

BOOK OF GALATIANS – VERSE BY VERSE EXEGESIS

CHAPTER 2

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: [Galatians 2 Gematria Analysis](#).

THEME OF CHAPTER

The gematria of chapter 2 is 225,292. After subtracting 189 rotations of 1189 the remainder is 571. Bible number 571 means ETERNAL THRONE. Spiritual number 571 links Galatians 2 to Psalm 93.

Psalm 93 says “**The LORD reigns. He is clothed with majesty... Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting**” (v 1-2) and “**Your testimonies are very sure; Holiness adorns Your house, O LORD, forever.**”

Our eyes are drawn back to the spiritual theme of Galatians illustrated by the Heavenly Sign Cepheus: Christ seated on the throne of David in the Heavens (see Introduction). The LORD is adorned with holiness. He is untouchable and unassailable. His Word is immutable. His character is unblemished. He is beyond reproach.

Now, imagine this. Paul is seated on the throne with Christ. He has sacrificed his own will to do Christ’s will.

From this vantage Paul is able to tap into the power of God in difficult situations. In chapter 2 Paul confronts Peter to blame him with error in a critical theological matter regarding circumcision.

Peter walked with the LORD through his entire ministry and was one of three apostles who were closest to Him. Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost and 3,000 souls were saved. Peter embodies the Christian faith.

It is no small thing for a disgraced former persecutor of the Church to stand up to a pillar of the Faith. Paul is not awed by Peter. Paul is only awed by God. Because of Paul’s faith, God uses him.

In contrast Peter is living a religious life among the Circumcision. He has transferred his identity from Cepheus to Ursa Minor. He sees the back of the throne of Christ. He is walking in darkness and he stumbles into error.

PARSING THE VERSES INTO SECTIONS

Galatians 2 has 21 verses which we divide for insight into 3 sections of 7 verses. Chapters naturally divide into the largest prime number divisor.

VERSE BY VERSE EXEGESIS

SECTION 1: GALATIANS 2 v 1 – 7

The first seven verses of Galatians 2 have a Gematria of 67,955. After 57 revolutions the remainder is 182. The 182nd Bible chapter is Deut. 29.

In Deut. 29 Moses warned Israel to keep the Covenant. The LORD drew His people out of Egypt – out of the land of bondage. He gave them freedom. But to continue to be blessed they had to keep His commands. If they went astray God said he would curse them until the land was “**brimstone, salt, and burning**” (v 23)

Clearly Paul saw circumcision of Gentiles as a gross violation of the New Covenant which Christ initiated at Calvary. If Peter succeeded in introducing this heresy faith would cease to spread among the Gentiles.

G 2v1 “Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with [me] also.”

Gematria of Gal. 2v1 is 7,654. The remainder after 6 revolutions is 520. The 520th Bible Chapter is Psa. 42.

Psa. 42 says: “**As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You O God**” (v 1) and “**O my God my soul is cast down within me; therefore I will remember you... from the heights of Harmon.**”

Paul was not super human. He was going through a dry spell in the faith. He decided to seek fellowship among other apostles. They were in Jerusalem so he went up for a visit.

According to our timeline of events (see Introduction page 4) Paul had returned to Judea to distribute a gift to the poor in 41 AD. He returned to Antioch in 44 AD. He had been in Judea for three years prior to this visit.

Why does a dry spell in the faith come into our lives? Could it be Paul’s spirituality was draining because he was not preaching to the Gentiles as he had been called to do? Paul was doing something good and useful but it was crowding out the best God wanted for him.

In verse 2 we see the purpose of Paul’s visit was to seek confirmation of his message from the pillars of the Faith. Paul has regressed in a big way. This is common in the Christian experience. Every pilgrim can attest to times of epiphany and times of despondence. God used it to get Paul back on track with his mission.

G 2v2 “And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.”

Gematria of Gal. 2v2 is 12,128. Remainder after 10 revolutions is 238. The 238th Bible Chapter is 1 Sam 2.

In Hannah’s prayer in 1 Sam 2 she exults: “**He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the beggar from the ash heap, to set them among princes and make them inherit the throne of glory**” (v 8)

This is the essence of the Gospel message Paul preached. God is able to save to the uttermost all who come to Him. He forgives our sin and He grants us eternal life and spiritual blessings. The redeemed of the LORD inherit a share in the throne of Christ, the greatest reward of all¹.

The 238th verse of the Bible is Gen. 10 v 3: “**The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphah, and Togarmah.**”

Some scholars associate Ashkenaz with Armenia and Crimea: areas Scythians (‘Askuzá’) roamed. But Gomer was a son of Japheth (Greece). Scythians originated in Central Asia: they were nomadic horse archers.

Other scholars associate Ashkenaz, Riphah, and Togarmah with Germanic tribes. Gomer is thought of as the forefather of the original German tribes along the Rhine. The author agrees with this view.

Around 800 AD Charlemagne granted Jews freedoms similar to what they knew in Rome. Jews migrated to Francia: a region in Central Europe north of the Alps. By the 11th century the majority of European Jews lived in German regions. They called themselves ‘Ashkenazi’.

The original heartland of the German tribes overlaps the original heartland of the Gauls. Once again we see dualism in God’s hand in modern history. The Gentiles will gradually convert and adopt Judeo-Christian beliefs: ‘He raises the poor [in revelation of God] from the dust’. The prosperity and life of Jews who live among them will rise with them: ‘He raises the beggar from the ash heap [Jerusalem demolished]’.

The 238th verse of Isaiah: “**The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child will put his hand in the viper’s den**” (11v8)

Germany will prove to be a dangerous place for Jews. In 1096 there were pogroms along the Rhine. Gradually through the Middle Ages Jews migrated east towards Poland (10th century), Lithuania (11th century) and Russia (12th century).

The 238th verse of the Gospels: “**At once some of the Scribes said within themselves: ‘This man blasphemes**” (Matt. 9v2)

Paul became aware at this time of personal danger because of his teaching. Rather than preaching in the street as he did in Gentile regions in highly religious Jerusalem he chose the prudent path of communicating “**privately to those who were of reputation**”.

