

Holy infographics: the bible visualised

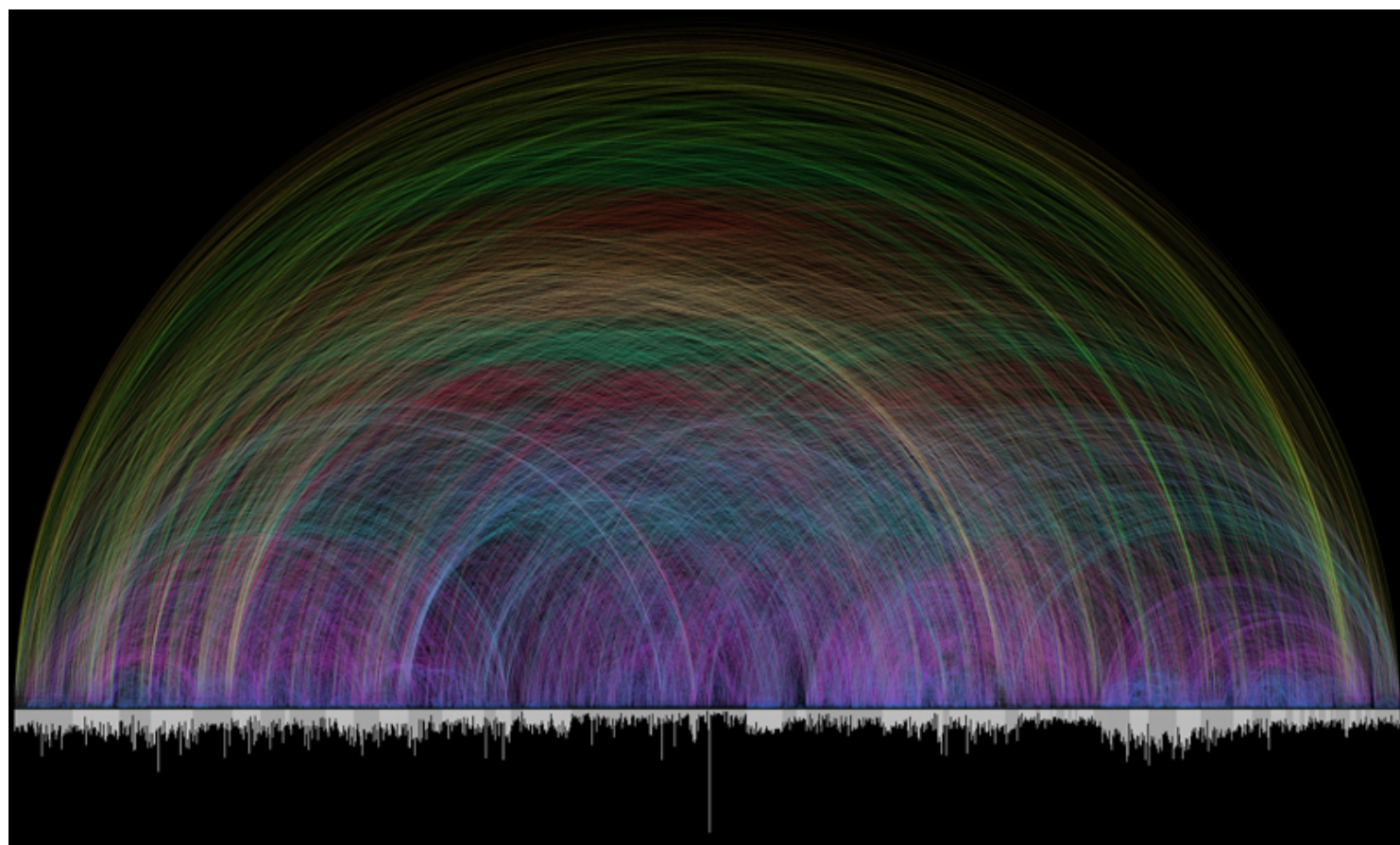
'God is in the detail' - the expression may have been overshadowed by the newer 'the devil is in the detail' but for some people the original idiom still holds true. Scholars have been visualising the holy texts for years but recently, they've taken a turn towards data. Here are some of the most interesting biblical visualisations we've found

