

SACRED GEOGRAPHY – NEW TESTAMENT

INTRODUCTION

The geographic location of prominent sites and cities in the New Testament displays an amazing geometric property: when a right angle triangle is formed between that location and the Great Pyramid at Giza (29.9792°N,31.1343°E), the two acute angles of the triangle contain prophetic information relevant to the spiritual significance of that site or city.

For example: compare the location of Ankara, Turkey (39.8667°N 32.8667°E) (top right hand corner of red triangle in map), to the Great Pyramid (bottom corner of red triangle in map):¹



Modern day Ankara, Turkey is the ancient city of Ancyra, the capital of Galatia in New Testament times. Paul wrote a letter to the Galatians which is preserved in in the New Testament. Our assumption is the location of the capital city of a province or a country carries the spiritual meaning for the territory it represents. The people of Galatia in the days of the early church were descendants of warriors from Gaul (modern day France) who sacked Rome in 390 BC then moved on from there to attack Greece in 279 BC, where they were defeated. The Gauls who split from the main force invading Greece and invaded Asia Minor were successful and remained in the land to the time of the Roman Empire.

¹ Source of map is: ProbertEncyclopaedia.com, reprinted with permission: “for educational purposes”

The Gauls had an egalitarian government: there was no king. Each of the three tribes of the Gauls who settled in Galatia ruled a canton or province, and there were four rulers under each of them. Each of the tribes had a capital city, so in fact there were three capitals of Galatia. However, Ancyra was the gathering place of the rulers for administration of justice in trials of murder, so it may be assumed to have been the chief of the three cities of the Gauls.

The Gauls were illiterate people and portrayed as barbarians by the Greeks, who saw themselves as a 'civilizing' influence. It does not seem that the people of Galatia had changed much by New Testament times, because Paul describes the Gauls as foolish and easily deceived (Galatians 3:1).

For the Ancyra triangle: The acute angle at Giza is 10° and the acute angle at Ancyra is 80° . The short side of the triangle East to West is 1.7324° and the short side of the triangle North to South is 9.8875° . Here are the spiritual meanings of the numbers² of the angles:

10 = Testimony

80 = Son of Man

"Son of Man" [80] is the title Jesus used most often to describe himself during his ministry on earth. It is a name that identifies Jesus with everyday people and it suggests that he came to minister to the sick, the rejected, the poor, and all who had lost touch with God and his blessings. Jesus and his disciples were itinerant preachers and at times humbled themselves to eat what was growing by the road (Luke 6:1-5). The church or Testimony [10], in Galatia was of this description: simple, down to earth, rural.

The Galatian epistle describes an historic confrontation between Paul and Peter at Antioch (36.500°N 36.1500°E) when the apostles from Jerusalem came and held themselves aloof from the 'uncircumcised' Gentile believers at Antioch. Paul insisted that the Gentiles not be required to "live like Jews" (Galatians 2:14) and that "man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 2:16).

For the Antioch triangle: The acute angle at Giza is 39° and the acute angle at Antioch is 51° . The short side of the triangle East to West is 5.1057° and the short side of the triangle North to South is 6.2208° . The spiritual meanings of the numbers of the angles are:

39 = Disease

51 = Praise

Bad cannot come from good, and good cannot come from bad. If we see a bad spiritual number and a good spiritual number together it suggests conflict or a choice. One or the other will triumph. In this case there was a conflict over what are the obligations of Gentile believers. One choice: to follow Jewish laws, led to bondage, spiritual disease [39], and exalting the righteousness of man. The other choice: freedom from Jewish laws, leads to the praise [51] of his glory, exalting the righteousness of Christ.

² For a list of the spiritual meaning of numbers and how they fit in Bible themes see: www.biblenumbersforlife.com

Antioch will be forever remembered as the first place where large numbers of Greeks came to believe the gospel (Acts 10:21). What is memorable about this revival is it was not led by learned apostles from Jerusalem, it was led by believers from Cyprus (Acts 10:20). Cyprus was noted for poorly behaved rough tough men. As was common among seafaring folk in those days, they tended to be drinkers, fighters, and quick-tempered (Titus 1:7). Here is the irony: the ones the Greeks looked down upon as crude untutored persons were the very ones God chose to preach to them. The theme of Galatians is reinforced: God is neither impressed by the learning of the Greeks, nor by the religious culture of the Jews. God is pleased to reveal the **Son of Man [80]** among common every-day people. ³

CORINTH (37.9333°N 22.9333°E)

While we are on the topic of misbehaving people from seaports, let's take a trip over to Corinth. The young Corinthian congregation was composed primarily of Greeks but some were morally out of control. In spite of true salvation experiences, there were problems in the church with gross sins. Paul dealt with it by sending two epistles: 1st and 2nd Corinthians.

