

PROPHECY FLASH!

A magazine of insight and understanding of Biblical truth and prophecy for our time.

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**Is God ADDING 15 Years Till
the Coming of Christ?**

The Mystery of Angels

**Finally Getting It Right – the
Honest Answer on the
Passover!**

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A Voice in the Wilderness

God tells His servants in His Word, “Cry aloud, spare not. Lift up your voice like a trumpet and declare to My people their transgression and to the house of Jacob their sins!” (Isa.58:1, Parallel Amplified Bible).

God also declares: “Comfort, comfort My people, says your God. Speak tenderly to the heart of Jerusalem, and cry to her that her time of service and her warfare are ended, that [her punishment is accepted and] her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received [punishment] from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.”

We are living in a world gone berserk with anger and rage. “Why do the nations rage?” (Psalm 2:1). Answer – because they don’t know the true God, and are in rebellion against His laws and teachings and the true way of life and peace!

Isaiah wrote: “A voice of one who cries: *Prepare in the wilderness the way of the Lord* [clear away the obstacles]; make straight and smooth a highway for our God. . . . And the glory (majesty and splendor) of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it” (Isaiah 40:3-5).

The Messiah is coming very SOON! Its time to prepare to MEET Him! “Surely the Lord will do nothing without revealing His secret to His servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7). The purpose of this magazine is to warn the world of what lies ahead, and to help prepare people to get ready to meet the Messiah, when He returns to restore all things (Acts 3:19-21), put an end to wars, and usher in the Kingdom of God! The prophet Amos declared, “*Prepare to meet your God, O Israel*” (Amos 4:12). No matter is more urgent, today!

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2012 is Now Here – What Does It Mean?

The year 2012 has dawned, and no doubt it will bring in its wake mounting world ills, troubles, violence and catastrophe – but is the end now here? Not at all! God has given us “15” more years in which to repent and get our act together, before divine judgment becomes irreversible! Divine warnings are increasing, but the end is not quite yet. Why has God extended the time, and when will the END really come? The shocking answer may well be hidden in the fascinating account of king Hezekiah!

Passover is soon to be upon us – will you celebrate it right, this year? Isn’t it time we get this Holy Day and observance right and keep it the way and on the date God Himself commands?

-- William F. Dankenbring

Getting It Right, Once and for All –

PASSOVER – the

Honest Answer!

For over three thousand years, the Jews have observed the Passover at the close of Nisan 14 and beginning of Nisan 15. They have been entrusted by Almighty God with preserving His sacred calendar. Were it not for them, the world would be in total ignorance of the proper year, months, and new moons. Is it then really conceivable that they corrupted and forgot the right day to observe PASSOVER? Let's understand the plain, pure TRUTH!

William F. Dankenbring

Controversy continues to rage over just when Passover should be observed. Many people believe that Passover should be observed at the beginning of Nisan 14. Some believe that the Jews kept it then, and Jesus and His disciples, but in later generations the Jews departed from this original date.

Can we understand the truth? Can we get to the bottom of this question? Has God given us enough evidence so that we can settle this question, once and for all?

Of course He has! God would not issue a command to His people, and then leave it a matter of confusion and personal interpretation as to how and when we should carry out that commandment!

A man recently wrote me a letter stating, “You should look at the Jewish Encyclopedia and you will find the Passover and Unleavened Bread are indeed separate from each other from the beginning, but became merged several hundred years ago by man.”

He contends that the Jews and we are wrong on Passover and the original Passover was separate from Unleavened Bread (as per the Jewish Encyclopedia). But that same encyclopedia says Passover came from an ancient Canaanite festival. Using only a Jewish *Encyclopedia* to build a whole doctrine is wrong.

Notice! The Encyclopedia Judaica says: “Passover, a spring festival, beginning on the 15th day of Nisan, lasting seven days . . .” It adds, under “critical view,” that “The feast of Passover consists of two parts: The Passover Ceremony and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Originally both parts existed separately; but at the beginning of the Exile they were combined.” Notice – that is the

“critical view” – the view of scholarly “critics,” not Bible believers. It is based on human thinking, supposition, and assumption and reasoning. The same “critical view” tells us “not originally a pilgrimage feast, but a domestic ceremony.” Yet the Scriptures are very plain. Deuteronomy, written by Moses, says plainly: “You may NOT sacrifice the Passover within any of your gates . . . but at the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide, THERE you shall sacrifice the Passover at twilight [literally, “between the two evenings”], at the going down of the sun, at the time you came out of Egypt” (Deut.16:5-6).

Do you trust the “critical view” or the Biblical view?

The “critical view” also says, “Originally the Passover was celebrated by transient breeders of sheep and goats, later by the Israelites, to secure protection for their flocks prior to leaving the desert winter pasture for cultivated regions. . . . The oldest literary record in Exodus 12 already presupposes the Passover. Hence the old nomadic custom is ‘historicized’ by being connected with the main event in the Israelite salvation history, the Exodus” (Passover, vol.13, p.170).

Do you believe that nonsense? Or the Bible itself? Paul wrote, “All *Scripture* is given by inspiration of God [God breathed], and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (II Tim.3:16-17).

Which do you believe? The Scriptures, which are the “truth” (John 17:17) and “cannot be broken” (John 10:35). Or the Jewish Encyclopedia?

History and the Scriptures show the Jews ALWAYS kept the Passover at the END of Nisan 14, eating the lamb on Nisan 15. They NEVER killed the lambs on Nisan 13, or beginning of Nisan 14, and ate them that very night! The Jewish historian Josephus states plainly that they kept the Passover in his day (70 A.D.) in the same way it was kept in the beginning! He wrote: “Whence it is that we do still offer this sacrifice *in like manner to this day*, and call this festival *Pascha*, which signifies *the feast of the Passover*; because on that day God passed us over, and sent the plague upon the Egyptians; for the destruction of the first-born came upon the Egyptians that night” (*Antiquities of the Jews*, bk.II, chap.XIV, sec.6).

The Passover was ALWAYS eaten at the END of the 14th, on the 15th, after being killed late on the afternoon of the 14th. Josephus, who states that the Jews “do still offer this sacrifice *IN LIKE MANNER TO THIS DAY*”!

What could be clearer than that?

The Jews have historically, for thousands of years, observed them on a particular day, and give substantial reasons for doing so, in accordance with both history and Scripture. Those who criticize the Jews, and accuse them of falling into error on the observance of Passover, have never addressed adequately the question of why Jesus and the disciples really observed the VERY SAME DAYS AS THE JEWS DID, and never once in the gospels did Jesus ever rebuke or criticize the Pharisees, the leading religious group of Jewish thinkers, for any “error” concerning when to keep the Passover! Nor did the apostles in the book of Acts; nor did any of the apostles in any of the epistles of the New Testament!

Their silence on such a mighty point is “deafening” in what this fact discloses to us; their “silence” on this subject speaks volumes of truth, if we only have the “ears” to hear it, to listen, to discern, to open up our minds and THINK about it!

Of course Jesus would address no point WHERE THERE WAS *NO CONTROVERSY* BETWEEN HIM AND THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF THAT TIME!

Moses’ Seat of Authority

It is very clear that the Pharisees were the dominant religious group in Israel during the time of Christ. History shows that they controlled the religious practices and beliefs of the people. Even the Sadducees had to give in to their religious teachings and demands, lest they be rejected and abhorred by the multitudes, lose face and lose their offices.

Jesus said plainly, “The teachers of the law and the Pharisees SIT IN MOSES' SEAT. SO YOU MUST OBEY THEM AND DO EVERYTHING THEY TELL YOU. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice WHAT THEY PREACH” (Matt.23:1-3).

Does this sound as if JESUS was rebuking the Pharisees for their doctrine concerning the holy days, particularly Passover? Of course not! Was He accusing them of being in blatant, indefensible, callous ERROR on what day and at what time they observed this major annual holy day of God? Obviously not!

Rather, He was telling His own disciples, in effect, “DO AS THEY SAY, but not as they do.” That is, OBEY THEIR TEACHING as to the Law of God, but don’t follow their selfish, evil practices of hypocrisy, self-righteousness, and spiritual wickedness.

Obviously, from this statement of Jesus, we should see clearly that the Pharisees indeed held accurately to the “letter of the law” of God. It was in the “spirit of the law” that they fell dramatically short of the mark!

Josephus and Passover

The Jewish first century historian Josephus was a Pharisee. He tells us of the origin and history of the Passover. In *Antiquities of the Jews* he writes: “Whence it is that we do still offer this sacrifice *in like manner to this day*, and call this festival *Pascha*, which signifies *the feast of the Passover*; because on that day God passed us over, and sent the plague upon the Egyptians; for the destruction of the first-born came upon the Egyptians that night” (*Ant.*, bk.II, chap.XIV, sec.6).

Notice – Josephus tells us that the Jews observed the Passover “in like manner” as it was instituted in his own day, which was New Testament times! Josephus says further, “and they offered the sacrifice which was called the *Passover*, on the fourteenth day of the same month [Nisan], and feasted seven days” (*Ant.*, bk.XI, chap.IV, sec.8).

When did they slay the Passover lambs? Josephus explains, in *Wars of the Jews*, “So these high priests, upon the coming of their feast which is called the Passover, when they slay their sacrifices, *from the ninth hour to the eleventh [i.e. from 3-5 PM in the afternoon!]. . .*” (Bk.VI, chap.9, sec.3).

Notice that Josephus, an eyewitness expert in the law, and well acquainted with Jewish history, says plainly that this observance was done “IN LIKE MANNER” in his day as it was done at the Exodus itself! In other words, at the Exodus, the Passover sacrifices were also offered up between 3-5 PM in the afternoon of Nisan 14! There was NO CHANGE in the date or in the time of offering!

Says the *New Westminster Dictionary of the Bible*, “That night was to be much observed unto the Lord, when he smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, but passed over the houses of the Israelites, where the blood had been sprinkled and the inmates were standing, staff in hand, awaiting the deliverance promised by the Lord. The festival began on the 14th of Abib at evening, that is, in the beginning of the 15th day, with the sacrificial meal (Lev.23:5-6). A lamb or kid was slain between the evenings, that is, toward sunset (Exo.12:6; Deut.16:6; cf. between the ninth and eleventh hours, *Jos.War*, 6,9,3)” (“Passover,” p.705).

The *Commentary on the Old Testament*, by Keil and Delitzsch, points out, “The expression in Deut.16:6, ‘at (towards) sunset,’ is sufficient to show that the boundary line between the two evenings is not to be fixed precisely at the moment of sunset, but only somewhere about that time. The daily evening sacrifice and the incense offering were also to be presented ‘between the two evenings’ (Exo.29:39, 41; 30:8; Num.28:4). Now as this was not to take place exactly at the same time, but to precede it, they could not both occur at the time of sunset, but the former must have been offered before that. Moreover, in later times, when the paschal lamb was slain and offered at the sanctuary, it must have been slain and offered before sunset, if only to give sufficient time to prepare the paschal meal, which was to be over before midnight” (vol.1, page 328).

The Scribes and Pharisees

The Pharisees trace their spiritual lineage to the scribes and religious leaders in the days of Ezra the scribe and Nehemiah, the governor of Israel. Says Funk and Wagnall's *New Encyclopedia*:

“Pharisees, so-called ‘Jewish sect,’ more correctly a Jewish school, probably dating as a distinct body, or party, from the 2nd century B.C. . . . Their chief tendency was to resist all Greek or other foreign influences that threatened to undermine the sacred religion of their fathers, and they most emphatically took their stand upon divine law. They originated as the Hasidim, becoming known as the Pharisees when John Hyrcanus was high priest of Judea . . . The Pharisees wished public affairs, the state, and all its political doings to be directed and measured by the STANDARD OF DIVINE LAW, without any regard for the priestly and aristocratic Sadducees or the heroes and statesmen who had brought the Syrian wars to a successful issue. . .” (vol.19, article “Pharisees”).

By the time Jesus of Nazareth appeared on the scene, the Pharisees were still the dominant religious school or party in Judea. But they had become largely a wicked and self-righteous group of religious tyrants and legalistic administrators. They focused on the letter of the law, and ignored the spirit of the law.

Jesus rebuked them, not for their correct understanding of the laws and holy days of God, but for their “appearance” of religion (Matt.23:5), their vanity and pride (vs.6-12), their pretense to holiness (verse 14), their greed (vs.15-21), their extortion and excess (v.25), and their hypocrisy and iniquity (vs.27-29). He called them a “generation of vipers” and asked how they could escape the “damnation of hell?” (verse 33).

Why did Christ condemn them? Jesus never once mentioned any “sin” of theirs concerning such an important matter as the correct date for the annual Passover! NOT ONCE! His complete silence on this subject shows us He accepted their teachings concerning the calendar and annual holy day observances at that time! In fact, in every instance in the Gospels where we read of Jesus Himself observing the holy days of God, He did so WITH THE JEWS and the LOCAL COMMUNITY, who all observed the days and set feasts according to the reckoning of the Pharisees!

This should be as plain as the nose on our faces!

How long will we have to argue, and debate, and wrestle over these issues? Why can't people get it straight? Why won't ministers and churches own up to their error, and admit their mistakes, and repent, and CHANGE?

Of course, only PEOPLE can repent! Churches as such are mere corporations of men, run and led by men. If the MAN at the top repents and changes, or several men at the top, THEN and only then can a whole “church” change!

Unfortunately, this means that a lot of nice, sincere, wonderful people will remain DECEIVED and in ERROR, because their LEADERS refuse to repent and change! They will have to learn their lessons the hard way – through the “school of hard knocks,” or the Great Tribulation!

"From Even to Even"

Since there is so much controversy and misunderstanding about the time to keep the Passover, with a number of people, let us go into the subject more thoroughly.

First, notice! God says, “There you must sacrifice the Passover IN THE EVENING, WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN , ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR DEPARTURE FROM EGYPT. Roast it and eat it . . .Then in the MORNING RETURN TO YOUR TENTS. FOR SIX DAYS EAT UNLEAVENED BREAD and on the SEVENTH DAY HOLD AN ASSEMBLY to the Lord your God and do no work” (Deut.16:6-8).

Notice! The Passover is the **SAME THING AS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR DEPARTURE FROM EGYPT** – not twenty-four hours earlier! That very night they were to eat it, and then, beginning immediately (not twenty-four hours later), they were to eat unleavened bread for **SIX** days, plus the last day of Unleavened Bread when they were to hold an assembly.

It should be obvious here that “in the evening” of the 14th of NISAN has to mean at the ending of the day, toward sunset – for this Scripture speaks of 7 days of unleavened bread, beginning with the Passover night – not eight days!

According to Exodus 12:6, the Passover lamb was to be slaughtered “between the two evenings,” on the 14th of Nisan. According to Josephus, the Jewish historian, this meant between the ninth and eleventh hours of the day – our 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM – or obviously **BEFORE SUNSET, NOT AFTER SUNSET!**

Notice! Josephus writes, “So these high priests, upon the coming of their feast which is called the Passover, **WHEN THEY SLAY THEIR SACRIFICES, FROM THE NINTH HOUR TO THE ELEVENTH . . .**” (*Wars of the Jews*, VI, ix, 3).