Mona Chalabi

Thu 5 Sep 2013 13.24 BST

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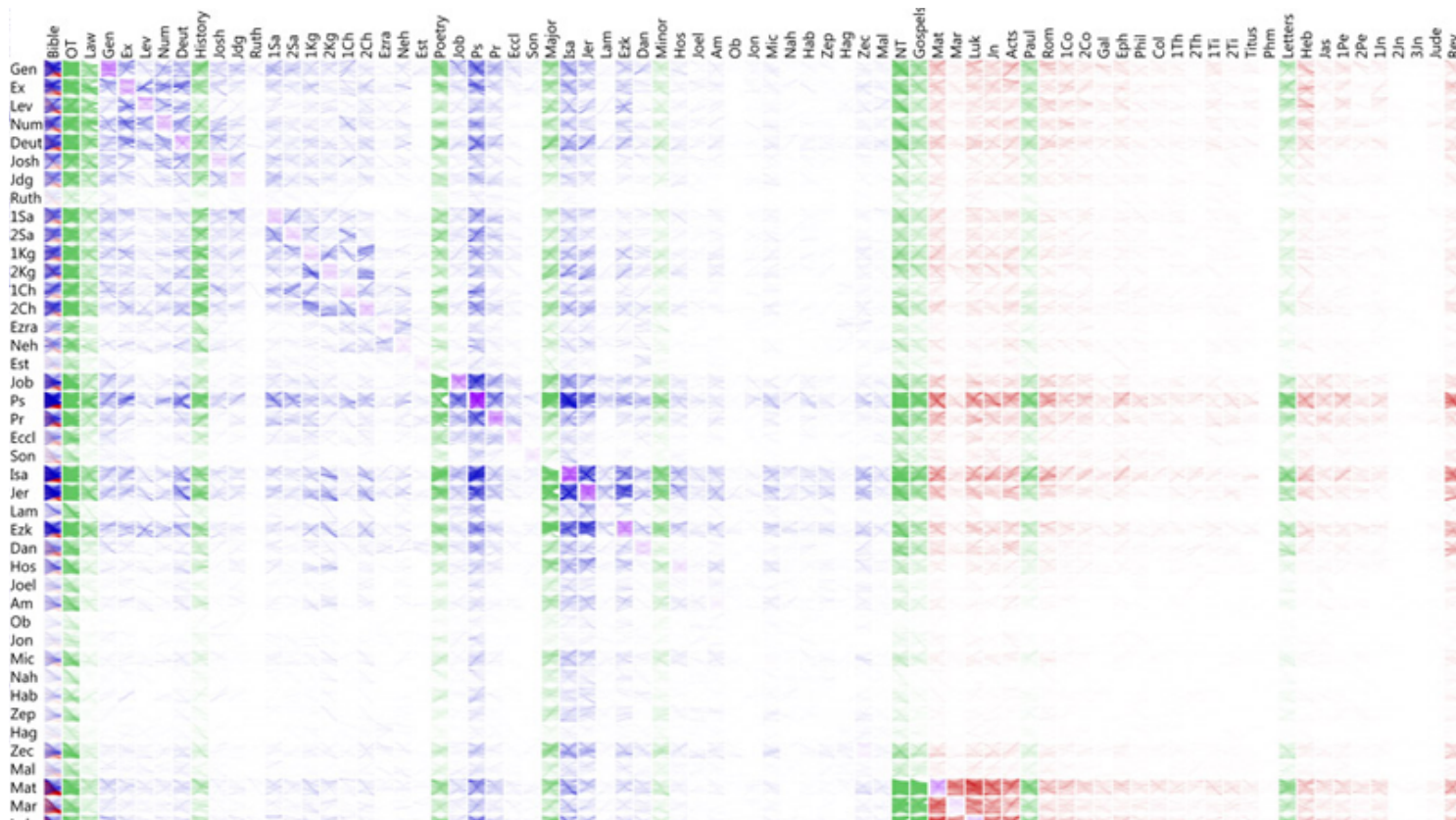
This is about how the bible speaks to itself - or the textual cross-references within it. The bar graph that runs along the bottom represents all of the chapters in the Bible. Books alternate between white and light gray and the length of each bar denotes the number of verses in the chapter. Each of the 63,779 cross references found in the Bible is depicted by a single arc - the color corresponds to the distance between the two chapters, creating a rainbow-like effect. Photograph: Christoph Römhild and Chris Harrison



