

PROPHECY FLASH!

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

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The Two Comings of the Messiah – Foretold *Precisely* in Daniel’s “70 Weeks” Prophecy!

Calendar Controversy – When Does the Year Begin?

Do You Always Have to “See” the New Moon Crescent to Begin a New Month?

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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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The Two Comings of the Messiah Both Foretold *Precisely* in Daniel's Incredible Prophecy!

In Daniel, chapter 9, is hidden the most amazing, stupendous prophecy found in the Scriptures. It foretells both the first coming of the Messiah, to the exact year in history, and the second coming of the Messiah, in our age, today! This amazing prophecy of the 70 weeks, broken down into 7 weeks, 62 weeks, and a final week of years, predicts the very year Christ was born, in 4 B.C., when He came as the Lamb of God, and also seems to predict the very year of the beginning of Daniel's final "week" – seven years of Great Tribulation on the earth, concluding in the fateful year of the Messiah's second coming, when He returns as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, to save the world from utter destruction and to put an end to man's rebellion, violence, and the threat of universal cosmocide.

No other book contains inspired prophecies like these. Shouldn't we study these things, so we can be fully prepared for the awesome coming of the Lord?

-- William F. Dankenbring

A New Look –

Daniel's 70 Weeks, the Rebuilding of Jerusalem and the Messiah

A much misunderstood prophecy in the book of Daniel lays bare the amazing future of the Middle East and foretold the TWO comings of the Messiah! The first coming was as the “Lamb of God” to take away the sins of the world; and the second coming will be to save Israel, and the entire earth, from total destruction, cosmocide and human annihilation. For the first time ever, this subject is laid out in full and awesome revelation – proving beyond any doubt WHO the Messiah and coming King of Israel is! The first coming was fulfilled to the very year. What about the second coming? Could it happen within the next seven years?

William F. Dankenbring

One of the most amazing and intriguing prophecies of all the Bible is found in Daniel 9:24-27. Throughout the ages men and women have puzzled over the meaning of this cryptic passage. It has stumped theologians, baffled scholars, and puzzled Christians and Jews alike for thousands of years. Very few understand just HOW this passage in the book of Daniel, written in about 500-600 B.C., relates to the coming of the Messiah, AND the prospects of “peace” in our generation!

Let us carefully review this entire prophecy, and see how powerful and awesome it is, deserving to be studied by ALL people – Christian, Jew, Muslim, and unbelievers as well!

First of all, let's read the passage in the King James Version:

“SEVENTY WEEKS are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish [margin, to restrain] the transgression, and to make an end [margin, to seal up] of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem [margin, to build again Jerusalem] *unto Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks*: the street shall be built again, and the wall [margin, breach, or ditch], in troublous times.

“*And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be CUT OFF, but not for himself [margin, and shall have nothing]*: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined [margin, it shall be cut off by desolations].

“*And he shall confirm the covenant with many for ONE WEEK*: and in the midst of the WEEK he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of *abominations* [margin, and upon the battlements shall be the idols of the desolater], he shall make it *desolate, even until the consumation*, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate [margin, desolater]” (Dan.9:24-27).

What a strange prophecy! It outlines strange events to occur in and around Jerusalem, till the coming of the Messiah and the end of the age. What are these mysterious “seventy weeks”?

In Numbers 14:34 God told the Israelites, “After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, *each day of a year*, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years . . .” Each day of the prophetic 70 weeks, then, is a year in being fulfilled!

Ezekiel confirms this same principle. God told Ezekiel concerning the punishment and siege of Israel, “This shall be a *sign* to the house of Israel. Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity. For I have laid upon thee the *years* of their iniquity, *according to the number of the days*, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. And when thou has accomplished them, lie on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee *each day for a year*” (Ezek.4:3-6).

To understand the 70 weeks prophecy, one must realize each *day* of the prophecy equals a *year* being fulfilled. Since there are seven days in a week – or a total of 490 days in 70 weeks – this prophecy involves 490 years. At the end of this time period, the “Most Holy” – the Messiah – will bring in everlasting righteousness – He will become King of the whole earth and put a complete end to all man’s rebellion. All nations will finally be reconciled to Him.

However, this prophecy does not say that this period of years is consecutive, from beginning to end. It is divided up into three distinct periods – 7 weeks, 62 weeks, and a final week.

But how are these 490 years to be understood? *When* do they commence? And what do the three periods of time mean? And when do they end?

Notice carefully.

“Know therefore,” Gabriel told Daniel, “and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince [the Messianic king] shall be seven weeks, *and* threescore and two weeks [a total of 69 weeks or 483 prophetic years]: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times” (Dan. 9:25).

Which Decree?

What commandment or decree was this? Daniel recorded this prophecy in 538-537 B.C. History records that Cyrus reigned from 538-537 until 530-529. Cambyses followed Cyrus on the throne and reigned for eight years, until 522-521. He was followed by Darius I who reigned 36 years, until December 23, 486, when Xerxes took the throne. Xerxes was the Ahasuerus of the Bible (see Finegan, *Light From the Ancient Past*, p.238). Xerxes reigned from 486 to 465-464 when he was followed by his son Artaxerxes. Artaxerxes then reigned nearly 41 years, until 424 B.C.