This experience planted a seed in Paul’s heart. He must do everything possible to keep religionists away from gatherings of new believers among the Gentiles. The tender plants will take time to set down roots before they can endure the heat of the day. It is inevitable the religionists will find them out: oppression will come.

Here is the true nature of religion: it strongly opposes the Gospel. The more religious a community: the more numerous the priests, the bigger the temples/cathedrals - the more oppressed are the LORD’s sheep.

¹ The pity is, some like Edom despise their inheritance and sell it for a pot of red stew. Eternal life can’t be lost once gained. But other privileges of princely status – for if we sit on a throne, surely we are princes – can be forfeit through our choices.

G 2v3 “But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.”

Gematria of Gal. 2v3 is 4,159. Remainder after 3 revolutions is 592. The 592nd Bible Chapter is Psa. 114.

The 592nd verse of the Bible is Genesis 23v20:

“So the field and the cave that is in it were deeded to Abraham by the sons of Heth as [land] for a burial plot”

Who were the sons of Heth? We know them as the Hittites. They occupied the central Anatolian plains. The same territory the Galatians occupied in the time of Paul.



It was extremely uncommon for people to sell land to foreigners. Heth was a son of Canaan, the son of Ham. These sons of Heth demonstrated a level of reverence for Abraham that superseded their ethnic blood ties. It was a kernel of faith that would grow from the size of a mustard seed to the largest herb in the garden. The homeland of the Hittites would become the first place the Gentiles accepted Jesus in large numbers.

Psalm 114: **“When Israel went out from Egypt... Judah became His sanctuary and Israel His dominion.”** (v1)

Ancient Egypt was an ultra-religious nation. The whole land was filled with temples and idols. The Pharaoh was obsessed with arranging his administration according to the whims of the gods. The calendar was filled with holy days. The culture of the people was soaked in religious ideas and religious practices.

The Exodus is the case study of what happens when believers are freed from religious oppression. Some groups deepen their faith: ‘Judah became His sanctuary’, other groups find a new identity, strengthened their allegiance to the LORD in gratitude for their freedom: ‘Israel became His dominion’.

In a nutshell the whole history of Judah and Israel is imbedded in this primal response to freedom. Judah was dedicated to the new faith, but this evolved into hard hearted legalism: (the ‘cave’). Israel did not bother to deepen their faith, and this evolved into a tendency to backslide and go after false gods: (the ‘field’).

From the record it appears the Galatians were falling into the second category of backsliders, and the Jerusalem apostles were falling into the first category of hard hearted legalists.

G 2v4 “And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privately to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage.”

Gematria of Gal. 2v4 is 15,568. Remainder after 13 revolutions is 111. The 111st Bible Chapter is Lev. 21.

Paul was on the radar of the Jewish establishment. The High Priest of the Jews was on the lookout for trouble makers in the Jewish ecosystem, at home and abroad. Paul was known to be a trouble maker – from the time he preached Christ in Damascus.

Paul was keenly aware agents of the High Priest were monitoring his location and activity. Why do wolves stalk deer and cast a piercing gaze? They intend to do harm.

Paul tried to keep a low profile but the agents found him. One possible reason for Paul to meet the apostles was to see if ill will towards his message was coming from them or agents outside them.

Bible number 111 = 3 x 37 which translates as BINDING (3) <of> CHOSEN SERVANT (37)

The 37th chapter of the Bible is Genesis 37 which is the account of Joseph’s dreams. In Genesis 37 we find the 1093rd verse (which links to the 1093rd Bible Chapter – Galatians 2):

“Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said ‘Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time the Sun, the Moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.’” (v8)

We all know the story of Joseph. He rose to command Egypt. In the course of time his father (Sun) and his father’s household (Moon) and his brothers (11 stars) all bowed down to his authority. What is prophetic Egypt in the time of Paul? ‘Egypt’ is the ultra-religious state, Judea. Who is Joseph? ‘Joseph’ is the High Priest: he who rules over all Egypt with absolute authority.

The 111th Chapter of the Bible is Leviticus 21 – which describes requirements of the priests: **“they shall be holy to their God”** (v6), **“nor shall he go out of the sanctuary”** (v12), **“not take a wife who is a harlot”** (v7), etc. All these requirements BOUND (3) the CHOSEN SERVANT (37) to an ultra-religious lifestyle.

What is the chief concern of the priest? Ensuring everyone in the nation, especially the king and the princes, show proper respect toward the priest and loyalty to the religion. Bible Number 111 means FEAR OF THE LORD. In a religion, the chief priest is supreme master. He is the Holy One before whom all must bow.

The Chief Priest of Judaism was powerful and highly motivated to root out opposition and sedition. Paul’s Gospel was kryptonite to religious super-men. Paul knew he was found out. This meant he would be chased and harassed and be the target of every dirty trick (e.g. spies) until he was killed or imprisoned. Paul’s message was ‘Life to Men: Death to Temples’. If the Chief Priest had no temple he could not be holy.

111th verse of Job: **“Oh that my grief were fully weighed and my calamity weighed with it on the scales”** (6v2)

Paul was in distress over the High Priest. But equally, the High Priest was in distress over Paul.

G 2v5 “To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.”

Gematria of Gal. 2v5 is 6,550. Remainder after 5 revolutions is 605. The 605th Bible Chapter is Psa. 127.

The 605th verse of the Bible is Gen. 24v13: “Behold, I stand by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water”

The servant of Abraham was an agent. He was sent to a foreign land to find a wife for Isaac. The ‘well of water’ is a ministry of God, a place where life-giving water is drawn out of rock, a place where free believers meet. The ‘men of the city’ are the powers that be: secular and religious. The ‘daughters of the men of the city’ are believers [mostly rural folk] who come out from under the authority of powerful men in castles and in temples and seek a direct personal relationship with the LORD.

Early Christians described themselves as ‘called out ones’.

No armed force was guarding the well. The agent was standing by the well. He could not prevent the Gospel from spreading. He could only watch the Gospel spread.

Psalms 127 says “Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it” (v1)

Here is the genius of the Divine plan for the spread of the Gospel: the Kingdom of God is ethereal. True Christianity has no flag, no capital city, no armed troops, no temples, no land, no priests in holy robes, no liturgy, no religious rites requiring clergy. The Kingdom of God is not in rivalry with the kingdoms of this world. Worldly ambitious men who seek fame, fortune, or power find it completely unattractive, even repulsive.