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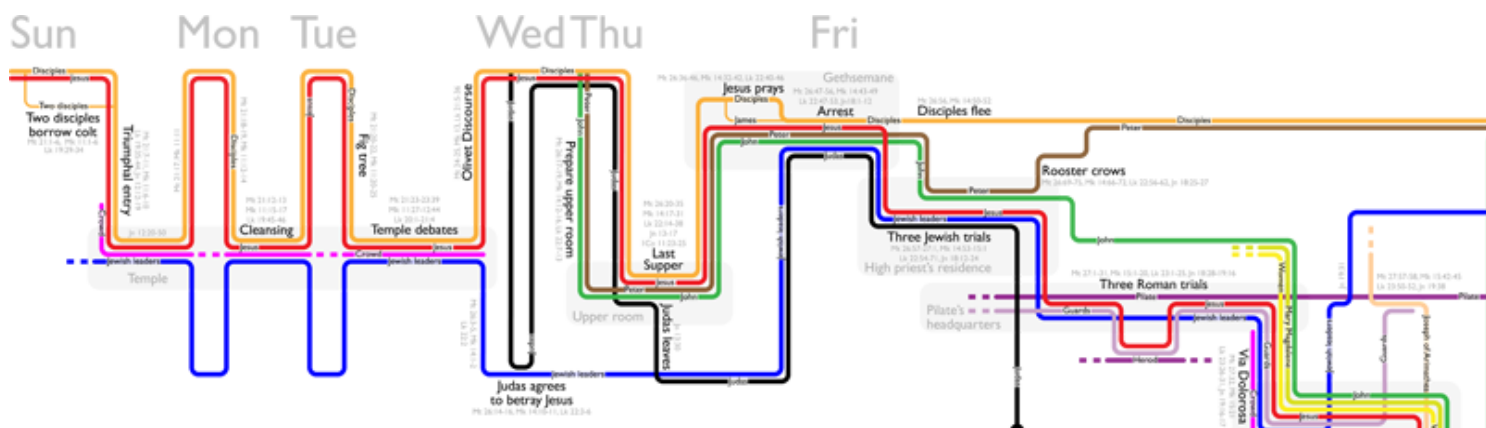
This visualisation also shows cross references in the Bible, but this time in an interactive tool you can use [here](#). You can select any two books to see which chapters refer to each other - the tiny square images indicate which books have the strongest connections.

Photograph: [OpenBible.info](#)



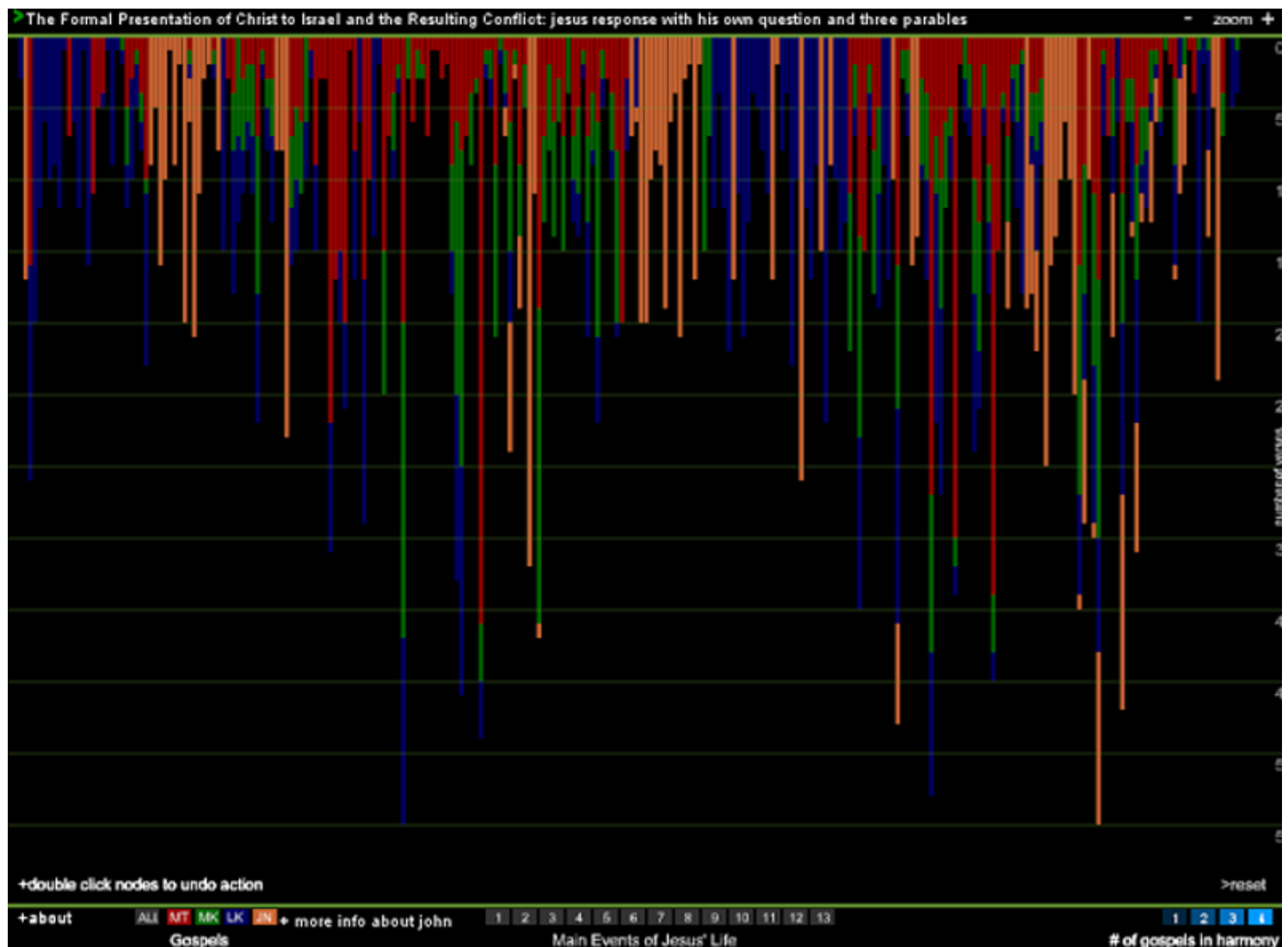
This timeline visualises the who, what and where of events leading up to and through Easter. You can follow the lines to see the progress of particular individuals - for example focusing in on Friday shows how Jesus draws aside Peter, James, and John and entreats them to pray before Judas and a crowd arrive. Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss, Jesus is arrested, and the disciples flee, while Peter and John follow at a distance.

