

## The Inspiration of the Scriptures Scientifically Demonstrated

A Letter to the New York "Sun" by Ivan Panin  
(Estimated written before 1914)

To the Editor of the Sun:

Sir.—In today's Sun Mr. W. R. Laughlin calls for a "champion of orthodoxy" to "step into the arena of the Sun," and give him some "facts." Here are some facts:

1. The first 17 verses of the New Testament contain the genealogy of Jesus Christ. The genealogy consists of two parts. Verses 1-11 contain the genealogy from Abraham, the father of the Jewish people, to the Captivity, when the Jews ceased to be an independent people. Verses 12-17 contain the genealogy from the Captivity to the Christ. Let us examine the first part of this genealogy.

Its vocabulary has 49 words, or 7 sevens, of which 42, or 6 sevens, are nouns; and 7 are not nouns. Of the 42 nouns 34, or 5 sevens, are proper names, and 7 are common nouns. Of the 35 proper names, 28, or 4 sevens, are male ancestors of Jesus, and 7 are not.

The 49 words of the vocabulary are distributed alphabetically thus: Words under the first five letters of the Greek alphabet are 21 in number, or 3 sevens; under the second five letters, 14, or 2 sevens; under the next eleven letters, also 14 or 2 sevens. Again; These words have 266 letters, or 38 sevens; and these also are distributed alphabetically, not at random, but by sevens; thus words under the first three letters have 84 letters, 12 sevens; under the fourth letter, 7; under the fifth and sixth, 21, or 3 sevens; under the eighth, 70 or 10 sevens; under the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth, 21 or 3 sevens; under the thirteenth, 7; under the fifteenth to the twenty-first, 49 or 7 sevens; under the twenty-second, 7. It is thus clear that this part of the genealogy is constructed on an elaborate design of sevens.

Let us now turn to the genealogy as a whole. I will not weary your readers with recounting all the numerical phenomena displayed therein. Pages alone would exhaust them. I will point out only one feature. The Greeks had no figures, but used instead the letters of their alphabet. Their first letter stood for 1; their second for 2, etc. Every Greek word is thus an arithmetical sum obtained by adding the values of its letters. The vocabulary of the entire genealogy contains 72 words. If we write its numerical value against each of these 72 words, and add them, we obtain for their sum, 42,364, or 6,052 sevens; and these 6,052 sevens are distributed alphabetically, not at random, but by sevens.

It is thus clear that not only are the first eleven verses of this genealogy constructed on an elaborate design of sevens, but the entire genealogy is also thus constructed. One other

feature: The 72 vocabulary words of this genealogy occur in 90 forms. If we add the numeric values of these 90 forms we get 54,075, or 7,725 sevens, with corresponding distribution into 7 alphabetical groups of sevens.

Let Mr. Laughlin sit down and try to write some 300 words intelligently like this genealogy, and reproduce some numeric phenomena of equal or like design; if he does it in a month he will do well. Let us assume that Matthew accomplished this feat in a week.

2. The passage which follows this genealogy, verses 18-25 of chapter 1, tells of the birth of Jesus Christ. It contains 161 words, 23 sevens. Its vocabulary has 77 words or 11 sevens; and these 77 words occur in 105 forms, 15 sevens. Joseph is here addressed by the angel. Accordingly, of the 77 words the angel uses 28, or 4 sevens; he does not use 49, or 7 sevens. Of the 105 forms the angel uses 35 or 5 sevens; he does not use 70, or 10 sevens. Alphabetically the 77 words of the vocabulary are distributed by sevens; the 105 forms are distributed by sevens; the 161 occurrences are distributed by sevens.

The sum of the 77 numeric values of the vocabulary is 52,605, or 7,515 sevens; the sum of the numeric values of the 105 forms is 65,429, or 9,347 sevens, with corresponding alphabetical groups of sevens in both cases.

The fact that the angel's speech has also a scheme of sevens makes it a kind of ring within a ring, a wheel within a wheel. If Mr. Laughlin can write a similar story of about 160 words with the same or similar scheme of sevens in two months, he will do very well indeed. Let us assume that Matthew accomplished that feat in only two weeks.

3. The second chapter of Matthew tells the story of the childhood of Jesus. It has a vocabulary of 161 words, 23 sevens, which occur in 238 forms, 34 sevens, and have 896 letters, 128 sevens, with a numerical value of 123,529, or 17,647 sevens; while the 238 forms have a value of 166,985, or 23,855 sevens, each item having in turn alphabetic groups of sevens, which it would be too tedious to enumerate. This chapter consists of at least four logical divisions, and each division shows individually the same phenomena found in the chapter as a whole. Thus the first six verses have a vocabulary of 56 words, 8 sevens, etc. There are some speeches here: Herod speaks, the Magi speaks, the angel speaks. Their numeric phenomena are so pronounced that though they are as it were, a dozen rings within rings, wheels within wheels, each is perfect in itself, though forming all the while only part of the rest.