Paul says ‘To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour’. Neither Paul nor anyone in his entourage sought to make peace with the ‘men of the city’ by means of treaty wherein they render honor or coin or recognition. Paul simply preached the Gospel and ignored the ‘men of the city’ – Paul dug a well outside the town – and waited for believers who were called to come and receive spiritual life.

Churches who apply for charitable status have made a treaty with the ‘men of the city’. Likewise, churches who own land, who are entangled in civil regulations, who collect tithes to pay for their buildings and ministries, etc. These types of congregations are not ‘free believers’ composed of ‘called-out ones’.

The ‘daughters’ came out to draw water. Each carried her own vessel. Each filled her own vessel. Each paid no money to draw water. Free believers study the Bible for themselves. The Holy Spirit enlightens their hearts. They aren’t dependent on a professional minister. Paul planted these congregations – then Paul left!

The servant of Abraham was looking for an official. Someone he could make a deal with to obtain a wife. He found no such person at the well outside town.

G 2v6 “**But of these who seemed to be something, (whatever they were, it makes no matter to me: God accepts no man's person) for they who seemed** [to be something] **in conference added nothing to me.**”

Gematria of Gal. 2v6 is 12,518. Remainder after 10 revolutions is 628. The 628th Bible Chapter is Psa. 150.

The 628th verse of the Bible: “**And Sarah my master’s wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and to him he has given all he has.**” (Gen. 24v36)

These words were spoken by the (nameless) chief steward of Abraham’s house who ruled over all he has. This chief steward is a type of ruler. Abraham was the head of the household, but he was old, and he conferred that duty to his chief steward. Isaac was the heir, but not yet the ruler.

This chief steward is a type of a religious man who takes the role of ruling over God’s household of faith. Their work may be profitable to them if they use their position to enrich themselves: (628th verse of Job): “**...he heaps up silver like dust and piles up clothing like clay**” (Job 27v16).

But by no means will their work of stewardship earn them any favor or reward or distinction from God.

For this reason Paul is unimpressed with men in positions of high authority in a religious system: ‘but of those who seemed to be something (whatever they were it makes no matter to me)’

Psa. 150 says “**Let everything that has breath praise the LORD**” (v 6). Believers like Paul who take that to heart don’t waste their breath to praise men. Nor do they permit men to praise them.

If you were to visit Abraham’s house, Abraham being aged might be asleep in a tent. Isaac being a youth might have wandered into the vineyard to smell the flowers. The owners and the heir were invisible. But the chief steward would be front and center, dressed in finery, welcoming guests, doing business with traders. His tent would be large. His voice would be loud. His worldly gravitas would be impressive.

But the chief steward was merely a hireling. He wasn’t a family member. He would be forgotten to history. His name wasn’t even worth recording. From the Divine perspective he was nothing.

G 2v7 “**But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed to me, as of the circumcision** [was] **to Peter.**”

Gematria of Gal. 2v7 is 9,378. Remainder after 7 revolutions is 1,055. The 1,055th Bible Chapter is Rom. 9.

The 1,055th verse of Isaiah is chapter 52v13: “**Behold My servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high**”. This refers to Paul (who is seated with Christ – highly exalted).

Paul has chosen the path of servanthood. The path of overseer – religious ruler – he eschewed.

Isaiah 52 is often interpreted to speak of the Messiah. It also speaks of the messengers God will send to proclaim salvation after He has risen from the dead: “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news... who proclaims salvation” (v7).

Messengers will preach Christ crucified: “The LORD has laid bare His holy arm” (v10a) to the Gentiles: “in the eyes of all the nations. And all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God” (v10b)

In his dealings with the religious leaders in Jerusalem, Paul displayed great prudence. They consented for Paul to preach the gospel to the uncircumcised and themselves to preach to the circumcised.

There are not two gospels for two peoples as this bargain might suggest. There is one gospel for all peoples. The agreement simply divided the field of ministry.

But as Paul explains in Romans, the circumcised were (mostly) gospel resistant unbelievers:

Speaking of the descendants of Jacob: “my countrymen according to the flesh... to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises... from whom Christ came” (v 3-5) are not all believers “for they are not all Israel who are of Israel” (v 6) because “those who are children of the flesh, these are not the children of God” (v 8).

In Romans 9, Paul quotes Hosea who predicts (most) believers will not be descendants of Jacob:

“I will call them My People who were not My People... they shall be called the sons of the living God” (v25)

Paul dealt prudently. Peter was a fool to take this bargain. Jews are a tiny percent of world population. Peter chose the cherry. Paul chose the cake. The legacy of Paul in the history of Europe is immense. Peter is a footnote in that history. [Catholics made something of him, but they canonized 10,000 others too].

SECTION 2: GALATIANS 2 v 8 – 14

The second set of seven verses of Galatians 2 has a gematria of 78,633. After 66 revolutions the remainder is 159. The 159th Bible chapter is Deut. 6.

Deut. 6 is a warning: “when the LORD brings you into the land of which he swore to... Abraham... to give you large and beautiful cities... houses full of all good things... when you have eaten and are full... then beware lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt from the house of bondage.” (v10-12)

The 159th verse of the Gospels: “For where your treasure is there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6v21)

We would suppose it is the general experience of new converts to Jesus to go through an initial phase of enthusiasm for the things of God. With time the victorious Christian life becomes normalized and the natural tendency is to relax and enjoy the blessings.

This is what happened to the apostles in Jerusalem. They found contentment in the ultra-religious atmosphere of the great city Jerusalem. Despite the fact they were rural Galileans their hearts changed and they loved all things Judean: the great Temple, the annual feasts, the daily sacrifice, the time honored rituals.

Paul was the opposite. He began as a Jerusalem enthusiast but after his conversion transitioned to a rural gospel worker. Being a sworn adversary of the High Priest his lifestyle in Judaism could never be comfortable. He was immunized against the seduction of the Jewish religion.

