

*Where are We Now in Bible Prophecy?*

# The Road to Armageddon and the Coming of the MESSIAH

**How much longer till the coming of the Messiah? How close are we To “Armageddon,” and the prophesied END of this age? Striking New developments indicate the END is increasingly drawing near.**

**What lies ahead for the next few years? How much time DO we really have left? Is “Armageddon” just around the corner? What lies ahead for the United States, and the western world? What does Bible prophecy have to say?**

**Here is incredible new evidence that TIME IS SHORT! *It's much later than you think!***

**William F. Dankenbring**

The world is fast asleep, totally oblivious to the nearness of the coming of the Messiah to straighten out the Hellish Mess mankind has gotten himself into! The threat to world peace has never been greater. Since the bombing of the Twin Trade Towers in New York, September 11, 2001, the world has entered a new “end game.” Suddenly many Bible prophecies for the “last days” and the “time of the end” seem not so far-fetched after all! In fact, they seem right on

target! The apostle Paul predicted, “But know this, that in the last days perilous times [times of stress, margin] will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self control, brutal, despisers of those that are good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” (II Tim.3:1-5, NKJV).

Jesus Christ Himself predicted as to the days at the close of this age, just before His second coming, “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. For these are the days of VENGEANCE, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be GREAT DISTRESS in the land and wrath upon this people” (Luke 21:20-23).

The Messiah also warned, “For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be” (Mark 13:19). How close are we to that time?

### *Osama bin Laden and the Apocalypse*

Osama bin Laden has spent billions of dollars on the successful purchase and development of nuclear weapons using the money his al-Qaida terrorist network earned by directing poppy cultivation in the fields of Afghanistan, right under the noses of U.S. occupation forces. So reports Joseph Farah’s G2 Bulletin, the premium, online intelligence newsletter published by the founder of WorldNetDaily, as well as the investigative work of journalist Paul L. Williams, who documents the stunning revelation in his upcoming new book, *The Al Qaeda Connection: International Terrorism, Organized Crime and the Coming Apocalypse*.

According to captured al-Qaida leaders and documents, bin Laden’s terrorist network has a plan called “American Hiroshima” involving the multiple detonation of nuclear weapons already smuggled into the U.S. Al-Qaida has reportedly obtained at least 40 nuclear weapons from the former Soviet Union, which include suitcase nukes, nuclear mines, artillery shells and even some missile warheads.

Besides trying to detonate its own nuclear weapons already planted in the U.S., military sources also say there is evidence to suggest al-Qaida is paying former Russian special forces officers to assist the terrorist group in locating nuclear weapons formerly concealed inside the U.S. by the Soviet Union during the Cold War. Osama bin Laden’s group is also paying nuclear scientists from Russia and Pakistan to maintain its existing arsenal and assemble additional weapons with the materials it has invested hundreds of millions in procuring over a period of 10 years.

The plans for the devastating nuclear attack on the U.S. have been under development for more than a decade. It is designed as a final deadly blow of defeat to the U.S., which is seen by al-Qaida and its allies as “the Great Satan.” At least half the nuclear weapons in the al-Qaida

arsenal were obtained for cash from its Chechen terrorist allies. At least nine major U.S. cities, including New York and Washington, are prime targets for the al-Qaida nuclear terrorists.

Some who are skeptical of the alarming news have suggested bin Laden could never have achieved such results with his limited funds and a personal fortune estimated by the FBI and CIA at around \$250 million. However, Williams reports that bin Laden had lost his family fortune before he ever got to Afghanistan in 1996. Some of that money had already been spent in his quest for the weapons of mass destruction he believed he needed to wage a successful jihad against the greatest superpower on the planet. That search began by 1993 when al-Qaida is believed to have purchased weapons-grade uranium purloined from South Africa. But, with the help of Taliban leader Sheikh Mullah Omar, bin Laden created a much bigger fortune by taking control of the Afghan poppy fields, refining the heroin into the highest quality and striking deals with Turkish drug lords and the Albanian Mafia to distribute it worldwide.

According to Yossef Bodansky, former director of the Congressional Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, and author of *Bin Laden: The Man Who Declared War on America*, by the late 1990s, under bin Laden's direction, Afghanistan was selling \$7 billion to \$8 billion worth of drugs in the West each year.

Williams, in his new book, says, "When Americans buy drugs, they fund the jihad." Strangely, nothing has changed since the U.S.-led occupation of Afghanistan – except that the flow of heroin has *increased*. It makes you wonder what is *really* going on, and what was the REAL motivation for going to war in Afghanistan! In 2004, according to the United Nations, opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan rose by two-thirds, climbing to 320,000 acres and producing a yield of 4,200 metric tons. "Prior to bin Laden's exile from Sudan, the heroin that came out of the Golden Crescent was low-grade No.3," reports Williams in his upcoming book.

Omar and bin Laden recognized there was a growing worldwide market for No.4 heroin that could be shot into veins. "To meet the demand for this product, bin Laden established sophisticated laboratories near Kabul and recruited chemists from Pakistan, China and the former Soviet Union," writes Williams. By 1997, the revenues from the poppy harvest poured into the Taliban economy to the tune of somewhere between \$5 billion and \$16 billion annually. The sale of drugs to the West served a double purpose in the eyes of bin Laden: it helped to poison the infidel enemy; it paid for the acquisition and development of nuclear weapons – the ultimate means of destroying the United States.

As a direct result of this extraordinary development and the intersection of terrorism and narcotics sales, Williams, a former FBI consultant on organized crime matters, came, for all intents and purposes, the end of the Italian Mafia – La Cosa Nostra. Those who filled the vacuum left after arrests and convictions of many of the top crime family leaders were bin Laden's Albanian allies. "In 2004, the FBI announced that among ethnic Albanians, there is a group of radical Muslims who have replaced La Cosa Nostra as the 'leading crime outfit in the United States,'" writes Williams. The Albanian Mafia, due to their incredible propensity for blood-letting, gained supremacy over the long-entrenched La Cosa Nostra families in every major city along the Eastern seaboard.

It isn't just about money with the Albanian Mafia. There is a religious twist to their bloodletting and mayhem. When Italian police tapped the phones of Agim Gashi, Milan's leading drug lord, he was overheard telling his Turkish suppliers to continue sending shipments of heroin during Ramadan, despite the Quranic injunctions against it. It was necessary, he said, for the sake of the bigger picture, "to submerge Christian infidels in drugs." In another conversation, he said: "We have discovered that drugs are not only a source of wealth but a tool to weaken Christendom."

### *Forced Deportation of Jews from Gaza*

Another "sign" of the perilous times in which we live is the recent forced deportation of Jews from their long-established homes in Gaza. The Sharon government, in compliance with the New World Order's "road map to peace," under great pressure from the United States, has forcefully expelled innocent and well-behaved Jewish settlers from their homes, in contravention to their own electoral promises, thus breaking their word, and repudiating their promises.

Leading religious Zionist rabbis in Israel met with Sharon and accused him of splitting the nation and causing a trauma which will last for generations. Some believe his name will forever be remembered in infamy. As one rabbi who lived in Gush Katif said to Sharon, "It's a totally absurd situation. The Palestinian terrorists attacked and maimed my family, and now we are forced to move out to some transit camp, give our house to them, and continue to pay the mortgage on the house while the terrorists enjoy it. This is pure evil!"

Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu said, "We told Sharon that we have learned our lesson, and that we will never again vote for people who do not come from a background of faith. . . We will not vote for people like him, people who ruin the country."

Nehemia Gordon, a Karaite Jew, in his newsletter, opined, "Many Israelis feel that we must quietly accept the brutal expulsion since Sharon was democratically elected. But democracy or not, no regime has the right to ethnically cleanse Jews from their ancestral lands. This is what Stalin did to millions of his citizens and what Serbia was accused of doing to its Muslim citizens in Kosovo. One of the crimes the Nazis were convicted of at Nuremberg was the 'forced deportation from occupied territories' (into Germany), the exact war crime which Sharon is currently perpetrating against thousands of Jews!" (August 17, 2005).

Gordon declared, "At the end of the day the important question is what does the Torah say about all this? This is not a political issue but a moral/religious one. *I believe we are living in the prophetic curses promised in Leviticus, Deuteronomy, and Judges*, and Ariel Sharon is part of that curse. His brutal regime is part of YHVH's punishment for Israel not following the Torah and for trusting in its own might rather than in YHVH. I hear all the time in Israel the mantra, 'our army is invincible' and 'we have nothing to fear because we are so powerful.' But today the 'powerful' Israeli army was turned against the Jewish people to drive men, women, and children from their ancestral lands. This regime and its army have become like King Ahab and Queen Jezebel who used their brutal regime to kill Navot the Jezreelite and steal his ancestral land" (*ibid.*).

Why are the Israelis now giving up territory which they conquered in the Six Day War in 1967? In *Update: The Journal of Koinonia House*, in an excellent article titled “Betrayal of the Chosen? The New Bush Doctrine,” their Washington correspondent, Bill Koenig states, “President George W. Bush is rapidly moving himself and our nation on a collision course with God over Israel’s covenant land.”

The article points out that on May 26, 2005, President Bush and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas convened a White House Rose Garden press conference and announced a number of astonishing new points. Among others, they said all peace negotiations and concessions made between Israel and the Muslim nations *since 1949* “have been rendered null and void.” All of Israel’s hard-fought, blood-bought gains of the three wars forced upon her, have been scuttled by this one announcement!

