TIMOTHY P. SMITH
FOREWORD BY EUGENE ULRICH, PHD

GOD CODE
UNLOCKING DIVINE MESSAGES HIDDEN IN THE BIBLE

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED AS THE CHAMBERLAIN KEY
This book is dedicated to all the parents in the world—past, present, and future—whether by blood, adoption, or unofficial arrangement. There is something about parenthood that seems to both challenge and reward every facet of our humanity and allow all those who take this responsibility upon themselves to discover the full dimensions of their own nature. It is also dedicated especially to my own parents, who have lived to see the love they have shared with each other blossom like “a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall” (Genesis 49:22, KJV).
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As chief editor of the biblical Dead Sea Scrolls, I have spent my entire career teaching and writing in the areas of the Hebrew Scriptures, the scrolls, and the Septuagint. With regard to the reliability of the Masoretic Hebrew text that is used in the observations made in this book, it is based on the Saint Petersburg Codex (Codex Lenin-gradensis; Firkovich B 19 A), which is the oldest complete manuscript of the Hebrew Bible in the Hebrew language, whose colophon dates it to AD 1008 or 1009. This is the text, in modern printed form (Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia), used by most scholars today.

The Aleppo Codex is almost a century older, but most of the Pentateuch is missing from it. The Dead Sea Scrolls are older by a millennium, but, though fragments from almost thirty manuscripts containing parts of Genesis are preserved, none contains text from Genesis 30.

The antiquity of that Hebrew tradition is safely assured, however, by three different sources. First, the Dead Sea Scrolls in the Genesis fragments that did survive exhibit a text that is virtually identical with the Saint Petersburg Codex. Second, the (pre-Christian) Samaritan Pentateuch is identical with it in its consonantal text. Third, the ancient Greek translation (the Septuagint) of Genesis, most scholars would agree, was translated around 280 BC from a Hebrew source text that was virtually identical with the Hebrew consonantal text of the Leningrad Codex.

However one wishes to interpret the meaning and significance of this book, the reader may rest assured that the text on which Timothy Smith bases his interpretation has almost certainly been there for a very long time, since before the birth of Christ.

—Eugene Ulrich, PhD
Chief Editor, Biblical Dead Sea Scrolls
Department of Theology, University of Notre Dame
When The Chamberlain Key (now titled God Code) was released in April 2017, I wasn’t sure what to expect. My first inclination in writing this book was to leave out the most intimate details of my backstory to avoid the usual skepticism often triggered by accounts of the supernatural and miraculous. I knew my personal story wasn’t just unusual; it was outrageous. I feared that readers would be so distracted by my strange experiences that they would miss the importance and implications of what I’d actually found—a literal code in the oldest Hebrew text of the book of Genesis. This code undeniably demonstrates that sections of the Bible contain detailed information that could only have been intentionally placed there by a supernatural source.

The main reason for exposing my experiences and discoveries was to elicit help. My findings had revealed something extraordinary and unexplainable, and I knew I was in over my head. I was trying to make sense out of phenomena that refused to sit still long enough for extended analysis because one mind-bending discovery followed another in rapid succession.

Time has, for the most part, revealed that my anxiety about how people would perceive this book was unfounded, and, in fact, after the book’s publication, I received what I’d hoped for—help.

Publishing The Chamberlain Key was like sending a banner up a flagpole. The
basic technical, linguistic, and historical information the book exposed—although just a fraction of what had been uncovered—prompted the attention of the right people. The book revealed enough about the basic phenomena to encourage independent verification efforts. Experts in multiple related disciplines began contacting me from all over the world, offering insight and advice on how to further unravel the mystery of the chamberlain key…and, maybe, to discover more regarding the intended purpose behind the encoded communications.

Perhaps the single greatest advancement in clarifying the issue came with the development of a highly advanced computer software program capable of accurately determining which of the coded communications in the Hebrew text were undeniably intentional, that is, almost beyond any chance occurrence. This software program was written by experts with extensive experience in encrypted intelligence communication systems. Their initial stated goal was to *disprove*, if possible, that what I or anyone else had interpreted as intentional coded communication in the ancient biblical text was instead the result of random coincidence. The experts insisted that cold hard science should have the final say in the matter before anyone ran off on a wild-goose chase.