This period of time was before the setting of the sun – or late afternoon – of whatever day it occurred on. Since the Bible says specifically that it was to occur on the 14th of Nisan or Abib, then it had to be **AT THE END OR CONCLUSION OF THE DAY**, for God said each day began at sunset and ended at sunset (Lev.23:32).

Notice how God Himself defines a day. Concerning the Day of Atonement, God says, “It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: **IN THE NINTH DAY OF THE MONTH AT EVEN, FROM EVEN UNTO EVEN**, shall ye celebrate your Sabbath” (Lev.23:32). Now, if the “ninth day at even” meant the **BEGINNING** of the ninth day, till “even” at the beginning of the next day, then the Day of Atonement would have been the **NINTH DAY** of Tishri. But God plainly says it was to be celebrated “on the **TENTH DAY** of this seventh month” (verse 27).

How plain! Therefore counting from the “ninth day of the month at even” meant from the **CLOSE** of the ninth day! Therefore, when God says to celebrate the Passover “in the fourteenth day” of the first month **AT EVEN**” (Lev.23:5), He must mean the same period of time -- at the **CLOSE** of the fourteenth day!

Let us simply allow the Scriptures to interpret the Scriptures. What could be more simple than that?

Exodus 12:18 adds further proof to this matter. Here God said, “In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, **FROM THE EVENING OF THE FOURTEENTH DAY UNTIL THE EVENING OF THE TWENTY FIRST DAY**” (NIV Bible). God calls this the “Feast of Unleavened Bread” (v.17). It begins after sunset of the 14th day and lasts till sunset after the 21st day – a total of seven days. Here again, as in Deuteronomy 16, and Leviticus 23, the expression “at even” refers to

the END or CLOSE of the 14th! Clearly it is referring to the same time of day – the hours before the close of the day, not the hours beginning a NEW day after sunset!

The Hebrew word *ereb* can refer to the period of time from late afternoon until dark. The context shows how it must be interpreted in each case where it is used. The expression “between the two evenings,” however, is more focused and only can refer to the period of time BEFORE SUNSET, not after.

Notice, now, the proof!

"Between the Two Evenings"

The daily “evening sacrifice” of the Jews was offered, also, “between the two evenings” (Numbers 28:4); and it was the same day as the “morning sacrifice” (verse 3). If the morning sacrifice, therefore, occurred on Nisan 20, let us say, then the evening sacrifice, offered “between the two evenings,” was also on Nisan 20 – the same day! But for that to be true, it would have to have been offered BEFORE SUNSET – NOT AFTER SUNSET, BEFORE COMPLETE DARK!

The Jews always knew this. That is why Josephus so clearly said the Passover was killed between 3:00 and 5:00 PM in the late afternoon! According to history, that is also the time of the evening sacrifice!

Writes Bo Reicke, in *The New Testament Era: The World of the Bible from 500 B.C. to A.D. 100* –

“Twice a day they [the priests in the Temple] performed a burnt offering (Hebrew ‘ola’) on behalf of the community; for the Jews this offering was, so to speak, the ‘ordinarium’ (Hebrew *tadid*, ‘permanent’). They performed this offering at the altar of burnt offering in the courtyard before the east facade of the Temple by slaughtering a yearling lamb at dawn and another at the ninth hour (about three o’clock; Acts 3: 1) and burning all but . . . the skin (Exo.29:38-42; Mishna Tam.iii.2-5; iv.I-12)” (p.166).

The second male lamb was offered “between the two evenings,” at the same general time as the Passover sacrifice. When was this? The New Testament itself gives us the unmistakable, clear answer!

Notice! In the book of Acts, we read: “One day Peter and John were going up to the temple AT THE TIME OF PRAYER – AT THREE IN THE AFTERNOON” (Acts 3;1, NIV). That is quite plain, isn’t it?

Concerning the ministration of the daily sacrifices in the Temple, Josephus, in *Antiquities of the Jews*, wrote:

“ . . . and anyone may hence learn how very great piety we exercise towards God, and the observance of his laws, since the priests were not at all hindered from their sacred ministrations, by their fear during this siege, but did still TWICE EACH DAY, in the morning and ABOUT THE NINTH HOUR [3:00 PM], OFFER THEIR SACRIFICES ON THE ALTAR; nor did they omit those sacrifices, if any melancholy accident happened, by the stones that were thrown among them; for although the city was taken on the third month, on the day of the fast. . . when Caius Antonius and Marcus Tullius Cicero were consuls, and the enemy then fell upon them, and cut the throats of those that were in the temple, yet could not those that offered the sacrifices be compelled to run away, neither by the fear they were in of their own lives, nor by the number that were already slain, as thinking it better to suffer whatever came upon them at their very altars, than to omit anything that their laws required of them; and that this is not a mere brag, or an encomium to manifest a degree of our piety that was false, but is the real truth” (Bk. XIV , IV , 3).

The *Cyclopaedia of Biblical. Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature*, by John McClintoch and James Strong, volume II, published in 1874, declares of the daily sacrifice:

“Daily sacrifice: . . . was a burnt-offering of two year-old lambs, which were daily immolated in the name of the whole Israelitish people upon the great altar; the first lamb early (as soon as it became light, Mishna, Tamid, iii, 2), the other AT EVENING (MORE DEFINITELY, ‘BETWEEN THE TWO EVENINGS’; according to Pesach, v, 1, the eve-offering was sacrificed as a rule BETWEEN THE EIGHT-AND-A-HALF AND THE NINE-AND-A-HALF HOUR [2:30-3:30 PM], but on Sabbath-eve and Passover-eve [14th Nisan] one hour earlier; Josephus, Ant xiv, 4,3, designates 'about the ninth hour' as the time; comp., however, Jonathan's Targum, Gen. xlix, 27 . . .” (p.644).

The *Mishnah, A New Translation*, by Jacob Neusner, declares in Pesahim 5:1:

“A. The daily whole offering [of the afternoon][generally] slaughtered at half after the eighth hour [after dawn, about 2:30 P.M.] and offered up at half after the ninth hour [about 3:30 P.M.].

“B. On the eve of Passover, [the daily whole offering] was slaughtered at half after the seventh hour [1:30 PM] and offered up at half after the eighth hour [2:30 PM].

“C. whether on an ordinary day or on the Sabbath.

“D. [If, however,] the eve of Passover coincided with the eve of the Sabbath [Friday] , it was slaughtered at half after the sixth hour [12:30 P.M.] and offered up at half after the seventh hour [1:30 P.M.].

“E. and [then] the Passover offering [was slaughtered] after it”
(*The Mishnah*, p.236-237).

“Between the Two Evenings”

The real center of the controversy has raged around the expression “between the two evenings.” Some claim this expression meant the space between the setting of the sun and the moment when the stars become visible, or when darkness sets in.

Says the *Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature*, however:

“Tradition, however, interprets the phrase ‘between the two evenings’ to mean FROM AFTERNOON TO THE DISAPPEARING OF THE SUN, THE FIRST EVENING BEING FROM THE TIME WHEN THE SUN BEGINS TO DECLINE FROM ITS VERTICAL OR NOONTIDE POINT TOWARDS THE WEST; and the SECOND FROM ITS GOING DOWN AND VANISHING OUT OF SIGHT, which is the reason why the DAILY SACRIFICE might be KILLED AT 12:30 P.M. ON A FRIDAY. . . . But as the Paschal lamb was slain after the daily sacrifice, it generally took place from 2:30-5:30 P.M. . . . We should have deemed it superfluous to add that such faithful followers of Jewish tradition as Saadia, Rashi, Kimchi, Ralbag, etc. , espouse this definition of the ancient Jewish canons Now Rashi most distinctly declares, ‘From the sixth hour[=12 o’clock] and upwards is called “between the two evenings,” because the sun begins to set for the evening. Hence it appears to me that the phrase “between the two evenings” denotes the hours between the evening of the day and the evening of the night. The evening of the day is from the beginning of the seventh hour [=immediately after noontide], when the evening shadows begin to lengthen, while the evening of the night is at the beginning of the night’ (Commentary on Exo.12:6). Kimchi says almost. literally the same thing: “Between the two evenings” is from the time when THE SUN BEGINS TO INCLINE TOWARDS THE WEST,

WHICH IS FROM THE SIXTH HOUR [=12 o'clock] AND UPWARDS. It is called *erevim* ["evenings"] because there are TWO EVENINGS, for from the time that the sun begins to decline is one evening, and the other evening is after the sun has GONE DOWN, and it is the space between which is meant by "between the two evenings" Eustathius, in a note on the seventeenth book of the Odyssey, shows that the Greeks too held that there were two evenings, one which they called the latter evening, at the close of the day; and the other the former evening, which commenced immediately after noon. . ." (*McClintock and Strong*, vol. VII, 1877, p.735).

Therefore, when God said that the Passover was to be sacrificed "at the going down of the sun" (Deut.16:6), He obviously meant – as every faithful Jew knows – during the late afternoon, when the sun is declining or descending in the Western sky. This sacrifice was done during daylight – not after dark! It was done while the sun was *STILL* "going down" in the sky – not AFTER it had already "set," or disappeared beneath the western horizon!

That is precisely and exactly what the Scriptures so clearly say! Will we believe them? Will we be willing to accept the clear Word of God? God commanded, "There you must sacrifice the Passover IN THE EVENING, WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN" – not after it has ALREADY GONE DOWN! (Deut16:6).

WHEN Did Israel Leave Egypt?

Those who believe Passover is at the beginning of the 14th, and 24 hours later Israel left Egypt, have a serious problem with several verses in the Bible. Notice! We read this plain and remarkable statement:

"The people of Israel broke camp at Ramses THE MORNING AFTER THE PASSOVER, ON THE 15TH DAY of the first month. They departed by an uplifted hand in plain view of all the Egyptians" (Num.33:3, New Berkeley Version).

"And they departed from Ramses in the first month, on the 15th day of the first month; on the MORROW AFTER THE PASSOVER the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians " (KJV).

This verse states plainly that it was the MORNING – at DAY BREAK – when Israel left Egypt, in the SIGHT of all the Egyptians – not at night at all! It was "ON THE MORROW" after the Passover itself, which occurred at night! This clearly means mere HOURS between the Passover itself, and the "MORROW" or "MORNING" when they departed, and broke camp!

This only makes plain old good horse sense, because as the Scriptures state, their bread was not even leavened; they did not have time for the leavening process to occur in their dough (see

Exodus 12:34, 39). Obviously, their dough would easily have become leavened if they had tarried in Egypt for the space of a whole day, before departing!

The Jewish Encyclopedia

The *Jewish Encyclopedia* is also very plain concerning the time of the Passover, and the expression “between the two evenings.” We read:

“The Passover lamb was killed, in the time of the second temple, in the court where all other ‘kodashim’ were slaughtered, in keeping with the Deuteronomic prescription . . . the time ‘between the two evenings’ (‘ben ha-arbayim’) was construed to mean ‘after noon and until nightfall,’ the killing of the lamb following immediately upon that of the ‘Tamid,’ the burning of the incense, and the setting in order of the lamps, according to daily routine. . . The animal (paschal lamb) was slain on the eve of the Passover, on the afternoon of the 14th of Nisan, after the Tamid sacrifice had been killed, i.e., at THREE O’CLOCK, or, in case the eve of the Passover fell on Friday, at two” (“Passover,” p.548-556).

The Passover was an extremely important festival for every religious Jew. Josephus tells us that upwards of 250,000 lambs were slain during the Passover festivities during his day, one for every ten people in Judea. Bo Reicke, in *The New Testament Era*, explains:

“A special form of private communion sacrifice was the Passover sacrifice, for which yearling male lambs or kids were used. To deal with the thousands of animals slaughtered at the same time, the priests stood in lines between the fence and the altar, passed bowls holding the blood, and had their colleagues at the end of the lines empty the bowls at the foot of the altar (Mishna Pes. v. 6) .Then the worshiper’s lamb was flayed and carried out in its skin; it was roasted on a spit within the city AND EATEN IN A ROOM AFTER SUNDOWN .Ten to twenty people shared the meal, having joined together for the festival as a household, according to the law. . .” (p.16).

How clear that the Passover was historically always observed at the END of Nisan 14, and beginning of Nisan 15 – just as the Jews do, to this very day. How sad it is that so many “Christian” churches get all confused, and attempt to keep it at the *beginning* of Nisan 14 instead. Why do they do this? There is one simple reason for the confusion. It due to an error in understanding due to

misreading one particular text concerning Christ's last days involving the Passover. Let us examine the time sequence of events.

The Gospel of John

The apostle John records this event: “Now *before the Feast of the Passover*, when Jesus knew that HIS HOUR HAD COME that He should depart from this world, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. And *supper being served* [“ended” is a poor translation; my Bible margin says, “*during supper*”], the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus . . . *rose from SUPPER . . .*” (John 13:1-4).

Notice! This was “*before the Feast of the Passover*”! Therefore it could not have been the traditional, normal *Passover!* Supper was still being served when Jesus arose to wash the disciples' feet. John nowhere calls this meal a “Passover.” He simply calls it “supper.”

At this supper they ate regular “bread,” because the Feast had not yet begun (verse 1). The Greek word for “bread” used for this evening's bread is *artos* and normally refers to leavened bread unless qualified otherwise with a modifier. The Greek word for *unleavened bread* is *AZUMOS*. The bread Jesus and the disciples ate this evening was the kind that one would “dip” into a gravy, as a “sop.” Jesus told John, when he asked Him who would betray Him, “It is he to whom I shall give a *piece of bread* when I have *dipped* it” (John 13:26). “And having *dipped the bread*, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. Now *after the piece of bread*, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, What you do, do quickly” (verse 27).

The next verse explains that no one knew why Jesus said this to Judas. “For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, 'Buy those things *we need for the Feast,*' or that he should give something to the poor” (verses 28-29).

Now if this was the PASSOVER DINNER, doesn't it seem strange that the disciples thought Jesus was *sending Judas away from the Passover, right in the middle of it, to BUY GROCERIES FOR THE FEAST?*

That makes no sense at all!

If this was the Passover, then the markets would have been closed, and certainly no shopping would be allowed to interrupt the very Passover dinner itself! The very fact that the disciples had such a thought in their minds indicates plainly that they knew this meal itself was not the Passover, but indeed was a very special meal eaten together as a “love banquet.”

Now notice Luke 22:14: “And when the *hour had come*, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him.” This compares with John 13:1: “Now *before the Feast of the Passover*, when Jesus knew *His hour had come* that He should depart from this world to the Father . . .” In neither passage does it say that the “hour” of the Passover had come! Rather, it was the “hour of His betrayal” that had come. Jesus knew that this night would be His last with His disciples, until after His forthcoming death and resurrection.