This astonishing and totally unexpected statement reverses long-standing American policy in the Middle East. In his joint statement with Abbas, President Bush declared that any final status changes in the peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians must be mutually agreed upon *on the basis of the 1949 armistice lines!*

In 1949, East Jerusalem was in Arab hands. So was the Temple Mount and all of Biblical Jerusalem! The new “Bush Doctrine” represents a complete cave in to Arab-Muslim-world pressure against the nation of Israel.

Not only that, but Bush declared that the new two-state solution must ensure the contiguity of the West Bank and a meaningful link between the West Bank and Gaza – thus effectively cutting the state of Israel in half, dividing Israel itself into two separate “territories.”

Thus while Bush ostensibly fights terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq, he caves in completely before terrorism against the state of Israel. The message? Terrorism pays!

Already, with the Jewish pull-out and retreat from Gaza, the Palestinians are rejoicing, shooting off their guns, and proclaiming, “Today Gaza, tomorrow the West Bank and Jerusalem!”

When America turns its back on Israel, will God turn His back on America?

What must God Almighty think of this betrayal of our Israeli allies, the only democratic government in the Middle East? It was prophesied long ago!

Let’s take a new look at Biblical prophecy for the end-times, and see what it says about the current state of world affairs, and the prognosis for the future.

### ***Hoofbeats of the Four Horsemen***

In a detailed prophecy of the events which will occur on the earth, just prior to His Second Coming, Jesus Christ told His disciples, “For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in

divers places. All these are the BEGINNING of sorrows” (Matt.24:7-8). These things have already begun to happen, and on a stepped up scale!

Jesus Christ foretold incredible upsets of the weather and the natural order. He declared: “And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth *distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring: Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth:* for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory” (Luke 21:25-27).

These things have already begun to come to pass, with increasing frequency and mounting severity.

Following on the heels of these natural disasters, Jesus foretold widespread religious deception, apostasy, and persecution upon the true followers of Christ (Matt.24:9-11). Many false prophets and religious leaders would rise up, deceiving the many – charismatic leaders, religious Neanderthals, and autocratic leaders impressed with their own vanity and ego. This has happened. Jesus added, “And because iniquity shall abound” – wickedness, lawlessness, pornography, obscenity, cursing, gang violence, immorality, humanism – “the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the END, the same shall be saved” (Matt.24:11-13).

The apostle Paul also spoke of this horrible, mind-bending, spine-twisting time of sheer terror coming upon the earth. He wrote, “For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape” (I Thess.5:2-3).

### ***Coming: GREAT TRIBULATION***

Jesus went on to say, in His famous Mount Olivet prophecy, “For then shall be GREAT TRIBULATION [distress, suffering, travail, WAR], *such as was not since the beginning* of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should NO FLESH BE SAVED [alive]: but for the elect’s sake, those days shall be shortened” (Matt.24:21-22).

Moffatt, in his translation, calls this period of time “the CRISIS at the CLOSE” (Daniel 12:4, 9). Daniel prophesied, “And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a TIME OF TROUBLE, *such as never was since there was a nation* even to that same time; and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book” (Dan.12:1).

Looking into the future, into our day, the prophet Jeremiah foretold of this same indescribable, unique, incredible time! He wrote: “Alas! for that day is great, *so that none is like it:* it is even the time of JACOB’S TROUBLE; but he shall be saved out of it” (Jer.30:7).

According to the *War Atlas*, since 1945 not a single day has passed without conflict, war, strife, revolution, or insurrection, somewhere on the earth. The standing armies of the world,

today, total 32,000,000 soldiers. However, with complete war mobilization efforts, the nations of the world could field 570 million troops! The annual arms trade industry hovers around the one trillion dollar mark – enough money to permanently solve the Third World’s hunger and health problems.

The world we live in is an increasingly unstable, dangerous, perilous place – just like Jesus, Paul, Daniel and Jeremiah prophesied!

### *The FOUR HORSEMEN of the Apocalypse*

The book of Revelation holds chilling, spine-tingling descriptions of events which will occur in the last days of this present age, leading up to the second coming of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. The time-sequence of events begins with the “four horsemen” of the apocalypse. Notice! We read here of four horses and their riders. They are, in order, white, red, black, and pale. What are they?

“And I saw, and behold a WHITE HORSE: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him; and he went forth conquering, and to conquer” (Rev.6:2).

A parallel prophecy in Zechariah 6 tell us also of four chariots of horses – red, black, white, and “bay.” This prophecy identifies the four with the four parts of the earth – the red is connected with the east, the black with the north, the white with the west, and the “bay” with the south (Zech.6:1-7). They walk through the earth. A “horse” is noted for its military prowess (Job 39:19-25). These, then, are four mighty military powers, in the four quarters of the earth!

White is a symbol of righteousness (Rev.19:8). The white horse is connected with the west (Zech.6:6, Tanakh). It represents a mighty military power in the West which has fought the forces of fascism, Nazism, and Communism. Which nation or group of nations would that be? Why, the United States and Great Britain, and their allies! The United States, in the western hemisphere, was largely responsible for saving the world in World War I, World War II, fending off Communism in Korea and Vietnam, and leading to the victory in the Gulf War and Iraq War.

### *The Red Horse*

“And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take PEACE FROM THE EARTH, and that they should KILL *one another*: and there was given to him a GREAT SWORD” (v.4)

The red horse is connected with the *east* (Zech.6:7, Tanakh). It is *Communism* – remember Red Square, in Moscow? The red flag of Communism? The red star, the “Reds,” etc.? The Jewish Tanakh in Zechariah 6:7 shows the red horses are connected with the east. Communism rose up in 1917, overthrew the Czars in Russia, and set about seeking to enslave and conquer the world. Millions lost their lives in Stalin’s purges. Millions more lost their lives in the purges of Mao Tse-tung, in Red China. And now, once again, the red horse in the East is threatening to rise up. Will North Korea attack South Korea?

Will China attempt to seize Taiwan? Political analysts think this may occur in the year 2007. That is only two years from now! China is currently increasing its arms build-up, with missiles threatening Taiwan, and threatening the United States, warning her to “stay out” of China’s internal affairs, which it regards the Taiwan issue as being. One Chinese general has warned the U.S. that if it intervenes in a Taiwan-China clash, China would rain down nuclear weapons on the U.S. itself! America’s attempt to “buy” the love of China through permitting her special trade status, and allowing her to sell her products in America’s markets, is already looking to be the greatest miscalculation of international strategy ever made!

### *The Black Horse*

“And I beheld, and lo, a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice . . . say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine” (Rev.6:5-6).

The third horseman – the black horse – is connected with the north country (Zech.6:6) – that is, modern Europe and Germany. The black horse – Germany – attacked Poland in 1939 and initiated World War II with the aggression of Adolph Hitler and the Third Reich. Germany is today once again the political and economic powerhouse of Europe. When this horse rides, especially in the future, it is connected with famine, scarcity, and hunger. Today Europe is vying with America for leadership of the Western alliance.

### *The Pale Green Horse*

“And I looked, and behold, a PALE horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, TO KILL WITH SWORD, AND WITH HUNGER, AND WITH DEATH, and with the beasts of the earth” (Rev.6:8).

The fourth horseman – the pale horse – represents the “king of the south” – the Muslim world – and the threat that it poses to the world (Zech.6:6). The leader of this world grouping would be Egypt, identified in the book of Daniel as the “king of the south” (Dan.11). Led by Egypt, this horseman will “push” at the king of the north, leading to World War. Notice!

“And at the time of the end shall the king of the south *PUSH AT HIM*: and the king of the north shall come against him like a WHIRLWIND, with chariots [tanks], and with horsemen, and with many ships [including the U.S. and British navies]; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow, and pass over. He shall enter into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown” (Dan.11:40-41).

Note that by the time this happens, the Western and Northern kingdoms have merged and have become part of a New World Order! The ships referred to here can only be a reference to the ships of the world’s greatest navies, today, those of the United States, Britain, and Europe!

The “pale horse” of the apocalypse could also represent the growing power of the

ecological movement! The Greek word translated “pale” in this verse is *chloros* which means “greenish, i.e., verdant, dun-colored – green, pale.” We get our word “chlorophyll” from this word. The “Green movement” is part of the ecological movement. Mikhail Gorbachev is prominent in this area. He is the head of Green Cross, International. At the State of the World Forum, held at the Presidio, in San Francisco, Gorbachev told the assembled world leaders, “The environmental crisis is the cornerstone of the New World Order.” In a speech in Indiana in October, 1996, he openly declared, “World civilization as we know it will soon end. We have very little time and we must act.” By working with Maurice Strong and the United Nations, Gorbachev has been leading the way to prepare for a New International Order.

In order for these things to happen, however, the United States in particular, must be brought into complete conformity with this new world thinking. America is an integral part of the New World Order. Massive changes, therefore, are being orchestrated for the United States, to bring it into alignment with globalism. These changes are rapidly occurring in the name of “Homeland Defense” and international trade. America is rapidly becoming a “police state” because of the horrendous threat of terrorism!