The final results of their efforts proved invaluable. The software program they developed filtered out any “background noise”—information that might first appear to be encoded but ultimately is determined to be the result of random coincidence. This allowed the intentional coded messages to stand out in stark contrast.

The experts concluded that the marvel I had observed in the Hebrew text was *undeniably real*. Certain coded messages I’d found there were *unquestionably intentional*. They appeared at odds of many billions to one and, in the most stunning cases, at odds of many trillions to one.

One of the key experts in this analytical effort was none other than my brother Joe, who has long branded himself as the chief naysayer regarding my discovery. I suppose that’s often what brothers do in their role of handing out family love? However, even I have to admit that his thoughtful skepticism goes far beyond any sibling tensions. Joe’s professional skills in computer coding and advanced systems design, combined with his intimate knowledge of the personal elements of my life story, allowed him to critically assess all sides of the situation.
Of the many ideas that brought out Joe’s strongest naysayer objections was the notion, often bandied by others, that some of the codes embedded in the Hebrew Bible could be used to accurately predict the future. I have never proposed that the messages I found in the text offered any specific prophecies, and Joe’s analysis confirmed this. It is true, however, that some of the coded messages do reveal crucial understanding regarding historical events, perhaps providing insight into mankind’s present situation.

But if aiding mankind to predict future events was not the purpose of the coded communication, what, then, was the intention of the messages? Shortly after the first edition of this book went to press, the answer became obvious to everyone involved in the project—including my naysaying brother!

Regardless of any beliefs or positions I or anyone else held regarding the ancient Hebrew Bible, the facts became crystal clear: The oldest biblical manuscripts now available to us were accurately transmitted from some original ancient source text, and some sections of these manuscripts had been preserved precisely in their original letter sequence. I believe that somewhere is hidden the entire original text, perfectly preserved. And based on what we have discovered encoded in the pieces of pristine text we now have, it’s reasonable to conclude that the original source text must contain massive amounts of encrypted information of vital importance to mankind. But the transmission of the fullness of this information is dependent on a complete text, *precisely in its letter sequence*.

Thus, the codes I discovered in a partially pristine text have, in fact, proven to be leading us to the location where a perfect original ancient manuscript has been hidden and preserved. Essentially, the text is leading us to itself! It was initially designed to recover the *original version of itself*—in the event it was ever altered (intentionally or unintentionally) by mankind.

This final conclusion, reached with the aid of the improved software and the analysis of experts, is that coded messages—miraculously preserved in the oldest available biblical texts—are directing us to a sacred repository where this priceless ancient manuscript has been hidden and preserved for centuries. These findings also clarified my own unusual experiences years ago in western Canada.

Of course, this isn’t the first time in history that it’s been suggested that the
Hebrew Bible was encoded; it’s something Jewish Torah scholars as far back as the Middle Ages have claimed. I believe that the inability until now, even of modern cryptographers and linguists, to crack this “God code” is primarily the consequence of preconceived philosophical and theological ideologies. The text of the Hebrew Bible not only is sacred to all Judeo-Christian religions but, perhaps, is the most studied and scrutinized writing in history. Previous attempts to decipher its hidden marvels have been hampered by forced taboos and arbitrary assumptions, which are the same factors that prevent the advancement of any honest scientific inquiry.

The truth remains that the ancient Hebrew text’s origins and structure can’t be exclusively confined within anyone’s chosen orthodox or academic parameters, including my own. And although there’s ample evidence that the oldest biblical manuscripts survived centuries of transcription with enough structural integrity to demonstrate astounding attributes, the full purpose of their original design will not be realized until the pristine original text is discovered from where it has been safely deposited for ages.

After reading this book, you will understand why I believe this event may soon take place.

As I stated earlier in this preface, my purpose for publishing my experiences and initial discoveries was to elicit help. The remarkable coincidences in my own life, and what they led to, presented me with a puzzle I realized I couldn’t solve alone. Therefore, an objective investigation of many historical events and circumstances would be necessary. It would also require an unbiased reevaluation of certain theological, scientific, and academic positions. I didn’t want to undertake this task in the limited laboratory of my own knowledge and perceptions.

