

Randomness and faith again: Impressive bijections and fake messages in the Bible

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Stoyan Dimitrov

UI at Chicago → Rutgers

ACMS Conference

06/03/2022

Inspired by the talk of Randy Pruim (ACMS reception, JMM 2021)!

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Outline:

- I. What is the problem (God vs Randomness)??
 - II. Selected thoughts (on possible resolutions) from “Randomness and God’s nature” by James Bradley.
 - III. Fake biblical messages: the Bible Code.
 - IV. Biblical parallels (“bijections”) hardly explained by randomness!
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Statistical laws derived under the assumption of complete randomness work!
(No hint of plan or purpose!?)

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Examples:

- A fair die produces six possible outcomes, each with probability $1/6$.
- Law of large numbers, Central Limit Theorem, Poisson processes.
- Gregor Mendel's laws of inheritance
(random transmission of genetic information).
- Radioactive decay, quantum uncertainty.

What is the problem (God vs Randomness)??

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Just one example (out of many) – Miraculous births:

Abraham and Sarah → Isaac [Gen. 18:10-14].

Manoah and his wife → Samson [Judges 13:2-3].

Zechariah and Elizabeth → John the Baptist [Luke 1]

And, of course, the birth of Jesus...

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What about other events like storms, getting diseases, etc..

Surprisingly, the Bible reserves a particular root for words related to randomness (K.R.H.) and all of them have negative connotation!
(more details in the book of Haim Shore [3, Chapter 3]).

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Interestingly, the same book points out a surprising connection between the words for random occurrence and the words related to cold:

- “cold” (*karah*, a noun) and “occurred” (*karah*, a verb).
- “a place with cool air” (*mekareh*) and “occurrence” (*mikreh*).

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Some Christian thinkers refute randomness, others accept it.

J. Bradley argues that God uses randomness to fulfill his purposes (e.g., look at natural processes as *osmosis, diffusion, genetic adaptations*).

Polkinghorne thinks that randomness provides the means for exploring different possibilities, thereby enabling creativity in the physical world.

Related question: Is our free-will pre-determined or not?

“I very much wonder how God can have foreknowledge of everything in the future and yet we do not sin by necessity.”

– Augustine

Personal opinion:

- God considers our free-will very seriously, but he also knows what will happen.
 - God seems to ignore many historical events and people important for us. He can intervene, but this happens very rarely!
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The Bible code has its roots in Jewish mysticism.

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Idea popularized by a book of the journalist Michael Drosnin [1] in 1997.
What is this code?

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Is this unexpected? Not really! A simple observation shows that the expected number of occurrences of the word "MATH" in Genesis 1, for example, is more than 50.

This is a phenomena guaranteed by Ramsey Theory: If I have big enough combinatorial object, then certain structure or a pattern has to occur. More on good statistical tests using Ramsey Theory, can be found in [2].

The gospel of Matthew and the Old Testament:

Old Testament	The book of Matthew (New Testament)
A man called Joseph had dreams and he lead the children of Israel out of Egypt	[Matthew, Chapter 2] A man called Joseph had dreams and he lead the small child Jesus out of Egypt.
After they came out, they crossed the Red sea.	[Matthew, Chapter 3] Jesus was baptized.
After crossing the Red Sea, the children of Israel go wondering in the desert for 40 years.	[Matthew, Chapter 4] After the baptism, Jesus is wondering in the desert for 40 days.
The law is given to the mount Sinai.	[Matthew, Chapter 5-6] Jesus is talking about the true meaning of the law, on a mountain.

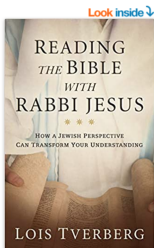
Esther and Jesus:

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More about this parallel in “The Revelation of Esther” by R. Seheult,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybuMgtcHzcQ>.

A few more “bijections” are listed on my website:
<https://stoyandimitrov.net/personal>

Other cool parallels can be found here:



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