### ***The Fall of Modern America and Israel***

The prophet Hosea records:

“The pride of Israel doth testify to his face: therefore shall *Israel and Ephraim [the United States] FALL in their iniquity*; Judah [the Jews and modern Israel] also shall FALL with them. . . . They have dealt treacherously against the LORD: for they have begotten strange children [lawless and rebellious youth!]: now shall A MONTH DEVOUR THEM with their portions” (Hos.5:5-7).

However it comes about – via internal strife and violence, terrorism, economic collapse, or simply a quiet, subtle takeover by the forces of the New World Order – our western nations will end up in dire circumstances, with economic slavery and loss of freedom and sovereignty. Our enslavement will become complete as our nations become merged with the New World Order. Our resources and military will then be used on the behalf of that World Government. This “New World Order” is spoken of in the book of Revelation as “Babylon the Great” – it will be a colossal military juggernaut and mercantile commercial trading Empire spanning the globe (Rev.13:4; 18:1-24).

For proof that Biblical “Ephraim” is the United States, read our explosive NEW book, *America and Great Britain – Our IDENTITY Revealed: Ephraim and Manasseh in the End of Days*.

These world changes are quietly steam-rolling toward a grand smash climax and nuclear world war which will be cut short by the coming of the Messiah in the not very distant future!

How about you? Are YOU awake – tingling with every nerve ending, vibrantly expecting the soon return of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Messiah, to rescue this world from self-destruction and nuclear obliteration and self-inflicted cosmocide?

How much longer do we have to wait?

### *World Fast Asleep*

Is there a way we can know, and be certain that we are correct, at least within a very few years, when Christ is going to return to this hell-bent, blood-soaked, wicked planet to straighten out the mess mankind has made?

Strange, isn't it, that in this age just before the coming of the Messiah, the message you don't seem to hear PREACHED very much is the truth about the COMING OF THE MESSIAH and the KINGDOM OF GOD! How often do you hear thundering sermons on the immanency of the coming of Christ to JUDGE the world? Seemingly, never; people just don't believe it any more; it seems too vague, too nebulous, too indistinct and far-off to most people who profess to be "Christians"!

### *A Most Amazing Revelation*

It is interesting to note, here, that according to God's calendar, the calendar of the Scriptures, the "month" is determined by the revolution of the moon around the earth; the "year" is determined by the revolution of the earth around the sun; and the "day" is defined as one revolution of the earth upon its own axis, twenty four hours in length. But what astronomical feature is there in the solar system, or universe, that determines or regulates the seven-day "WEEK"?

*There is none!* The "week" has *no astronomical basis whatsoever!* The "week" is of DIVINE origin!

Why, then, did God Almighty, ordain and create the seven-day week, whose origin goes back to this Genesis account of creation? Why the week? Is there inherent in the design of the week a hidden prophetic meaning – a tremendous significance of which the world is totally unaware?

In the second epistle of Peter, we read the following: "First of all, you must understand that IN THE LAST DAYS SCOFFERS WILL COME, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, 'Where is this "coming" he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation'" (II Pet.3:3-4).

Doesn't that attitude characterize our generation, today? This is the Age of Skepticism and Unbelief!

But notice this! Peter continues: "But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a DAY IS LIKE A THOUSAND YEARS, and a THOUSAND YEARS ARE LIKE A DAY. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come LIKE A THIEF" (verses 8-10, NIV).

The coming of Messiah will catch the world by complete surprise! The masses and multitudes will not be expecting it, any more than they did 2000 years ago! The thief comes at night, unexpectedly, upon the homeowner. Even so the nations of this world will be completely oblivious to the nearness of the second coming of the Messiah – the Anointed One! This attitude of soporific ignorance and skepticism and unbelief – is the major characteristic of the world around us today, and this “virus” has infected thousands in the very Church of God itself, including major leaders during this end time!

But notice even more – Peter said that a “day” with God is as a “thousand years.” Peter was corroborating the statement made by Moses, the man of God, in Psalm 90. We read, “For a thousand years in your sight are LIKE A DAY that has just gone by” (Psalm 90:4, NIV).

Peter used this expression in connection with the coming of the “day of the Lord” in his second epistle, which we just read. Could this be a vital PROPHECY – a Key that unlocks hidden prophetic meaning in the Word of God? Could this be the KEY to understanding the time element of the Second Coming of Christ and the arrival of the “Day of the Lord”?

### *Evidence from Early Church History*

The nearer we come to the end of 6,000 years of man’s dominion over the earth the less and less people believe we are living in the “end time.” Nevertheless, the concept that there would be 6,000 years of man’s history before the coming of the Messiah was commonly believed in the early Church. The *New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge* states: “The early fathers most commonly looked for the second advent at the end of 6000 years of the world’s history” (1910, VII, p.376).

Over eighteen centuries ago, the Epistle of Barnabus stated plainly:

“Of the sabbath He speaketh in the beginning of the creation; ‘And God made the works of His hands in six days, and He ended on the seventh day, and rested on it, and He hallowed it.’ Give heed, children, what this meaneth. ‘He ended in six days.’ He meaneth this, that IN SIX THOUSAND YEARS THE LORD SHALL BRING ALL THINGS TO AND END; for the day with Him signifieth a thousand years ; and this He himself beareth me witness, saying; ‘Behold, the day of the Lord shall be as a thousand years.’ Therefore, children, in six days, that is in SIX THOUSAND YEARS, EVERYTHING SHALL COME TO AN END. ‘And He rested on the seventh day.’ This he meaneth; when His Son shall come, and shall abolish the time of the Lawless One, and shall judge the ungodly, and shall change the sun and the moon and the stars, then shall He truly rest on the seventh day” (“Epistle of Barnabus,” chap. 15, from *The Apostolic Fathers*, trans. J. B. Lightfoot, p.151-152).

Even before the time of Jesus Christ the Jews were saying that the Messiah would come after 6,000 years of human history. Says the *Jewish Encyclopedia*,

“The Perso-Babylonian world-year of twelve millenniums, however, was transformed in Jewish eschatology into a WORLD-WEEK OF SEVEN MILLENNIUMS corresponding with the week of Creation, the verse ‘A thousand years in thy sight are but as

yesterday' (Ps.90:4) having suggested the idea that the present world of toil is to be followed by a SABBATICAL MILLENNIUM, 'the world to come.' Of these the six millenniums were again divided, . . . into three periods: the first 2000 years devoid of the Law; the next 2000 years under the rule of the Law; and the last 2000 years preparing amid struggles and through catastrophes for the RULE OF THE MESSIAH" ("Eschatology," *Jewish Encyclopedia*, 1903, V, p.211).

Isn't it interesting that Christ came, the first time, at the end of the second period of 2,000 years, and will once again come, this time as a conquering King, at the end of the third period of 2,000 years, amidst struggles and catastrophes!

The hellish days of mass destruction and World War III, threatening the extinction of all life on earth, will be "cut short" by the return of the Messiah, to save mankind from himself! (Matt.24:21-22). Otherwise, mankind would perish from off the face of the planet earth!

### ***The 6,000 Year Plan***

The Sabbath day, which occurs at the END of the seven-day week, is a day of "rest" (Gen.2:2-3; Exodus 20:4).

The apostle John gives us this picture of the world soon after the second coming of Christ (depicted in Revelation 19:11-21): "And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the THOUSAND YEARS were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

"I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshipped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and REIGNED WITH CHRIST A THOUSAND YEARS . . ." (Revelation 20:1-4, NIV).

Notice carefully! Here the "day of the Lord" is depicted as a THOUSAND YEARS IN LENGTH! It is the "Sabbath rest" – a time of world peace, joy, happiness, and rampant knowledge of God throughout the earth.

That Kingdom of God, that Kingdom of rest, and relief from our weariness and toils, is still ahead of us. Paul spoke of it when he wrote:

"Therefore, since the promise of entering his REST still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they [the ancient Israelites] did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. Now we who have believed enter that REST, just as God has said,

'So I declared on oath in my anger,

'They shall never enter my rest.'

“And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world. For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: ‘And on the seventh day God rested from all his work.’ And again in the passage above he says, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’

“It still remains that some will enter that REST . . . THERE REMAINS, THEN, A SABBATH-REST FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to ENTER THAT REST . . .”(Hebrews 4:1-11, NIV).

The millennial reign of Christ with the saints, lasting a 1,000 years (Rev.20:4), is called a “SABBATH-REST.” It is a millennial Sabbath day of rest and spiritual nourishment and enlightenment!

If the “seventh” day, the “day of the Lord,” is 1,000 years long, then each of the preceding “days” would also be 1,000 years long. Therefore, the week, which God established at creation, prefigures the Plan of God. Each day represents a 1,000 years, and the seventh day is 1,000 years. Therefore, the preceding six days equal a *time span of 6,000 years in duration!*

Thus God Almighty gave mankind 6,000 years in which to attempt to rule himself, under the influence of Satan the devil. The period of this age of man is just about up! If we can figure out chronologically when God created Adam and Eve, then we can count 6,000 years and arrive at the end of this age and the time prophesied for the beginning of God's Seventh-day Millennial Sabbath Rest – the Second Coming of the Messiah!