The kings of Persia, for the record, were as follows:

Darius the Mede	539-538 B.C.
Cyrus the Great	537-529
Cambyses	528-525 (followed by brief civil war)
Darius I	521-486
Xerxes	485-464
Artaxerxes I	464-424
Artaxerxes II	424-359
Artaxerxes III	359-338

Which of these men made a decree to “restore and to build Jerusalem”? Cyrus made a decree in 536-535 regarding the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem (see Ezra 1: 1-2). This particular decree was specifically to build the Temple – the city is not mentioned. This decree, therefore, is not the one spoken of by Daniel in chapter 9:25. The Jews had opposition in building the Temple throughout the days of Cyrus, “even until the reign of Darius king of Persia” (Ezra 4:4-5). Local Samaritans frustrated their purpose and attempted to overthrow the project. Work on the Temple *ceased* until the second year of Darius (521-486 B.C.) (see Ezra 4:24).

Darius also made a decree and ordered the construction of the temple to continue (Ezra 6:11-12). But, again, this decree was to build the house of God – not the city of Jerusalem. The Temple, except for the finishing touches, was completed by the sixth year of the reign of Darius (Ezra 6:14-15). Therefore, the evidence is that neither of these two decrees was the one spoken of by Daniel the prophet.

Two decrees, however, were made by king Artaxerxes I (464-424 B.C.). Since the Temple was already built, Artaxerxes' decree concerned *another* matter. His first decree was in the seventh year of Artaxerxes. The Jewish scribe Ezra came to Jerusalem, carrying a copy of a letter containing the decree of king Artaxerxes (Ezra 7:1, 6, 12). We read in the book of Ezra: "Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect peace, and at such a time. *I make a decree*, that all they of the people of Israel, and of his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill *to go up to Jerusalem . . .* Forasmuch as thou art sent of the king . . . to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem according to the law of thy God which is in thine hand: and to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counsellors have freely offered unto the God of Israel, whose habitation is in Jerusalem, and all the silver and gold that thou canst find in all the province of Babylon . . ." (see Ezra 7:11-16).

After this epochal decree, Ezra prayed to God, saying: "Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, and our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as it is this day. And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape . . . *to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem*" (Ezra 9:7-9).

Mark carefully – this decree gave Ezra authority not only to rebuild and beautify the house of God, but also to repopulate Jerusalem, to set government in operation, and to rebuild the city and the wall! The Jews had never been given authority from the Persian kings to rebuild Jerusalem and the city wall. However, early in the reign of Artaxerxes, the Samaritans had accused the Jews of building the city once again (Ezra 4:7, 11-12). The king issued an order for the Jews to stop all such activity until further notice (vs.17-21). After a thorough investigation, Artaxerxes issued another decree – the decree mentioned in Ezra 7. This must be the decree Daniel had reference to since it was the first one that clearly involved the city of Jerusalem as well as the temple.

When, then, was the "seventh year" of king Artaxerxes? To understand when the seventh year of Artaxerxes occurred, we must find the year he ascended to the throne.

Artaxerxes' Seventh Year

Ctesias, a Greek physician at the court of Artaxerxes II, and who undoubtedly had access to the Persian archives, relates that Artaxerxes learned that Artabanus had killed his father. Artabanus was slain, and Artaxerxes assumed the throne without fear of a rival.

But when was Xerxes murdered?

Discoveries in Mesopotamia and Egypt have thoroughly established the chronologies of the Neo-Babylonian and Persian empires. The evidence of Ptolemy's

Canon, the Saros Tablets, and papyri dated with two calendar systems, reveal that Xerxes' reign ended in his 21st year. His 21st year then was counted from spring of 465 B.C. to spring of 464. (The Persian civil year was reckoned from spring to spring). Artaxerxes' first year thus began in the spring of 464 B.C. Artaxerxes must have ascended to the throne sometime in the year 465/64 B.C.

A document that was written during the accession year of Artaxerxes has been found. It is listed as Aramaic papyrus (AP 6) and was written from the Jewish colony of Elephantine in Egypt. The document was dated the 18th of Kislev or the 17th of Thoth, 'in the year 21, the beginning of reign when King Artaxerxes sat on his throne.' Artaxerxes I took the throne in the 21st year of Xerxes. He must be the Artaxerxes in question, since neither Artaxerxes II or III came to the throne in a year 21.

The 18th of Kislev or 17th of Thoth dates the document as having been written the evening of January 2 or daytime January 3, 464 B.C., since the Hebrews reckon a day from sunset to sunset. Therefore, by January 3, 464 B.C., Jews in Egypt obviously knew that Artaxerxes had ascended the Persian throne. The document speaks of 'the beginning of the reign' of Artaxerxes, or his accession year. What does this mean?