“With Fervent Desire . . . THIS Passover”

Now we come to the most enigmatic, perplexing verse of all. This is the verse which is the

most misunderstood verse in all the New Testament, I believe. Notice! We have been studying this subject in context, bringing together all the related Scriptures. Now we come to Luke 22, verses 15-16. Here Jesus said to the disciples:

“With *fervent desire* I have desired to eat *this Passover* with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

What was He talking about? What did He mean by saying “THIS Passover”? There are only two possibilities:

- 1) He meant the upcoming Passover that very year, which had not yet arrived, as this statement was made “before the feast of the Passover” (John 13:1).
- 2) He meant that very meal that evening which they were partaking of – even though it was served with regular “bread,” makes no mention of lamb, or bitter herbs, which were required for a Passover meal.

Let's take a spiritual microscope to this verse, and analyze it very carefully. Let's notice what it *does* say as well as what it *does not* say.

What, then, did Jesus mean when He said, “With fervent desire I have desired to eat *this Passover* with you before I suffer”? The word for “desire” in this verse is an unusual word, *epithumia* in the Greek, and means “a longing, especially for that which is *forbidden*” (see *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*, #1939).

The word for “desire” in this verse is very important to understanding the context of Jesus' words. Says *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon*, “desire, craving, longing,” “specifically for what is *forbidden*.” This is the “strongest expression of intense desire,” whether good or bad, says the Jamieson, Fausset, Brown *Critical-Experimental Commentary*.

What a difference a little word makes!

In other words, Jesus here was saying He desired to eat the normal, traditional Passover with His disciples, that year, but He knew that such a thing will be *impossible* – that it was *forbidden* – that for Him to fulfill God's PLAN He must be dead and in the grave the evening the Passover would be eaten, and therefore it was *forbidden* and *impossible* for Him to eat that Passover with them!

Suppose a man was talking to a friend in the world, and told him a few days before Thanksgiving Day, “With desire I have desired to celebrate *this Thanksgiving* with you before I leave, but unfortunately I have to take a long trip and won't be here for the holiday. I won't be able to keep Thanksgiving with you until many years from now.”

In other words, it is nothing more than *pure speculation or assumption* to conclude that this verse “proves” Jesus was eating the Passover that very evening! This verse proves nothing of the kind – in fact, when understood, the Greek word for “desire” here proves the very opposite!

The *Critical-Experimental Commentary* points out:

“The *last meal one is to partake of with his family or friends before his departure even for a far distant land, in all probability never to see them again, is a solemn and*

fond one to any thoughtful and loving person. The last meal of a martyr, of Jesus with his friends in the truth, before being led forth to execution, is *still more touching*. But faint are these illustrations of the emotions with which Jesus now sat down supper with the Twelve. All the sweetness and all the sadness of His social intercourse with them, from the day that He first chose them to be with Him, were now to be **concentrated and heightened to their utmost intensity** during the brief hour or two of this their last meal together. But *this was no common meal, nor even common passover.*”

Paul and the Passover

The apostle Paul bears witness to this fact He admits, when on trial before the Sanhedrin, “I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee” (Acts 23:6). He admitted that concerning the law of God, they had “the righteousness that is by the law” (Rom.10:5). He admitted that they were “zealous for God” (verse 2). Paul himself had been a strict Pharisee up until his conversion.

Paul wrote to the Philippians, “If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; IN REGARD TO THE LAW, A PHARISEE; as for zeal, persecuting the Church; as for LEGALISTIC RIGHTEOUSNESS, FAULTLESS” (Phil.3:4-6).

Now consider! If the Pharisees had been observing Passover and Pentecost ON THE WRONG DAY, AT THE WRONG TIME, then Paul could not have been “faultless” concerning the law, and the righteousness that comes from obedience to the law! This Scripture then proves beyond any doubt that the PHARISEES WERE CORRECT as to the days they observed as God’s annual festivals and holy days!

Paul -- as a Pharisee, “Blameless “Concerning the Law

The Amplified Bible has Paul's words this way: “Circumcised when I was eight days old, of the race of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew [and the son] of Hebrews; AS TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LAW I was of [the party of] the PHARISEES . . . and by the LAW’S STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS – [supposed] justice, uprightness and right standing with God – I WAS PROVEN TO BE BLAMELESS AND NO FAULT WAS FOUND WITH ME.”

In no way could Paul have said such a thing, under the inspiration of the Spirit of God, as a part of Holy Scripture, UNLESS IT WERE TRUE! – and that means that as a Pharisee, observing the holy day of PASSOVER when the Pharisees said that it was to be observed, was COMPLETELY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE LAW OF GOD!

What could be more plain and clear than that?

According to the MOFFATT translation, Paul actually said he was “a Pharisee as regards the Law,” and “IMMACULATE BY THE STANDARD OF LEGAL RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

Again, such a claim would have been the height of folly and sin, foolishness and deception, IF the Pharisees had been observing PASSOVER on the wrong days!

Says one commentary, "Jesus found the scribes and Pharisees scrupulously keeping the details of the law, besides their added traditions. **THEY ZEALOUSLY OBSERVED THE FESTIVALS**, including the festival of unfermented cakes, but Jesus condemned them, for, because of their hypocrisy, they had lost sight of the real significance of these . . . arrangements of Jehovah for their blessing" (*Aid to Bible Understanding*, article "Festival of Unfermented Cakes", p.578).

Jesus' Example

Jesus and His disciples kept the same Passover as the Jews around them. They observed the same Passover as did the Pharisees. While He was yet a child, we read, "EVERY YEAR his parents went up to Jerusalem for the **FEAST OF THE PASSOVER**. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, **ACCORDING TO THE CUSTOM**" (Luke 2:41-42).

After Jesus began His ministry, we read, "When it was almost time for the **JEWISH PASSOVER**, Jesus went up to Jerusalem" (John 2:13). "Now while he was in Jerusalem at the **PASSOVER FEAST**, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name" (verse 23).

Jesus made no secret of observing the same Passover festival as the Jews kept. We read, "When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, for they also had been there" (John 4:45). There is no hint or indication whatsoever in these accounts that Jesus kept the Passover at any other time than all the Jews did. All were in agreement. Both the Sadducees and Pharisees kept it at the **END** of Nisan 14, beginning of Nisan 15, as they killed the sacrifice and ate the roasted lamb that night, after sunset.

So where in their febrile imaginations do people come up with the idea that Jesus and His disciples kept the Passover a night **EARLIER** than the Jews all around them did?

"When it was almost time for the **JEWISH PASSOVER**, many went up from the country to Jerusalem for their ceremonial cleansing before the Passover. They kept looking for Jesus, and as they stood in the temple area they asked one another, 'What do you think? Isn't he coming to the Feast at all?' But the chief priests and Pharisees had given orders that if anyone found out where Jesus was, he should report it so that they might arrest him" (John 11:55-57).

Even at the risk of His life, Jesus observed the holy days of *God!* The Pharisees knew this; they knew He observed the **LAWS** of God. They knew when and where to expect Him.

After that final last supper with His disciples, Jesus was arrested and taken into custody. The Jewish high priest questioned Him, and one of the officials struck Him in the face (John 18:19-24). Then they took Him to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. "By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness the Jews did not enter the palace; they wanted to be able to eat the Passover" (John 18:28). Obviously, they had not yet partaken of the Passover, although by now it was morning, after sunrise, of the 13th of Nisan. Why? They were going to be observing it the next afternoon (of the 14th), and eating of it during the following evening, after sunset, at the beginning of Nisan 15th.

Later that day, about noon, Pilate brought Jesus out “and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). It was the DAY OF PREPARATION OF PASSOVER WEEK, about the sixth hour [noon]” (John 19:14).

The 10th to the 14th days of Nisan were known as the “Days of Preparation,” because during them the Passover lambs were selected (on Nisan 10), kept in reserve, and then sacrificed (on the afternoon of the 14th). All leaven was removed from all the homes in Judea by mid-day on the 14th. That evening, as the 15th of Nisan came, they celebrated the Passover seder, a long, wonderful, Passover meal, with family. The Jewish leaders, knowing that the evening was fast approaching, asked Pilate to have the bodies of Jesus and those crucified with Him to be taken down and buried before the onset of the High Sabbath. As the apostle John records, “Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath” (John 19:31).

The Evidence Is Conclusive

All the evidence shows us overwhelmingly that the Passover was killed at the end of the 14th of Nisan or Abib. It was killed at the same time, the very moment, when Jesus Christ Himself died for our sins! (Matt.27:46-50; Mark 15:34-37; Luke 23:44-46).

What could be plainer?

Jesus Christ Himself set us an example, and He observed the same Passover throughout His life as did the Jews. And He said to the people of His day, these remarkable words:

“You shall know the truth; and the truth
will set you free” (John 8:32).

The Passover is the first of God’s annual holy days. It should be observed by Christians as well as Jews, with an understanding of its FULL meaning, and it should be kept at the appropriate, God-appointed TIME – at the end of Nisan 14 and beginning of Nisan 15 – since the original Passover lambs were killed in the afternoon of Nisan 14, then roasted over a fire on a spit, and then eaten on Nisan 15, the first day of the FEAST of Unleavened bread.

Indeed, what could be plainer? May God help us all to get it right – and do it right – and do what is righteous and pleasing in His sight!

It’s high time we come out of spiritual Babylon, “confusion,” and do exactly what God commands, with no questions, doubts, and no if’s, and’s or but’s. There is no excuse for failing to observe the true Passover, and not to do it precisely as God commands, and at the time He says it is to be observed! Do not allow any man or church or supposed leader come between you and the truth of God! Do not fear men or their presumed “authority” or pontifications. Fear God!

Let us rejoice in keeping the Passover holy day the right way, at the right time, and deeply appreciate God’s revealed truth about the Passover, and show our appreciation by our obedience!

Prophecy Briefs

Lloyd's of London Abandons European Banks

Without warning, Lloyd's — the world's oldest insurance market — announced that it has withdrawn its money from European banks.

The reason? According to Lloyd's, the banks are in danger of failing as Europe's debt crisis continues to intensify.

The company's Finance Director, Luke Savage, put it simply:

“If you're worried the government itself might be at risk, then you're certainly worried the banks could be taken down with them.”

Which European governments is Lloyd's talking about? They're not saying.

But it *IS* interesting to note that Lloyd's didn't just withdraw its money from Greek banks; it withdrew its money from banks *all over Europe!*

One thing you can be sure of, though:

When the world's oldest insurance company ...

A firm that for 323 years has made its living by accurately calculating the odds of future disasters ...

When that company suddenly takes its money and runs, it's a MASSIVE red flag for investors — a clear sign that the beginning of the end is near!

Lloyd's has every reason to worry. In addition to the government debt crisis that's threatening to destroy European banks, a huge credit crisis is spreading across the Continent as well.

Spanish and Italian banks are rejecting massive numbers of loans and charging customers more as the sovereign debt crisis continues to drive their own borrowing cost higher.

Any way you look at it, this shrinking of European credit markets is the worst kind of downward spiral:

- The government debt crisis is making it harder and more expensive for banks to borrow money; the banks are passing those higher costs along to borrowers.
- Corporations have to pay more to borrow; their cost of doing business is rising.
- Consumers can't or won't borrow at higher rates, so corporate earnings plunge.
- As corporate earnings evaporate, the taxes they pay also plummet.
- Falling tax revenues cause the government's deficits to explode higher, driving the banks' cost of borrowing even higher.

And so, the death spiral continues . . .
(Moneynews.com, Weiss Research, Inc., Dec. 4, 2011).

A Scary Lesson from History

An eye-witness to Hitler's rise to power in Germany compares events and government in modern America, today:

“What I am about to tell you is something you've probably never heard or will ever read in history books.

“I believe that I am an eyewitness to history. I cannot tell you that Hitler took Austria by tanks and guns; it would distort history. We elected

him by a landslide - 98% of the vote.. I've never read that in any American publications. Everyone thinks that Hitler just rolled in with his tanks and took Austria by force.

“In 1938, Austria was in deep Depression. Nearly one-third of our workforce was unemployed. We had 25% inflation and 25% bank loan interest rates.

“Farmers and business people were declaring bankruptcy daily. Young people were going from house to house begging for food. Not that they didn't want to work; there simply weren't any jobs. My mother was a Christian woman and believed in helping people in need. Every day we cooked a big kettle of soup and baked bread to feed those poor, hungry people - about 30 daily. The Communist Party and the National Socialist Party were fighting each other.. Blocks and blocks of cities like Vienna , Linz , and Graz were destroyed. The people became desperate and petitioned the government to let them decide what kind of government they wanted.

“We looked to our neighbor on the north, Germany , where Hitler had been in power since 1933. We had been told that they didn't have unemployment or crime, and they had a high standard of living. Nothing was ever said about persecution of any group -- Jewish or otherwise. We were led to believe that everyone was happy. We wanted the same way of life in Austria .. We were promised that a vote for Hitler would mean the end of unemployment and help for the family. Hitler also said that businesses would be assisted, and farmers would get their farms back. Ninety-eight percent of the population voted to annex Austria to Germany and have Hitler for our ruler.

“We were overjoyed, and for three days we danced in the streets and had candlelight parades. The new government opened up big field kitchens and everyone was fed.

“After the election, German officials were appointed, and like a miracle, we suddenly had law and order. Three or four weeks later, everyone was employed. The government made sure that a lot of work was created through the Public Work Service.

“Hitler decided we should have equal rights for women. Before this, it was a custom that married Austrian women did not work outside the home.

An able-bodied husband would be looked down on if he couldn't support his family. Many women in the teaching profession were elated that they could retain the jobs they previously had been required to give up for marriage.

Hitler Targets Education – Eliminates Religious Instruction for Children:

“Our education was nationalized. I attended a very good public school. The population was predominantly Catholic, so we had religion in our schools. The day we elected Hitler (March 13, 1938), I walked into my schoolroom to find the crucifix replaced by Hitler's picture hanging next to a Nazi flag. Our teacher, a very devout woman, stood up and told the class we wouldn't pray or have religion anymore. Instead, we sang "Deutschland, Deutschland, Uber Alles," and had physical education.

“Sunday became National Youth Day with compulsory attendance. Parents were not pleased about the sudden change in curriculum. They were told that if they did not send us, they would receive a stiff letter of warning the first time. The second time they would be fined the equivalent of \$300, and the third time they would be subject to jail. The first two hours consisted of political indoctrination. The rest of the day we had sports. As time went along, we loved it. Oh, we had so much fun and got our sports equipment free. We would go home and gleefully tell our parents about the wonderful time we had.

“My mother was very unhappy. When the next term started, she took me out of public school and put me in a convent. I told her she couldn't do that and she told me that someday when I grew up, I would be grateful. There was a very good curriculum, but hardly any fun - no sports, and no political indoctrination. I hated it at first but felt I could tolerate it. Every once in a while, on holidays, I went home. I would go back to my old friends and ask what was going on and what they were doing. Their loose lifestyle was very alarming to me. They lived without religion. By that time unwed mothers were glorified for having a baby for Hitler. It seemed strange to me that our society changed so suddenly. As time went along, I realized what a great deed my mother did so that I wasn't exposed to that kind of humanistic philosophy.

Equal Rights Hits Home:

“In 1939, the war started and a food bank was established. All food was rationed and could only be purchased using food stamps. At the same time, a full-employment law was passed which meant if you didn't work, you didn't get a ration card, and if you didn't have a card, you starved to death. Women who stayed home to raise their families didn't have any marketable skills and often had to take jobs more suited for men.