Photograph: BibleGateway.com



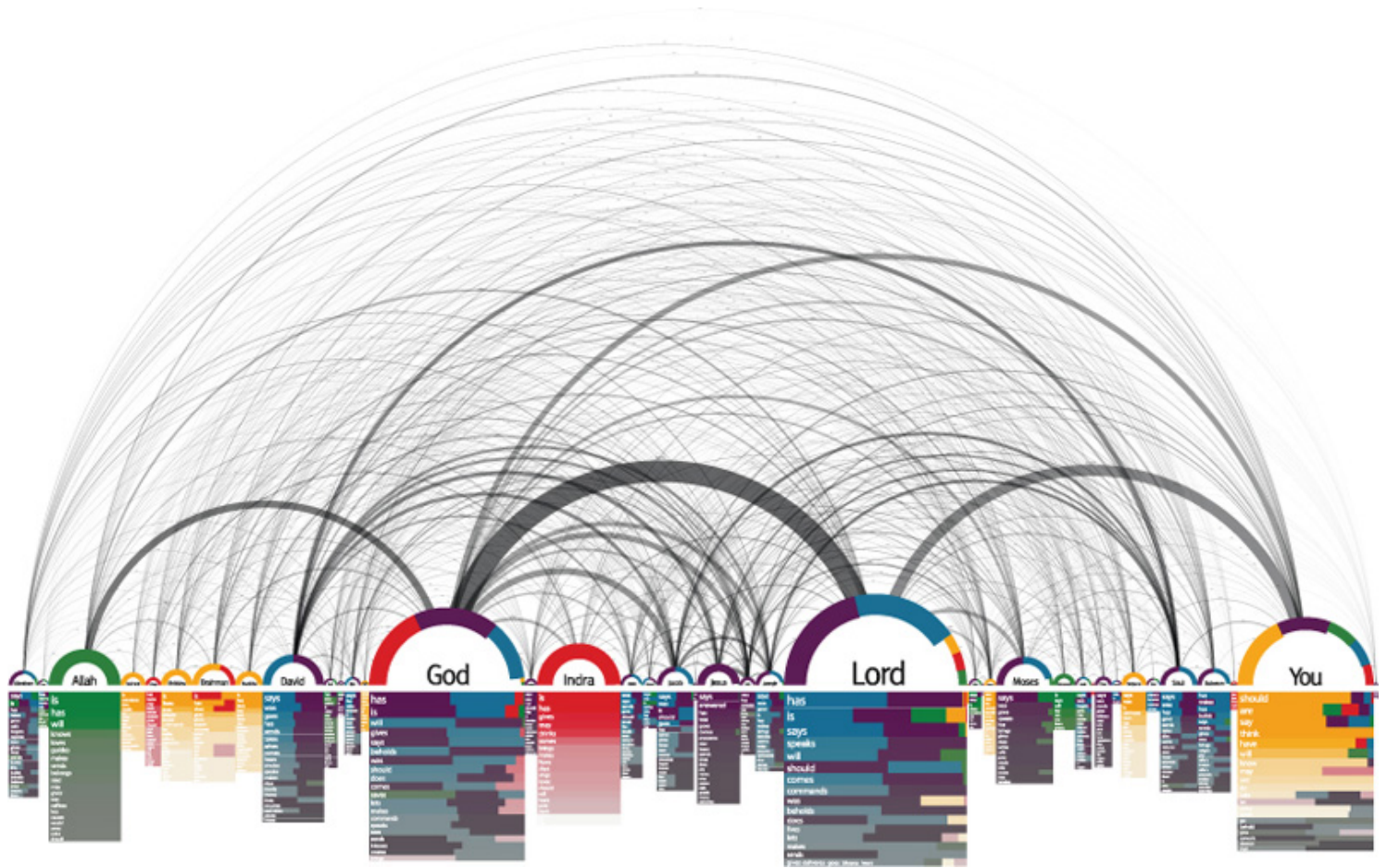
These bars plot the narrative of Jesus' life. Each bar represents a significant event, the length denotes the number of verses and the colours show which gospel the verses came from. This is actually a detailed interactive you can use here which allows you to click through and read every single passage.