As January 2/3, 464, is dated in the accession year of Artaxerxes, his first regnal year – according to the Hebrew reckoning – could not officially begin until Tishri 1, in the autumn of 464 B.C.! The Hebrew civil calendar began each year in the autumn with Tishri.

Since the first year of Artaxerxes, according to the Hebrew civil year, did not begin until autumn of 464 B.C., seven years later would bring us to autumn of 458 B.C. The seventh year of Artaxerxes, therefore, was from the autumn of 458 to the autumn of 457 B.C.

Says the *Critical-Experimental Commentary* by Jamieson, Faucett and Brown, "The starting point of the seventy weeks dated from eighty-one years after Daniel received the prophecy" (volume 2, page 435, on Dan.9). Daniel received the prophecy in 538 B.C., the first year of king Darius (Dan.9:1). Eighty one years later would be 457 B.C.

The *Adam Clarke Commentary* states: "Verse 24. *Seventy weeks are determined.* This is a most important prophecy, and has given rise to a variety of opinions relative to the proper mode of explanation." Clarke goes on, "Verse 25. *From the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem. . . . Four hundred and ninety years* reckoned back [from the time of Christ] leads us directly to the month Nisan in the four thousand seven hundred and forty sixth year of the same period; the very month and year in which Ezra had his commission from *Artaxerxes Longanimus*, king of Persia, (see Ezra 7:9,) to restore and rebuild Jerusalem" (vol.2, page 602, Dan.9:24-25).

Fall-to-Fall Reckoning

But do we have proof that the Hebrews still used the fall-to-fall reckoning for their civil year after they returned from Babylonian captivity? Or did they adopt the Babylonian custom of dating each civil year from spring to spring?

There is conclusive evidence that during Nehemiah's time the Hebrew civil calendar was still in use. Consider: in Nehemiah 1:1, Nehemiah said he received bad news of Jerusalem in the month Chisleu, (November-December) in the *twentieth* year of Artaxerxes. He later mentioned that in Nisan (March-April), in *the twentieth* year of the king, he gave wine to Artaxerxes (2:1). Thus Nehemiah said Chisleu or Kislev preceded Nisan in the 20th regnal year of Artaxerxes, showing he used a fall to fall reckoning.

Today, the Jews still reckon the year from fall to fall, beginning the new year in the autumn. They celebrate Rosh Hoshana, or New Year's day, in the autumn, on Tishri 1. They have clung tenaciously to this practice.

According to the Hebrew calendar used by Nehemiah, then, the seventh year of Artaxerxes fell from the fall of 458 to the fall of 457 B.C. Ezra's journey from Babylon to Jerusalem took place from about late March to about early August (Ezra 7:8-9), 457 B.C. He carried the decree of king Artaxerxes with him. Therefore, the famous decree for the restoration of Jerusalem was signed, sealed, delivered to Ezra, and went into effect as soon as he reached Jerusalem – in the late summer or early fall of 457 B.C.

Now we have dated the decree. Notice again Daniel was told that from the issuance of the decree till the coming of the Messiah was to be “seven weeks, threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times” (Daniel 9:25).

The re-settling and rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem made rapid strides from the 20th year to the 32nd year of Artaxerxes (Neh.5:14-16). The building program continued into the reign of Darius II who succeeded Artaxerxes. During his reign the wall around Jerusalem was finished (Neh.12:22, 27-30, 43). But even after the wall was complete, many buildings within the city had yet to be built (Neh.7:1, 4; 11:1-2). These were “troublous times,” as Daniel foretold and as Ezra 4:5 summarized. Persecution and hindrances slowed progress. But after the first seven of the prophetic weeks of the prophecy – a period of 49 years – the city was rebuilt and the temple restored.

Then Daniel mentioned “sixty two weeks” were to follow – or 434 *more* years were to pass – until the appearance of the Messiah. Thus a total of sixty nine prophetic weeks – or 483 literal years –a were to exist from the commandment of Artaxerxes in 457 B.C. till the appearance of the Messiah.

457 B.C.	-- year-date of the decree
<u>-483 years</u>	-- time to pass till Messiah would come
26 A.D.	
<u>+1</u>	-- since there is no year “zero”
27 A.D.	-- year the prophecy would be fulfilled!

Counting 483 years from 457 B.C., then, brings you to 27 A.D. According to this schematic, 27 A.D. was the year the Messiah was prophesied to appear on the scene.

Jesus' Ministry and Death

The interesting fact is that Jesus Christ was born in 4 B.C., shortly before the death of king Herod (Matt.2:1-16). Jesus began His ministry when He was 30 years old (Luke 3:21-23). Subtracting 30 from 4 B.C., we come to 26 A.D. But since there was no year "zero", we must add a year in going from B.C. to A.D. Thus the year 27 A.D. was the very year Jesus Christ began his ministry, and commenced preaching the Gospel of the coming Kingdom of God (Matt. 3:13-17; 4:1-23; 9:35).

This represents the FULFILLMENT of the 69 "weeks" of years of Daniel's 70 week prophecy!