The two camps of Christianity, Paul's and Peter's, came into collision when the Circumcision reached the congregations of Galatian believers in Anatolia. The conclusion of the matter is instructive for the Christian faith: the Gospel of Christ is incompatible with religion. There can never be compromise on this point.

Deut. 6 declares: **"Hear O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one!"** (v 4)

There is not one rule for how Gentile believers live and another rule for how Jewish believers live. Both have been set free from the old way of legalistic obedience to follow Christ in the new way according to the Spirit.

G 2v8 "For He that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles."

Gematria of Gal. 2v8 is 5,549. Remainder after 4 revolutions is 793. The 793rd Bible Chapter is Jer. 48.

Jer. 48 is the vivid description of the fall of the ancient people of Moab, the descendants of Lot. Lot was the nephew of Abraham. Israelites treated them respectfully as relatives even though they worshipped the war god Chemosh. David was part Moabite via Ruth – his great grandmother.

The Moabites hired Balaam to curse Israel. Moab continued to detest Israel and was a hostile neighbor throughout their history until David made them a vassal state.

Moses was buried in an unmarked grave in Moab. He was permitted to see the Promised Land but he could not enter because of his disobedience when he struck the rock twice to bring forth water.

In the day of Paul the Circumcision sect were the figurative Moabites within Christian circles. They were ethnic relatives. They were religious zealots. But their practices imposed religious rituals on believers never taught by Jesus. They were a party of the elite establishment. They rejected the grace by faith teaching of Paul. They sat aloof and would not eat with lower caste Gentiles, even those who believed in Jesus.

Paul says Peter was the apostle of this group. Peter put himself in opposition to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jer. 48 declares his fall: **"Bemoan him, all you who are around him who know his name, say 'How the strong staff is broken, the beautiful rod!"** (v17)

The 793rd verse of the Bible is Genesis 28v18: **"And he called the name of that place 'Bethel'; but the name of that city had been Luz previously"**.

According to Abarim Publications the verb *luz* means to 'turn aside' and the noun *lazut* means deviation or crookedness. The noun *luz* means almond wood. Like the wood of other fruiting trees the grain of almond wood is not straight but whorled, knotty and hard.

Now we see the connection to Jer. 48. The 'beautiful rod' of Aaron that budded was an almond branch (Num. 17). This miracle silenced murmuring among the Levites and confirmed Aaron's place as a holy priest.

Peter was insistent that he was first among equals, the chief apostle in Jerusalem. (Later, this vanity infected the Bishop of Rome and became the core ethos of the Catholic religion.) When Jer. 48 says 'how the strong staff is broken' it means, like the knotty almond wood, the leader of the faith has erred and become corrupt. As leader of Christian believers their ministry is rejected: barred from burning incense before the LORD.

If a religious man invites you to come to the 'house of God' [Bethel] (where he presides as clergyman overseer) you tell him the correct name is 'crooked and perverse generation' [Luz] that Jesus warned us about.

G 2v9 "And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we [should go] to the heathen, and they to the circumcision."

Gematria of Gal. 2v9 is 13,575. Remainder after 11 revolutions is 496. The 496th Bible Chapter is Psa. 18.

Paul describes the experience of dealing with these narrow minded high and mighty Jerusalem apostles as follows: "He drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy. From those who hated me. For they were too strong for me." (Psa. 18 v 16-17)

But the LORD intervened from Heaven and steadied the resolve of Paul to contend for the faith he received by revelation. For "You will save the humble people, but will bring down haughty looks" (v 27)

His righteous soul must have been seething. (Just as Jesus was whenever He visited Jerusalem.)

The 496th verse of the Gospels: "Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you" (Matt. 15 v 7)

"These people draw near to Me with their mouth and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me. Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men" (Matt. 15 8-9)

It was a cold embrace. Neither party considered the other close family, merely distant relatives. Both parties were glad to see the other leave and hoped they would never cross paths again.

The 496th verse of Isaiah: "Come my people, enter your chambers and shut the door behind you. Hide yourself for a moment, until the indignation is past" (ch 26 v 20)

G 2v10 "Only [they would] that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do."

Gematria of Gal. 2v10 is 9,031. Remainder after 7 revolutions is 708. The 708th Bible Chapter is Isa. 29.

As Paul turned his back and strode off to the mission field he mused on the Jerusalem apostle's request to remember the poor. Paul was the poor one. He had no congregation supplying his needs. But the tables would be turned and the Jerusalem apostles would be dumped from their high perch of reputation and entitlement when the Romans tore the city down.

Isa. 29 describes the fall of Jerusalem (Ariel):

"I will encamp against you all around. I will lay siege against you with a mound... you shall be brought down, you shall speak out of the ground" (v 3-4)

This is foreshadowed by the 708th verse of the Bible: (Gen. 26v15)

"Now the Philistines [Roman Governors (in alliance with the High Priest)] had stopped up all the wells [public preaching] which his father's servants [apostles] had dug in the days of Abraham [Jesus] and they had filled them with earth [love of worldly things]"

G 2v11 "But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed."

Gematria of Gal. 2v11 is 8,922. Remainder after 7 revolutions is 599. The 599th Bible Chapter is Psa. 121.

The audacity of Paul to challenge Peter is remarkable. Paul is the man of no reputation. The resume of his past includes violently persecuting the saints. He has spent many years in anonymity – living in Arabia and the regions of Syria and Cilicia. He has gathered no sect of believers around him to provide him with recognition.

Paul is not technically one of the twelve apostles. (Judas was replaced with Mattias. When James was martyred he was replaced with another James, the brother of Jesus.) How can Paul rebuke or correct such a distinguished leader of the faith as Peter?

Psalms 121 says: **"My help comes from the LORD... the Sun will not strike you by day nor the Moon by night"**

The 'Sun' is the figurative head of the church, which to the religious mind, is Peter: first among the apostles. But to Paul Jesus Christ is the head of the church. So his defense of the Gospel was empowered by God. He could stand up to man's religion in all its vain glory.

What was Peter doing in Antioch? He was doing what all religionists do: working to expand his domain.