With the publication of this paperback edition, now entitled God Code—also the title of the History Channel television special—I invite you to join in an expanded search that now involves many others. You can follow the story through the documentary TV special, which features our expedition to attempt to locate the greatest treasure in human history: the lost word…the perfect original text of the Hebrew Bible.

What might we find? The adventure continues.
For more than fifteen years I managed to keep the lid on a discovery that will dramatically redirect biblical scholarship, Christian theology, and perhaps even the trajectory of history itself.

What began as a mystery concerning my own family and ancestry has unfolded into perhaps the most astounding revelation of the modern age, as you will see in the pages that follow. It is based on an unexplained phenomenon, an anomaly in four verses of text in the oldest complete manuscript of the Hebrew book of Genesis. I have found messages embedded in those few verses that simply could not be there—but nevertheless they were.

I have pursued every possible explanation in an effort to account for this bizarre finding. One discovery has led to another and then another. I’ve consulted some of the world’s most respected scholars and scientists until only one plausible explanation remains: the original ancient text of the Hebrew Scriptures (parts of which date back to 800 BC, perhaps earlier) is more than a text in the traditional sense—more than a manuscript containing wisdom and prophecy and transcendent truth. It is also a complex communication device with the ability to breach the very boundaries of time itself. By using this tool, a supernatural power has reached across millennia to make contact with you and me, right here and now.

The text of the Hebrew Bible presents us with a familiar literary structure.
Words form sentences and concepts that we recognize. We use accepted rules of translation and interpretation to extract what we believe is the meaning of the narrative. However, the smallest discrete units of the biblical text are Hebrew letters, the quanta of this textual universe, which are capable of organizing themselves into a less obvious form of intelligent communication, one that transcends the ordinary parameters of time and space. This hidden substructure is what holds the ancient Hebrew text together.

The key that I’ve found to this hidden language is not some rigid, mechanical cipher code but a means of gaining access to the beautifully unpredictable nature of the universe and life itself, which turns out to possess a level of order that is both intentional and intelligent. A manifestation of divine intelligence—or God, if you will—is functioning in visible ways right alongside us.

And now we have a new way to access it.

It is no easy task to explain how I made this discovery, let alone to help you understand and believe it. After all, I am neither a scholar nor a theologian. Neither am I an expert in ancient languages. In some ways I am a most unlikely candidate to have uncovered signs of a divine hand at work, which sometimes has left me wondering, Why me? and Why now?

I hope the account you are about to read will answer those questions while also serving to strengthen your faith, as it has mine.
Part I

THE UNFOLDING
The chamberlain key was not my first discovery in a life marked by curiosity and exploration. But it is by far the most important and consequential. For more than thirty years I have engaged in the work of evaluating and preserving valuable physical objects from every part of the world and every period in history. I have spent most of my life answering questions and unraveling mysteries, many of which began with something I could touch: a chest, a painting, a tapestry, a scepter, a banner, a coin, a cloak, a sword, or a scroll. As an appraiser, restorer, and conservator of fine art and antiquities, I have discovered priceless items stashed in attic eaves, sealed in long-forgotten vaults, or gone missing from the White House. Many such treasures have impressed me with their astronomical value, dazzled me with their breathtaking beauty, or haunted me with their gruesome history. But like many explorers, historians, and investigators, I have passed much of my time in the unglamorous drudgery of countless details, the disconnected bits of things that must be carefully considered, culled, and reassembled before the destination is reached or the truth uncovered.

My paternal grandfather, Clarence R. Smith, arrived in Washington, DC, in 1938 to begin the construction of the Jefferson Memorial. He also worked on a number of other important building and renovation projects: the National Gallery of Art, the US
Capitol, the Carderock Division of the Naval Sea Systems Command, and many others. His youngest son—my father, E. Jay Smith—continued in this tradition, beginning with the construction of the official residence of the vice president on the grounds of the US Naval Observatory. When my father retired in the 1990s, his building and architectural firm was credited with designing, building, and renovating many of the Washington area’s most venerated public buildings and private residences.

I was born in 1960 in Langley, Virginia, a tiny community just inside the Washington, DC, Beltway. In 1966 my parents purchased a small horse farm in Great Falls, Virginia, a mere seven miles up the Potomac from Langley. The place was called Windswept, and all the horses had been named accordingly: Gusty, Breezy, Sea Breeze, and so on. The brick ranch house rambled along the side of a steep hill overlooking rolling pastures and a lake fed by a stream known as Colvin Run. The property was adjoined on all sides by other horse farms and small Virginia estates.