“Soon after this, the draft was implemented. It was compulsory for young people, male and female, to give one year to the labor corps. During the day, the girls worked on the farms, and at night they returned to their barracks for military training just like the boys. They were trained to be anti-aircraft gunners and participated in the signal corps. After the labor corps, they were not discharged but were used in the front lines. When I go back to Austria to visit my family and friends, most of these women are emotional cripples because they just were not equipped to handle the horrors of combat. Three months before I turned 18, I was severely injured in an air raid attack. I nearly had a leg amputated, so I was spared having to go into the labor corps and into military service.

Hitler Restructured the Family Through Daycare:

“When the mothers had to go out into the work force, the government immediately established child care centers. You could take your children ages 4 weeks to school age and leave them there around-the-clock, 7 days a week, under the total care of the government. The state raised a whole generation of children.. There were no motherly women to take care of the children, just people highly trained in child psychology. By this time, no one talked about equal rights. We knew we had been had.

Health Care and Small Business Suffer Under Government Controls:

“Before Hitler, we had very good medical care. Many American doctors trained at the University of Vienna . After Hitler, health care was socialized, free for everyone. Doctors were salaried by the government. The problem was, since it was free, the people were going to the doctors for everything. When the good doctor arrived at his office at 8 a.m., 40 people were already waiting and, at the same time, the

hospitals were full. If you needed elective surgery, you had to wait a year or two for your turn. There was no money for research as it was poured into socialized medicine. Research at the medical schools literally stopped, so the best doctors left Austria and emigrated to other countries.

“As for healthcare, our tax rates went up to 80% of our income. Newlyweds immediately received a \$1,000 loan from the government to establish a household. We had big programs for families. All day care and education were free. High schools were taken over by the government and college tuition was subsidized. Everyone was entitled to free handouts, such as food stamps, clothing, and housing.

“We had another agency designed to monitor business. My brother-in-law owned a restaurant that had square tables. Government officials told him he had to replace them with round tables because people might bump themselves on the corners. Then they said he had to have additional bathroom facilities. It was just a small dairy business with a snack bar. He couldn't meet all the demands. Soon, he went out of business. If the government owned the large businesses and not many small ones existed, it could be in control.

“We had consumer protection. We were told how to shop and what to buy. Free enterprise was essentially abolished. We had a planning agency specially designed for farmers. The agents would go to the farms, count the live-stock, then tell the farmers what to produce, and how to produce it.

"Mercy Killing" Redefined:

“In 1944, I was a student teacher in a small village in the Alps . The villagers were surrounded by mountain passes which, in the winter, were closed off with snow, causing people to be isolated. So people intermarried and offspring were sometimes retarded. When I arrived, I was told there were 15 mentally retarded adults, but they were all useful and did good manual work. I knew one, named Vincent, very well. He was a janitor of the school. One day I looked out the window and saw Vincent and others getting into a van. I asked my superior where they were going. She said to an institution where the State Health Department would teach them a trade, and to read and write. The families were required to sign papers with a little clause

that they could not visit for 6 months. They were told visits would interfere with the program and might cause homesickness.

“As time passed, letters started to dribble back saying these people died a natural, merciful death. The villagers were not fooled. We suspected what was happening. Those people left in excellent physical health and all died within 6 months. We called this euthanasia.

The Final Steps - Gun Laws:

“Next came gun registration.. People were getting injured by guns. Hitler said that the real way to catch criminals (we still had a few) was by matching serial numbers on guns. Most citizens were law abiding and dutifully marched to the police station to register their firearms. Not long after-wards, the police said that it was best for everyone to turn in their guns. The authorities already knew who had them, so it was futile not to comply voluntarily.

“No more freedom of speech. Anyone who said something against the government was taken away. We knew many people who were arrested, not only Jews, but also priests and ministers who spoke up.

“Totalitarianism didn't come quickly, it took 5 years from 1938 until 1943, to realize full dictatorship in Austria . Had it happened overnight, my countrymen would have fought to the last breath. Instead, we had creeping gradualism Now, our only weapons were broom handles. The whole idea sounds almost unbelievable that the state, little by little eroded our freedom.

“After World War II, Russian troops occupied Austria . Women were raped, preteen to elderly. The press never wrote about this either. When the Soviets left in 1955, they took everything that they could, dismantling whole factories in the process. They sawed down whole orchards of fruit, and what they couldn't destroy, they burned. We called it The Burned Earth. Most of the population barricaded themselves in their houses. Women hid in their cellars for 6 weeks as the troops mobilized. Those who couldn't, paid the price. There is a monument in Vienna today, dedicated to those women who were massacred by the Russians. This is an eye witness account.

“It's true, those of us who sailed past the Statue of Liberty came to a country of unbelievable freedom and opportunity” (Kitty Werthmann, “No Free Lunch,” 85 years old).

Occupy Wall Street Madness

This past summer, thousands of the younger class of the unemployed (for one reason or another), joined by an equal number of lawless teenagers, misfits, drug addicts and unhappy foreign immigrants of one race or the other (mostly Muslim), went on a rampage in London-burning, killing, robbing, raping-ad *infinitum*. Untold damage was done before the rioting was brought under control by the army and law enforcement united from several English cities.

Having been to Russia, China, Mongolia, and Cuba, I have witnessed the social unrest of the discontent which has been used in each of these countries in the past to overturn political systems in favor of the murderous communist systems that killed hundreds of millions. The church in each revolution has been practically eliminated. This past summer the ghost of these past tragic (movements to overturn God's order of human government appeared in our nation under the name of "Occupy Wall Street." While Wall Street banking establishments might be guilty of some general financial manipulations, the real cause of our present economy disadvantage (and unemployment) is due to Bill Clinton forcing banks to underwrite millions of housing loans for those who didn't have jobs and illegal immigrants. One-worlders inside our political system opened foreign markets and put the American worker in competition with three billion foreign workers making one dollar or less a day.

The really guilty money takers, like Soros, and socialistic politicians, like our own president, now point to Wall Street banks and say, "They did it." So the "community organizers" collected enough of the un-disciplined unemployed, thugs, and freeloaders of several other segments of the social order to invade lower Manhattan and occupy Wall Street. Now the movement, as controlled and directed, has expanded to "take over Oakland"; "take over Denver"; and if it continues un- checked, "take over America."

A recent list of those who are supporting the "Occupy Wall Street" movement is as follows:

Communist Party USA
The American Nazi Party
Revolutionary Communist Party
Black Panthers
Nation of Islam's Louis Farrakhan .
CAIR
Iran's Supreme Leader; the Ayatollah Khomeini
Hugo Chavez .Revolutionary Guards of Iran
The government of North Korea
Communist Party of China.
Hezbollah

The main politicians who have applauded the "Occupy Wall Street" movement have been President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, and Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi.

Whether "Occupy Wall Street" will die out of its own repugnant nature, or its own inept volition, remains to be seen. If it grows, there is a real danger that this "land of the free and home of the brave" may end up like others in the past, like Russia or China. Another real danger is that if there is sufficient social unrest in the wake of this societal insanity, the president may declare that a general election in 2012 in such conditions could be impossible" (*The Prophetic Observer*, Dec. 2011).

A New Look at Israel Today

According to a multitude of Old Testament prophecies, a breach would occur between God and Israel because the nation cut off the Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 30:13). This breach was to last for two thousand years, according to Hosea 5:15,6:1-2. Within the time of this breach, Israel would be scattered into all nations until the time of the gentiles be fulfilled (Ezek. 20:34; Luke 21:24). Zechariah 11:8 indicates the return of the Jews would be signaled by the death of three world leaders in one month. In 1945 on April 12, President Roosevelt died; on April 28, Mussolini was killed by his own countrymen; and on April 30, Hitler committed suicide. Then, with the end of WWII, the Jews began to return from Europe.

Jews in the nations of the Middle East had already begun to return, then from Europe, then from Russia, and lastly the black Jews from Ethiopia in 1990. The exact order of their return was foretold in Isaiah 43:5-6. They did

not come back with an army, but instead bought back land from the Palestinians (Jeremiah 32:44). They came back speaking the language of whichever nation they were from, but as prophesied Hebrew again became their official language (Zephaniah 3:8-10). The Jews also came back with all kinds of currency, but as prophesied the shekel again became the official unit of money and trade (Ezekiel 45:12-16).

During the Jewish dispersion, many of the cities had been renamed by foreigners; however, these cities were returned to their biblical names once the Jews returned to the land. Three cities in Israel that have not been re-settled are the cities that Jesus pronounced a curse upon because they received His miracles but did not worship Him as the Messiah. These three cities are Capernaum, Chorazin, and Bethsaida.

Also during the Jewish absence, the land became barren and desolate. But God promised once they returned, it would again blossom and fill the world with fruit, which it has today (Isaiah 27:6, 62:4). The Turks and others cut down all the forests that Solomon had planted but, as assured in Isaiah 41:8-20, not only was the land reforested, but also the species of the trees are those that were foretold. Likewise, most of the biblical animals that were either killed for food or fled from hunger and lack of shelter have now returned, as promised in Isaiah 65:19-25. On this last visit to Israel, the tour members were amazed at the forests, and the government announced that all of the animals mentioned in the Bible have been restored. According to Zechariah 12:1-3, once the Jews returned to the land Jerusalem would be a "burdensome stone" for all nations. This is certainly true, as Jerusalem is debated in the United Nations every day. It is also prophesied in the Bible that Israel will be ruled by governors until Jesus returns. This means that Israel's government is to be a democracy; and in fact, Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East.

In spite of threatening circumstances, on this trip the Israelis seemed more at ease and less apprehensive than usual. In addition to efforts at the Temple Institute, there is increased general interest in rebuilding the Temple. Buses were carrying signs about rebuilding the Temple now. That the Temple will be rebuilt soon seems certain, but where? That is still the question. Even so, it will be at the Temple that

the Antichrist will commit the abomination of desolation (Dan. 11:31; 2 Thess. 2:3-4).

The old city of Esau, Petra, was as crowded with tourists as Jerusalem. However, in Petra we saw only Nabateans. The Edomites, descendants of Esau who are today known as Palestinians, were in Israel. Jesus said that when the Jews returned, a time would come when all in the Judean area of Jerusalem would have to flee for their lives, not even having time to take a change of clothing or even a bagel (Matt. 24:15-21). In considering this prophetic warning, Iran's strong man, Ahmadinejad (who has declared plans to wipe Israel off the map), continues to build nuclear missiles (Fox News, November 9, 2011).

Another *Israel Today* news item suggests that Israel must attack Iran soon, or suffer a nuclear attack by Iran. According to this report, Mr. Obama thinks this may happen soon. Likewise, another somber Fox News report from November 9, 2011, states that Iran's leaders say that the "end of days" has come. This means that Iran will launch a nuclear attack against Israel and a general atomic war on a global scale will ensue. Then, according to Iran's leaders, the Mahdi will appear and establish a universal Islamic kingdom and all non-Muslims will be killed. (Noah Hutchings, *The Prophetic Observer*, Dec. 2011).

Prime Minister Netanyahu Begins Bible Study at Residence

(Washington, D.C., December 13, 2011) -- I read a fascinating story in the *Jerusalem Post* this morning and it gave me fresh hope for the nation of Israel.

"Taking a page out of David Ben-Gurion and Menachem Begin's playbook, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will begin hosting a regular Bible study group in his official residence for researchers, public officials and invited guests," reports the *Post*. "Netanyahu announced the establishment of the study circle on Friday at a ceremony marking 30 days since the passing of his father-in-law, Shmuel Ben-Artzi. The study group will be named after Ben-Artzi, a noted poet and Bible teacher. Both Ben-Gurion and Begin, when they each served as prime minister, hosted regular Bible study groups. Netanyahu said he was establishing the class to perpetuate

love of the Bible."

This is an excellent step by the Prime Minister, and he should be commended for it. Indeed, let us pray that the study of the Word of God has a powerful, personal impact on the Prime Minister and his family and each of his colleagues and guests. Let's pray that many Israelis would follow the Prime Minister's lead and begin reading the Holy Scriptures again, and that Bible studies in people's homes would spring up all over the Land of Israel.

Such a national reawakening to the importance of the Scriptures has happened before in Israel's history. Remember men like Nehemiah, Ezra, Josiah, and Joel? These were beloved governors, priests, kings and prophets whom the Lord used to turn the Jewish people back to the Scriptures and the need for national and individual prayer, fasting and repentance. One of my favorite examples is found in 2 Kings 22. I'd encourage you to read it afresh, for it is the remarkable story of King Josiah.

At the age of 8, Josiah took the throne. When he was 18, he instructed the temple to be cleaned and renovated. In so doing, he learned that a long forgotten copy of the Scriptures had been found in the temple. Indeed, someone brought him the dusty scrolls and read the Word to the king. "When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes" in repentance for all of Israel's sinful ways, and his own. Then the king commanded Hilkiah the priest and several other servants, "Go, inquire of the Lord for me and the people and all Judah concerning the words of this book that has been found, for great is the wrath of the Lord that burns against us, because our fathers have not listened to the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."

In 2 Kings 23, then, comes the equally amazing story of King Josiah gathering all the people of Israel and reading the Word of the Lord to them. Together, convicted of their own sins, they chose to make a covenant before the Lord to obey all of His commandments. "Before him," the Bible says, "there was no king like him who turned to the Lord with all his might, according to the law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him." Let us pray that Israel once again experiences a national renaissance of hunger for the Word of the Lord. Amen. (Joel Rosenberg, *Flash Traffic*, Dec.13, 2011).

Isaiah 9:10: Is the USA Now Under God's Judgment?

*Messianic rabbi reveals striking parallels
between fall of ancient Israel, America*

A messianic rabbi from New Jersey is stunning audiences nationwide by revealing the striking parallels between the fall of ancient Israel and what he suggests are God's early judgments of America.

Jonathan Cahn of the Jerusalem Center-Beth Israel Congregation in Wayne, N.J., says an otherwise obscure passage in the Book of Isaiah is since Sept. 11, 2001, being uncannily re-enacted in the U.S. just the way it originally played out in the time of the great prophet of Israel leading to the nation's captivity and dispersions.

In a new book, *The Harbinger*, Cahn reveals what he calls “an ancient mystery that holds the secret of America's future and the collapse of the global economy.”

“Before its destruction as a nation, ancient Israel received nine harbingers, prophetic omens of warning,” he says. “The same nine harbingers are now manifesting in America with immediate ramifications for end-time prophecy.”

The key to decoding the harbingers, he says, is found in understanding the seemingly innocuous words of Isaiah 9:10 (King James Version), what it meant to Israel and how the history seems to be repeating itself in America today.

“The bricks are fallen down, but we will build with hewn stones: the sycomores are cut down, but we will change them into cedars.”

These words were first uttered by leaders in Israel and in response to a limited strike by Assyria on the lands of Zebulun and Naphtali – an attack the prophet makes clear is actually part of a limited judgment by God against apostasy. It wasn't meant to destroy the nation, but to awaken it, according to most commentaries.