The Corinth triangle: The acute angle at Giza is °46 and the acute angle at Corinth is 44°. The short side of the triangle East to West is 8.2010° and the short side of the triangle North to South is 7.9542°. The spiritual meanings of the numbers of the angles are:

$$\begin{array}{l} 46 = \text{Resurrection} \\ 44 = \text{Secret Message}^4 \end{array}$$

The number 46 is a most glorious spiritual number! $46 = 2 \times 23$. The number 2 means **Division [2]** and the number 23 means **Death [23]** so the number 46 means **Division of Death [46]**. Triumph over the grave - the "**Resurrection [46]** of Christ!

Amazingly, the Book of 1st Corinthians is the **46th book** of the Bible. Paul writes many instructions concerning Christian practices and church discipline in this letter but he closes his writing in chapter 15 with inspiring teaching concerning the **resurrection [46]** of Christ, the **resurrection [46]** of believers, and the **resurrection [46]** body.

Paul writes in 1st Corinthians about a secret wisdom or a **secret message [44]** revealed from God:

*"We do however speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No we speak of God's **secret wisdom [44]**, a wisdom that has been hidden and the God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." (1 Cor. 2:6-8)*

³ More irony: The theologians from Jerusalem, Peter and John, began their spiritual journey as rough fishermen.

⁴ $(44=11 \times 4)$ 11=Mystery or Secret, 4=Measure, Message, or World. In this case the meaning is "Secret Message" but the more common interpretation of 44 is "Murderers" (Secret World or Secret Society). Spiritual numbers composed of more than one prime can have more than one meaning if the primes have more than one meaning.

The secret wisdom Paul refers to is the power of the cross:

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.’” (1 Cor. 1:18-19)

The Bible says “**The Greeks seek wisdom**”. Paul provides that **secret message [44]** of wisdom in his letters to the Corinthians: that the power of the cross will ultimately result in the **resurrection [46]** of those who put their trust in Christ. This is the message of Paul’s epistles: it is also the message of the geographic coordinates of the city of Corinth.

BEREA (40.5206°N 22.2022°E)

The Berea triangle: The acute angle at Giza is °40 and the acute angle at Berea is 50°. The short side of the triangle East to West is 8.9321° and the short side of the triangle North to South is 10.5414°. The spiritual meanings of the numbers of the angles are:

40 = Testing

50 = Purification

The little town of Berea is famous in the Bible for testing teaching by examining the word of God:

“But the Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city...’These men have caused trouble all over the world and now they have come here...they are defying Caesar’s decrees, saying there is another king, one called Jesus’...As soon as it was night the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. Many of the Jews believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.” (Acts 17:5-12)

There is quite a contrast between the Jews in Thessalonica and the Jews in Berea. The former were unteachable and reacted to fresh revelation from the Lord with violence, threats, and false accusations. The latter were open to fresh revelation from the Lord, but they tested it by examining the Scriptures. When they realised Jesus was the Messiah of the Jews, they believed and were saved.

The spiritual numbers for the geographic location of Berea reflect the character of the Jews who lived there. They sought **purification [50]** of their souls (salvation) and they gained it by **testing [40]** if the things they heard from Paul were true. Was it a simple matter to turn to Christ? No, it must have been a mighty struggle that **tested [40]** their hearts: would they obey and follow Jesus, or would they turn back to the comforts of the Jewish religion? $50 = 2 \times 25$. The number 25 means “**Forgiveness of Sins**” and the number 2 means “**Divison**” or it can mean “**Witness**”. Paul was a **witness [2]** to the Bereans of the **forgiveness of sins [25]** through faith in Christ. If they believed the message, the Bereans must **divide [2]** themselves from the unbelieving Jews. Those who did were **purified [50]**.

Another set of numbers stares us in the face regarding the geographic location of Berea: The latitude is 41°N and their longitude is 22°E. The number 41 means “**Man’s Rules**” and the number 22 means “**Spiritual Light**”. To the Bereans (and for that matter all Jews everywhere), being Jewish means being part of a culture and a set of teachings that is part Biblical and part **man-made [41]**. For example, the Mishnah and the Talmud are the teachings that are **man-made [41]**. They could continue following **man’s rules [41]**, or they could follow the **spiritual light [22]** of the gospel. There are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet, so the number 22 is associated with being Hebrew. Would the Bereans become **spiritual [22]** Hebrews? Or, would they remain merely **religious [41]** Hebrews?

The name of the town of Berea has changed. The modern name is Veria, which means “truth”. The Bible reports, the Bereans believed the truth and chose becoming spiritual Jews.