Peter is foreshadowed by the chief steward of Abraham (see v.5) who was given instructions from his master:

The 599th verse of the Bible: **"The LORD God of Heaven, who took Me from my father's house and from the land of my family, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying 'To your descendants I give this land'. He will send His Angel before you and you will take a wife for my son from there"** (Gen. 24v7)

Delusion fills the minds of religious men. Peter was leading a religious sect. Such men think they are serving God – but they are not. They think their work is mandated by the LORD – but it is not. They claim Abraham is their father – but he is not. The ‘angel’ who went before him was a religious spirit. Such a spirit could not possibly be authorized by God in Heaven since its work is contrary to the Gospel. Lies! Lies! Damned lies!

A wife is a type of a field or land. A son is a type of ruler. So, it was in Peter’s mind was to claim religious adherents (a wife) in the foreign field (land) who would be subordinate to Abraham’s son (the Circumcision).

Peter has gone totally off the rails. He believes his religious sect is the fulfilment of all God’s promises to Abraham. It is doubtful he is even thinking of Jesus. His allegiance has switched to Abraham’s descendants in the flesh. His sect is back under the Law of Moses. His sect is required to keep the Circumcision.

As much as he abhors Gentiles, he takes up this venture because he craves a larger personal domain.



*Do not the phases of
the Moon look like
the circumcision of
male anatomy?*

(The Moon is a prophetic type of Man’s Religion. See our paper: [The Moon](#) on our page [STARS](#))

G 2v12 “For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.”

Gematria of Gal. 2v12 is 13,791. Remainder after 11 revolutions is 712. The 712th Bible Chapter is Isa. 33.

Peter was first among the apostles in public prominence but it was James, the brother of Jesus, who was the real ringleader of the Circumcision and de facto Bishop of Jerusalem. It was this James who boasted to Paul years later “**You see, brother, how many myriads of Jews there are who have believed and they are all zealous for the law**” (Acts 21 v 20). Peter may have been the public face of organized Christianity but James was the power behind the throne.

James was likely an agent of the High Priest and Peter knew it. If James was offended he could report Peter to the High Priest who might send temple guards and bring a disturber of the peace before the court.

Isa. 33 says: “**The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness has seized the hypocrites: ‘Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?’**” (v14)

Peter was unstable. He could be bold and brave when filled with the Spirit as on the Day of Pentecost. He could be a coward as he showed when he denied Christ three times to the servant girl.

In the 712th verse of the Gospels Jesus describes a two-faced son like Peter:

“Then he came to the second [son of his] and said [‘go to work today in my Vineyard’]. And he answered and said ‘I go sir’ but he did not” (Matt. 21v30).

Peter had weak character. But he had even poorer judgment. His mistake was tarrying in Jerusalem and allowing religion to soak into his soul.

After the persecution of Stephen believers in Jerusalem scattered. As they went they told others about Christ. Some from Cyprus and Cyrene told Hellenists and **“a great number believed and turned to the LORD”** (Acts 11v21). Barnabus left Jerusalem and encouraged them. He then got Paul they ministered together in Antioch.

Literally the last words Jesus spoke to the apostles at his ascension were:

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses of Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1v8)

But Peter and the rest of the apostles disobeyed. They stubbornly stayed in Jerusalem. The power of the Holy Spirit was working on the frontier of the spread of the Gospel, like a tsunami of water washing the knowledge of the LORD over the earth. The apostles were left high [exalted religionists] and dry [grieving the Holy Spirit].

G 2v13 “And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.”

Gematria of Gal. 2 v 13 is 9,824. Remainder after 8 revolutions is 312. The 312th Bible Chapter is 1 Kings 21.

In Jezebel’s conspiracy to falsely accuse Naboth and defraud him of his vineyard it says in 1 Kings 21:

“So the men of the city, the elders and nobles who were inhabitants of his city, did as Jezebel sent to them, as it was written in the letters which she had sent” (v 11)

Ahab was the King of the land and all lived in fear of crossing his will. He had the authority to elevate a person’s status and to erase a person’s status. But Jezebel was the power behind the throne.

None of us should think we are better than Barnabus - who lost his composure under trial. Even the most godly person can quake in the presence of abusive authority:

The 312th verse of the Bible: (Abram says to Sarai) **“Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you”** (Gen. 12v13)

But servants like Naboth, who stand their ground in the face of threats, are martyrs of the faith and will be celebrated as witnesses for God for all eternity.

The 312th verse of the Gospels: “He who finds his life will lose it; and he who loses his life for my sake will find it” (Matt. 10v39).

G 2v14 “But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before [them] all, If you, being a Jew, live after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why do you compel the Gentiles to live as the Jews?”

Gematria of Gal. 2v14 is 17,941. Remainder after 15 revolutions is 106. The 106th Bible Chapter is Lev. 16.

Leviticus 16 is the account of the Day of Atonement: once a year the High Priest entered the inner sanctum of the temple with blood to make atonement for all the sins of Israel.

The Day of Atonement was prophetically fulfilled when Christ entered the temple in Heaven with His own blood (Heb. 9v11-12). When that happened the need for priests on earth to conduct rituals according to the law of Moses disappeared.

The 106th verse of the Gospels: “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven”(Matt. 5v16).

The world is our mission field and we are free to move in it, to associate with Gentiles, and to live in the manner of Gentiles.

There is no longer any reason to have a temple [metaphorical ‘cave’] that believers retreat into. All Jewish ceremonies occur at night in the darkness of a tent or a temple or a home. All the candles that have been lit on millions of candlesticks in Jewish synagogues and in the halls of organized Christian religion for millennia only prove these places of worship are in darkness.

The Jewish culture is traditionalist, religionist, and isolationist. It is completely opposite to the Way of Jesus.

Peter wished to compel Gentiles to live as Jews. Ought he not teach Gentiles to live as Christ? Who was an itinerant preacher. Who did not own a house (or have a wife or have a field). Who shared the good news with foreigners (Samaritan woman)? Who preached in the open air, on mountains, or beside the sea?

We are the people of the Day not the night. Our Savior entreats us: ‘Let your light shine before men’.

SECTION 3: GALATIANS 2 v 15 – 21

The third set of seven verses of Galatians 2 has a gematria of 78,704. After 66 revolutions the remainder is 230. The 230th Bible chapter is Judges 19. Bible number 230 means DISGRACEFUL ACTS.