One thing we need to know, then, to help determine when the Messiah will come, and set up the Messianic Kingdom, is when this 6,000 years *began!*

### ***The Jewish New Testament Commentary***

A much more complete and interesting explanation of this ancient Jewish belief, which long ante-dated the time of Christ and Peter, is given in the *Jewish New Testament Commentary*, by Dr. David H. Stern. In a commentary on II Peter, chapter 3, dealing with the “day” for a “thousand years” equation, Dr. Stern writes that this idea “has deep roots in Judaim, specifically in connection with *dating the Messianic Era.*” He then quotes the Talmud, in tractate Sanhedrin, as follows:

“Rav Kattina said, ‘The world will exist for six thousand years, then for one thousand it will be desolate, as it is said, “The Lord alone will be exalted in that day”’ (Isaiah 2:11). Abaye said, ‘It will be desolate two thousand, as it is said, “After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, and we will live in his sight”’ (Hos.6:2).

“It has been taught in accordance with Rav Kattina, ‘Just as every seventh year is a year of *sh'mittah* [letting the land lie fallow], so it is with the world: one thousand years out of seven are to be fallow – as proved by the follow-

ing three texts taken together [in which the key word is 'day']: 'The Lord alone will be exalted in that day' (Isaiah 2:11); 'A psalm and song for the day of *Shabbat*' (Psalm 92:1), meaning the day that is entirely *Shabbat*; and, 'For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past' (Psalm 90:4).

"The school of Eliyahu [Elijah] teaches: 'THE WORLD EXISTS FOR SIX THOUSAND YEARS -- two thousand of them *tohu* ["void"]; two thousand, *Torah*; and two thousand, the era of the MESSIAH. But because of our numerous iniquities many of these years have been lost'" (Sanhedrin 97a-97b).

Notice that even the seven year Sabbatical cycle points to the truth of a Six Thousand Year Plan of God. Each series of "six years" is followed by a seventh year which is a SABBATICAL YEAR – or year of release, and rest to the land! (Leviticus 25:1-8).

Notice also that that the first 2000 years are characterized, by the school of Elijah the prophet, as years of "tohu" – that is, waste, emptiness, confusion and chaos – or "void." That would be the world prior to Abraham, including the Flood of Noah's time, from 4004 B.C. to 2004 B.C. The next 2,000 years is the time of the "Torah," or "Law" of God – from the time of Abraham, 2004 B.C. to the *birth of Jesus Christ in 4 B.C.!*

The "Messianic Era," then, runs from 4 B.C. to our time, today!

Yet, because of the sins of the people, the prophecy states, the Messianic Era itself would be "delayed." When Christ came in 4 B.C., and began His ministry in 27 A.D., He – the Messiah – was rejected by His people, and scorned, and crucified – killed! That was the beginning of the Messianic Era, when Christ came, and offered Salvation to His people. But since they rejected Him, He returned to heaven where He sits today, waiting for His people to repent of their sins, and cry out for Him – at which point He will return to save them from utter destruction!

David H. Stern writes concerning this fateful prophecy:

"According to Jewish tradition, there were 2,000 years without Torah -- spiritual tohu -- between the creation of Adam and the time when Abraham, aged 52, began convincing people to worship the one true God.

"The second 2,000 years supposedly lasted from then until 172 years after the destruction of the second Temple, that is, until 244 C.E. That was the year 4000 by the Jewish calendar. *But no significant event in Jewish history took place then.* However, Biblical chronology has a number of uncertainties, so that not all agree that the Jewish calendar accurately dates the biblical beginning of creation. James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh, Ireland, writing in the 17th century, placed the creation according to Genesis at 4004 B.C.E., exactly 4000 years before Yeshua's supposed birthdate . . .

"Concerning the third 2,000 years, a footnote to this passage in the Soncino English edition of the Talmud says, '*Messiah will come WITHIN THAT*

*PERIOD. He should have come at the beginning of [it]; the DELAY is due to our SINS.’* It should be obvious that the Messiah, who ‘should have come at the beginning’ of the last 2,000 year period is in fact Yeshua, who did come then. The delay is not of his coming but of our recognizing him, and this delay is indeed ‘due to our sins.’ . . .

“Yet as Kefa [Peter] points out, there is a delay in his second coming, and this is, in a different sense, ‘due to our sins’: ‘The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise . . . on the contrary, he is patient with you; for it is . . . his purpose that everyone should turn from his sins,’ literally, ‘that everyone should come to repentance’ . . .” (*Jewish New Testament Commentary*, page 763-764).

Notice that the Jewish Calendar says this fall begins the Jewish year 5760 from Creation. This itself creates confusion in terms of chronology. The creation date set by the Jewish calendar is 235 years later than the carefully reconstructed date discovered by Archbishop James Ussher, of 4004 B.C. The Jewish calendar puts creation at 3760 B.C.E. This date is impossible. How could this have occurred, since the Jews are a very talented, mathematically gifted people? It has been suggested that the Jewish calendar actually begins with the time or birth of Enos – grandson of Adam and Eve – who was born 235 years after the creation of Adam (Gen.5:3-6). This fact may indicate or suggest that Adam and his progeny discovered the secrets of the *calendar*, and began making conclusions concerning astronomical timetables, the orbits of planets, and comets, and the revolution of the earth about the sun, at the time of the birth of Enos – thus beginning the calendar from that point.

However, as J. R. Church points out in a recent issue of *Prophecy in the News*, the basis of the modern Jewish Calendar is the *Seder Olam Rabbah*, which was compiled in the middle of the second century A.D. Its compiler, Yose ben Halafta, was a student of Rabbi Akiva, who believed that the Jewish zealot Bar Kochba was the Messiah. But he was killed by the Romans in 135 A.D. Ben Halafta and his friends lost 60 years in their record from Abraham to the Exodus, another 17 years between the two temples, and then deliberately cut another 154 years out of Persian chronology (instead of 13 Persian emperors over 207 years, *Seder Olam* claims there were only 55 Persian emperors over 53 years!). Why did they do this? Church says they did this to “make Daniel’s seventy weeks [prophecy] point to Bar Kochba as the Jewish Messiah” (“Found at Last: The Jewish Calendar’s 240 Missing Years,” *Prophecy in the News*, August 2005).

### ***An Incredible Prophecy***

More evidence concerning man’s appointed time upon the earth is found in Genesis, chapter 6. We read this most amazing statement “When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. Then the Lord said, ‘My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years’” (Gen.6:1-3, NIV).

This strange verse suggests that wicked angels who left their estate in heaven cohabited with women. For proof of this fact, read our booklet *Angels, Women, Sex, Giants – What on*

*Earth Is Going On?* Seeing this terrible sin occurring, polluting the blood line of mankind, and causing “giants” to be born in the earth, Almighty God was angry. Therefore, because of this proliferation of wickedness and evil, God said that HIS SPIRIT would not always strive or contend with mankind. God then added this enigmatic declaration: “his days will be one hundred twenty years.”

What does this mean? God was not saying that the life span of man would be limited to 120 years. Abraham himself lived till the age of 175 (Gen.25:7). Isaac lived to the ripe old age of 180 (Gen.35:28). The average lifespan of man, Moses wrote, in his day was about 70 years, with some reaching 80 (Psalm 90:10).

Rather, this verse in Genesis is talking about mankind in general. God is saying that although His Spirit “strove” with men before the Flood, and although it repented Him that He had made man when He saw the evil and violence in the world (Gen.6:5, 11-13), He would not allow this situation to go on forever. God would “limit” His dealings with mankind, while under the sway of Satan the devil, to “120 years.” What kind of years were these?

In Leviticus 25:1-12 we read that besides the day, month, year, and seven-year cycles, God also ordained another unique calendar cycle – the cycle of the “Jubilee years” (verses 10-11). Every fiftieth year was a Jubilee year – a year of freedom, liberty, release, and rejoicing and celebration! This was a sacred, hallowed year, during which people were to return to their own inheritances, all debts were to be forgiven, and all slaves to be released. No planting or harvesting work was to be done during this year, but it was set aside as a year of complete CELEBRATION of liberty and freedom in the goodness of God! It was inaugurated by the blowing of the special Jubilee TRUMPET of God on Yom Kippur (Lev.25:9).

Now notice. God said man’s total “years” would be 120. Yet this was not talking about the life-span of man, or the length of the ministry of Noah. It was something else. What else is left? Could this have been a hidden reference to “Jubilee years”? That is, was God speaking of one hundred twenty “Jubilee years”? Notice what this would mean!

120 x 50 = 6,000 years during which  
God’s Spirit would strive with man!

Here, then, is another indication from the Bible that man’s sojourn upon planet earth, from the time of Adam, until that “Great Jubilee” when Jesus Christ returns, would be 6,000 years!

But when did the 6,000 years begin? That is a crucial factor in determining the End of the Age!

### ***From the Exodus to Solomon***

Archbishop James Ussher of Ireland published the best Biblical chronology ever done, based solely on internal Biblical data. He discovered that Solomon began his reign in 1016 B.C. Solomon’s fourth year, then, was 1012 B.C. This is a very significant year, because we read in the Scriptures this key chronological benchmark:

“In the *four hundred and eightieth year* after the Israelites had come out of Egypt, in the *fourth year of Solomon’s reign* over Israel, in the month of Ziv, the second month, he began to build the temple of the Lord” (I Kings 6:1).

Therefore, if we count back 480 years, beginning with the year 1012, we come to the date of the Exodus of Israel out of Egypt!

$$1012 + 479 = 1491 \text{ B.C. – the Exodus!}$$

### ***The “Sojourning” of Israel***

But notice another key Scriptural benchmark:

“Now the *length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years. At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the Lord’s divisions left Egypt*” (Exodus 12:40-41, NIV).

