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Dear Associates and Friends,

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This month's article is titled "[Bible Pairs](#)." A Bible pair is composed of two or more books of Scripture that relate to each other in at least one significant way. Sometimes the connection is obvious as in the pair of epistles of First and Second Corinthians, where the author is the same and the second epistle refers to the first. Sometimes the connection is less obvious. For example, the connections between the Book of Genesis and Chronicles,¹ in which one aspect of the connection between the two books is because of the placement on either end of the Hebrew canon list of books of the Old Testament.

In this article I hope there are connections and complexity in Scripture that you were not aware of before.

Bible Pairs, an Example

I have a small but interesting book from Dr. Martin's library called *The Bible Remembrancer*.² The author is Ingram Cobbin. It has short articles on various subjects and lists that make it like a mini Bible encyclopedia. It also has very succinct introductions to every book of the Bible that are very insightful.

Cobbin's introduction to the Epistle of Hebrews uses a process similar to my own, looking for obvious patterns of similarity between two things, in this case significant words. I present Cobbin's information here because he only looks at the first part of the first chapters of John's Gospel and the Epistle to the Hebrews. But sometimes only a small amount of data can be analyzed, so let's read what Cobbin presents to us in his introduction to Hebrews. The author quotes verses from the Gospel of John and from Hebrews, and then gives a brief commentary. [Brackets are mine].

Hebrews by Ingram Cobbin

There are some points of resemblance between the opening verses of the Gospel of John and the commencement of this Epistle. In both writings God is at once brought prominently before us.

[John 1:1] **"The Word was with God; and the Word was God,"** says John.

[Hebrews 1:1] **"God ... has spoken unto us,"** says the writer of this Epistle.

And both John's Gospel and the Epistle to the Hebrews magnify the Lord Jesus Christ and emphasize the fact of His Divinity.

[John 1:1] **"In the beginning was the Word ... and the Word was God."**

[John 1:3] **"All things were made by Him."**

Such are the testimonies of the Gospel. And in the Epistle to the Hebrews it is written

[Hebrews 1:2] **"[God] ... has in these last days spoken unto us by His Son";** adding in continuation,
"Whom He has appointed Heir of all things; by whom also He made the worlds [eons]."

Then, [in Hebrews] four times over, in the course of eight verses, the **"Son"** is referred to; and to Him are applied the terms **"God"** and **"Lord"** (Hebrews 1:8, 10).

¹ The book (split into First and Second Chronicles in modern bibles), was in ancient times a single book in the Hebrew order of Scripture. See Dr. Martin's *Restoring the Original Bible*, Chapter 12, "[The Old Testament Periods of Canonization](#)."

² Ingram Cobbin, *The Bible Remembrancer* (London: Marshall, Morgan & Scott, 1848).

And from six important passages in the Old Testament the writer argues for the greatness of the One who is thus put on an equality with Jehovah [YHWH]. The inferiority of angels to Him is conclusively shown by two quotations or references (Psalm 104:4, 103:21³). Of the eight references or quotations on which the writer bases his argument seven are from the Psalms.

Was the contention as to this inferiority of angels called for by some rising tendency among those addressed to unduly reverence the angelic body? Such a disposition was evident amongst the Gentile converts at Colosse (Colossians 2:18⁴): but it is not likely to have been adopted by the Hebrews from a Gentile church.

The entire purport of this Epistle — as the entire scope of the Gospel of John — appears to be, to affirm and demonstrate the Divinity of Christ. The Epistle does for the Hebrews, what the Gospel of the Beloved Disciple [John] does for the Gentile Churches, in showing forth the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of the Father.

Cobbin continues to briefly tell the subjects of Hebrews chapters 2 to 13, but his descriptions are straightforward and self-evident

Note what Cobbin did, he simply recognized patterns. Cobbin makes some good points about the same subject matter of the Gospel of John and the Epistle to the Hebrews. Finding patterns and similarities in texts helps identify Bible pairs. Then the texts need to be analyzed further to see if there are nuances of word usage, translation issues (double meanings or changes of translation from Hebrew to Greek) or other factors.

Early in the Gospel of John, after healing a man on the Sabbath, Jesus spoke to detractors gathered around Him. They confronted Him, so He confronted them in return. Read all of John chapter 5 in a translation other than the King James Version. You will understand better what is being said. Jesus says we are to:

“Search the scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal [eonian] life: and they are they which testify of me. And you will not come to me, that you might have life.

Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuses you, even Moses, in whom you trust. For had you believed Moses, you would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if you believe not his writings, how shall you believe my words?”

• *John 5:39–40; 45–47*

Thank You

Scripture was written to be read. In ancient times all writing was read aloud. You do not have to study the Scriptures intensively, but regular reading the Word of God and being familiar with it, is an excellent way to learn, little by little, so God’s thoughts will take seed in your mind from the letters, the words, the sentences, chapters, and books. It is not magic, but rather normal communication by reading. Read what interests you at first. Later your interests will expand as you read more and study. Read aloud. Listen to audio Bibles and read along with a different translation from what you are hearing. It will keep your mind alert to differences.

We thank you for letting us serve you meals with spiritual meat and not pabulum, with topics that are not only interesting but also useful. You make it possible for us to serve others as well. The more people there are who contribute the more people can be helped.

Thank you for helping us help you, so we can help others. God bless you all.

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³ The Creator is being referenced: **“Who makes his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire”** (Psalm 104:4). **“Bless you YHWH, all you his hosts; you ministers of his, that do his pleasure”** (Psalm 103:21).

⁴ Colossians 2:18 says:

“Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.”