However, when He came, instead of taking His crown and ruling as a great King, He was persecuted, afflicted, abused, beaten, scourged, and CRUCIFIED by His enemies, the state, and the jealous religious leaders of His day. In this, too, He fulfilled the prophecy of Daniel 9! For we read: "*And AFTER threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be CUT OFF, but not for Himself. . .*" (Daniel 9:26).

The fact that the Messiah was to DIE was not understood by the Jews and the religious leaders of that time. Yet Isaiah the prophet also foretold of this tragic yet awesome truth. He wrote, about 700 years before Christ, "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for OUR transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: and the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:4-5).

Isaiah makes it plain that He was not only to suffer greatly, but also to be killed as a "sacrifice" for our sins – even as the nation of Israel in ancient times sacrificed sheep, bulls and goats at the Temple of God to "atone" for their sins. The Messiah became our "Passover lamb" (I Cor..5:7). He became a "sin offering" for us (II Cor.5:21).

Isaiah puts it this way: "He is brought as a LAMB to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment [He was judged, condemned, and imprisoned]: and who shall declare His generation? For He was *cut off out of the land of the living*" – that means He, the Messiah being depicted here, was KILLED! "For the transgression of My people," God says, "was He stricken" (Isaiah 53:7-8).

"And He made His grave with the wicked" (verse 9). Together with Him others who were real criminals were also crucified. "And with the rich in His DEATH" (same verse). He was buried in the grave of a rich man, Joseph of Arimathea (Matt.27:57-60).

Jesus fulfilled these ancient Biblical prophecies!

No one else has even come close to fulfilling this amazing divine prophecy!

Artaxerxes Second Decree

This prophecy (Daniel **9:25**) does not say that this period of years is consecutive, from beginning to end. It is divided up into three distinct periods – 7 weeks, 62 weeks, and a final week.

Why? What is the significance of the three parts?

Let's understand this enigma. Bible prophecy is often DUAL in fulfillment – there was a historical fulfillment, and a latter days, end-times, fulfillment! The Jewish people were sent into exile by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 607 B.C., and by the Romans in 70 A.D. The first exile lasted for 70 years, till 537 B.C., when Cyrus the Persian allowed the Jews to return to their homeland. The second exile has lasted for almost 2,000 years, and half the Jews of the world are still scattered among the nations of the world!

There were TWO diasporas (disbursements or exiles of Jews) – and TWO returns and rebuildings of the CITY of Jerusalem!

So let's examine this prophecy more carefully.

In the book of Ezra we read that in 535 B.C. the city of Jerusalem was not yet rebuilt after the Jews returned to the land. Surrounding nations warned the Persian government that Jerusalem was “a rebellious” and “bad city” (Ezra 4:12). They claimed, “If this city be builded, and the walls set up again, then will they not pay toll, tribute, and custom” (v.13). If the city was to be rebuilt, they warned, “you shall have no portion on this side of the river” (v.16).

By the year 515 B.C., the temple was finished, but the city was not yet rebuilt and surrounded by protective walls (Ezra 6:15). In 457 B.C., the seventh year of Artaxerxes, Ezra went to Jerusalem, and set magistrates and judges in the land and did major work on the temple (Ezra 7:23-25).

However, in the book of Nehemiah, we read that in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes Nehemiah was sent by the king to rebuild Jerusalem – and this was in the year 445 B.C. Nehemiah was given an official letter from the king to enable him to obtain “timber to make beams for the gates of the palace . . . and for the wall of the city, and for the house . . . And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me” (Neh.2:8).

Upon inspecting the city, Nehemiah told the Jews, “You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and

let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach” (v.17). The city was rebuilt and the wall repaired in 445 B.C.

How does this tie into the prophecy of the coming of the Messiah?

“From the going forth of the commandment . . .” The commandment went forth in 445 B.C. From that date there was to be “seven weeks [one segment of time], and threescore and two weeks [another segment of time].” This leaves one week, to total the 70 weeks of the prophecy. So let’s divide this up.

7 weeks equals 49 years. We will discuss this later.

62 weeks equals 62 x 7 or 434 days, or years being fulfilled. So let’s count!

$$\begin{array}{r} 445 \text{ B.C.} \\ -434 \text{ years} \\ \hline 11 \text{ B.C.} \end{array}$$

Now we add in the last segment of the prophecy, one week or seven days (years).

$$\begin{array}{r} 11 \text{ B.C.} \\ -7 \text{ years} \\ \hline 4 \text{ B.C.} \end{array}$$

This brings us to 4 B.C. What happened in 4 B.C.?

The Year Christ was BORN

The Scriptures show us that Jesus Christ was born “in the days of *Herod the king*” (Matt.2:1). Herod was so fixated on the fact that wise men from the East queried him about a child born to be “King of the Jews,” that he pretended that he, too, desired to worship him (Matt.2:7-8). The wise men were warned not to return to Herod, and departed into their own country, and Joseph and Mary took Jesus and fled to Egypt.

When the wise men did not inform Herod of where the prophesied King was, Herod “was exceeding wrath, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men” (verse 16).