When did the sojourning of the children in Egypt begin? At this point, we have two directions we can follow. Ussher’s chronology assumes the sojourn begins with Abraham, the father of the children of Israel, who was called of God during his 75th year. We read: “Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing . . . So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him . . . and Abram was seventy five years old when he departed out of Haran” (Gen.12:1-4). That very year Abraham moved from Haran into Canaan, and because there was a famine in the land, he moved on into Egypt to dwell there! According to Ussher, this began the sojourning of the children of Israel, as Abraham was the real “father” of the children of Israel, as the first and most important of the patriarchs.

If we add the 430 years of sojourning in Egypt to the 75th year of Abraham, we come up with:

$$\begin{array}{r} 1491 \text{ B.C. Israel left Egypt (430th year from Abraham's call)} \\ + 430 \quad \text{total years of sojourning in Egypt} \\ \hline = 1921 \text{ B.C. Abraham's 75th year of age} \end{array}$$

However, this assumption has a fatal flaw (although it does not disrupt his overall chronology!)

### ***The Chronology of Jasher***

The Book of Jasher corrects Ussher’s erroneous chronological date for the birth of Abraham assumed by many Christian commentators, in particular archbishop James Ussher. Says the translator of the book of Jasher:

“From this book we learn that Noah and Abraham were contemporaries. How beautiful the contemplation of the meeting of these two Patriarchs, the one being a monument of God’s mercy, the other having the promises of the favor and grace of God, not only to himself, but to his seed after him. This fact might be proved from Scripture; but from the 32nd verse in the 11th chapter of Genesis, most of the Christian commentators have erroneously dated the birth of Abraham 60 years later than it actually took place; as it is generally stated that he was born A.M. [after man, i.e., after Adam] 2008, whereas the regular calculation in the Bible leads us to 60 years earlier, viz. 1948. The only cause of this error has been that Abraham’s departure from Haran, at the age of 75, is recorded close to the description of the death of Terah, at the age of 205, in Gen. ch. xi, v. 32” (p.vi).

How should we view the book of Jasher, today? The translator correctly points out that although it is not divine Scripture, it nevertheless is a very useful and fascinating ancient work which relates directly to Biblical historical times and events. Thus the translator does not recommend it to people as Scripture, as a work of divine inspiration, but does “as a monument of history, comparatively covered with the ivy of the remotest ages; as a work, possessing in its language, all the characteristic simplicity of patriarchal times; and as such, he conceives it peculiarly calculated to illustrate and confirm the sacred truths handed down to us in the Scriptures” (p.vii).

The book of Jasher recounts the story of mankind from Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, to the destruction of Noah’s Flood (chapters 1-6). The story of the post-Flood world begins in chapter 7 where we are told that Terah was 38 years old when he begat Haran and Nahor, the older brothers of Abraham (v.22). What year was this? According to the chronology, from the Flood, we discover that Noah was 600 years old at the time of the Flood (Gen.7:6). The Flood occurred in the year 2348 B.C. Noah’s son Shem begat Arphaxad 2 years after the Flood (Gen.11:10), or in 2346 B.C. From that time on we can trace the descendants of Shem (see Genesis 11:10-26):

<b>Descendant</b>	<b>Lived</b>	<b>Begat</b>	<b>Date</b>
Arphaxad	35 years	Salah	2311 B.C.
Salah	30	Eber	2281
Eber	34	Peleg	2247
Peleg	30	Reu	2217
Reu	32	Serug	2185
Serug	30	Nahor	2155
Nahor	29	Terah	2126 B.C.
Terah	70	Abram	2056 B.C.

At this point, the Biblical genealogy tell us, “*And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran*” (Gen.11:26). Yet the book of Jasher clearly states that “Terah was thirty eight years old, and he begat Haran and Nahor” (Jasher 9:22). Therefore, the fact that the Bible says Terah was 70 when he begat Abram, Nahor and Haran, must refer to the date when ABRAM was begotten – 32 years after his two brothers. Abram was the youngest of the three, but is listed first because the birthright became his due to his righteousness and excellency.

This is a straight-forward chronology. However, it differs from that of Archbishop James

Ussher. Ussher, in his mammoth chronological work, concluded erroneously that Abram was born seventy five years before Terah his father died. Terah died at the age of 205 (Gen.11:32). The next chapter of Genesis tells us that God told Abram to leave his country and Abram did so at the age of 75 (Gen.12:1-4). Ussher assumes that Terah's death and Abram's departure for Canaan was the same year – therefore, since Terah died in 1921 B.C., Abram's birth would have been, according to Ussher, 75 years sooner – in 1996 B.C.

This date is precisely *60 years later than the true date for Abram's birth!* Unfortunately, Archbishop Ussher did not have access to the book of Jasher when he calculated the birth of Abram!

But which are we to believe – the book of Jasher or Archbishop James Ussher?

We have solid confirmation of the dates given in the book of Jasher. The ancient Jewish historian Flavius Josephus of the first century corroborates the date given by Jasher for the birth of Abraham! Josephus writes in *Antiquities of the Jews*:

“I will now treat of the Hebrews. The son of Phaleg, whose father was Heber, was Ragau; whose son was Serug, to whom was born Nahor; *his son was Terah, who was the father of Abraham, who accordingly was the tenth from Noah, and was born in the two hundred and ninety second year after the Deluge; for Terah begat him in his seventieth year*” (bk.1, chapt.6, sec.5).

The Flood was in 2348 B.C. According to Josephus, Abraham was born 292 years after the Flood. This would put his birth in 2056 B.C., just as the book of Jasher states! Archbishop Ussher, who puts Abraham's birth 60 years later, in 1996 B.C., is thus proved to be in error on this point. Josephus also confirms that Abraham was born in Terah's 70th year – not in his 130th year. Of course, this also confirms the Scriptural account which states plainly that Abram was born in Terah's 70th year (Gen.11:26). A straightforward reading of this passage could be interpreted as follows: “And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram [and he had also begotten] Nahor, and Haran . . .”

What this revised chronology tells us, then, is that the “sojourning” of the children of Israel in Egypt literally began the year Terah, Abraham's father, died – 1921 B.C. Terah was a very influential and powerful man. His loss meant that Abraham and his descendants were now completely “on their own.” The book of Jasher relates that Terah's death occurred during the 35<sup>th</sup> year of Isaac. Two years later, God tested Abraham with the sorest trial of his life – the binding of Isaac to be sacrificed (Genesis 22). This was in 1919 B.C., when Isaac was 37 years old (Jasher 22:41).

So, counting back to the Flood, from 1921, the beginning of the sojourn of Israel, we have this revised chronology:

Death of Terah	1921 B.C.	Isaac's age	35
Isacc's birth	1956		
Abraham's age at Isaac's birth			100
Abram's birth	2056		

Terah's age at Abrams' birth	70
Nahor to Terah	29
Serug to Nahor	30
Reu to Serug	32
Peleg to Reu	30
Eber to Peleg	34
Salah to Eber	30
Arphaxad to Salah	35
Arphaxad to Flood	<u>2</u>
<i>Total years to Flood from Sojourning of Israel, Death of Terah</i>	427

The difference between the two chronologies of Ussher and Jasher do not alter Ussher's overall chronology. What it shows is that Abraham was contemporary with Nimrod. The 60 years' difference between the birth of Abraham is accounted for by dating Israel's sojourn in Egypt – not from Abraham's calling, as Ussher does – but dating it from the death of Terah.

### ***Chronology of Mankind from Adam to the Flood***

Now let's calculate the time that elapsed from the Creation of Adam until the Flood swept over the earth in the time of Noah: "And Noah was 600 years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth" (Genesis 7:6).

The years of the patriarchs from Adam till Noah are given in the Bible in Genesis 5. The list is computed for us in Appendix 22 of the *Companion Bible*. When we add together the life spans of each of these individuals, we come up with the length of time that passed from the creation of Adam until the Flood of Noah. Notice!

600	Noah's age at Flood
182	Lamech till Noah
187	Methuselah till Lamech
65	Enoch till Methuselah
162	Jared till Enoch
65	Mahalaleel till Jared
70	Cainan till Mahalaleel
90	Enos till Cainan
105	Seth till Enos
<u>130</u>	<u>Adam till Seth</u>
1656	<i>years from Adam till the Flood</i>

Counting backward from the Flood, we come to the creation date for Adam and Eve, as follows:

2348	B.C. year of Flood of Noah
<u>+1656</u>	years from Adam to Flood
4004	B.C. year of Creation of Adam

Adam was created therefore at the beginning of 4004 B.C.! Creation was in the fall of the year, when the trees were full of fruit – harvest time. The beginning of the “civil” Jewish year is the month of Tishri, in the fall, which corresponds to the Roman September/October. Therefore, Adam was created September/October, 4004 B.C.

What does this fact of Adam’s creation in 4004 B.C. mean, then, for our generation? If indeed God gave mankind 6000 years to rule this planet under the influence of Satan the devil, from the time of Adam and Eve, then that would mean: 6000 - 4004 B.C. =1996 A.D. – but since there is no year zero, we must add one year, so 1996 +1 = 1997 A.D.! 1997 A.D. is 6,000 years from the Creation of Adam!