Among my favorite activities on a cold, rainy day was to sneak into our home’s spacious attic and pull up the ladder behind me so no one would know I was there. I listened to the muffled sound of voices and footsteps below, delighted by the musty secrecy of the place, as I rummaged through boxes of old photographs, sports equipment, toys, tools, and Christmas decorations. I set up the family nativity scene, placing a small candle in the stable, positioning and repositioning animals and people until I was satisfied that all were in their correct spots.

One stormy day in late winter I could no longer resist the sturdy pine boxes stacked against the eaves in the far corner of the attic. I knew perfectly well they were forbidden, but their lure was overpowering. By the light of a red Christmas candle I carefully slid the top crates onto the attic floor, opened them one by one, and inspected their contents. There were folders full of old handwritten documents, their pages creased and oxidized to a light tobacco brown. One box contained nothing but ornate knobs, handles, and latches—some of rich patinated brass and others of skillfully handwrought iron, pitted and rusted but still intact. Another was crammed with metal tubes containing rolled-up architectural drawings and wonderful handcolored maps that I turned in every direction, attempting to decipher their locations in the larger world.

Most curious of all was a large iron star, cast in round relief; its dry soldier-blue
paint flaking off onto my hands as I dragged it into the candlelight for a better look. I hefted it above my head and figured it weighed more than half a sack of sweet feed, about thirty-five pounds. I had no idea at the time where it had come from and what its purpose might have been. Only later would I learn that it was originally part of a set of thirteen, one star for each of the original American colonies.

I would also discover that twenty years before, at the end of World War II, my grandfather had begun one of many renovation projects on the US Capitol building, this time to replace the ceilings and roofs of both the House and Senate chambers. The star I’d found in the attic once hung in the Capitol but had since become part of a forgotten treasure trove of historic documents and artifacts in that structure’s attics and catacombs. As the only star among its companions that was ever salvaged and retrieved, in some ways it illuminated the course of my professional life and personal passion. Years later, when I became a professional hunter and finder and restorer of lost and forgotten things, I arranged for the star to be returned to the architect of the Capitol.

**A Treasure Hunter’s Training**

On the first day of my summer vacation from school in 1972, my dad came into my bedroom at 5:30 a.m. and placed a leather tool belt, fully equipped, at the foot of my bed and told me it was time to get up and get going. This was not a total surprise, since all three of my older brothers had their summer vacations commandeered in the same way. I spent my first day “on the job” at the equipment and material yard, where I worked in the blazing sun, prying nails out of old lumber so it could be reclaimed for concrete forms, scaffold boards, and gangways. My supervisor, Lonnie, was a tough, weathered African American man who had worked for my father since my father first went into business and with my grandfather before that. Under his watchful eye I hauled bricks, mortar, lumber, and shingles from one spot to another and occasionally swung my hammer at wide-headed roofing nails that Lonnie must have figured were hard to miss.

Toward the end of that summer, a plan began to shape itself in me. I recognized that it wasn’t the buildings themselves that interested me, despite their magnificence;
it was the things we often found in them. Some of the workmen, including my older family members, spoke of finding old and curious items in strange places, and I began to wonder if a job existed where a person could be paid to locate lost or hidden objects, a sort of professional finder of things.

By the time I was twenty years old, I owned and operated a thriving antique-restoration operation out of the family-business headquarters in McLean, Virginia. Capitalizing on the reputations of my father and grandfather, I was invited into homes and institutions that were pretty heady for someone my age. I hired the most talented and dependable subcontractors in the area: oil-painting conservationists trained at the Royal Academy of Arts in London, porcelain specialists from China, cabinet and furniture makers moonlighting from their jobs with my father, and a furniture upholsterer who had worked for every First Lady since Bess Truman. I ferried the more common items to a workshop I maintained in the Shenandoah Valley. I plied everyone I encountered for information, techniques, and trade secrets, learning how to handle many projects myself. I trained others from scratch to handle the nuts-and-bolts repair jobs, and I developed protocols and habits that serve me well to this day.