Jesus, then, had to be born before the death of Herod the Great. The gospel of Luke confirms this fact. Luke recorded, “There was *in the days of Herod*, king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zecharias” (Luke 1:5). During this time, the gospel continues, John the Baptist and Jesus the Christ were born.

Thus Jesus was already born when Herod was still alive. But when did Herod die? Says the *Critical-Experimental Commentary*:

“As Herod is known to have died in the year of Rome 750, in the *fourth*

year before the commencement of our Christian era, the BIRTH OF CHRIST MUST BE DATED FOUR YEARS BEFORE THE DATE USUALLY ASSIGNED TO IT, even if He were born within the year of Herod's death, as it is next to certain that he was" (Commentary on Matt.2:1-12).

Hastings Bible Dictionary also points out "Herod called the great . . . He died B.C. 4" ("Herod," vol.2, p.353). Says *The New Bible Dictionary*, "Herod the Great, king of the Jews 40-4 BC: ("Herod," p.521).

The year Herod died there was an eclipse. Josephus records, during Herod's final year, that at the time he slew the high priest Matthias, "that very night there was an eclipse of the moon" (Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, XVII, VI, 4). Says the editor, William Whiston, in a footnote:

"This eclipse of the moon (which is the only eclipse mentioned by Josephus) is of the greatest consequence for the determination of the time for the death of Herod and Antipater, and for the birth and entire chronology of Jesus Christ. It happened March 13th, in the year of the Julian period 4710, and the 4th year before the Christian era" (*ibid.*, p.365).

Thus Jesus was at least born before the spring of 4 B.C. But what time of year was He born? There is much conjecture on this subject, but there are enough clues in the gospel accounts and history to give us a very good idea.

Zacharias and the "Course of Abijah"

The actual day of the birth of Christ is not known for certain, but we can know the approximate time of year when He was born. In the book of Luke we read that the father of John the Baptist was Zacharias, and he was a priest who served at the temple in Jerusalem. He was "of the course of Abia" (Luke 1:5). While serving at the temple, he was informed by an angel that his wife was to have a son, who was to be named John. After this, Zacharias finished the days of his ministrations, and departed to his own house (v.23). "And after those days, his wife Elizabeth conceived . . ." (v.24).

The names of the different courses of priests that served at the Temple are given in I Chronicles 24:1-19. "Abia" or "Abijah" was the EIGHTH course. According to the Jewish historian Josephus, each one of these courses served at the Temple for *one week*, the first course serving the first week of Nisan, in the spring (compare I Chron.27:1-2), and then each course in its own order. All the priests served during the annual festivals (Passover in spring, Pentecost, and then Tabernacles in the fall). After six months, the order would be repeated, thus each course would serve two weeks during a year.

The course of Abijah, then, would have served the eighth week in the rotation. The eighth week from Nisan 1, leaving out the week of Passover, when all the priests served, would have been IYAR 27 TO SIVAN 5, the day just before Pentecost, which generally fell on Sivan 6. His service would have fallen about late May or early June. After serving a week in the Temple, Zacharias would have remained another week in

Jerusalem, because of the Feast of Shavuot or Pentecost that week. That is one possibility.

However, the courses of the priesthood served two times during the year. The second round of serving began Tishri 1, the beginning of the second six months. The second period of service for the course of Abijah, therefore, would have been approximately the first week of Kislev, corresponding to our November-December.

Zecharias would have returned home shortly after one of these two periods of service, and his wife then conceived. This would have been either about the middle of June or early December. If we add nine months to this date, the normal time for the gestation of a human baby in the womb, John the Baptist would have been born either about the middle of March, in the spring, shortly before the Passover – or about the first of September.

Jesus was conceived about six months after John (Luke 1:24-31, especially verse 26). This would suggest that Jesus Christ was born six months after John. So Christ would have been born about the middle of September – OR the end of February-first of March.

Can we know which possibility is the likely one?

There is a strong hint. Luke tells us Christ was “about thirty years of age” when He was baptized (Luke 3:23; John 1:29-32). Right after His baptism, He was led into the desert fasting for 40 days (Luke 4:1-4). Shortly after this, the Passover arrived (John 2:13).

These facts imply that He was baptized not long before Passover, 27 A.D. The expression “about thirty” actually implies He was at least thirty, or over thirty – in His thirtieth year – when He was baptized. Irenaeus says, of this passage, “Being thirty years old when He came to be baptized” (*Against Heresies*, 2, xxii, 4).

If He was born about 60 days before Passover, then that would place His birth in the latter part of the month of February. This is very likely for the following reasons.

First, He had to be born before Herod died, and Herod died before Passover, just a few days after the beginning of Abib (which begins at the New Moon nearest to the spring equinox). Yet after Christ was born, several things happened. Eight days later He was circumcised (Luke 2:21), and Mary fulfilled her *forty days* of purification (Luke 2:21-22), and He was as a young firstborn male dedicated to the Lord (Lk.2:23-24). During this time, probably, the wise men visited him, while living in a house, when he was “a young child” (Matt.2:9-11). Immediately after this, Joseph and his family fled to Egypt (Matt.2:13-15). Herod, at this time, killed all the young children in Jerusalem (vs.16-18). After this Herod died, before Passover. This period of at least 40-60 days could not have begun *during* the spring of 4 B.C., because March 21 is the first day of spring, and His birth had to occur before March arrived to allow for all the events that

transpired before Herod's death.