Since Creation occurred in the fall of the year, with fully ripe fruit on the trees in the garden of Eden, the end of this age would correspondingly occur after 6000 years. According to this chronology, therefore, the 6000 years from the creation of Adam terminated on the First of Tishri (September 14), 1997 A.D.!

However, another factor comes into the picture at this point. Adam and Eve did not really come under the influence of Satan the devil, until they sinned, and were cast out of the Garden of Eden. Ever since that time the world has been under the sway of Satan the devil. The real question then is this: When did Adam and Eve transgress God’s law?

### *Evidence from the Book of Jubilees*

The indication from Biblical prophecy and Biblical evidence, is that the 6,000 years from Adam and Eve should be counted from the time they sinned, and were expelled from the Garden of Eden. That’s when the countdown began. The book of Jubilees tells us that this occurred exactly *seven years* after their original creation in 4004 B.C. Notice:

“And during the first week of the first jubilee Adam and his wife had been in the garden of Eden for **SEVEN YEARS** tilling and guarding it. And we gave him work and we were teaching him to do everything which was appropriate for tilling. And he was tilling. And he was naked, but he neither knew it nor was he ashamed. And he was guarding the garden from the birds and beasts and cattle and gathering its fruits and eating. And he used to set aside the rest for himself and his wife. And what was being guarded he set aside.

“*At the END OF SEVEN YEARS* which he completed there, **SEVEN YEARS EXACTLY**, in the second month on the seventeenth day, the *serpent came* and drew near to the woman” (Jubilees 3:15-17).

As we know, Eve and Adam both sinned, were enticed into transgression, and banished from the Garden. This occurred, therefore, *seven years* after their original creation, in 4004 B.C. – or in the year 3997 B.C. The first seven years of idyllic paradise should not be counted in the 6,000 years during which mankind has been subject to the “god of this world,” Satan the Adversary (II Cor.4:4, Eph.2:2).

Thus we have: 1997 + 7 = 2004 A.D.!!!

### *Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week*

Another prophecy found in Daniel 9 is called by scholars the “seventy weeks prophecy.” It was given to the prophet Daniel in the year 538 B.C. Daniel was told there would be “70 weeks” from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem till the coming of Messiah and the Kingdom of God (Dan.9:24). This prophecy was broken up into three periods of time – 7 weeks, 62 weeks, and 1 week (verses 25-27).  $7 + 62$  weeks = 69 weeks, or 483 days. Since a “day” equals a year in fulfillment, 483 years would pass from the decree till the coming of the Messiah!

The decree of Artaxerxes II to rebuild Jerusalem (Ezra 7) was made in 457 B.C. Counting 483 years from that point brings us to 27 A.D. – the very year Jesus Christ began His ministry (Mark 1:13-14). But after this period of time, the Messiah was to be “cut off” or killed (verse 26). This occurred when Christ was crucified by His enemies, in fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

But what about the final week, or “seven years”? This short period would introduce the second coming of the Messiah to restore the Kingdom of God to the earth! During this “week” of years, the world will experience the “birthpangs” of the Messiah and the Messianic Age!

When should we begin “counting” these seven years?

If we count them from the terminus of the 6,000 years, in 2004, then  $2004 + 7 = 2011$ A.D. If we then add the final year or “Day of the Lord,” which follows the “Great Tribulation,” then the coming of the Messiah could be in 2012 A.D. – just 7 years from NOW!!!

### *Should We FEAR to Calculate the Messiah's Coming?*

Isn't that exciting?!!! Too bad so many today are slumbering, asleep, snoring away, and not interested in trying to understand the timetable of the Messiah's return! You would think they think the very idea is “blasphemy” – like many Jewish Talmud rabbis who stated it is sacrilegious to try to ascertain the time of the coming of the Messiah!

In fact, the Talmud states: “Rabbi Shmuel bar Nahmani said in the name of Rabbi Yohanan: May those who calculate the end and offer a date for the Messiah's arrival be cursed, for they say: Since the time that we thought had been designated for the Messiah's arrival has already passed, and still he has not come, he will not come at all” (Sanhedrin 97B).

Further, a Talmudic halakhah states: “May those who calculate the end swell up. ‘One should not try to calculate the end, for the Rabbis already cursed those who tried to offer a date for the Messiah's arrival’” (*Rambam, Sefer Shofetim, Hilkhos Melakhim 12:2*).

How did such a stricture originate? Probably because Rabbi Akiva supported the Bar Kochba uprising, and it failed, so his Messiah figure was a wrong one. Furthermore, of course, Christians used Daniel's 70 weeks prophecy to pinpoint the ministry of Jesus Christ as the Messiah, and the Jewish rabbis rejected this conclusion with great prejudice and antipathy!

Nevertheless, the year 2012 is a “Jubilee year” according to Jewish chronology from the settling of the land of Israel after the Exodus! See our article, “Will Messiah Return in a Jubilee Year?” 2012 is also the year when the Mayan calendar says the “end of the present AGE” will occur! See our article “2012 and the Countdown to Catastrophe!” And 2012 is a year that could well be the YEAR OF THE ACTUAL COMING OF THE MESSIAH! Notice:

2004	End of 6000 years
<u>+7</u>	Daniel’s 70 <sup>th</sup> week (Tribulation Period)
2011	
<u>+1</u>	“Day of the Lord” – final year
2012	Coming of the Messiah!

This would also imply that the “final week” of Daniel’s “70 weeks prophecy” is the same as the final SEVEN YEARS OF WOE – the time of GREAT TRIBULATION – which will fall upon the earth at the end of this age. It would be the TRANSITION PERIOD of seven years, at which point GOD begins to intervene, with heavenly signs and supernatural plagues, culminating in one year of horrendous divine judgment, capped off with the coming of the Messiah himself!

This final “seven years” corresponds to the “time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jeremiah 30:6-8), and the “crisis at the close” spoken of by Daniel – a “time of trouble” such as has never been upon the earth in all its gory, bloody, sanguinary, cruel history (Daniel 12:1). It also corresponds to the “seven times” punishment prophesied in Leviticus 26 and expounded also in Deuteronomy 28. Remember, a “time” in prophecy refers to a “year” in fulfillment (compare the 3 1/2 “times” of Dan.7:25, 12:7 and Rev.13:5, with Rev.11:2-3 and 12:6 and 12:14).

This period of 7 years is followed by the one year of the “Day of the Lord” mentioned in so many Biblical prophetic passages when Almighty God begins to intervene directly in world affairs by sending horrendous plagues of punishment upon mankind!

### *Another Scenario*

Nick Wood, a personal friend in England, has suggested the following prophetic outline. He writes:

“I have been trying to make some sense of the possibility of Christ returning in 2012 and this is another scenario that I have come up with. Of course this is only ‘kite-flying’ and in no way intended to ‘set’ any dates. We must always be ready for the return of Yeshua at any time of course, and He still may return well before 2012.

“We still have no cast iron reason to believe that James Ussher was wrong in his date of 4004 BC for the creation of Adam so I will use that as the starting point.

4004 B.C.	creation of Adam
<u>6000</u>	6 ‘1000 year days’ allowed for man under Satan’s sway
1996 A.D.	
<u>+1</u>	because no year zero

1997 A.D. 6,000 years from the creation of Adam

“Now from 1997 till 2012 is 15 years, so can we account for this 15 year delay? Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden before eating the forbidden fruit for 7 years, which are a parallel of Daniel's 70th week at the end of this age of Satan's rule. However there are still 8 years to account for.

1997 A.D.	
<u>+3</u>	3 years of Christ's ministry when He personified the Kingdom of God on Earth
=2000 AD	the new intifada begins in the State of Israel
<u>+1</u>	the time Noah and his family were safe in the ark during the Flood
=2001 AD	the year of '9/11' and the attack on the Twin Trade Towers
<u>+4</u>	the 4 years of the parable of the 'Barren Fig Tree' as in Luke 13:6-9 when Almighty God in His mercy allows an extra 4 years for repentance before the hell of the Great Tribulation is unleashed upon mankind.
=2005 AD	the beginning of Daniel's 70th week
<u>+7</u>	
=2012 AD	return of Messiah in the year of Jubilee

“Maybe this will inspire yourself and others to come up with an even better scenario. Whatever way it all works out in the end, we are all commanded to ‘Watch’! Thank you for being our Chief Watchman, Bill, but those of us who support Triumph must do all we can to help you. Maybe we should consider ourselves ‘Apprentice Watchmen’ in training for the days ahead?”

How fascinating! More and more, the numbers seem to be adding up.

1997, the end of 6,000 years, was a critical year, when the Hale-Bopp comet appeared in the sky as an omen – a “sign” – a warning of things to come (see Gen.1:14-16).

The Twin Towers Catastrophe occurred September 11, 2001 – close to Rosh Hashanah of the Jewish year. 2003 was the year America and her allies attacked Iraq and deposed Saddam Hussein, changing the equilibrium of the Middle East, and greatly expanding the current alienation of the Muslim world against the West. If we count from the year of 2003 till 2012, we count ten years – could this be “ten years of Awe” – ten years of warnings to repent – which God allows us to receive before the END comes, the climax to all world events – BEFORE the final “Day of the Lord,” when the Messiah comes?

Could these ten years be represented by the “Ten Days of Awe” between Rosh Hashanah (Yom Teruah, the “Day of Blowing the Shofar”), and Yom Kippur (the “Day of Atonement” or “Covering”)? The Ten Days of Awe are also known as the “Ten Days of Repentance”!