Photograph: Ahn Dang



This visualisation covers includes holy texts from Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism as well as the Bible. The 41 most frequently cited characters are arranged alphabetically and scaled according to how many times they are mentioned. The colours above the names show where they appear e.g. 'Allah' appears only in the Qur'an and 'You' appears in all the holy books. Under each of these names is a bar chart that visualizes each character's "activities" (determined from adjacent verbs in the text).

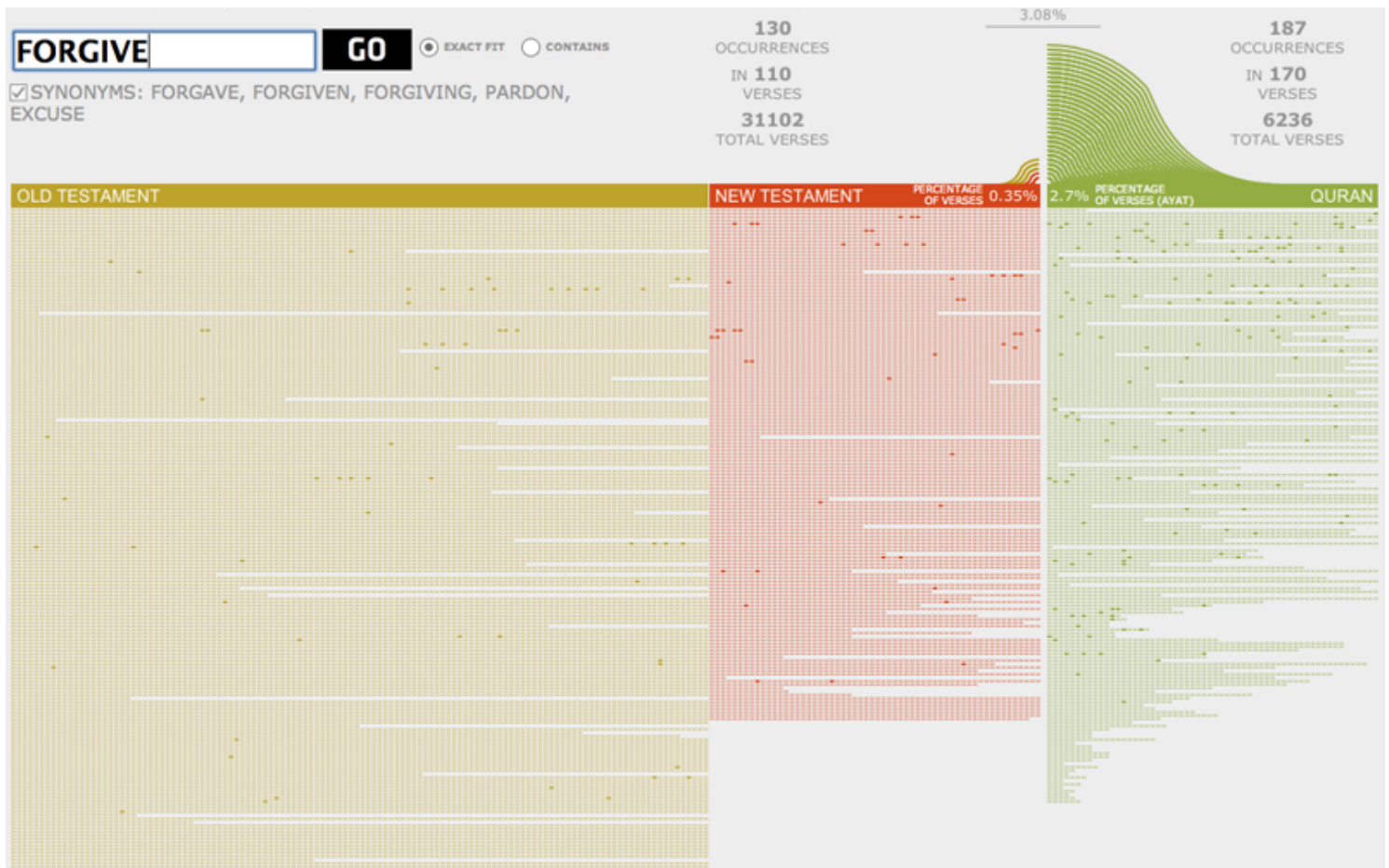
Photograph: Philipp Steinweber and Andreas Koller