In Judges 19 a Levite was travelling with his concubine from Bethlehem back to the remote mountains in Ephraim. He stopped in Gibeah, a town in Benjamin, where he met another man from Ephraim who took him in his home. The men of the city beat on the door of the house saying “**Bring out the man who came to your house that we may know him carnally**” (v22).

(NB The tribes of Israel all had their own territory except Levites. Levites lived in sanctuary towns and moved through all territories freely. As servants of the LORD Levites did not possess weapons. They did not fight in wars. They did not serve in national armies. They were a threat to no one.)

The men of Gibeah wanted to rape the Levite. Instead the man from Ephraim who lived in Benjamin (Peter) gave them his daughter and the Levite’s concubine. The concubine died from molestation – gang rape.

Why did the ‘men of the city’ (Circumcision religious faction) ‘knock on the door of the house’ (visit the gathering of Gentile believers in Antioch) and ‘ask to know the Levite carnally’? They hated the Levite (Paul) with a fury: Paul was notorious for his deviation from the Pharisaical version of Jewish law keeping.

There is a clue in Judges 19v13. When it was almost night the servant of the Levite suggested they rest in Jebus (Jerusalem) but the Levite said “**We will not turn aside here into a city of foreigners, who are not of the children of Israel**”. The Levite was avoiding Jerusalem whenever possible (the same as Paul). He did not want his righteous soul – his love for God - to be polluted by religious influence (the same as Paul).

There was a grain of truth in what the Levite said. The forefathers of the Pharisees originated in cloisters of Jews who lived in Babylon during the first diaspora. They invented numerous teachings and practices that were extra-Biblical. Then returned to the Holy Land and taught their new religion as if it was from God.

The Levite, who was from the mountains of Ephraim, considered the ultra-religious in Jerusalem to be so divergent from his own humble ministry that they were to be avoided like a foreign nationality. Word of this comment must have been reported by the Levite’s servant and kindled the ire of local Benjamites.

The ugly scene in Gibeah was a religious war started by a group of ultra-religious traditionalists against God’s humble, faithful, and gracious servant.

The Gospel of salvation by grace through faith is the sworn foe of all religions which require observance of laws, regulations, and rituals in a vain attempt to earn God’s favor through religious works.

It has been this way since Abram heard the call of God and left Ur.

It is dangerous to be an itinerant preacher of the Gospel. Religionists hate the witness of freedom in Christ.

G 2v15 “We [who are] Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,”

Gematria of Gal. 2v15 is 4,805. Remainder after 4 revolutions is 49. The 49th Bible Chapter is Gen. 49.

Gen. 49 details the besetting sins of the sons of Jacob:

Reuben: “you went up on your father’s bed; then you defiled it” (v4)

Levites: “instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling... for in their anger they slew a man” (v5-7)

Dan: “a viper by the path that bites the horse’s heels so that its rider falls backwards” (v17)

Benjamin: “a ravenous wolf... devours the prey... divide the spoil” (v27)

The 49th verse of the Bible is Genesis 18: “And the LORD God said ‘It is not good for man to be alone; I will make a helper comparable to him’” (v18)

For a brief period David expanded the borders and Solomon elevated the culture and influence of Israel. But Israel never vied for hegemony in the wider region. For most of its history Israel was out-classed by neighbors with much larger armies and economies.

Israel excelled at producing elite counsellors who served in the highest courts of the kings of the earth: Egypt (Joseph), Babylon (Daniel), and Persia (Mordicai). In modern times Jews have produced legions of doctors, lawyers, scientists, writers, and bankers. These wise men provided sought after services in foreign lands.

Jews have been like a wife (Eve) in the service of rulers (Adam) of great nations. They have been trusted with intimate information and they have behaved professionally.

The downside for the Jews is the exposure to corruption at the highest level of power. Being so intimate and familiar with a nation’s business, they possessed information that could be exploited for personal gain. As they grew in riches and influence they became the object of envy and jealousy. Monstrous rivals arose, fueled by ethnic hatred, who sought to erase them from power.

‘I will make a helper comparable to him’

The sins of Gentile rulers: ambition, greed, and lawlessness became besetting sins of the Jews too. Jews began as humble housewives and devoted servants to rulers but morphed into controlling wives who used their talents and intellect to steer foolish rulers into bad decisions.

The word ‘Jacob’ means ‘deceiver’. If Jews developed a tendency to take advantage of powerful men they came by it honestly. It was in the genes of their forefather.

The word ‘Japheth’ means ‘open mouth’. Jews couldn’t fool other sons of Shem who knew them too well. But Greeks were very foolish and easily led astray by their uncontrollable lusts. So for hundreds of years European kings waged costly wars against each other and Jewish bankers made profits from loaning both sides money.

Of course, millions of Jews who did not occupy positions of great power and influence lived honest lives of hard work and thrift. The world should be grateful for the contributions of the Jews!

The point Paul is making is insofar as sin is concerned, being Jewish has not been superior to being Gentile. Both are sinners. And Jews have produced sinners as notorious as any other race.

G 2v16 “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

Gematria of Gal. 2v16 is 25,010. Remainder after 21 revolutions is 41. The 41st Bible Chapter is Gen. 41.

If the reader were to reflect on the world system (of Satan) he would see no one is ever a winner.

Sports heroes bring their team to the heights of winning a championship. But the victor's wreath decays and in only a few months they must compete against long odds to win again.

Great presidents get elected. They strut on the political stage for a few acts, then their term is up and they are president no more. One day they are applauded and feted. The next day they are has-beens who pay for their own meals. Another show is on at the theatre. Another buffoon thinks he is a winner.

Religious systems are no better. The minions toil in prison conditions where their taskmasters exhort them to make more bricks (or whatever the religious law requires). Meanwhile the taskmasters curse their bad luck to be put in charge of such a pathetic lot of unappreciative, indolent, rebellious, ignorant sinners.

There are no winners: “A man is not justified by the works of the law”. Laws only heap more sin in our accounts each passing day. We might be model prisoners but we can never get out of that uniform.

Jesus Christ is a winner. He is *the* winner. He won it all. He sits on the throne of David exalted in the Heavens.