Not long after setting up my own shop, I was invited to perhaps the most historic estate home in the McLean area. Known as Salona, it had been the home of Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee, the Revolutionary War hero and father of Gen. Robert E. Lee. The current owner was a distinguished elderly woman, matriarch of a prominent Mid-Atlantic political family. We had never met, but she contacted me because she knew my parents socially and because my father’s company had been involved in the architectural renovation of Salona House.

When she greeted me at the door, I got the impression that she mistook me for my oldest brother (I sported a closely trimmed beard at the time and looked older than my twenty years). As she led me on a grand tour of the historic home, it was obvious she had played the docent many times before.

My hostess began by describing a pre-Columbian settlement on the site and showed me a small collection of Native American artifacts that had been unearthed on the property over the years. She led me from room to room, recounting well-rehearsed facts and anecdotes about the furnishings and architectural details of the estate home. Nearly every piece of English and Early American furniture had a story
that was interwoven with important events in Virginia history and the many prominent figures in her family. She identified the subject of every portrait on the walls and drew my attention to antique Persian carpets, rare Chinese Imperial and imported porcelains, delicate English Staffordshire pieces, and sturdy mocha-ware pottery. She concluded her private seminar with a romantic (and historically accurate) account of how Dolley Madison fled to the refuge of Salona in 1814 when British troops were burning the White House in order to reunite with her husband, President James Madison, who had arrived the previous day.

Having completed the tour, we reversed our course back through the house as my hostess pointed out various furnishings, artwork, and other items I would be asked to clean, repair, and restore. She never requested a cost estimate, only a timeline for completing the work. Though at the time I was in over my head, I took great pains with those valuable articles and learned all I could about them while they were in my care: the precise materials used in their composition, the methods applied to their construction, individual variations and subtleties of style and proportion, as well as the identity and background of their makers. I consulted with seasoned experts to be sure I didn’t embark on any process that might depreciate the pieces in any way. I was especially keen to note signs of previous restoration and repair, to avoid the less-than-perfect work of my predecessors in the trade, and to emulate their most artful successes.

That was a seminal experience for me. The care and effort I invested in Salona House soon brought more opportunities, and I gave every new assignment as much attention as I had the first, along with the benefit of my growing expertise. I made it my goal to turn up some new tidbit of information that I could offer every client when the job was finished and their precious objects returned. My patrons appreciated my interest and enthusiasm, and they rewarded me with referrals that led to a constant stream of fascinating employment.

By the time I was twenty-six years old, I was operating one of the largest antique and fine-art restoration businesses in North America, with one division devoted to private clients and another to contracts with the federal government.

But the clues to the greatest treasure I would ever discover were still hidden in my dreams.
My life on the surface no doubt looked great to outsiders, but my inside life was a different story. I was experiencing a crisis of faith. Although my family, church, and business responsibilities were expanding and thriving, my spiritual strength seemed to be draining away. Was I buckling under my new responsibilities? Was I burning out? Cracking up?

My dreams were contributing to my stress. On the exact same date for three years in a row—beginning on the night of January 12, 1986—I’d had the same powerful dream. I know because I started keeping a journal the morning after the first one, a practice I have continued ever since.

Each dream began the same way, with a massive dark storm rising ominously on the horizon, but the dream each year extended the story and contributed new details. These dramatic scenes employed distinct symbols, some of which were familiar to me and some of which were entirely new. After each dream I dug into Scripture and history to try to decipher its meaning.

Then one night in April 1989 I had another dream, this one out of sequence and very different from the rest, a dream in which I was looking at a map of North America. I saw a tiny cartoon version of our Ford van driving from east to west across the continent, much like a 1940s newsreel showing a plane flying across a spinning globe. In the dream our van stopped deep in the Canadian Rockies of British Columbia. The location imprinted itself so vividly in my brain that when I awoke I was able to pull out an atlas and mark the spot. I noted the longitude and latitude, wrote them down on a scrap of paper, and put it in my wallet.

I believed, because of the repetitive nature of the dreams and some of the symbolic nature of the content, that I was being guided—and prompted to act—though for what purpose I didn’t have a clue. Thanks to the dream, however, I did have one strikingly specific detail: a place I could locate.

Plunging ahead with the reckless confidence—and often the foolishness—of youth, I decided to go there.
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