But, says Cahn, Israel didn't take the cue. Instead, the response from the people in Isaiah 9:10 is one of defiance. The brick buildings were toppled, but they vowed to build bigger and better. The little sycamore trees may have been uprooted, but they vowed to plant bigger and better cedars in their place.

God, speaking through Isaiah explains what will happen as a result of their pride and arrogance and failure to heed the harbinger: Bigger and more potent attacks will follow. Because

neither the northern kingdom of Israel or the southern kingdom of Judah truly repents, the first is eventually swept away by Assyrian invaders and the latter is carried off into captivity by the Babylonians for 70 years.

But what does this have to do with the United States of America -- particularly what the U.S. experienced on 9/11 and since? Cahn has found some eerie parallels. "In the aftermath of the attack, the nation was stunned," said Cahn, "Everyone was trying to make sense of what had happened – this unprecedented attack on America. The very next day, September 12, then Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle presented America's response to the world. And what did he say?"

Daschle said: "America will emerge from this tragedy as we have emerged from all adversity – united and strong. Nothing nothing can replace the losses of those who have suffered. I know there is only the smallest measure of inspiration that can be taken from this devastation. But there is a passage in the Bible from Isaiah that speaks to all of us at times like this."

He then went on to read Isaiah 9:10. "Daschle has no idea what he is doing here," explains Cahn. "He thinks he's offering comforting words to a grief-stricken people, but he is actually embracing the spiritually defiant and arrogant words of the children of Israel, proclaiming the ancient and ominous vow of the leaders of that nation. He doesn't realize it, but he is actually inviting more judgment on the nation."

It might be of some significance that Daschle, one of the most powerful men in the nation when he spoke those words, later fell into disgrace – to the point where he couldn't even serve in Barack Obama's Cabinet.

That might have been the end of the story – if no other top leader in the nation uttered those strange and obscure words after 9/11. But that's not the case. On the third anniversary of the attack, Sept. 11, 2004, another powerful U.S. senator running for vice president that year and who would famously run for the presidency four years later, gave a speech to the Congressional Black Caucus. This time, John Edwards' entire speech was built on a foundation of Isaiah 9:10: "Today, on this day of remembrance and mourning, we have the Lord's Word to get us through," he said. *He then read Isaiah 9:10.* He went on to talk about how America was doing just that – rebuilding with hewn stone and planting cedars. "Like Daschle, Edwards thinks he's invoking inspirational and comforting words from the Bible, but he's actually inviting judgment on America," says Cahn. "He's repeating the vow that provoked God to bring calamity on ancient Israel." How foolish of leaders to quote the Bible when they don't understand its meaning!

The events of Isaiah 9:10 and 9-11 are linked in other ways, too. The book is full of shocking parallels. There was actually a very famous sycamore tree felled in the attack on the World Trade Center. It was replaced by trees in the same genus as the cedar. There have been many plans made to rebuild the twin towers bigger and better and a large "hewn stone" was actually quarried out of the Adirondack Mountains in New York and brought to Ground Zero as a cornerstone.

The parallels are truly stunning, numerous and powerful. "In fact, they are overwhelming in their number and their exactitude," says Joseph Farah. "I am persuaded God is trying to tell America something and Rabbi Cahn has found the key to unlocking the message."

The book is available through World Net Daily or Amazon.com or a book store.

Is God *ADDING* 15 Years till the Coming of Christ?

For millennia men have speculated on the date when the Messiah will come! Previous ideas have proven to be wrong, time and time again! But the Scriptures indicate God is working out a 6,000 year program on the earth. Yet 6,000 years have passed since the creation of Adam. The time “expired” in 1997, and the Messiah has not yet returned. What happened? Does a little known prophecy and historical account contain the answer?

William F. Dankenbring

Predictions of the coming of the Messiah have been made for thousands of years, and they have proven to be in error time and time again. William Miller predicted it in 1844. The Jehovah’s Witnesses predicted it in 1914, and when He did not come, they changed the prediction to an invisible coming, claiming that He is now “ruling in the midst of His enemies.”

Herbert W. Armstrong predicted the second coming in 1975, saying bombastically that the church would flee to Petra to a place of safety in 1972. No such thing happened, so he later wrote “I have never claimed to be a prophet!” Many thought he was, in spite of that denial, and in spite of his many false predictions over the years.

More recently, Harold Camping predicted Christ would return in May, 2011, and when He did not, the prediction was changed to the fall of the year – and He still did not come. Camping’s name is now “mud” in the eyes of his followers.

But is there an indication of when Christ will return – an indication that is tried and true, and backed up by the Scriptures so that even a child can understand it?

Christ Himself said to His disciples, “I will come again” (John 14:3). The whole message of Christ involved His “second coming” to reign over the nations, and many prophecies allude to it, explain and describe it, and it is the focal point of the gospel, or good news, of the coming “Kingdom of God” to this earth (Matt.24:30-31; I Cor.15:50-52; I Thess.4:16-17; Rev.20:1-4).

The Apostle Peter's Commentary

The apostle Peter seems to have this Scripture in mind when he writes, in the New Testament, “But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that *ONE DAY is with the Lord as a THOUSAND YEARS, and a thousand years as ONE DAY.* The Lord is not

slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the *day of the Lord* will come as a thief in the night: in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (II Peter 3:8-10).

When the Messiah returns, He will inaugurate a millennial kingdom lasting one thousand years. As John wrote, when Messiah comes, the Adversary -- Satan the devil -- will be bound for one thousand years (Rev.20:1-3). During that same period, John says, “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them; and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and REIGNED WITH CHRIST A THOUSAND YEARS. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the *thousand years were finished*” (Rev.20:4-5).

The pattern of the seven day week, concluded by a Sabbath day of rest from work, labor, and toil, is a picture of the Plan of God. If the Sabbath of rest from “man's works,” lasts 1000 years (Rev.20:4), then it stands to reason that the previous SIX “days” would equal SIX THOUSAND years in fulfillment!

Thus when Peter said a "day" with the Lord is as a thousand years, he was not just joking, or being rhetorical! Literally a “day” in God's plan is a thousand years, and therefore a “week” in God's plan is *seven thousand years!* Since the final “day” is a Sabbath of a 1,000-year day, then the previous six days equal 6,000 years!

So how is it working out?

A final clue to the 6,000 years of man, followed by the Messianic Kingdom, is found in the New Testament, the story of the Transfiguration of Yeshua. Notice the account: “And AFTER SIX DAYS Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, *and was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light*” (Matt.17:1-2).

Here, six days equals 6,000 years, in typology. At the end of 6,000 years, Jesus Christ will appear IN HIS GLORY (Matt.24:30; 25:31; Rev.1:13-16; 11:15-17; 19:11-16). Thus the fact that “six days” passed before Christ revealed to His chief disciples His glory, in an awesome vision (Matt.17:9), indicates that 6,000 years will pass till the coming of the Son of Man in His glory at the end of the age!

We read in the Talmud, in tractate Sanhedrin, the following:

“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 following 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 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).

It is interesting that Judaism understands the 6,000 year plan, and declares that Elijah the prophet taught it. The first two thousand years of mankind’s history was in “chaos,” leading to the Flood and tower of Babel. The next two thousand spoke of the time of Abraham and Moses till the coming of the Messiah – the first coming of the Messiah (Christ was born in 4 B.C. and began His ministry in 27 A.D.). And since then, for about 2,000 years, it is the “era of the Messiah,” the time between the first and second coming of the Messiah – the time the gospel has been preached around the world, and extended out to the Gentile world!

This would indicate that the 2,000 years of the “era of the Messiah” is about finished, and the SECOND coming is right around the corner!

Notice that the Jewish rabbis say that because of “our numerous iniquities many of these years have been lost.” How true! The Jewish calendar has “lost” 236 years, placing Creation of Adam in 3760 B.C. The Jewish Calendar says this past fall began the Jewish year 5772 from Creation. This itself creates confusion in terms of chronology. The creation date set by the Jewish calendar is 236 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. So indeed, their sins have caused them to “lose” 236 years from the Calendar!

Ussher’s Chronology

Archbishop Ussher, a brilliant Protestant theologian of the seventeenth century, studied the chronology of the Bible and concluded Creation was 4004 B.C. His calculations, if right, would indicate the 6000 years would be up in the fall of 1997. To be precise, October 23, 1997. Of course, the world did not end on that date, nor did the Messiah come. However, the stock market took a dive of 560 points four days later. Could that have been a warning of things to come?

Archbishop Ussher was a great Biblical historian and theologian. He was born in Nicholas Street, Dublin, in 1581 A.D., and was one of the first scholars admitted to Trinity College, at the tender young age of 13. Ussher believed the Bible was literally true, like other scholars of his day, and attempted to work out the precise day and time of Creation, and when we could expect Christ's second coming. He was an expert in

Hebrew, Latin and Greek, and was assisted by one of the largest libraries in all of Western Europe.

Ussher concluded Creation occurred on noon, October 23rd, 4004 B.C. His reasoning was simple: Since history showed Nebuchadnezzar died in 562 B.C., and Biblical chronology showed his death was 3,442 years after Creation, then Creation had to be 4004 B.C. 3442 plus 562 equals 4004. Simple.

Ussher's scholarship was published in 1650 as *The Annals of the World*. Ussher also deduced that the Temple of Solomon was finished on 2004 B.C., 2000 years after Creation, and Christ was born 4 B.C., 4000 years from Creation.

Ussher believed, as many did in his time, that the end of the world or age would occur 6000 years from Creation. His calculations were widely accepted at the time and were inserted into the margins of many published Bibles of the Authorized King James Version in 1701.

However, if we attempt to calculate 6,000 years from 4004 B.C., we come to 1997 A.D. (remember, there is no year zero). That was 15 years ago – and the Messiah still has not come! Some may wonder why we "add" a year in the final column, to reach 2004 A.D. The answer is simple. There is no year "zero." Therefore, when counting from B.C. to A.D., we must "add" an extra year for the years to correspond to reality.

What gives? What happened?

The Book of Jubilees

The book of Jubilees is an ancient Jewish book written about 150-200 years before Christ by Levites. It is another account of the history of mankind from the time of Adam's Creation. Written by priests, it is an excellent source document for Biblical history. The book of Jubilees tells us something very interesting. 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 of Eden. This occurred, therefore, *seven years* after their original creation, in 4004 B.C. -- or in the year 3997 B.C. Thus mankind did not come under the influence of Satan until 3997 B.C.

The seven years of idyllic paradise should not be counted in the 6,000 years of man's labor and toil, during which mankind has been subject to the deception, wiles, and influences of the "god of this world," Satan the devil (II Cor.4:4, Eph.2:2).

Therefore, if we add seven years, or count from 3997 B.C., the end of the 6,000 years would be 2004 A.D. – eight years ago! But Christ did not return then, either!

So what is the answer?

King Hezekiah's History

The answer, I believe, is found in the life of king Hezekiah, of ancient Judah.

Hezekiah was a godly king who "did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done" (II Kings 18:3). During his reign the king of Assyria came up against Jerusalem and besieged it. God Himself defended the city, "And it came to pass on a certain night [Passover?] that the angel of the LORD went out and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead" (II Kings 19:35).

Hezekiah became deathly sick when he was 39 years old. In fact, God sent the prophet Isaiah with a message to the king, saying, "Thus says the LORD: Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live" (II Kings 20:1).

Hezekiah was so moved by this announcement of his impending early death that he prayed to the LORD mightily, saying, "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before you in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what was good in your sight" (verse 3). He wept bitterly.

God heard his prayer of anguish and grief, and sent Isaiah back to the king, saying, "Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father, I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will HEAL you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD. And I will add to your days FIFTEEN YEARS. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for the sake of My servant David" (II Kings 20:5-6).

Isaiah laid a poultice of figs on the boil afflicting Hezekiah and he recovered (verse 7). Hezekiah then asked for a sign that the LORD would indeed heal him. Isaiah gave the king a choice. He said, "This is the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing of which He has spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees or go backward ten degrees?"

Hezekiah replied, "It is an easy thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees; no,

but let the shadow go backward ten degrees.” So Isaiah the prophet “cried out to the LORD, and He brought the shadow ten degrees backward by which it had gone down on the sundial of Ahaz” (II Kings 20:8-11). In other words, the earth stopped its diurnal rotation, paused, and then backed up ten degrees, thereby lengthening the day by at least 40 minutes, the time it would require the sun to travel 10 degrees across the sky!

This was all not just a “sign” to Hezekiah – it was a sign for us at the end of the age, as well! The heavenly sign which accompanied Hezekiah’s healing will be repeated by heavenly signs in our time.

Jesus Christ declared, “And there will be SIGNS in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth, distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring” (Luke 21:25).

God gave Hezekiah a “sign” in the heavens that He was going to extend his time on earth. Even so, before Christ returns, God is going to create “signs” in the heavens. One of those signs involves the sun going down. As the prophet Amos declared, “And it shall come to pass in that day, says the Lord GOD, That I will make the sun go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in broad daylight” (Amos 8:9).

Micah declares, “Therefore you [the prophets and ministers who make God’s people stray – see Micah 3:5] shall have night without vision, and you shall have darkness without divination; the sun shall go down on the prophets, and the day shall be dark for them” (Micah 3:6).

Habakkuk warns, “The sun and moon stood still in their habitation; at the light of Your arrows they went, at the shining of Your glittering spear. You marched through the land in indignation; You trampled [threshed] the nations in anger; You went forth for the salvation of Your people, for salvation with Your Anointed” (Hab.3:11-13).

When God caused a heavenly sign in the days of Hezekiah, a sign of coming salvation and healing, He then added fifteen years to Hezekiah’s life span. When God intervenes in the end of this age, will He grant fifteen more years, above and beyond the “allotted time,” to give His people fifteen more years to repent, and to get ready and to prepare themselves for the coming of the Lord?

Amos declares, “Prepare to meet your God, O Israel” (Amos 4:12).

The story of Hezekiah and the added 15 years is given in II Kings 20 and in Isaiah, chapter 38. Why is it repeated twice? Is this an indication that it will be fulfilled twice – once in the era of Hezekiah, and a second time, its true fulfillment, at the end of the age, before the coming of the Messiah? Why is it mentioned in II Kings, as a historical fact, but then also the whole story is detailed in the prophetic book of Isaiah, which is written for the END TIME GENERATION? Is it because the original encounter is a prophetic TYPE for us to consider, today?

I always wondered why the account, already given in the book of Kings, was also expounded at length in the book of Isaiah the prophet. It was mystifying – it seemed unusual. God does not “repeat Himself” – unless there is a very good reason. DUALITY is a vital principle of prophetic interpretation! Much of Biblical prophecy is DUAL!

There was an ancient Babylon, there is a modern end-time Babylon (Rev.18:1-4). There was the ancient fall of Jerusalem, and a future fall of Jerusalem (Zech.14:1-4). There was the abomination of desolation in the time of Antiochus Epiphanes, and there will be a second abomination of desolation in the END time (Dan.11:31, Matt.24:15).. There was a first Adam, and a second “Adam” – Christ (I Cor.15:45-49).

No doubt God placed the account of Hezekiah’s added fifteen years in the prophecies of Isaiah to teach us an important, vital prophetic TRUTH – something for us to pay heed and to understand!