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Pitch Interactive have created this tool that allows you to search for any particular word and compare its frequency in the Old Testament, New Testament and Quran. It's incredibly detailed as you can select whether or not you want to view synonyms and read the specific verses that are mentioned by clicking on any of the darker squares.

Photograph: Pitch Interactive

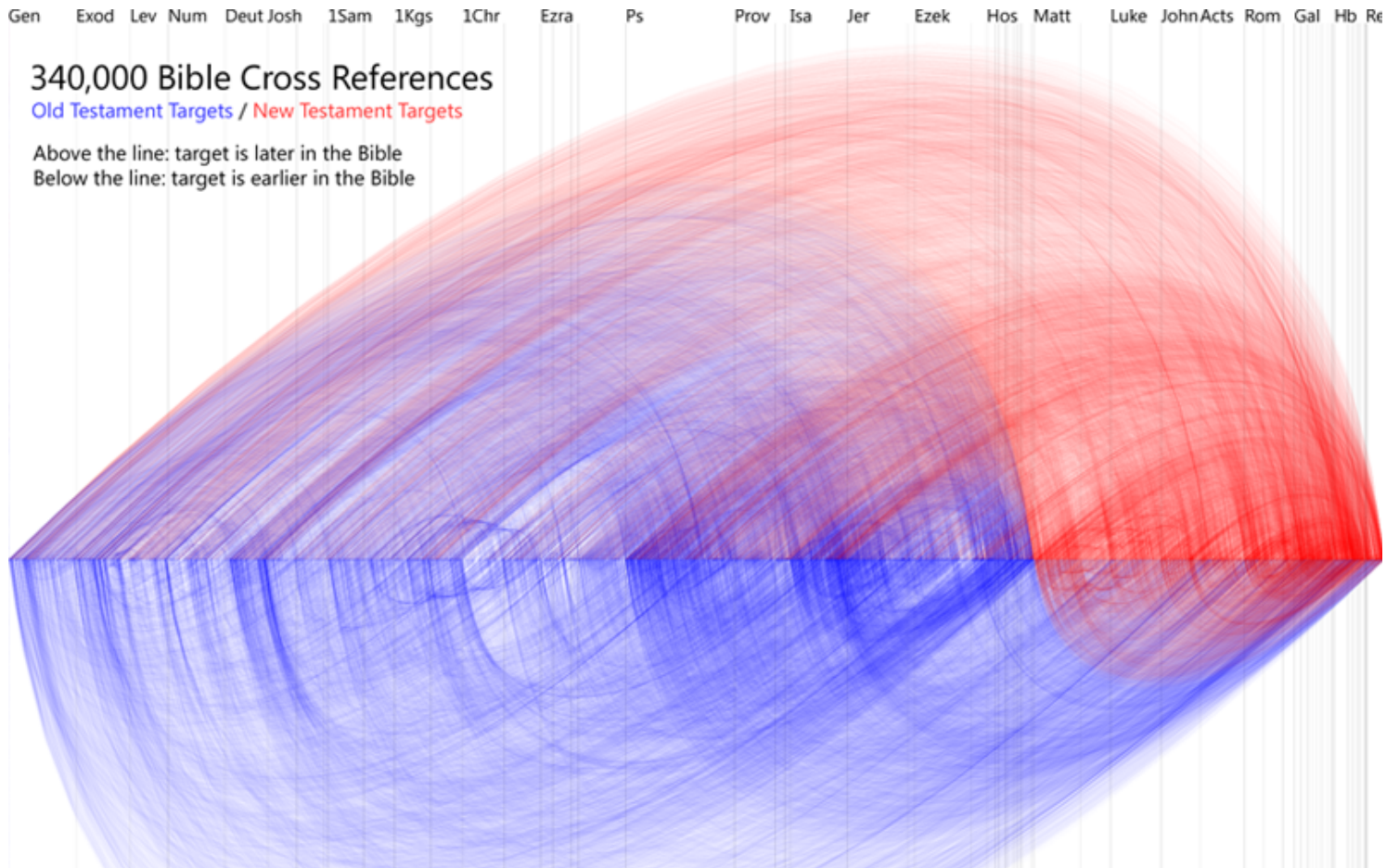