It is impossible to fit all these events into the short time of spring in 4 B.C., just before Herod died. Shepherds were abiding in the fields at night, when Christ was born (Luke 2:8). These were the shepherds who guarded the temple flocks near Bethlehem. They did abide in the fields before spring. Spring begins March 21st, with the equinox. Christ's birth had to occur at least 40 days before the death of Herod, which was just before Passover, and Herod had to have time to kill the innocents in Bethlehem after Joseph's family fled to Egypt! All this probably took some 50-60 days, pushing the birth of Christ to about a month before spring! This would push the birth of Christ to sometime in February.

The Sign of the Messiah

In the book of Numbers we read of the coming Messiah of Israel, the Redeemer and Saviour of the world, this mysterious prophecy:

“I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a *star out of Jacob*, and a *sceptre* shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth” (Num.24:17).

All commentators see this as a prophecy of the coming Messiah figure of Israel. But few have noted that it seems to be speaking of a Messiah who comes *twice* – the first time, as a star out of Jacob, and a second time as a scepter – that is, as a ruling king, who will subdue His enemies, smiting the Moabites, and destroying all who oppose Him.

This prophecy is clearly Messianic. Isaiah speaks of this Messiah who comes as a conquering king: “And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. . . But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them” (Isa.11:12-14).

But why is the Messiah associated with a “star”? Why does the prophecy say a star shall come “out of Jacob”? This certainly means that the Messiah would be descended from Jacob. But why is He connected with a star? Why is He referred to in the prophecy as a star?

How was this famous prophecy fulfilled? According to the writers of the New Testament, there was a "star" that was distinctly associated with the birth of Jesus Christ - that acted as a herald, and a beacon, of His impending birth. Matthew tells us the story:

“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have *seen his star in the east*, and have come to worship him” (Matthew 2:1-2).

The expression “in the east” in the King James Version is not precisely correct. The literal term in the Greek language is *anatole* and means “a rising of light,” “dawn,” “dayspring,” “rising,” or by implication, “east.” Literally, they saw his “star *rising*.” The root word means to “cause to arise,” “rise up.” They had seen this unique star at its “rising,” a sidereal appearance, which they regarded as betokening the birth of the Messianic King of the Jews.

The Fulfillment of Prophecy

The word star in this verse has been abundantly proved to mean not only a literal star, but is also used of constellations, comets, meteors – in short, it has the widest possible application to the heavenly bodies.

The wise men were clearly distinguished men, “magi,” who were learned and scholarly, especially in astronomy, mathematics, the sciences and history. They were familiar with the Hebrew prophets. They may have been descendants of the wise men of Babylon, during the time of Daniel. On the other hand, they may have been wise men from the dispersed northern ten tribes of Israel, who had been taken into captivity toward the east and northeast, and whose descendants comprised many of the inhabitants of the Parthian empire.

Notice the fact that the sudden appearance in Jerusalem of these impressive visitors from the east – possibly Babylon, or Persia, or the Parthian empire – had a powerful effect on the residents of Jerusalem, and especially on king Herod. The king himself was greatly disturbed to learn that there was another king whose birth had been predicted, who was to rule over the Jews.

“When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

“And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

“Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the *star appeared*. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child: and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him.

“When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, *the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was*. When they saw the *star*, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy” (Matt.2:3-10).

The wise men found the boy Jesus, in a house, and presented gifts to Him, gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and then departed into their own country, being warned in a dream not to return to Herod (v.11-12). Joseph, the supposed father of the child, was also warned in a dream to flee into Egypt, for Herod would attempt to kill the infant (v.13).

He did so, and remained there until after the death of Herod, which occurred in the spring of 4 B.C., just before Passover that year.

Herod, furious when he saw that the wise men had not returned to him, was exceedingly angry, and Matthew informs us of his rage and conduct:

“Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, *from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men*” (Matt.2:16).

Notice that originally Herod inquired as to the *time* when the wise men first saw the “new star” in the heavens – when it first *appeared* in the night sky (Matt.2:7). Apparently, they first saw it “two years” previously (verse 16).

Was this celestial phenomenon the fulfillment of the prophecy of Balaam in Numbers 24:17, the “star of Jacob”?

What was the star of Jacob supposed to be?

Rabbinical Sages

Throughout the ages, rabbinical sages and scholars have written about a certain type of “star” – a tri-planetary conjunction – that they said would appear in the constellation of Pisces near the time of the birth of the Messiah – just before the time of His coming.

Dr. Alfred Edersheim, a famous Bible scholar of the nineteenth century, points out that there is one illustrative Jewish statement which, “though not astrological, is of the greatest importance, although it seems to have been overlooked.” In his book *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, Edersheim mentions the well known Jewish commentator Abarbanel, or Abrabanel, who writes of the importance of the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in the constellation of Pisces, in his Commentary on the book of Daniel.