Why did God give king Hezekiah fifteen additional years, when He had already announced that the king was going to die? Isn’t this a type of God’s mercy and love, patience and faithfulness?

When Hezekiah’s life was extended, He thanked God profusely, and thought deeply upon his ways. He prayed, and vowed, “I shall walk carefully all my years in the bitterness of my soul. O LORD, by these things men live; and in all these things is the life of my spirit; so You will restore me and make me live. Indeed it was for my own peace that I had great bitterness [suffering]; but You have lovingly delivered my soul from the pit of corruption, for You have cast all my sins behind Your back” (Isaiah 38:15-17).

Similarly, God is giving US more time than originally planned. The 6,000 year plan would have been concluded – time was up – in 1997 or 2004. But God has EXTENDED THE TIME till the second coming of Christ, to JUDGE the earth, giving us more time to REPENT, and straighten out our lives, and to PREPARE to meet Christ at His coming!

Extended Time

Consider this: If we add 15 years to the end of the 6,000 years in 1997, we come to the year 2012 – the year of the END of the Mayan calendar. It is to be a year of stress, anxiety, turmoil and trouble, witnessing the transition to a new age.

But if we add the 15 years to the year 2004, which represents 6,000 years from the year Adam Eve sinned against God, and then count inclusively, then the countdown brings us to the year 2018-2019 A.D. – picturing the extended time period to the coming of the Messiah, bringing salvation to His people!

If we take 2012 as the ending point of the extended 15 years, and then add Daniel’s 70th week, representing a time period of seven years, beginning with 2012 and

counting inclusively, it once again brings us to 2018-2019 A.D.

We are standing this year on the threshold of eternity, and the beginning of the fulfillment of every end-time, last-days, final countdown to the coming of the Messiah!

Prophets, predictors, and prognosticators have been wrong in the past. But we should not be dismayed or daunted, feel disillusioned or disappointed. It was meant to be. But Peter declares, “And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophesy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (II Pet.1:19-21).

Why has God extended the time?

Peter explains, “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up [laid bare]. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (II Pet.3:9-13).

God has given us “extra time.” We are now in “overtime.” “Extra innings.”

Nevertheless, the END of the age rapidly approaches. We are irrevocably drawing closer to the “battle of that great day of God Almighty” known as Armageddon (Rev.16:14-16). Christ warns each one of us, “Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments [clean, purified], lest he walk naked and they see his shame” (v.15).

Ezekiel declares, “An end! The end has come upon the four corners of the land. Now the end has come upon you, and I will send My anger against you; I will judge you according to your ways, and I will repay you for all your abominations. My eye will not spare you, nor will I have pity; but I will repay your ways, and your abominations will be in your midst; then you shall know that I am the LORD!” (Ezek.7:2-4).

“Thus says the LORD: A disaster, a singular disaster; behold, it has come! An end has come, the end has come; it has dawned for you; behold, it has come! Doom has come to you . . . The time has come . . .” (Ezek.7:5-7).

Scoffers may scoff and sneer – but our time is almost up! God’s mercy will not be extended forever. The day of reckoning is here, it is beginning – it is *NOW!*

The Mystery of the Angels

What are angels? Do we each have a personal angel? Where do angels fit into the plan of God? What about the seraphim and cherubim and archangels? What about the wicked angels? What do angelic beings have to do with mankind? Could you ever entertain an angel of God?

William F. Dankenbring

What are “angels”? According to the Scriptures, our only true authority, angels are spirit beings, created by God, who serve Him in various functions throughout the Universe. They often serve as “messengers” – and carry messages to men and women, as God directs. In fact, the term “angel” in Hebrew is *malak* and literally means “messenger.” The Greek term for “angel” in the New Testament is *aggelos* and also means “messenger.”

Angels can appear to men manifesting themselves in appearance as human beings. The first such episode in the Bible was when “three men” suddenly stood by Abraham, who knew one of them was the “Lord” (Gen.18:1-3). Two of these angels then visited Lot in the city of Sodom (Gen.19:1). They came to help Lot escape from the conflagration which was soon to consume and destroy Sodom. They struck the men of Sodom with blindness (v.11), and then led Lot and his family out of the condemned city (v.15-16).

David writes, “Bless the LORD, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word” (Psalm 103:20). David also writes, “Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire” (Psalm 104:4).

The prophet Daniel speaks of God’s throne being surrounded by thousands times thousands of angels. “I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him” (Dan.7:9-10). Ten thousand times ten thousand would be 100,000,000 angels standing before the throne of God!

Their number is very large (I Kings 22:19; Matt.26:53; Heb.12:22). Their strength is great (Psalm 103:20; Rev.5:2; Rev.18:21). Their activity is marvelous (Judges 13:18-21).

Besides the regular host of angels, there are two special categories or offices of angels – the cherubim and the seraphim.

The Cherubim

Says *Peloubet’s Bible Dictionary*: “Cher’ub, Cher’ubim. The symbolical figure so called was a composite creature-form which finds a parallel in the religious insignia of Assyria, Egypt and Persia, *e. g.* the sphinx, the winged bulls and lions of Nineveh, etc. A cherub guarded

paradise. Gen.3:24. Figures of cherubim were placed on the mercy-seat of the ark. Exo.25:18. A pair of colossal size overshadowed it in Solomon's temple with the canopy of their contiguously extended wings. 1 Kings 6: 27. Those on the ark were to be placed with wings stretched forth, one at each end of the mercy-seat, and to be made “of the mercy-seat.” Their wings were to be stretched upwards, and their faces “towards each other and towards the mercy-seat.”

“It is remarkable that with such precise directions as to their position, attitude and material, nothing, save that they were winged, is said concerning their shape. On the whole it seems likely that the word “cherub” meant not only the composite creature-form, of which the man, lion, ox and eagle were the elements, but, further, some peculiar and mystical form. Eze.1:6. Some suppose that they represented *God's providence* among men, the four faces expressing the characters of that providence: its wisdom and intelligence (man), its strength (ox), its kingly authority (lion), its swiftness, farsighted (eagle). Others, combining all the other references with the description of the living creatures in Revelation, making the cherubim to represent *God's redeemed people*. The qualities of the four faces are those which belong to God's people. Their facing four ways, towards all quarters of the globe, represents their duty of extending the truth. The wings show swiftness of obedience; and only the redeemed can sing the song put in their mouths in Rev.5:8-14.”

The Seraphim

Regarding the seraphim, Peloubet declares: “Seraphim (*burning, glowing*), an order of celestial beings, whom Isaiah beheld in vision standing above Jehovah as he sat upon his throne. Isa.6:2. They are described as having each of them three pairs of wings, with one of which they covered their faces (a token of humility); with the second they covered their feet (a token of respect); while with the third they flew. They seem to have borne a general resemblance to the human figure, verse 6. Their occupation was twofold—to celebrate the praises of Jehovah's holiness and power, verse 3, and to act as a medium of communication between heaven and earth, verse 6.”

The 24 Elders

John, in the book of Revelation, also describes God's heaven and His throne. He declares, “Around the throne were twenty four thrones and on the thrones I saw twenty four elders sitting clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads” (Rev.4:2-4). These twenty four elders appear to be twenty four angelic beings who are special counselors to the Almighty, as they are depicted as wearing white robes (white is a symbol of righteousness – Psalm 119:172) and as wearing crowns, depicting kingship. So they exercise special authority as kings under the rulership of God, lesser kings who carry out His rulership throughout the Universe.

Four Living Creatures

John also states, “Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature was like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within.

And they do not rest day or night, saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come’ (Rev.4:6-8).

The angels of God, in different ranks, carry out His government throughout the Universe. They praise and extol Him, and give Him honor and glory and praise forever.

God’s angels also interact with mankind, according to God’s will. They are often sent with a message to a particular person, such as the parents of Samson, Abraham, Gideon (Judges 6), Daniel the prophet, and even followers of Christ.

Angels and Us

The apostle Paul declared, “Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by doing so some have unwittingly entertained angels” (Heb.13:1-2). For example, remember Lot, who took two “strangers” into his home, to provide hospitality and safety for them, in the midst of a dangerous neighborhood! They wound up saving *his* life!

God inspired David to write, “Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; for He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep [guard, protect] you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear [lift] you up, lest you dash [strike] your foot against a stone” (Psalm 91:9-12).

Christ the Messiah declared, “Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven” (Matt.18:10). He is talking about little children, in context (Matt.18:1-3). He is comparing us, His followers, as little children, saying we should be like them – innocent, trusting, and loving. We should not neglect, despise, or “love less” any brother or sister in Christ, but to hold all in honor and respect and high esteem.

Can Angels “Sin”?

Even though God’s angels are ‘righteous’ angels, and are so called, we must remember that even ‘righteous’ men, from time to time, commit “sin.” Even the ‘saints’ – and church leaders, prophets, apostles, and patriarchs – have sinned, although they are spoken of as “righteous.” Bottom line, all of us depend on the shed blood of the Messiah to cover our sins – from Abraham’s deceit to Moses’ anger, from David’s adultery to Peter’s refusal to eat with Gentiles. All make mistakes.

Concerning the angels in heaven, who remained faithful to God, even they must trust in the grace and pardon and loving-kindness of God, and His mercy. They are righteous, but that does not mean they are ‘perfect’ or never make mistakes. Only GOD is perfect. God Himself says of the angels, in the book of Job, “Behold, he puts no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight” (Job 15:15). This implies that even saints and inhabitants of heaven are not perfect or faultless.

Job says further, “Behold, he puts no trust in his servants; and his angels he charged with folly” (Job 4:18). There was a time when no doubt some of the angels were caught between the

pull of Lucifer, and the service of God; they had to make a choice. Some may have wavered for a while, as they “sat on the fence,” as it were; some may have sinned, and had to repent. Their character was not yet fully formed or developed. They, too, had to grow in character. They are beings with freedom of choice, free will, and had to CHOOSE to remain faithful, and overcome temptations (Lucifer’s seductions). Thus God also says, in Job, “yea, the *stars* are not pure in His sight” [present tense] (Job 25:5). The “stars” refer to angels – beings with free will (see Rev.1:20, Job 38:7).

Thus we read in the New Testament, “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell; and, having made peace through the blood of his cross, BY HIM TO RECONCILE ALL THINGS TO HIMSELF; by him, I say, whether they be *things in earth, OR THINGS IN HEAVEN*” (Col.1:18-20). Things – that is, beings – in heaven also had to be “reconciled” to the Father – through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, Yeshua the Messiah!

Similarly, Paul wrote to the Ephesians, “That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might *gather together in one ALL THINGS in Christ, BOTH WHICH ARE IN HEAVEN*, and which are on earth” (Eph.1:10).

The blood of Christ then also covers the sins of angels who transgressed, made mistakes, committed ‘folly,’ but who then REPENTED of their sins! The problem with the devil and his angels, is simply that they persisted in rebellion – they refused to repent – and therefore they committed the UNPARDONABLE SIN, which in essence is the SIN OF UNREPENTANCE – the sin of refusing to repent, and persisting in iniquity – the sin of constant, unrelenting, incorrigible rebellion!

The Fallen Angels

In addition to the righteous angels who serve God, the Scriptures also speak of wicked or fallen angels. They are angels who turned aside from God.

In the New Testament the apostle Peter tells us that “God did not spare the angels when they sinned. . . .” (II Peter 2:4). The apostle Jude also refers to the punishment that befell the angels “that did not keep their own position but left their proper dwelling” (Jude 6).

The awesome destructions in the solar system that occurred long before man existed may very well have been directly connected with the rebellion and activity of certain angels described in the pages of Scripture. With the physical evidence in mind, let us try to reconstruct what happened in the days of old.

Jesus told his disciples: “I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven” (Luke 10:18).

At some ancient time, some point in history, Satan fell from heaven. When did it happen?

A hint of the truth is given in the gospel according to John. Jesus said to the Pharisees of his day: “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. *He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth*, because there is no truth in him. When

he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44).

Long before becoming a human being, and partaking of human nature, Jesus had been with the Father from the beginning. He was the “Word,” the second member of the Godhead. He said to the hypocritical Pharisees of his day: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58). He was with God, and was God (John 1:1-3, 14).

At that ancient primordial time, Jesus saw Satan fall as lightning out of heaven. He saw him when he became a Murderer “from the beginning.” He saw him when he first began to harbor thoughts of resentment, vanity, jealousy, greed, avarice, and gluttony. He saw him when he first began to stray from the truth, and began to become deceitful, tricky, clever, guilty of half-truths, slander, gossip, and falsehoods.

Jesus, as the Logos, was there (John 1:1-3). He beheld Lucifer’s fall with His own eyes!

A much fuller account of the story is provided by the prophet Isaiah. Notice what the prophet was inspired to record: “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!”

“For thou has said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit” (Isaiah 14:12-15).

The term “son of the morning” here is the Hebrew word *shakar* and means “dawn, early, light, morning.” The name “Lucifer” is the Hebrew word *heylel* and means “the morning star,” in the sense of “brightness,” from the word *halal*, meaning “to be clear, to shine; hence, to boast, to make a show,” thus to be “foolish,” “rage, rave, feign self mad.” Lucifer was a “morning star” who perverted his original wisdom and became “mad,” raging, perverting his brightness. Interestingly, Jesus Himself is also referred to as “the bright and morning star” (Rev.22:16). He is the true “day star” (II Pet.1:19).

Here the prophet Isaiah describes what happened eons ago! A mighty angel by the name of Lucifer, which means “Day star,” or “Shining star of the dawn,” rebelled against the Almighty God. He attempted to ascend to heaven, to exalt his own throne or seat of authority above the other angels, called “stars of God.” He attempted to ascend above the clouds (clouds are in the earth’s atmosphere), to rise up and conquer space – to remove God from His Throne – to become “like the Most High.” But his abortive attempt failed. He was cast back down to earth in a massive struggle.

Just how big was this cosmic battle for control of the Universe? Why did Lucifer want to be “like the most High”? Lucifer was a very powerful personality, a mighty angel of God. But his angelic nature, consumed with greed and lust, became a loathsome thing, detestable, unclean, filthy, vile, putrid, ugly, distorted, misshapen, foul. He became characterized as a slithering serpent, a vile snake, a detestable dragon.

In the book of Revelation, John tells us: “And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his

heads. *And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth . . .*” (Revelation 12: 3-4).

Notice! Perhaps ONE THIRD OF THE ANGELS followed Lucifer in his campaign to fight against God! During this cosmic conflict it is probable that tens of thousands of meteorites in the solar system were also cast down upon the earth, and that the solar system itself sustained massive damage, as we see attested to by modern astronomy.

War in Heaven

John describes this vision further: “And there was *WAR* in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Rev. 12:7-9). John’s comments, which literally apply to a FUTURE “war in heaven,” are also no doubt very descriptive of the ANCIENT “star war” which occurred when Lucifer first rebelled!

This “war in heaven” must have been catastrophic in nature. It must have been the greatest battle of all time! Armies of angels clashing with each other! The entire cosmos must have been shaken. The fantastic *truth* of what happened eons ago makes the *Star War* movies pale into nothingness by comparison!