### ***Countdown to ARMAGEDDON!***

What does prophecy say will occur between now and the Messiah's return?

We've already looked at the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. Now let's pick up the story-flow in the book of Revelation!

After the first four seals are opened, and the four horsemen of the apocalypse begin to ride, dealing death and destruction, we come to the fifth seal:

*“And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the SOULS OF THEM THAT WERE SLAIN for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held. . . . And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be KILLED AS THEY WERE, should be fulfilled” (Rev.6:9-11).*

This great persecution and martyrdom and oppression will occur at the hands of the Beast power of Revelation – the New World Order – modern Babylon the great – when it has come into existence! It will oppress and rule for three and one half years (Rev.13:1-5). The apostle John writes:

*“And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast, and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to MAKE WAR with him? . . . and power was given unto him to continue FORTY AND TWO MONTHS. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God . . . And it was given unto him to MAKE WAR WITH THE SAINTS, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations” (Rev.13:4-7).*

During this time, the power of the United States – modern “Ephraim” – will go into eclipse. The USA's last “ride” will possibly be in the year 2006, the “year of the white horse.” But that year also spells the beginning of WOE to the United States! Our power will begin to be eclipsed!

Isaiah prophesies that in the last days “Ephraim” – the USA – will “turn against” the House of Judah – the Jewish nation of Israel. We are doing that even today, forcing the Jews to give up their settlements in Gaza and the West Bank of the Jordan. With bitter tears, the Jews are leaving their homes, which they were encouraged to build after the Six Day War in 1967 – 38 years ago. God is not pleased, and His wrath and fury are building to a point of explosion against His nefarious, wicked, and obstinate people.

Isaiah declares that Ephraim – the United States – will turn against the Jews and consort with her enemies – in the modern world, the Palestinians and surrounding Arab nations and Syria. They are even now beginning to “vex Judah” and plotting to “make a breach therein” (Isaiah 7:5-6). The “Road Map to Peace” will tear apart the Jewish state. Terrorists are rejoicing at the Jewish “retreat” from Gaza. But God doesn't see things as man does. God

says, “In threescore and five years shall *Ephraim be broken*, that it be not a people” (v.8). What does this mean?

When Isaiah says Ephraim will cease to be a people, Isaiah 7:8, the prophecy says he will be “broken” – Strong's #2844, Hebrew word *chath*, from #2865, *chathath*, which means “to prostrate, hence, break down, either by violence, or by confusion and fear – abolish, make afraid, fear, be afraid, amaze, beat down, discourage, dismay, go down, scare, terrify.” *Chath* means “crushed; also afraid, *abstract*, terror – broken, dismayed, dread, fear.”

The statement, “that it not be a people,” in Hebrew is “from a people.” I believe this refers to the fact that conditions and circumstances will arise that the nation will no longer be “unified,” but virtually broken apart into conflicting camps – perhaps on the verge (if possible) of insurrection, rampant rioting, even civil war, border clashes, etc. Our insularity has been compromised by evil politics, our borders are wide open, and danger lurks everywhere, especially in major cities and along the southern border. A few “loose nukes” let loose in America would spell disaster, disable the economy, and create the circumstances described in Isaiah 7:8. See also Isaiah 17:3 – “the fortress shall cease from Ephraim,” and verse 4, “the glory of Jacob shall be made thin, and the fatness of his flesh shall wax lean.”

The point is, shortly judgment IS coming – whether it will literally begin in the year 2006 is a possibility. Michael Drosnin may be correct in his book on *The Bible Codes*, in which he predicts nuclear attack in the year 2006. Interestingly, that year is exactly 65 years from the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec.7, 1941!

Nevertheless, the real GREAT TRIBULATION appears to begin *after* 2006 – probably in 2009 – the mid-way point in the final “seven years” of this world age, if we have understood it correctly.

The whole picture seems to pinpoint 2006 as being the *beginning* of “great tribulation,” which is to last seven years, but the last 3 ½ years of it will be the worst (Rev.13:4-5), leading up to the return of the Messiah.

### ***The Sixth Seal – Signs in the Heavens***

Jesus Christ foretold that after that great tribulation begins, great heavenly signs will occur. “Immediately after the tribulation of those days,” He declared, “shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken” (Matt.24:29). The prophet Joel, on the other hand, informs us, “The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, BEFORE *the great and terrible day of the LORD come*” (Joel 2:31). Notice the sequence: first, Great Tribulation; then Heavenly Signs; and THEN “the Day of the Lord”!

These awesome occurrences in the skies and heavens will stagger mankind, causing terrible fright and anxiety (Rev.6:9-17).

These heavenly signs may include the arrival of “Planet X” in our Solar System, as it

orbits the sun, and brings catastrophe, cataclysm, and dire storms to the earth, as its gravitational pull leads to volcanic eruptions, gigantic earthquakes, and even causes the earth to reel to and fro in its orbit around the sun. Isaiah the prophet predicts, by God's inspiration, "For the windows of heaven are opened, and the foundations of the earth tremble. The earth is utterly broken, the earth is torn asunder, the earth is violently shaken. The earth staggers like a drunkard, it sways like a hut; its transgression lies heavy upon it, and it falls, and will not rise again" (see Isaiah 24:18-20, NRSV).

After this, then, comes the final "Day of the Lord" – the time when God Himself begins to punish the nations, and bring His divine judgments of wrath and fury.

### *The Awesome Trumpet Plagues*

In Revelation, chapter 8, God says He will then send seven angels with seven trumpet plagues – terrible ordeals – which will in succession afflict the earth.

Notice these awesome events. The first four of these will be incredible natural disasters, including hail and fire cast to the earth – meteorite showers causing widespread devastation and destruction (Rev.8:7). The second plague will be a "great mountain" – probably a "space mountain" or asteroid – falling upon the sea, causing a third part of the sea to become greatly polluted, destroying ships and killing one third of sea life (Rev.8:8-9). The third plague will be "a great star" or comet which will fall from "heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; . . . and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter" (v.10-11).

### *The Final Three "Woes"*

The last three of these trumpet plagues – numbers 5, 6, and 7 – are also known as the "three woes" (Rev.8:13). These represent the final three rounds of WORLD WAR, culminating in the return of Christ to settle the issue of who will rule the earth once and for all!

Notice! In Revelation 9, the first woe is described as locusts which utilize chemical warfare, "tormenting mankind for five months" (Rev.9:1-11). The head of this World Empire is Satan the devil, working through the Beast (v.11). "Locusts," in the Bible, are a type of Assyrian and Babylonian soldiers (see Nahum 3:15). God compares the soldiers – the military – of this final World Government to locusts, therefore. But these are peculiar locusts – they use chemical and biological weapons to torment mankind. In appearance, these soldiers are described as women (Nahum 3:13; Rev.9:8).

This world power will inflict awesome calamities everywhere – it is the "king of the north" (compare Daniel 11:41-45).

Following hard on the heels of this round of World War III, initiated by modern Babylon, will be another terrible plague – the "second woe." Notice! This woe consists of a massive army from the EAST which will number *200,000,000 men!* (Rev.9:12-21). This huge army will undoubtedly consist of millions of soldiers from China and India, and surrounding regions,

including the Persians and Russians. This massive army, like the hordes of Ghengis Khan, will march westward, into Europe and the Middle East. These hordes come from “beyond Euphrates” (Rev.9:14-15; 16:12). They will slay the third part of men (v.15).

The nation of China has an excess of men over women in the younger generation. Men outnumber women in that age group by *9 to 1 – with an excess of almost 150,000,000 men!* This fact is due to the Chinese governmental policy of limiting each family to having only one child. Since most Chinese families, by culture and tradition, desire to have a male offspring, someone who can take care of them in their old age, young girls babies are often aborted, or killed shortly after childbirth. Growing up lonely, frustrated, and miserable, many of these young men will undoubtedly become part of that enormous army which will attack the West!

### ***The Third Woe -- ARMAGEDDON!***

At this point, after billions will have already died in natural disasters and worldwide wars, the devil and his demons will bring all the armies of the earth together, for one final battle – to fight against Jesus Christ at His return!

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of demons, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth, and of the whole world, TO GATHER THEM TO THE BATTLE OF THAT GREAT DAY OF GOD ALMIGHTY. . . .

“And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue, ARMAGEDDON . . .” (Rev.16:13-16).

Armageddon! Finally, it will happen. The battle of the ages – the final conflict – the final awesome battle between good and evil! We read about the leading armies in this final rallying cry for mankind to oppose the rule of God:

“And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall MAKE WAR with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful” (Rev.17:12-14).

These ten kings give their power to the Beast for just “ONE HOUR” – prophetically speaking. Jesus Christ said that there are “twelve hours in a day” (John 11:9), and there are 12 months in a year, so “one hour” evidently equals ONE MONTH in being fulfilled! This final alliance comes together for one express purpose – to FIGHT AGAINST CHRIST THE MESSIAH when He comes with the armies of heaven!

Thus this final alliance refers to a final union of the world which will, under the auspices of the United Nations, FIGHT AGAINST CHRIST! All the world will be gathered together to resist Him. All nations will fight against Him, thinking that He is an invader from outer space, or some alien intelligence seeking to overthrow the earth!

They will not succeed, however. For when Christ returns, “Out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God” (Rev.19:11-16).