Says Edersheim:

“In his Commentary on Daniel, that Rabbi laid it down, that the conjunction of *Jupiter and Saturn in the constellation of Pisces* betokened not only the most important events, but referred especially to Israel (for which he gives five mystic reasons). He further argues that, as that conjunction had taken place *three years before the birth of Moses, which* heralded the first deliverance of Israel, *so it would also precede the birth of the Messiah, and the final deliverance of Israel*” (p.211).

Edersheim points out that one of the smaller *Midrashim*, called the “Messiah Haggadah” (*Aggadoth Mashiach*) begins as follows:

“*A star shall come out of Jacob.* There is a Boraita in the name of the Rabbis: The heptad in which the Son of David cometh -- in the *first year* there shall

not be sufficient nourishment; in the *second year* the arrows of famine are launched; in the *third*, a great famine; in the *fourth*, neither famine nor plenty; in the *fifth*, great abundance, and *the Star shall rise forth from the East, and this is the Star of the Messiah*. And it will shine from the East for fifteen days, and if it be prolonged, it will be for the good of Israel; in the *sixth*, sayings (voices), and announcements (hearings); in the *seventh* wars, and at the close of the seventh Messiah is to be expected” (quoted by Edersheim, p.211-212).

This “heptad,” or period of “seven,” undoubtedly refers to the final ‘WEEK’ of Daniel 9:24-27 – the final seven years leading up to the coming of the Messiah – the final seven years of this present age of misrule and misconduct. Notice that at the end of this “week” of seven years, the Messiah is to be “expected.”

Notice that the star of the Messiah is predicted to rise in the East, in the fifth year – that is, two or three years before His final coming!

Edersheim goes on to discuss three other ancient Jewish *Midrashim*, which are entitled “The Book of Elijah,” “Chapters about the Messiah,” and “The Mysteries of R. Simon, the son of Jochai” –

“-- where we read that a Star in the East was to appear *two years before the birth of the Messiah*. The statement is almost equally remarkable, whether it represents a tradition previous to the birth of Jesus, or originated after that event. But *two years* before the birth of Christ, which, as we have calculated, took place in . . . [year] 5 before the Christian era, brings us to the year 747 A.U.C., or 7 [years] before Christ [B.C.], in which such a Star should appear in the East.

“Did such a Star, then, really appear in the East seven years before the Christian era? **Astronomically speaking, and without any reference to controversy, THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THE MOST REMARKABLE CONJUNCTION OF PLANETS -- THAT OF JUPITER AND SATURN in the constellation of Pisces, which occurs ONCE IN 800 YEARS – DID TAKE PLACE NO LESS THAN THREE TIMES in the year 747 A.U.C., or TWO YEARS BEFORE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST (in May, October, and December). This conjunction is admitted by all astronomers. It was not only extraordinary, but presented the most brilliant spectacle in the night sky**, such as could not but attract the attention of all who watched the sidereal heavens. . . . In the year following, that is, in 748 A.U.C., another planet, Mars, joined this conjunction. The merit of first discovering these facts – of which it is unnecessary here to present the literary history – belongs to the great Kepler . . .” (p.212-213).

“Signs and Seasons”

In the book of Genesis, chapter one, God gives us a profound insight, if we are willing to believe it, as to the purpose behind His creation of the sun, moon, and stars. We read: "And God said, let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for *SIGNS, and for seasons, and for days and years*" (Gen.1:14).

What is the significance of a conjunction of the planets of Saturn and Jupiter in the constellation of Pisces?

The Hebrew name for the constellation of Pisces is *Dagim*, "the Fishes," and is connected with "multitudes," as in Genesis 48:16 where Jacob blesses Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, saying, "Let them grow into a multitude, in the midst of the earth." The margin says, "Let them grow *as fishes do increase*."

Says Bullinger of this marginal notation, "It refers to the fulfillment of Genesis 1:28, 'Be fruitful and multiply.' The *multitude* of Abraham's seed is prominent in the pronouncement of the blessings, where God compares his future posterity to the *stars of the sky*, and the sand upon the seashore. 'A very great multitude of fish,' as in Ezek.47:9" (Bullinger, *The Witness of the Stars*, p.93). Thus the constellation of Pisces is connected with Israel, and the seed of Abraham. It also, therefore, is connected to that special "seed," who was to be the Messiah.

As Paul wrote in the book of Galatians, "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one. And to thy seed, which is Christ" (Gal.3:16). Therefore, Paul went on, "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (v.29). Thus the constellation Pisces is directly connected, in every way, with the prophecy of the coming of the "seed of Abraham" – the Anointed One, the Messiah – Jesus Christ!

Jupiter is the royal planet, and is connected with the tribe of Judah, from which the royal Messiah was to descend. In the prophecy in Genesis, we read: "The sceptre [symbol of royal power and authority] shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him [Shiloh – the Messiah] shall the gathering of the people be. Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes" (Gen.49:9-11). Isaiah confirms that this Messianic king was to descend from David, of the tribe of Judah (Isaiah 11:1-10). Thus Jupiter is the Messianic planet.