Peter speaks of the cataclysmic fall of Lucifer and his renegade angels this way: “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell (Greek, *tartaroo*, a “place of restraint”), and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment” (II Peter 2:4). These angels had “sinned.” But what is “sin?” The Bible defines it as rebellion, lawlessness. “Sin is the transgression of the law,” John wrote (1 John 3:4).

One third of the angelic hosts, apparently, sinned – violated the laws of God – and acted wantonly. They attempted to overthrow the Government of the Creator God. They precipitated violence on a cosmic scale never before heard of or seen! They went astray from the paths of peace, goodness, faith, righteousness.

They looked upon God as a tyrant, a malevolent dictator, not fit for His office, not capable of running the Universe. They wanted *their* way. They wanted their *ambitions – right now!* They wanted to seize God's Throne and take over – He wasn't running things right, in their eyes. Perhaps they were jealous – they thought He was playing favorites and they didn't feel on the “inside group.”

The prophet Ezekiel tells us what happened to one of these two cherubim who stood guard over the very throne of God. “Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God. . .” (Ezekiel 28: 11-13).

Note that this could not be describing a literal king of the City of Tyre. The garden of Eden perished at the Noachian deluge, and Tyre did not become a city until much, much later.

This king, as we shall see, was actually a super-powerful spirit being – which are known as cherubim!

Ezekiel continues: “Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. *Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth*; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou has walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways *from the day that thou was created, TILL INQUITY* was found in thee” (Ezek. 28:13-15).

The True Original Sin

Consider, for a moment the import of these statements. Ezekiel is describing a beautiful, resplendent, angelic creature – one of the two anointed cherubim that covered God's Throne in heaven! This creature walked upon the holy mountain of God, in the garden of God in Eden. It was a created being – and it was a perfect creation!

But then something happened to change the beautiful nature and character of this brilliant, shining angelic being. “Iniquity” was found in him. A root of bitterness, a root of jealousy, of envy, of hatred, began to spring up (compare Hebrews 12:15).

Ezekiel continues the description of this ancient scene: “By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with *violence, and thou hast sinned*: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.”

“Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shall thou be any more” (Ezekiel 28:16-19).

What really happened eons ago?

Lucifer's heart was lifted up with pride. He became vain because of his beauty and brilliance. His wisdom became corrupted, and channeled into selfish, devious directions. God had said he “sealed up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty” (Ezek. 28:12). But this beautiful creature became disloyal, disobedient, and destructive.

If we can reconstruct the scene, it would appear that in that ancient world there was much merchandise and traffic. Trade and commerce existed. The world was populated by millions of angels, and their king was Lucifer. His throne was on the earth. But he wasn't satisfied. He was a great king, and the greatest human king to compare with him was the king of Tyre, the mercantile city, in the days of Ezekiel.

But this angelic king grew restless, discontent. He was unhappy with his lot – his dissatisfaction grew as he envied the power, authority, and honor of God. He grew jealous. He said, “I will ascend into heaven.” That shows he was located on the earth. “I will exalt *my throne* above the stars of God” (Isaiah 14:13). That shows he had been appointed to be a king, a ruler – he had a throne on the earth. God had given him this authority. But he wanted MORE! And he wanted it *NOW!!!* He wanted to reign upon the mountain of God, “in the sides of the north” -- just like God Himself! (same verse).

Many verses of the Bible lend support to the theory that God’s Throne is located in the northern heavens, in the general direction of the North Star. King David wrote: “Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion, *on the sides of the north*, the city of the great King” (Psalm 48:1-2). The city of God, the heavenly Jerusalem, as we know, is now in heaven (Revelation 21:1-2).

Lucifer wasn’t satisfied with kingship over this earth. He wasn’t satisfied with being one of the two anointed cherubim that actually covered God’s Throne – a position of great importance and supreme respect – very close to the throne itself. He wasn’t even happy when God gave him his own throne upon the earth, over millions of angels. His heart seethed with discontent. He wanted what God had! He was created to be a ministering angel – but he wanted to be ministered to, not to minister to others. He didn’t want to be a servant. He wanted to be served!

Very likely the straw which finally broke the camel's back was the fact that God intended to create man, and to give him eventual dominion over the earth and the angelic kingdom. This Lucifer could not stand! He rebelled!

The Original Rebellion

And God dealt severely with his rebellion. God's attitude toward rebellion is revealed in the first book of the prophet Samuel: “And Samuel said, hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also *rejected thee from being king*” (1 Samuel 15:22-23).

Lucifer was also rejected from being a king. He lost his throne, his kingdom, his power. But he still has limited authority upon the earth, and is the “god of this world,” the “prince of the power of the air.” He will remain in that position until God is through with him and replaces him.

Ever since that original rebellion, there has been a constant, ongoing, continual struggle between Satan, the “Adversary,” and God. Lucifer’s name, “Light bringer,” was changed to “Satan,” meaning “opponent.”

Satan and his fallen angels, now as disembodied spirits, roam the earth, in a condition of semi-restraint. They have very little power compared to that which they used to exert. They cannot appear to men in strength and power, as the righteous angels can. They are vague shadows of their former selves. They have lost their intense brightness and brilliance. They are

ghostly beings, like the wind, and are called “familiar spirits” that peep and mutter (Leviticus 19:31; 20:27; Isaiah 8:19-20). They may appear as ghostly creatures, or in some demonic inspired dreams or hallucinations. However, we need not fear them, if we walk in the truth, and follow Christ. He conquered Satan, and all his legions, and He will conquer him again in and through us by the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit!

How to Be an Overcomer

There is a “spirit world” on this earth. These fallen angels have become “demons,” or “disembodied spirits,” which wander through the earth, seeking rest but finding none. They like to enter into people, and possess their minds, and sometimes give them psychic ability, a counterfeit of the gifts of the Spirit of God (see I Cor.12:1-6; 14:1-2).

Jesus Christ cast these unclean spirits out of people throughout His ministry. “When the even was come, they brought unto him MANY that were possessed of demons: and he CAST OUT THE SPIRITS WITH HIS WORD, and healed all that were sick” (Matt.8:16). Later, two men possessed with demons met Jesus on the hills overlooking the Sea of Galilee. The demons besought him, saying, “If thou cast us out suffer us to go away into the herd of swine.” And He said to them, “Go,” and they “went into the heard of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters” (Matt.8:28-34).

Jesus later instructed His disciples, “When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and finding none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be to this wicked generation” (Matt.12:43-45).

God commands, moreover, “There shall not be found among you ANY ONE that maketh his son or daughter to pass through the fire, OR THAT USETH DIVINATION, or an observer of times (astrological "signs"), or an enchanter, or a WITCH, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an ABOMINATION unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth DRIVE THEM OUT from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect (upright, sincere) with the Lord thy God. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto OBSERVERS OF TIMES, and unto DIVINERS: but as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do” (Deut.18:10-14).

Isaiah adds, “And when they shall say unto you, SEEK UNTO THEM THAT HAVE FAMILIAR SPIRITS, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? TO THE LAW AND TO THE TESTIMONY: if they speak not according to THIS WORD, it is because there is NO LIGHT in them” (Isa.8:19-20).

Paul warns us in plain language, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall DEPART FROM THE FAITH, GIVING HEED TO SEDUCING SPIRITS, AND DOCTRINES OF DEMONS; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron. . .” (I Tim.4:1-2).

However, God gives His people power over the demons and fallen angels who seek to deceive and conquer and lead astray. Peter tells us, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world” (I Pet.5:8-9).

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you! Gird up your mind, and rebuke him “in the name and authority of Christ,” and he will flee away and leave you alone!

James declares, “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). Call upon God the Father, in the name of Christ, to cast out the devil, to banish him far away, to expel him from your presence, if and whenever you feel assaulted in your mind and spirit by the devil or one of his evil spirits or fallen angels! God and Christ have all power and none can defy and stand against Him!

Satan’s Clever and Ingenious Devices

Satan is always seeking to beguile the unwary and uncritical. Satan always makes his way look good on the surface, and sound good to the ears; but it is the same old malarkey, nonetheless (see Gen.3:1-6). The serpent beguiled Eve; she fell from grace. She disobeyed the command of God. She listened to the serpent’s spiel, his siren song, his blather and subtle insinuations – and because she listened, she was not wise enough to RESIST! So she fell into his trap, and sinned!

Beware lest that old serpent, the master of guile, use his infamous legerdemain and machinations on YOU, and thus beguile you into calamitous folly, to where you slip and fall, and become unable to recover from his devious snares. As Paul warned the church at Corinth, “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (II Cor.11:3).

Satan is capable of blinding the mind, if we submit to his influence (II Cor.4:4). If we disobey God, and neglect His law, we become fodder for the devil. We must be obedient in all things, and FORGIVE THOSE who have wronged us – “LEST SATAN should get an advantage over us: for we are not ignorant of his devices” (II Cor.2:11).

Paul says, “And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if peradventure God will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the SNARE OF THE DEVIL, who are taken captive by him at his will” (II Tim.2:24-26).

The Word of God says, “What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with IDOLS? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell with them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

“Wherefore COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty” (II Cor.6:14-18).

God wants His children to have nothing whatsoever to do with the unfruitful works of darkness. “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather REPROVE THEM” (Eph.5:11), “For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret” (v.12).

Christ overcame Satan, setting us an example that we should follow His steps (I Pet.2:21). He met him on the field of battle, after fasting forty days and nights (Matt.4:1-2). When He was hungry, Satan and came tempted Him, suggesting He turn stones into bread. Christ saw through his scheme, and replied, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God” (Luke 4:4). Satan then appealed to Him, saying, “*IF* you are the Son of God, cast yourself down” – from the pinnacle of the Temple. Again Christ resisted his influence, saying, “It is written again, You shall not tempt the LORD your God” (Matt.4:6-7).

A third and final time Satan attacked Christ by offering Him rulership of all the earth, if He would bow down and worship him (Matt.4:8-9). Yeshua replied, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve” (v.10).

The lesson is quite clear. We must overcome Satan and his influence by direct appeal to the WORD OF GOD! God’s Word is our protection, guide, defence and salvation!

Overcoming Satan is a battle. It is a fight to the end. Paul writes, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to STAND against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

“Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints” (Eph.6:10-18).

We can conquer Satan and his bastion of demons and fallen angels. We can, through Christ, overcome their influence and temptations. As Paul wrote, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Gal.2:20).

Paul also declared, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil.4:13). By the power of God and Christ, so can we! For, “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (II Tim.1:7).

Let us stir up the gift of God within us – stir up His Spirit – give thanks to God, “who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (I Cor.15:57).

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Letters from Our Readers

“All your literature is such an inspiration to me, also the tapes. Of all the ministers out of the WWCG you have brought God’s Word more to the forefront than any of them. When I start reading your magazine and booklets I don’t want to lay them down till I’ve finished.”

-- Tennessee

“Please know that what you are doing is benefiting others in ways you don’t see. I am seeing evidence of it firsthand.

“As the world around us deteriorates, as God’s people we must stay focused on the fact that beauty will replace the blackness of Satan’s world. Thank you for the beauty of God’s truth that is being provided by you.

“May God bless you and the work you are doing. The truth you are providing is beyond what other churches of God are providing and it has instilled within me a burning desire to share the greatest knowledge there is with others.”

-- Ohio

“Over the years you have written some good stuff – some stuff I disagreed with or didn’t understand but the latest copy of Prophecy Flash has been one of the best so far, especially Daniel’s Image etc. – makes excellent sense, also the article on the Nephilim. How you manage to get away with something as sensitive as ‘Obama’s Plan . . .’ – really eye opening. The ‘political correction police’ would prevent you from publishing this in UK – so much for free speech and democracy here. But the one I found really outstanding was ‘Did They Really Hear the Voice of God?’ – something that has troubled me for a long time but you clearly and easily showed how it could be explained – congratulations, you are well blessed in understanding. As well I enjoy reading the Letter section.

“Keep up the good work and tell Cappy she has to keep looking after you as she does. And thanks again, Bill.”

-- United Kingdom

“I have to admit that I’ve been slipping backwards these last few months. I wasn’t into God’s glorious Word as I should be and I was slowly drifting away. But one thing that always stayed with me was the sower and the seed parable in Matthew 13. I didn’t want to be the seed choked by the thorns. I want to be the seed that bears fruit. In order to do that I must walk the righteous path and keep my feet moving. In order for a man to bear fruit he must keep growing in his walk with God. And that is what TPM is doing – helping me grow in this walk with God, giving a better understanding of what’s going on in today’s and tomorrow’s world. It surely is a blessing that God sent me to you for an understanding and knowledge about the word that I never knew. Thank you TPM and God Bless a hundredfold.”

-- Tennessee

“Your thought provoking literature has a wonderful effect on me in that I am drawn to study deeper in the truth God has revealed in the Bible.

“Thank you for sharing the wealth of the Kingdom to all who are being called into service of our Lord the Messiah Yeshua.

“After reading the material you send I make them available for others to read here on this unit in hope to help stretch precious resources entrusted to us by the Eternal Mighty God.”

-- Texas

“It is a wonderful gift to be fed with so much in depth study into the Truth of God through His Written Word.

“The literature you have compiled for distribution causes one to be as the Bereans, ‘Searching the Scriptures to see if these things are so.’

“The ‘whole’ truth we are yet to be able to bear, but as we are prepared more and more shall we be brought into ‘ALL’ Truth as our understanding is guided by the indwelling Power of God.

“Thank you for your care of the flocks of His Majesty.”

-- Texas

“Please make sure that you publish more on how Obama and the GLBT community are trying to take over America! Our children are being seduced and enticed by the Sodomites, making new homosexuals every hour! Gays and Lesbians are MADE. Not ‘Born.’ ‘And men and women exchanged NATURAL RELATIONS for unnatural ones, but they also are receiving in themselves the due penalty for their perversions’ (Romans 1:27). Paul foretold AIDS back when he wrote the letter to the Romans.

“AIDS also should be known by its CORRECT name, GRIDS (Gay Related Immune Deficiency Syndrome). In the state of Texas there are now more Gays than in California! This is NOT natural. Dallas and Houston have HUGE ‘Boys Town’ sections and straight men get molested all the time in these areas. And if you fight them, you go to jail or prison since that is considered ‘hate’ crimes. I know. I got an aggravated assault for defending myself from a Sodomite. So many times the Bible states how these perversions are against God!

“The Word needs to be spread through publications like yours, about how God abhors those unnatural relations.”

-- Texas

“Many thanks for all of the Feast messages, weekly Sabbath messages and issues of Prophecy Flash, very inspiring, uplifting and encouraging.

“I have been reflecting on the upcoming year 2012 and what it could mean as a springboard for forthcoming biblical prophetic events and end time scenarios.

“In Nehemiah 6:15 the temple wall was completed in 52 days and taking biblical counting of a day for a year in Ezekiel 4:4-6 and Numbers 14:34. The ministry of Herbert W. Armstrong was from January 1934 through to January 1986 time of his death being 52 years and also could there be an implication that this 52 year period would also be pertinent to the history of the nation of Israel ?