PHILIPPI (41.0131°N 24.2864°E)

The Philippi triangle: The acute angle at Giza is °32 and the acute angle at Philippi is 58°. The short side of the triangle East to West is 6.8479° and the short side of the triangle North to South is 11.0339°. The spiritual meanings of the numbers of the angles are:

32 = Fellowship

58 = Worldly Life

This small town on the coast of Northern Greece was involved in worldly affairs far out of proportion for its size. It was named after King Philip of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great. A battle for the succession of the Roman Empire was fought nearby and Roman soldiers from the successful side settled in the area. The Romans built up Philippi, constructed a forum for games and a temple. In spite of the fact it was small and remote, Philippi boasted an urban Roman culture. The gold mines in the mountains behind Philippi and important trade routes passing through ensured the wealth of the city.

Paul responded to a vision to travel to Macedonia and Philippi was the first town in Europe to hear the gospel from his lips (Acts 16:9-12). Paul cast out a spirit of divination from a slave girl, whereupon he was dragged to the city center and beaten severely (Acts 16:19-22). Paul and Silas were then thrown into prison but after an earthquake they led the jailer and his family to the Lord (Acts 16:30-32). The jailer washed their wounds then set a meal before the apostles in his home (Acts 16:33-34).

Many years later when Paul was imprisoned in Rome the Philippian believers sent a messenger to Paul bring gifts to help him meet his needs. Paul wrote a letter to the church which is the book of Philippians in the New Testament. In his letter, Paul praises them for “**your partnership in the gospel**” (Phil. 1:5) and encouraged them to “**stand firm in one spirit**” (Phil.1:27). He exhorted the church: “**if you have any fellowship [32] in the Spirit, any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and in purpose.**” (Phil. 2:1-2). To this end Paul reminds the Philippians of the humility of Christ, who set aside his divine attributes to become “**the very nature of a servant**” (Phil. 2:7).

The Bereans struggled with loyalty to their Jewish religion. The Corinthians struggled with fleshly desires, ignorance of Scriptures, and disorder. The Philippians struggled with the Greek culture of argument, ambition, and individuality. They came from a worldly city and the selfish **worldly life [58]** beckoned to them. Paul urged them to set that aside, to love one another, and to glorify Christ through the practice of intimate **fellowship [32]**. They were to continue in the way of the jailer, who ministered to the wounds of the saints and offered fellowship to other believers in his home.

THESSALONIKA (40.6500°N 22.9000°E)

The Thessalonika triangle: The acute angle at Giza is °38 and the acute angle at Thessalonika is 52°. The short side of the triangle East to West is 8.2343° and the short side of the triangle North to South is 10.6708°. The spiritual meanings of the numbers of the angles are:

38 = Break Faith

52 = Gospel Worker

Would you believe? The book of 1 Thessalonians is the 52nd book in the Bible! So far in this paper we have found two geographic locations, Corinth and Thessalonika, who have sacred geography angles equal to their order among the books in the Bible.⁵ God's truth in Scripture, in spiritual numbers, and in sacred geographic angles all agree. This supports our belief that the order of books in the bible, the order of chapters in books, and the order of verses in chapters lines up with the meaning of spiritual numbers. If the number 52 describes the heart of the spiritual message of the letter to the Thessalonians, then it is no surprise at all to find it appears as the 52nd book of the Bible. Likewise, if sacred geographic measurements also match the same spiritual number, the principle of the unity of all God's forms of revelation is supported.

In spite of fierce resistance from Jews in Thessalonika (Acts 16:5-9) to the preaching of Paul, a church was planted during his very short visit. The fellowship persisted in spite of "severe suffering" experienced by the new believers (1 Thess. 1:6) **"at the hands of their own countrymen"** (1 Thess. 2:14). Not only had their faith held firm, but Timothy reported that they dwelt together in love for one another and for Paul (1 Thess. 3:6). The apostle Paul was greatly encouraged (1 Thess. 3:8) and prayed their love would increase and overflow towards other believers in Macedonia (1 Thess. 4:10).

The saints at Thessalonika were ready to take the next step in their spiritual journey. They did not have a besetting sin holding them back. God had given them victory in holy living, in love for all the brethren, and in holding on to the true faith. Seeing this, Paul leads them in the direction of **gospel work [52]**. First he reminds them about his own behavior as a Christian worker among them: he made no financial appeals but provided for his own means (1 Thess. 2:9), he was gentle among them like a nursing mother (1 Thess. 2:7), he shared his life with them (1 Thess. 2:8), he encouraged and exhorted them to live lives **"worthy of the God who calls you"** (1 Thess. 2:12). Second, he requests them to esteem Christian

⁵ There is a 2.2% chance a sacred geometry angle and Bible book order will match by random chance. (NB (1/66) x (2) x (66/90) = 2.2% i.e. two chances because two acute angles; only 66 books out of 90 possible angles). The chance of this happening randomly twice is roughly 0.04% (2.2% squared) or once every 2,500 tries.

workers (1 Thess. 5:12-13) thus elevating this occupation in their hearts. Third, he encourages them to practice the spiritual disciplines of thankfulness, prayer, forgiveness (1 Thess. 5:15-17) and to stir up their spiritual gifts (1 Thess. 5:19-20) thereby advancing in their training for Christian service.