Kushal Dave used Google to count how often Bible verses appears online and made these darker to show which parts of the Bible are being used the most. You can try the interactive version of his research [here](#).

Photograph: Kushal Dave



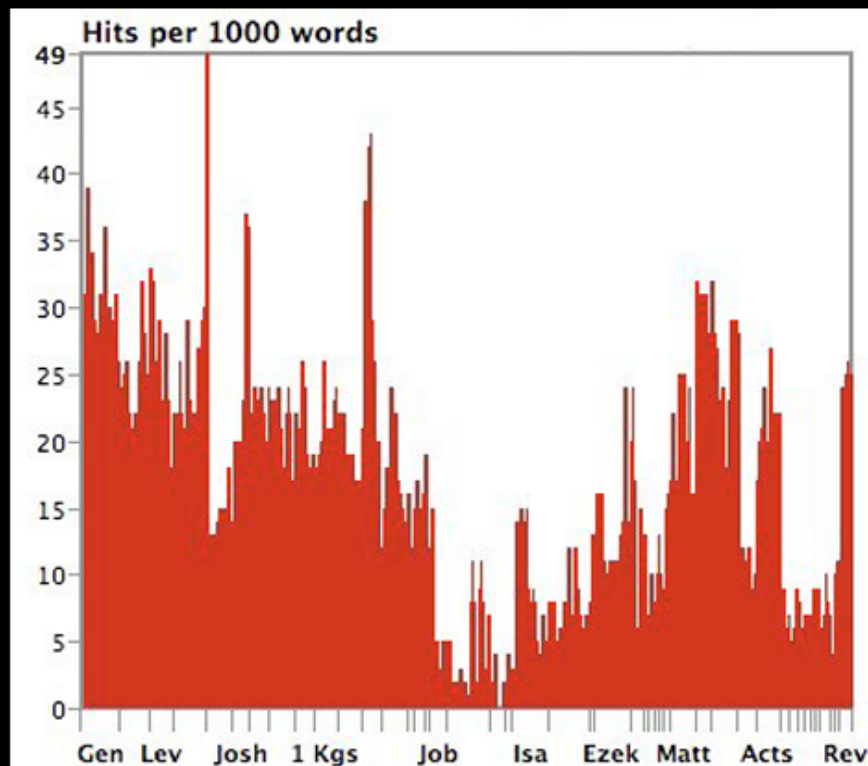
There are 340,000 cross-references between the Old and New Testament that are visualised here. It reveals a surprising asymmetry - if verse A cites verse B, verse B doesn't necessarily cite verse A. Photograph: OpenBible.info