### *The Valley of Megiddo*

“*Armageddon!*” Will it really happen? Can it really happen? Will the nations of the world unleash their combined military resources upon the returning Son of God, when He and His armies descend from heaven? Let’s read the rest of the prophecy:

“And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue ARMAGEDDON. And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a GREAT HAIL out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent [60-120 pounds]; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great” (Revelation 16:12-21).

The word “Armageddon” actually refers to an archaeological ruin of an ancient fortress located north of Jerusalem, at the edge of the plain of Esdraelon, a vast plain where armies used to gather and fight in historical times. Egyptian, Assyrian, Hittite, Syrian, Babylonian, Persian, Greek, Roman, and other armies, fought there for control of the Middle East. Its actual name is “Har Megiddo,” or the fortress or mountain of Megiddo.

But notice! There is no mention here of any “battle of Armageddon.” Rather, the Scriptures simply state that the armies of the world will once again be GATHERED there. The actual name of the battle is revealed in verse 14 – it is called “*the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*” That is its REAL name!

But once the nations are gathered, where will the actual battle be fought? The prophet Joel declared,

“Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; PREPARE WAR, wake up the mighty men, let ALL the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. ASSEMBLE YOURSELVES, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause your mighty ones to come down, O LORD. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the VALLEY OF JEHOSHAPHAT: for there will I sit to judge the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down: for the press is full, the vats overflow; for their wickedness is great.

“MULTITUDES, MULTITUDES IN THE VALLEY OF DECISION: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice FROM JERUSALEM; and the heavens and the earth shall SHAKE: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel” (Joel 3:9-16).

The battle of that great day of God Almighty, when the nations gather at Har Megiddo, will be fought over JERUSALEM! The “valley of decision” or “valley of Jehoshaphat” is another name for the Kidron Valley, a valley or depression which runs north-south along the eastern side of Jerusalem. It is called the “valley of decision,” or “judgment,” for there God will judge the heathen round about.

The prophet Zechariah tells us this great battle will be fought over *Jerusalem*. God says:

“And in that day will I make JERUSALEM a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be CUT IN PIECES, *though ALL the people of the earth be GATHERED AGAINST IT*. In that day, saith the LORD, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will SMITE every horse of the people with blindness. And it shall come to pass in that day, that *I will seek to DESTROY ALL THE NATIONS that come against Jerusalem*” (Zech.12, 3-4, 9).

Zechariah continues his remarkable prophecy:

“Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and the spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. *For I will GATHER all nations AGAINST JERUSALEM TO BATTLE*, and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. *THEN SHALL THE LORD GO FORTH, AND FIGHT AGAINST THOSE NATIONS*, as when he fought in the day of battle. *AND HIS FEET SHALL STAND IN THAT DAY UPON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES, WHICH IS BEFORE JERUSALEM ON THE EAST*, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south” (Zech.14:1-4).

This great, climactic battle will be the consummation of the age. It will be fought just outside the walls of Jerusalem.

### *Seven Seals = Seven “Times”*

Now let’s consider. The seventh seal, we have seen, represents a “day” – the “day of the Lord.” A “day” is a year being fulfilled (Num.14:34; Ezek.4:4-6).. Since the seventh seal’ is one year, it implies that each of the previous seals is also a year in duration.

Altogether there are *seven seals*. In Leviticus 26, we read of a final “*seven times*” of punishment upon God’s people Israel. A “time” also represents a year. To prove this, compare Revelation 12:6 and 12:14 where 1260 days equals 3 1/2 “times” – therefore, each “time” is 360 days, the length of a prophetic year. Therefore, the seven seals of Revelation equal seven times or seven years in fulfillment.

Also, Daniel’s prophecy of the 70 weeks in Daniel 9 shows that the final “week” of seven days – that is, seven years being fulfilled – occurs just before the second coming of the Messiah to usher in everlasting righteousness (Dan.9:24-27). Therefore, the 70th week of Daniel, with “seven days” equals seven years, ending with the coming of the Messiah, as well.

So, we have this equation: The seventieth week of Daniel 9 = the seven times of Leviticus 26 which = the seven seals of Revelation – which all equal the final seven years of this age! To put it another way, two things equal to the same thing are equal to each other! All these figures = the same final SEVEN YEARS OF THIS PRESENT AGE which are RAPIDLY APPROACHING!

### ***The FINAL SEVEN Years***

Adding this all up, what do we have? Clearly, the seven seals of Revelation in the final analysis can also represent the FINAL SEVEN YEARS of this world age. Thus we have, in the final recapitulation, the following scenario:

This final “year” is the year that culminates in the second coming of Christ to put an end to the hellish mess mankind will have made of the earth! Note that each of these final seven years is characterized by a special “sign” or “event,” i.e. “the year of the red horse,” etc. Interestingly, the Chinese also relate each new year to some animal – the year of the rat, the year of the cat, the year of the tiger, the year of the snake, etc.

The first four of these final seven years are the “year of the white horse,” the “year of the red horse,” the “year of the black horse,” and the “year of the pale horse.” Notice how it all fits together. The fifth year might be called “the year of slaughter of the saints” (Rev.6:9), the sixth year “the year of heavenly signs” (Rev.6:10-15), and the final year “the year of the Lord’s direct intervention” or “year of the seven trumpets” (Rev.8-9, 11:15).

This year – from Sept-Oct.2005 to Sept.-Oct.2006 – *this very year in which we find ourselves, today – may well constitute the very year which begins the countdown to ARMAGEDDON and the COMING OF THE MESSIAH, seven years from now – which seems most likely to occur in the year 2012 A.D.!*

Seven seals = seven years in fulfillment! Each “seal” is a year of the final “seventieth week” of Daniel 9 and a “time” in the “seven times” of Leviticus 26. This entire “week,” then, will be a period of seven years of constantly increasing woes and troubles throughout the earth. Each year will get worse! Mankind has seen relatively nothing yet, compared with what is soon to follow!

### Last Seven Years – a Scenario

SEAL	YEAR	SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION
<i>First seal</i>	2006	White horse	United States exerts power
<i>Second seal</i>	2007	Red horse	China invades Taiwan?
<i>Third seal</i>	2008	Black horse	European Union comes together And strengthened United Nations
<i>Fourth seal</i>	2009	Pale horse	Islamic fundamentalism, Egypt (During these years the <i>New World Order, end-time "Babylon the Great,"</i> rises like a Phoenix out of ashes of world chaos, and Great Tribulation begins at mid-way point)
<i>Fifth seal</i>	2010	Martyrdom	Millions die in Great Tribulation
<i>Sixth seal</i>	2011	Heavenly signs	Sun, moon, stars shaken
<i>Seventh seal</i>	2012	"Day of the Lord"	Seven trumpet plagues, and Seven <i>Last Plagues, ending with the coming of Messiah</i>

### *The Coming of the Messiah*

Of course, we don't know exactly when the Messiah will return. Yeshua declared, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, or the Son, but only the Father" (Matt.24:36, NRSV). But He also said, "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, *when you SEE all these things, you know that HE IS NEAR, AT THE VERY GATES*" (matt.24:32-33).

When He does, on that day He will gather together His elect, from the four winds. As we read in Matthew: "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and *they shall see the Son of man COMING IN THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN with power and great glory.* And he shall send his angels with a *great sound of a trumpet*, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matt.24:30-31).

The apostle Paul also speaks of this tremendous event: "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **AT THE LAST TRUMP, FOR THE TRUMPET** [*the great trumpet of Jubilee, sounded on the day of Atonement!*] *shall SOUND*, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (I Cor.15:52).

This is the same as the SEVENTH and FINAL trumpet blown in the book of Revelation! Notice! "And the seventh angel sounded [his trumpet]; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. . . . And the nations were angry, and thy WRATH is come, and the *time of the dead, that they should be JUDGED*, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth" (Rev.11:15-18).

Very soon, now, the Messiah is coming back to planet earth! Make no mistake! Don't be caught sleeping, inattentive, unalert, unaware! For Yeshua say to all of us, "Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore *you also must BE READY*, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour" (Matt.24:42-44).

"Therefore keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes SUDDENLY. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake" (Mark 13:35-37).

It is time we WAKE UP! *The coming of the Messiah is right around the corner!*

### ***REPENT -- OR PERISH!***

The fiery stallions of the four horsemen have already nervously begun to stamp the ground, nervously, as they grow more and more agitated, waiting for their chance to gallop out of the stalls, where they are locked up. Their riders have donned their armor and grabbed their weapons. Death and hell and the flames of holocaust accompany them.

Do you hear their powerful steeds? Do you see them dimly through the shrouds of mist and gloom? Do you perceive their gleaming red eyes? Do you hear their rattling sabers? Do you hear their hooves pawing the ground, their snorting breath, as they prepare to gallop forth in fury and wild-eyed determination?

*The Four Horsemen are mounting up, like ghost riders in the sky, and preparing to ride!*

Will you be safe and secure protected under the wings of the Almighty God, sheltered under His divine love and mercy?

"You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the LORD, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.' For He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day, or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only look with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked" (Psalm 91:1-8, NRSV).

Do you know God? Are you one of His chosen? Have you repented of your sins, and given your life to Christ, to do with as He directs? Are you underneath His wings of protection? Is God your refuge and fortress – your shield and buckler?

"Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until the wrath is past" (Isaiah 26:20).