“In this generation the Jews regained possession of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem during the 6 Day War of 1967. A new temple still has not yet been rebuilt since the Jews do not have total control of the Temple Mount. If we add 52 years on to 1967 from when the Jews regained possession of the Temple Mount we come to 2019.

“With the commonly accepted biblical chronology of Archbishop James Ussher creation being 4004 BC and 6000 years later brings us to 1997 if we add 22 years on we come to 2019. The 22 years being the number of letters in the Hebrew alphabet, for each letter representing a year in duration.

“In the book The Mystery of the Menorah by J R Church and G Stearman provides much expansion regarding the relevance of the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet with many analogies quoted. As we know the original Old Testament had 22 books, the book of Revelation has 22 chapters and Psalm 119 is broken down following sequentially the Hebrew alphabet.

“Is there a strong possibility that God has added on 22 years to the 6000 years that were up in 1997?

“On page 170 of the paperback version of The Mystery of the Menorah the Hebrew alphabet is listed letter by letter and providing the meaning of each letter. I found it quite interesting that the sixteenth letter Ayin is for sight and insight. Could this be a hint that this would be the first of the last seven letters of the Hebrew alphabet and would this correspond to the first year of the seven year agreement of Daniel 9:27? Would God reveal to his servants the key insight for the commencement of the final seven years of this age that would parallel with the final seven letters of the Hebrew alphabet?

“I am sure Bill that you could expound on this but one thing that I wanted to mention from one of the Feast messages from Haile was the Roswell, New Mexico incident in 1947 also being the year Israel gained independence and also the year that Ambassador College opened in Pasadena California. With the year 1947 being the penultimate Jubilee year if counting 6000 years from 4004 BC.

“Keep going strong in the work and thank you so much for the service that God is providing through you and your wife Cappy. Shalom

-- Nick Pull, England

P.S This is part of a quote from your article below.

“The 360 Day Year, the Exodus, the Mayans and Calendar Chaos”

“Researchers believe that the Mayan calendar actually hinges upon its calculated end point. What is so important about the winter solstice of 2012? The Milky Way seems to have played an important part in Mayan mythology. The Mayan Sacred Tree appears to be the crossing point of the sun’s path, the ecliptic, with the Milky Way. The conjunction of the sun with the Milky Way at the winter solstice in 2012 A.D. appears to have had apocalyptic significance. The crossing of the Milky Way with the ecliptic represents a doorway – pointing both to the sacred source and origin – the finishing of the old and the beginning of a new birth. Thus the world, in 2012, is pictured as being at a celestial ‘crossroads.’”

* * *

“I heard you address the ‘5993’ question last Sabbath regarding the website calendar and have been mulling it over all week. I appreciate what you said and understand perfectly well where you are coming from. The problem is, will new people visiting the website understand? There is no explanation up there about it.

“I have to confess that I never even noticed it before Jackie Cazin brought it to my attention and asked me about it. I have just been looking at it again on the website and see that it goes back to March 2009, which says – 12th month – Adar – 5990. Without wishing to make a mountain out of a molehill, I would ask if this present year is supposed to be ‘5993’, then what base are we counting FROM? 3981 BC and if so where is the justification? If we take Ussher’s date of Adam’s creation at 4004 BC, then 1997 AD was 6,000 years, thus making this year 2011-12 as 6015. On the other hand if we allow the 7 years in the Garden of Eden, before Adam and Eve sinned, as the Book of Jubilees shows, then we would be starting year 6008. One of these methods, along with an explanation, would seem to me the only really logical and honest way of attributing a year on the website, if we are not going to go with the Jewish year of 5772, which

we know is flawed anyway. Maybe the absolutely 100% honest thing would be to leave out the speculative ‘5993’ altogether and just not have any year, including 6015 or 6008.

“If we are not very careful, TPM will be accused of “setting dates”, and put in the same category as Ron Weinland’s group. If you remember my Feast report, I mentioned in there that the people we met up with in St. Bees, were adamant that Jesus Christ would return on Pentecost 2012, Sunday 27th May. I was given no figures, but according to his followers, Ron Weinland has figured out that the 6,000 years are up on that date. How he comes to that conclusion I have no idea, but he obviously hasn’t studied Bible prophecy very carefully, which clearly shows there is still so much remaining to be fulfilled.

“Phew! I feel much better now that I have got that off my chest and will leave it there.

“Bye for now, take care and may our Great God guide you always.”

-- Nick Wood, England

COMMENT: You are right. New people might well misunderstand. Archbishop Ussher shows conclusively, I think, that Creation of Man was 4004 B.C. by using Biblical chronologies. Therefore the “end” of 6,000 years was literally 1997-98 A.D. If we count the 6,000 from the sin of Adam and Eve, when they were kicked out of the Garden of Eden, which the book of Jubilees says was exactly seven years from Creation, then we’d count from 3997 B.C., and the end of 6,000 years would be 2004 A.D.

To call this year 5993 is to assume the end of 6000 years is 2018 A.D. However, even though Christ may return in 2017 r 2018, as various prophecies seem to indicate, that does not mean that the 6,000 year period itself ends at that date. We dare not assume anything. Creation was not 5993 years ago, nor did anything else happen that year to suggest we should count from that point. Concerning the 6,000 year plan of God, it is an indication that God has given us ABOUT 6,000 years for man to rule the earth, before the Kingdom of God is instituted at the return of Christ. There is no prophecy that we have EXACTLY 6,000 years from Adam to the second coming of Christ. We must not become dogmatic about such things. As I have said many times, it is like a baseball game, a basketball game, or a football game. That is to

say, we are now in a period called “over-time” – or, in baseball, we are now in “extra innings.” At any rate, the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ – Yeshua the Messiah – is going to be VERY SOON! See the new article in this issue, “Is God Giving US 15 More Years Till the End?”

See also my article “God’s 6000 Year Plan – Are We Nearing the End of the World?” and the article , “Final Countdown to the Messiah?” and “Will Messiah Come in a Jubilee Year?”

* * *

“I was wondering if you could evaluate and compare your understanding of when the JUBILEE YEARS and the Sabbath years commence, in an article in THE JOURNAL newspaper, Dated, May,31, 2005, Page 22, by Marie Casale . . . mcasale@earthlink.net.

“The starting point for her premise is Ezekiel 1 : 1- 2. I would like to see if both views come to the same conclusion.”

-- Israel

ANSWER: Shalom! As to the Jubilee years, the Jews stopped observing them after the 10 tribes went into captivity in 721 B.C. So how should we count them, today?

The Jubilee cycle is a 50 year cycle, not 49 years, as some Rabbis say (see Lev.25). The cycle began when Israel inherited the Promised Land in the days of Joshua. The cycle began in 1437 B.C.

When Israel first entered the Promised Land, they erected the Tabernacle at Gikal. There it remained for 14 years – the time required for the people to conquer and occupy the land. Once the land was conquered and occupied, the counting of the Sabbath land cycles could commence, and the counting of the Jubilee years. This means that if we subtract 14 years from 1451, we come to 1437 B.C., the year of settlement and the beginning of the Jubilee count.

Now if we count the years from that time to the present, we come up with the following:

$$\begin{array}{r} 2012 \\ +1437 \\ \hline 3449 \quad \text{years} \\ \quad +1 \\ \hline 3450 \end{array}$$

Since there was no year zero, we must add a year to our calculations, and arrive at 3450. That cycle would make 2012 a Jubilee year (the 69th Jubilee year of the cycle). That year is also the ending date of the Mayan Long Count Calendar – a year of transition, chaos, and the time of travail, ushering in a new golden age.

However, is it correct to try to calculate from the date of the dividing up of the inheritance of the tribes of Israel in the days of Joshua? Especially since the Jubilee has not been observed in millennia? I think not.

I think it is noteworthy that the Jewish Zionist Congress in 1847 determined to foster immigration of Jews to Palestine to recreate a homeland/nation for the Chosen People. One Jubilee later Israel was approved by the United Nations in 1947, and was founded in 1948. Fifty years later was 1997, the end of the 6000 years from the Creation of Adam (which occurred in 4004 B.C.).

However, another "Jubilee cycle", based on fulfilled prophecies in the Scriptures, began in 1917, with the Allenby Declaration which paved the way for Jews to return to Palestine, since the British had expelled the Turks from the Holy Land (in 1917, under General Allenby, during World War I).

1917 was 2520 years (7 X 360 years) from the date of the exile of the Jews by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 604 B.C. Thus the “seven times” punishment prophesied in Leviticus 26 came to pass, a day for a year. A “time” equals 360 days (the original calendar), so 7 times that is 2520 years in fulfillment. 1917 was the ending point of the prophetic punishment, and the Jews were then allowed to return to the Holy Land by the miraculous hand of God!

One Jubilee from that date was 1967, the date of the Six Day War, when Israel recaptured the Temple Mount, Samaria, the Golan Heights, and Sinai, from the surrounding Arab nations.

One Jubilee (50 years) from that date brings us to 2017. I believe this may well be the “Jubilee” which pictures the return of Christ, who will “restore all things” (Acts 3:19-21) at His return, and proclaim the year of “liberation” from the rule of Satan the devil over the earth, and freedom from his influence for 1,000 years (Rev.20:1-4). Thus the year 2017-2018 will no

doubt be a year of great, awesome impact and reveal the returning Christ in all His glory! That is my personal belief, although we do not know the precise day or year of His coming (Matt.24:34-36). For further information on this subject, write for our free articles, "Will the Messiah Return in a Jubilee Year?", "The End of Days," "A Final Countdown to the Messiah," and "God's 6000 Year Plan – Are We Nearing the End of the World?"

I believe Ezekiel 1:1-2 has nothing to do with the determination of the Jubilee year.

* * *

"I just finished reading the current PF. Thank you for your latest discovery concerning the 120 years prophecy. The Bible does say that "Surely the Eternal will do nothing unless he informs his servants the prophets." I am impressed with your consolidation of the chronology on Page 11. I am honored to entertain the potential of even a very small part in this world wide ministry. All the best to you and Cappy in the soon to be realized winter season"

-- California

"Here we are again at this "silly season" when most of the world seems to go stark, staring bonkers. If they are really honest most people are glad when it is all over and life can return to some sort of normality. I know full well that Christ was never truly in Christmas, but when all said and done, the Nativity did happen. The Saviour of the world WAS born as a baby boy in a stable in Bethlehem, as the Old Testament prophets foretold long ago, but it wasn't at Christmas. What most people can't seem to move on from, is the fact that Jesus Christ is no longer a helpless little baby lying in a manger. He is now all-powerful and resplendent in glory, sitting at the right hand of God the Father in Heaven, awaiting the Father's command to return to this Earth, remove Satan and begin His reign as "King of Kings and Lord of Lords". That day could now be much closer than we think.

"I have been working on the New Moons for 2012-13 and have attached my findings along with the predicted Holy Days for 2012. All the Holy Days are 'certain' for next year as far as I can see. Please have a good look at them to make sure I have not made any obvious mistakes."

-- Nick Wood, England

COMMENT: Here are the Holy Day Dates for 2012, as Nick has determined at this time.

Please note the difference between the Jewish fixed calendar dates in the fall of the year. The Jewish rabbis departed from the original sacred calendar in 358 A.D. and no longer went by visual sightings of new moons, so their "fixed" calendar sometimes differs from the actual sightings of the new moons, as we see from actual observation, practice, and astronomy.

2012 Spring Festivals

New Moon Certain
Eve Friday 23 rd March
Nisan 1 – Sabbath 24 th March
Nisan 14 – Friday 6 th April
Nisan 15 – Sabbath 7 th April
Nisan 16 – Sunday 8 th April
Nisan 21 – Friday 13 th April
Pentecost – Sunday 27 th May

2012 Autumn Festivals

New Moon Certain
Eve Monday 17 th September
Tishri 1 – Tuesday 18 th September
Tishri 10 – Thursday 27 th September
Tishri 15 – Tuesday 2 nd October
Tishri 22 – Tuesday 9 th October

2012 FIXED Jewish Calendar Holy Days

Nisan 1 – Sabbath 24 th March
Nisan 14 – Friday 6 th April
Nisan 15 – Sabbath 7 th April
Nisan 21 – Friday 13 th April
Pentecost – Sunday 27 th May
Tishri 1 – Monday 17 th September
Tishri 10 – Wednesday 26 th September
Tishri 15 – Monday 1 st October
Tishri 22 – Monday 8 th October

* * *

"I have subscribed to your literature for a number of years, was a WWCG member for many, many years, have had two books published, and am now fighting cancer.

"I sent you my last book, Bronze Age Atlantis, about some Israelites who left Egypt before Moses, joined with their Pelasgian cousins of

Peleg, and became the Sea Peoples (Atlantis) who maintained a worldwide trading empire for almost a thousand years. The publisher did not do as good a job on the book as I had hoped and I was thoroughly displeased with it. Because of this, I have not tried very hard to advertise or sell it. However, since its publication I have not found any book on ancient history that disagrees with my conclusions and, in fact, have found only books corroborating them.

“The publisher sent me many copies that are wasting away in my basement. I have decided to give them away, with a charge only of the postage to ship them and a small fee for wrapping paper and tape. I send them in the flat rate containers of the USPS. The cost is \$7 domestic (actual postage is \$4.95) and \$15 overseas (actual postage is \$13.95).

“Although your magazine, Prophecy Flash!, does not seem to favor ancient history as much as prophecy, there might be a few people on your mailing list would be interested in such a subject. If you could endorse the book, even in a small way, I am offering the book to anyone who might want it. The above prices would be in order.

“Although I am selling the book for \$30 on both Amazon and Paypal, I ask only that the buyers go directly to me--it will not be honored at the same rates on either Amazon or Paypal. The books are new and still in mint condition. If you have any questions, I can be reached at (208) 316-7599, or email at walterbaucum@q.com.

“The buyer should send a check or money order to Walter Baucum; 1110 Washington St.; Gooding, ID 83330. The books will be packaged and sent the next mailing day.”

-- Walter Baucum, Idaho

Triumph Prophetic Ministries
PO Box 842
Omak WA 98841

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-- California

“Thank you so very much for the DVDs on the Feast of Tabernacles. Also the tapes I received a few days earlier. I thank the good Lord daily for you and your family and Church. I am so glad that I was able to get back in touch with you. And your teaching of God and His truths. I was thirsting for something to fulfill my spiritual needs after leaving the ICG group. I went back through my PF magazines dated back in 1996 which I’ve kept all these years. I wrote you a letter and sent it to the California address—but about eight days later it came back ‘Addressee unknown.’ I searched through the other magazines and found a lady’s address that did the sewing of the aprons, etc. for your Church. It was through her I got your address there in Washington. I am so pleased and thank God every day putting you back in my life of learning the true meaning of what this life is all about. I’ve learned more of His truth through you than all of the other ministers I’ve listened to since entering into WWCG in 1974. I thought about going to the Global Church (they meet in Bristol, Virginia, a short distance from my home). But I heard trouble was brewing there – so I thought what’s the use?

“I am staying home, listening to the tapes, and watching the DVDs following along with the Bible as you explain God’s truth. I also pray God to grant you good health to carry on His Work here on earth till His return.”

-- Virginia