of the people of the earth and makes them wander in a pathless wilderness.**” (v 24)

Paul is now an itinerant preacher. It is the most humbling and trying occupation.

He will see few instant conversions:

448th verse of Isaiah: “**The new wine fails, the vine languishes. All the merry hearted sigh**” (24v7)

His health will be taxed by the travel, diet changes, exertion, and dangers:

448th v. of Job: “**My bone clings to my skin and to my flesh... I have escaped by the skin of my teeth**” (19v20)

He faces the real prospect of martyrdom:

448th verse of Bible: “**Abraham... said ‘Would you also destroy the righteous with the wicked?’**” (18v23)

There will be days he questions his own faith:

448th verse of Gospels: “**...when Jesus had finished these parables that He departed from there.**” (Matt. 13v53)

The thought of other ministers practicing religion while he toils preaching the gospel will annoy him:

“The tents of the robbers prosper and those who provoke God are secure in what God provides..” (Job 12v6)

G 1v24 “And they glorified God.”

Gematria of Gal. 1 v 24 is 1,032. There is no remainder. The 1032nd Bible Chapter is Acts 14.

Acts 14 is the account of Paul and Barnabus preaching to the Galatians in Lystra and Derbe. During this time there was a miracle, the apostles were stoned by a mob, but in the end “**many disciples**” (v 21) were saved.

Can you imagine what that experience was like for Paul? It was like kissing for the first time⁴. A long awaited desperately wanted kiss - that would never be forgotten.

After all his trials: blinded on the road to Damascus, traveling alone in Arabia for years, ministering in Antioch, the stonings, the close escapes, the din of furious Jews shouting at him – he tasted success for the first time.

The 1,032nd verse of the Bible: **“And Jacob set a pillar on her grave, which is the pillar of Rachel’s grave to this day”** (Gen. 35v20)

This historic event of many Gentiles in foreign lands believing in the gospel of Jesus Christ lifted a burden for Paul that weighed on his heart. It was a sign from God that Rachel’s wish for Jacob to take a wife not from the daughters of Heth was answered. In time the Gentiles would convert to Christ in greater and greater numbers. All of Europe would be Christianized. The diaspora Jews would find a precarious place in Europe. They would be seen as unwelcome migrants and foreigners. But in the end Christian Europe would listen to their request to have their own home in their own country back in the Promised Land.

Bible number 1032 means: WORD OF GOD – LIFE TO MEN DEATH TO TEMPLES

When a man who was crippled from birth was healed in Lystra the local pagan priest brought a sacrifice of oxen to offer on the altar of Zeus in the pagan temple. **“when Paul and Barnabus heard this they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude [protesting] and could scarcely restrain the multitudes from sacrificing to them”** (Acts 14v14-18).

This would be the Achilles heel of Christian missions in Europe. The Gentiles thought of spirituality in terms of priests and temples. The Gospel of Paul set them free from religion but their traditional religious ways would keep drawing them back to temples, priests, and a pantheon of immortal gods (later beatified saints).

At least initially there was success. The Galatian believers were gathering in local meetings. Elders were appointed. The faith was set on a good foundation.

The struggle with religious tendencies had begun: more on that in future chapters of Galatians.

⁴ Was this the same sensation Jacob had? (Gen.29v11)