He offers to share His winner status – eternally – with anyone who has faith and bends the knee.

We who believe are justified. There is no longer any record of sin against us. ‘Just-as if’ we never sinned.

Gen. 41 is the account of Joseph's rise to the pinnacle of power in Egypt. He used his power to enrich himself and his king. Joseph is as close to a winner the world will ever see. No one replaced him until he died. He enjoyed all his privileges for the rest of his adult life. He had a wife and children and lived in an estate.

In the end Joseph was a loser. When it came time for him to be blessed by his father (allegorically the Father in Heaven) Joseph received no inheritance in the Promised Land. It was given to others. Few Jews name their children Joseph (but Catholics do). History, in the Bible, exposed his cruelty and underhanded tactics.

G 2v17 “But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, [is] therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.”

Gematria of Gal. 2v17 is 10,354. Remainder after 8 revolutions is 842. The 842nd Bible Chapter is Eze. 40.

Believers are still sinners. We are upheld by God's grace continually. But if we use our freedom to support the forces working against God how can He uphold us? 'God forbid' we do such a thing!

The 842nd verse of the Bible is Gen. 30v11: "**Then Leah said 'A troop comes!'. So she called his name Gad.**"

The tribe of Gad lived on the other side of the Jordan in the ancient territory of Ammon [opposite Jericho, south of the Jabbok River]. Gad is prophetic of Spanish (and Portuguese) colonies overseas who were conquered and plundered for resources. The local populations were subjected to Catholicism.

Leah is a type of the Queen of Spain. Delirious with joy that a son of another woman (Zilpah was the mother) would use military conquest to fill her coffers with gold and silver.

The historical queens of Spain were pious. They were some of the most entrenched Catholics to ever live. They believed the Pope was infallible. They were convinced the Catholic life was the Christian life.

The Bible says of Leah her "**eyes are weak**" (Gen. 29v17). She had poor perception. Spiritually she was dull. Jacob loved Rachel. Rachel was spiritually gifted (but had other failings). Rachel gave birth to Joseph – a spiritually gifted boy. Leah gave birth to sons with weak judgment (Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah) – even to the point of out of control sinfulness in the case of the first two.

Genuine Christians need to disentangle themselves from earthly loyalty to kings, queens, and religions. Our eyes need to be on Christ, seated above in glory. Christ's wishes must become our desires. If we fail to cut our heart ties to this world we will end up the worst of sinners because we will do the bidding of worldly men whose motivations are sinful and ungodly (not to mention the spiritual powers of evil that control them).

The 842nd chapter of the Bible is Ezekiel 40 which is the description of a Last Days temple. All the measurements are wrong compared to the Tabernacle of Moses. The worst feature is the temple is it is surrounded by a high wall. Presumably inside are religious acolytes who have cut themselves off from the rest of the world and live in a 'holy' cloister of their own perverse design.

Christ commanded us to 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel'. Religion works in the opposite direction. It pulls believers out of the world and draws them into exclusive communions. Believers cease to be the 'salt of the world' and become useless for Christ's service. Christ will cut them off from His support.

The 842nd verse of the Gospels: "**Immediately after the tribulation of those days the Sun will be darkened and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of Heaven with power and great glory**" (Matt. 24v30).

You foolish deluded religionists! Do you think your religious works will take you to Heaven? Your religion will become unglued and turn to dust when Christ returns. The name of your religion will never be mentioned in Heaven. How do you think it has the power to take you there?

G 2v18 “For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.”

Gematria of Gal. 2v18 is 5,961. Remainder after 5 revolutions is 16. The 16th Bible Chapter is Gen. 16.

Genesis 16 is the account of Sarai giving Abram her maid Hagar so that “**I shall obtain children by her**” (v2).

Hagar was an Egyptian slave girl. The spiritual giant Abram agreed to this! Did he think physical descendants raised by a girl of a different race and culture would be the way to build a family?

Abram began his journey when God commanded him to “**Get out from your country, from your family, and from your father’s house, to a land I will show you...**” (Gen. 12v1)

Wouldn’t fathering physical descendants count as rebuilding his father’s house? Wouldn’t starting a family count as rebuilding the family he came from?

The child of promise was going to be a miraculous child. God waited until Sarai was too old to have a child. God knit Isaac in his mother’s womb. (God probably knit the womb too.)

Isaac came from the seed of Abraham. But his form in the womb was supernaturally wrought. Sarai had a child that did not come the natural way.

All this was to emphasize the children God desires come by faith not by works. Isaac did not come because Abraham and Sarah were physical specimens able to conceive and bear in their elderly years. Isaac came because of God’s promise and God’s power. All God expected of Abraham and Sarah was to believe and wait until the appointed time came.

The natural child Ishmael was rebuilding the family of Abram. The supernatural child Isaac was building the family of God. Through Isaac the Savior of the World would descend. Through Ismael the Arabs would descend. Arabs are a notable family with many descendants but just children of the flesh like the rest of humanity. Not spiritually gifted - but religious - as you would expect the children of Hagar the Egyptian to be.

Paul writes: ‘If I build again the things I destroyed I make myself a transgressor’.

Every man, woman and child who believes Christ died for their sins is a new creation. They experience a supernatural rebirth. They leave their family of the flesh and join the family of God, whose Father ‘art in Heaven’. It was common in the past for new believers to take a new name - indicating a full break with their natural family line. (And truly we do receive a new name given to us by God when we believe.)

All the eternal blessings come to the new believer by grace through faith.

If believers have natural children, those offspring are fleshly. They have no right to be included in the family of God unless they believe. Yet time and time again, believers have found ways to include them by works. Some Christian religions baptize infants for this purpose. Other Christian religions have ‘confirmation’ ceremonies which confer on them the privileges of church membership.

Before long the pews are full of religious people, faithful to their religious tradition but unregenerate in their souls and unresponsive to the Gospel. This is a grievous error. Paul calls it a transgression.

G 2v19 “For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live to God.”

Gematria of Gal. 2v19 is 4,673. Remainder after 3 revolutions is 1,106. The 1,106th Bible Chapter is Php. 3.