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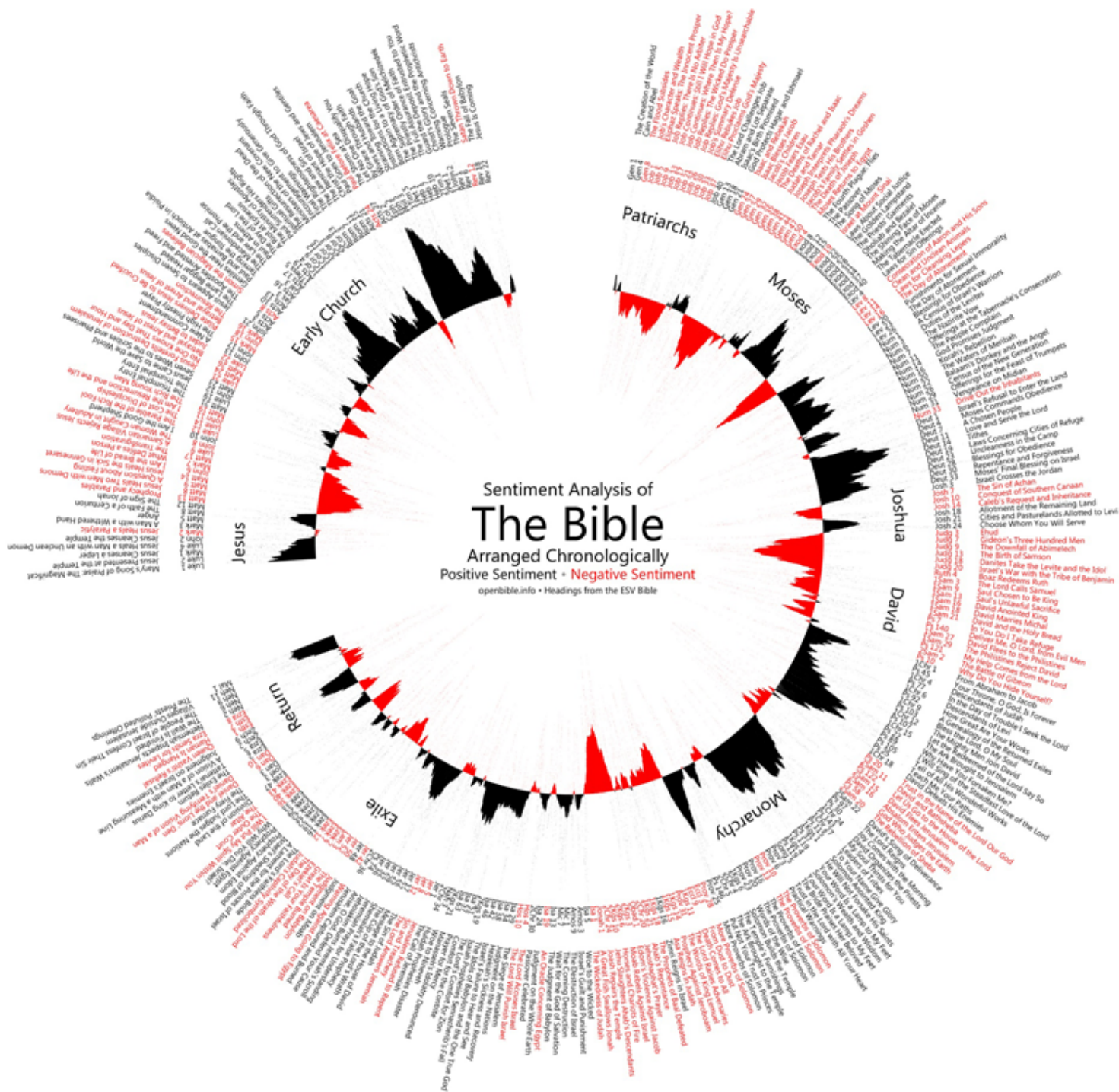
From the eloquent to the confusing. Enthusiasts of "the Bible code" search for hidden prophecies and passages in the Old Testament Hebrew text. As Revelation13 explains "The spaces between words are eliminated, so that the Old Testament is a continuous block of Hebrew letters. Then, by skipping letters at a programmed interval, the program searches for words. There appear to be patterns to the passages where the words are found". In this visualisation, the words 'Messiah' and 'Jesus' apparently reveal a cross shape.

Photograph: revelation13.net



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Even the Bible has become the target of sentiment analysis enthusiasts. This visualisation claims to explore the "ups" and "downs" of the Bible narrative, using sentiment analysis to quantify when positive and negative events are happening. The results? "Things start off well with creation, turn negative with Job and the patriarchs, improve again with Moses, dip with the period of the judges, recover with David, and have a mixed record (especially negative when Samaria is around) during the monarchy." You can explore the book-by-book results here. Photograph: OpenBible.info



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