In his second letter to the Thessalonians, Paul shares the sober truth that the day of the Lord will not come “unless the great apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction” (2 Thess. 2:3). Paul is warning the Thessalonians of the time to come when Christians everywhere will be tempted to **break faith [38]**.⁶ It seems utterly incongruous on the one hand to encourage the Thessalonians into **gospel work [52]** and then on the other hand inform them of a future day when the body of Christ will be decimated by apostasy. The answer comes: “**Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly**” (2 Thess. 3:1). The two messages do fit together because, as Paul taught: “**He who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way**” (2 Thess. 2:7). The one who restrains is the Holy Spirit - dwelling in the hearts of believers. A great incentive of gospel work is it builds up the kingdom of God in men’s hearts and ensures the Holy Spirit will continue to be on earth, restrain the man of lawlessness, and extend the Age of Grace.

LAODICEA (37.8358°N 29.1075°E)

The Laodicea triangle: The acute angle at Giza is °14 and the acute angle at Laodicea is 76°. The short side of the triangle East to West is 2.0268° and the short side of the triangle North to South is 7.8567°. The spiritual meanings of the numbers of the angles are:

14 = Righteous

76 = Judge

In New Testament days Laodicea was a luxurious Roman town surrounded by fertile lands and sat on a trade route. The city contained a sizeable population of Jews who were descendants of families that were deported from Babylon hundreds of years ago. Laodicea boasted an amphitheatre, a temple, a medical school and many of the finer things enjoyed by the Romans.

Laodicea also boasted a sizeable population of believers in Jesus. It was one of seven churches singled out in the Book of Revelations for a direct address from the Lord Jesus Christ. Laodicea is representative of the last age of Christianity prior to Daniel’s 70th week. As we learned in the letters to the Thessalonians, in the last days the church will decline. The state of the faith in Laodicea was weak:

“**I know your deeds that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say ‘I am rich: I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing’. But you do not realise you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the**

⁶ Paul does not say why so great an apostasy will occur. Based on the book of Revelations we know mass martyrdoms are ahead (Rev. 6:9-11) so we assume the reason for the great apostasy is men will face the choice: die as a martyr or recant faith in Jesus. However, this is an inference not a firm teaching.

fire, so you can become rich and white clothes to wear so you can cover your shameful nakedness, and salve to put on your eyes so you can see.” (Rev. 2:15-18)

History records the churches in Asia Minor did not survive to this day. Turkey is now in the hands of Moslem peoples and has been for many hundreds of years. We take it then that the church at Laodicea was deaf to the discipline of the Lord and for this reason their lampstand of public testimony for Jesus Christ was taken away. However, the Lord gave a promise to the individuals in the church who would repent:

“Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent...To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down on with my Father on his throne.” (Rev. 2:19-21)

Here we see the spiritual numbers of the sacred geographic measurements come into play. The one who sits on the throne is the **Judge [76]**. He sits there because he overcame: in other words, his deeds were **Righteous [14]**. We conclude that in spite of the fact God spit the church of Laodicea out of his mouth (figuratively) he kept for himself some in that place who overcame. For this reason, Laodicea is memorialized with exalted spiritual numbers marking the triumph of those few overcomers.

NOTES

Why is Giza the reference point for these calculations? This author does not have the answer for that. However, it is the perpetual human condition to think of one's city, one's race, and one's land as being the center of the world and the model of perfection. Perhaps the lesson of Giza is God measures everything by his own spiritual standard. Even supposedly holy places like Jerusalem are not the center of the earth; they are not the standard by which everything else is measured. They have faults, and in the case of Jerusalem, grievous faults.

Other students may wish to examine the volume of the triangles formed by these calculations, there is spiritual information hidden within those figures as well.

Finally, can anyone observe the amazing correlation between geographic location and spiritual history of these sites and cities and not marvel at the unsearchable wisdom of God? He put Adam and Eve in the garden but plainly he had foreknowledge of the travels and resting places of all of their descendants including their final spiritual condition in those places. The truth of the Bible, the truth of spiritual numbers, and the truth of geographic locations all agree. How else could this be unless God's hand was in it all?

We humbly bow before our Maker and we agree with the Psalmist:

"O Lord you have searched me and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.

You hem me in – behind and before – you have laid your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain."

(Psalm 139:1-6)

"How precious to me are your thoughts O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

Were I to count them, they would out-number the grains of sand."

(Psalm 139:17-18)

Selah.