Philippians 3 summarizes Paul’s entire teaching in the Book of Galatians:

“For we are the circumcision [of the heart] who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh” (Php. 3v3).

The 1,106th verse of the Bible is Genesis 37v22:

“And Reuben said to them ‘Shed no blood’. ‘Cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness and do not lay a hand on him’ – that he might deliver him [Joseph] out of their hands and bring him back to his father [Jacob]”

Joseph had a vision where all his brothers, his father and his mother bowed down to him.

Everyone else in the family could see such a regime would be slavery. It was contrary to the way of Abraham which taught believers to treat one another with love, honor, respect and bow down to God alone.

Reuben’s brothers wanted to kill Joseph on the spot. Reuben knew this would be murder. So he pleaded for time to rescue Joseph. The lad was expressing heretical views. But with proper instruction he might repent.

Philippians 3 speaks of the same apprehension with which religious legalism (slavery to religious overseers who make the rules) must be viewed:

“Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation” (v2)

“For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you with weeping, they are the enemies of the Cross of Christ. Whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is their shame – who set their minds on earthly things.” (v18-19)

‘For I through the law am dead to the law’

Paul was like a reformed gangster. Paul had already gone through the full experience of submission to a rigorous set of religious laws. Through his legalistic training he became a violent persecutor of free Christians. Then he met the LORD and was set free. Paul could never go back.

Paul’s only wish was ‘that I may live for God’. Philippians 3:

“Yet indeed I also count all [worldly] things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ” (v8)

Today the world has turned upside down - the majority of believers accept the teaching of Joseph and belong to an organized religious sect where they sit under the authority of men. Free believers are detested and thrown into a pit in the wilderness. Galatians (Europeans) began as tribal chiefdoms. The glove fits them.

G 2v20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

Gematria of Gal. 2v20 is 19,643. Remainder after 16 revolutions is 619. The 619th Bible Chapter is Psalm 141.

Psalm 141 concludes: **“Let the wicked fall into their own nets while I escape safely.”** (v10)

What is the alternative to freedom? Bondage. Who wants that? Apparently everybody.

‘into their own nets’

Sin, the flesh, and the Devil conspire to offer us only two possible career paths: oppressor [Joseph] or oppressed [holy people in Egypt]; liar [religious teacher] or deceived [religious devotee]; glutton [upper class] or famishing [underclass]. All these occupations are traps and snares for those caught in them. The rich get richer (and spiritually poorer). The liar tells bigger lies (and strays farther from the truth). The oppressor is soaked with blood up to the neck (and his conscience burns down to a cinder). The oppressed, the deceived, the poor are all pinned down while powers greater than themselves run over them until they are ragged.

‘let the wicked fall’

Why does this happen? Since Adam all mankind is under the curse. It is a life sentence – a judgment for which there is no release. Over time sinful tendencies only entrench and get us into more trouble. Humans end their miserable lives in fear, pain and death.

‘while I escape safely’

The first step to Salvation is to recognize the world is evil, and your own heart is infected with sin. Then we examine the life of Christ and determine this was a Man of God without sin. Then we try to explain why a sinless man would allow himself to be crucified at the hands of wicked men. Then we realise Christ suffered because He loved us and gave His life for us. We understand the Cross was payment for our sin.

When we asking Christ for the gift of forgiveness of sin, we receive the Holy Spirit and gain eternal life.

Now we are empowered to resist temptation. Now we are empowered to love our neighbor and be salt and light in this dark world.

This was Paul’s experience. His life and witness is a testimony of how meaningful a life can be that is surrendered to God’s service. The life of Christ lives on in the hearts of believers. May God help them navigate their way through this world: **“Keep me from the snares they have laid for me and the traps of the workers of iniquity”** Psalm 141v9

G 2v21 “**I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness [came] by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.**”

Gematria of Gal. 2v21 is 8,258. Remainder after 6 revolutions is 1,124. The 1,124th Bible Chapter is 1 Tim. 5.

The 1,124th verse of the Bible is Genesis 38v4: “**She [Shua] conceived again and bore a son, and she called his name Onan**”. Shua was the daughter of a Canaanite man who became the wife of Judah during a period when he lived apart from his brothers.

Judah was notable among his brothers for adjudicating difficult legal cases. In Genesis 37 he resolved the thorny issue of what to do with Joseph. He proposed to sell him bare naked for 20 pieces of silver to slave traders who would transfer him to Egypt where he would live the rest of his life in bondage.

Judah’s core argument was “**what profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood?**” (v26). He used the position of power he and his brothers found themselves in to enrich themselves. It was corruption of justice. Perhaps to Judah it was a lesser evil that restrained his brothers from a greater evil.

Judah was operating at this time as Saul was when he was a judge. Judah was confident in his own wisdom and skill in crafting laws to resolve conflicts among men. Judah was gaining wealth and influence in society as his self-enrichment schemes bore fruit.

Why was Judah living apart from his brothers? He was pursuing wealth and ambition. He sought room to expand his flocks and make money from trading. The Joseph affair made it clear money was his mindset. Money is amoral. Judah would trade with Canaanites and even marry them if it seemed profitable.

Judah’s son Onan was not raised in a household that knew anything of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Onan was a half-breed Canaanite who would not fulfil his duty to lie with Tamar and raise a son for his dead brother Er. What Onan did was wicked so the LORD put him to death (Gen. 38v10).

After Shua died Judah sought the services of a harlot. Tamar deceived him into lying with her. Tamar became with child. Judah, relying on his own wisdom and skill at crafting laws, ruled that Tamar must be burned to death. But when he learned it was his child, he had to reverse his judgment. In that moment Judah was convicted: he was a terrible judge. His misjudgments had produced misery to people all around him: his brother was sold as a slave, his two sons died, his child was illegitimate. His ego sank to zero.

Paul is pointing to the experience of Judah as further evidence that law making and law keeping is powerless to make men righteous. Men who rely on their own wisdom prove that sinners operating in a world of corruption and temptation end up in disaster. Legalism frustrates the grace of God.

Righteousness is only possible by grace through faith. Jesus Christ said “**I am the way, the truth, and the life**”.

Amen. God bless you dear reader. servant mark.