If Mr. Laughlin can write a chapter like this as naturally as Matthew writes, but containing in some 500 words so large a number of intertwined yet harmonious mathematics—if he can write a chapter like this in five years he will do very well indeed. Let us assume that Matthew contrived to write it in only one year.

4. There is not, however, a single paragraph out of the hundreds in Matthew that is not constructed on exactly the same plan. Only with each additional paragraph the difficulty of constructing increases, not in arithmetical, but in geometrical progression. For he contrives to write his paragraphs so as to develop constantly fixed numeric relations to what has gone before and what follows. Thus in his last chapter he contrives to use just seven words not used by him before. Or again, he contrives to use just 140 words, 20 sevens, not found elsewhere in the New Testament. It is thus easy to show that Mr. Laughlin would require some hundreds of years to write a book like Matthew's. How long it took Matthew, I do not know. But how he contrived to do it between A. D. 30 (33), when Christ was crucified (and the Gospel could not have been written earlier), and A. D. 70, when Jerusalem was destroyed (and his Gospel could not have been written later), let any sane man explain.

Anyhow Matthew did it, and we thus have a miracle—an unheard of literary mathematical artist, unequalled hardly even conceivable. This is the first “fact” for Mr. Laughlin to contemplate for a few moments.

A Second fact is still more important: Matthew uses just 140 words, 20 sevens, found nowhere else in the New Testament. How did he know that Mark, Luke, John, James, Peter, Jude, and Paul would not use these words? Unless we assume the impossible hypothesis that he had an agreement with them to that effect, he must have had the rest of the New Testament before him when he wrote his book. The book of Matthew, then, was written last.

5. It so happens, however, that the Gospel of Mark shows exactly the same numeric phenomena. Thus the very same passage which Mr. S. K. Waters calls so triumphantly in today's Sun a “forgery,” presents among others the following phenomena: It has 175 words, or 25 sevens. Its vocabulary has 98 words, 14 sevens; of these the Lord uses in His speech 42 or 6 sevens. In like manner, of the 175 words in these Last Twelve Verses of Mark, the Lord uses 56 or 8 sevens. And all this, too, with the usual alphabetic distribution into groups of sevens in each case. (These 12 verses are spurious, just the same, mathematical precision to the contrary notwithstanding, for they are no part of the original. These verses were evidently inspired by Satan, for he has a system of religion established on them.—S.)

And again, of the 98 words of the vocabulary 84, or 12 sevens, are used before by Mark; and 14, or 2 sevens are used only here. Mark, then, is another miracle, another unparalleled mathematical literary genius. And as in the same manner in which it was shown that Matthew wrote last, it is also shown that Mark, too, wrote last, we have this fact established; Matthew surely wrote after Mark, and Mark equally surely wrote after Matthew.

6. It happens, however, to be an additional fact that Luke's Gospel contains exactly the same phenomena as those of Matthew and Mark, and so does John, and so do James, and Peter, and Jude, and Paul. We have then no longer two great unheard of mathematical literati, but eight of them, and each wrote after the other.

7. And not only this: As Luke and Peter wrote each two books, as John wrote five, as Paul wrote 14, and it can in the same manner be shown that each New Testament book was written last, we have 27 books each written last. Moreover it can be shown in the same manner that each of the 537 pages of the New Testament (in the Greek edition of Westcott and Hort) was also written last. And the same can be shown to be the case with each of the paragraphs of the New Testament, of which there are at times several the page.

The phenomena are there, and there is no human way of explaining them. Eight men simply cannot each write last; 27 books, 537 pages, perhaps thousands of paragraphs simply cannot each be written last. But once assume that One Mind supervised the whole, and the problem is solved as simply as an algebraic equation. But this means literal verbal inspiration of every jot and tittle of the New Testament. There remains only to be added that by precisely the same kind of evidence the Hebrew Old Testament is proved to be equally inspired.

To the foregoing letter several replies were printed in the Sun, but not a single answer. For there are three ways, and three ways only, in which to refute its argument: and no one has yet even attempted to do it in any of these ways:

(1) By showing that it is possible for two books to be written each after the other; that it is possible for eight men to write each after the other seven; that it is possible for 27 books to be written each in its turn last; for some 537 pages to be written each last.

(2) By showing that the facts presented are not facts; that in the Greek the first letter does not stand for 1, the second letter for 2, the third letter for 3, etc.; that the additions made are not additions; that the numerics, in short, presented in the Sun are delusions, figments, fabrications, frauds, and miserable cheats.

(3) By showing that even if the facts be true, the arithmetic faultless, and the collocation of the numerics honest, it does not follow that mere men could not have written thus without inspiration from above.

For refuting the argument by the second method nine noted rationalists were respectfully but publicly invited to prove that the facts were not as stated. Three University presidents, two theological professors, three divines representing different denominations, and the editor of a whilom religious, now secular magazine, comprised

the nine. They could not disprove the facts, but they have not yet withdrawn their frequent public attacks on the Bible as a book that does not tell truth.