Saturn, also, is a royal planet. Its very name means, however, "the hidden one." And who is the true hidden one? The Messiah Himself! He was prophesied to be hidden from the purview of this world's leaders (I Cor.2:7-8). During His ministry, Jesus "departed, and *hid himself* from them" (John 12:36). When Israel sins, God says, "I will *hide* my face from them" (Deut.31:17). He adds, "And I will surely *hide my face* in that day for all the evils which they shall have wrought, in that they are turned unto other gods" (Deut.31:18). Isaiah says, "I will wait upon the LORD, that *hideth his face* from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him" (Isaiah 8:17). The prophet speaks of the Messiah, saying, "Verily thou art a God that *hideth thyself*, O God of Israel, the *Saviour*" (Isa.45:15).

The pagans apply these terms to their own pantheon of gods, notably Nimrod, the arch apostate, the first human this side of the flood to be deified as the Father of the gods (see Hislop, *The Two Babylons*, p.32). Nimrod, the great hunter, rebelled against God, and became known variously as Bel, Khronos, Bacchus, Baal, Neptune, Osiris, as well as Amoun, the counterfeit "hidden god" of the Egyptians, and Saturn, the "hidden one,"

called such by the Romans, on account of his having “lain hid in its coasts” (*ibid.*, p.41).

Nevertheless, it should be apparent that when Jupiter, a Messianic planet, goes into conjunction with Saturn, a Messianic planet, in the sign of Pisces, a Messianic constellation, we have *three signs of the Messiah meeting together in the heavens* — and the number *three* is the number of *decision*, “*the signature of God*,” and “*finality*.” Furthermore, the incredible fact that this sign appeared in the heavens *three times in one year* in 7 B.C. is even more testimony that something very *established, certain, and with finality, was shortly to occur with vast Messianic implications!*

No wonder the three wise men, who were students of astronomy, as well as ancient Hebrew prophecy, were startled, thrilled, excited, and decided to take a long, expensive, arduous journey, to Jerusalem, to inquire further about this expected Messianic king, whose portent they had seen in the heavens!

Heavenly Portent of the Messiah

Edersheim continues discussing the discovery of this conjunction by the great astronomer Johannes Kepler (1571-1630 A.D.). Kepler discovered the three laws of planetary motion, which later formed an indispensable part of Sir Isaac Newton's discovery of the law of universal gravitation. Edersheim writes of Kepler, saying:

“Kepler, who was led to the discovery by observing a similar conjunction in 1603-4, also noticed, that when the three planets came into conjunction, *A NEW, EXTRA-ORDINARY, BRILLIANT, and peculiarly coloured evanescent STAR was visible between Jupiter and Saturn*, and he suggested that a similar star had appeared under the same circumstances in the conjunction preceding the Nativity” (*Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, p.213).

The fact that there was such a conjunction or “evanescent star” at that time, is born witness to by the astronomical tables of the ancient Chinese. Says Edersheim on this subject, “. . . February 750 A.U.C. . . . is just about the time the Magi would have left Jerusalem for Bethlehem, since this must have preceded the death of Herod, which took place in March 750.” At that time, there was noted an evanescent star. Some have called it a comet, but it could have been the result of a conjunction. Declares Edersheim of this event:

“Moreover, it has been astronomically ascertained, that such a sidereal apparition would be visible to those who left Jerusalem, and that it would point --almost seem to go before -- in the direction of, and stand over, Bethlehem. Such, impartially stated, are the facts of the case-- and here the subject must, in the present state of our information, be left” (p.213).

The Messiah Conspiracy

Philip N. Moore, in his mammoth new book *The End of History: The Messiah Conspiracy*, published in 1996, Atlanta Georgia, relates that while he was studying the handwritten theological manuscripts of the great scientist, Sir Isaac Newton, at Hebrew University, in Jerusalem, he made the acquaintance of a prominent professor who

translated the passage he was studying. It was the work of Rabbi Abarbanel. It read as follows in English:

“ . . . because since the beginning of Creation until now, there have been only two conjunctions of Jupiter and Saturn in Pisces [where Jupiter and Saturn both line up in the sign of Pisces]. The first occurred in the year 2365 [A.M., or from the time of Creation, or Adam] when Israel was in Egypt, 3 years before the birth of Moses, that is, 83 years before his prophecy and miracles, the Exodus of Israel from Egypt and the giving of the Torah. . . Since both of them are conjunctions of the same type, namely grand conjunctions in the sign of Pisces, the second one will be like the first -- the one that accompanied the Exodus from Egypt -- in every way. Therefore, since the first conjunction indicated Israel's Exodus from exile to freedom, from slavery to redemption, and from lowliness to greatness and kingdom, and also wonders and miracles, the birth of Moses, and revenge from enemies -- ***so also the second Israelite conjunction indicates for Israel PROPHECY, RELIEF, SALVATION, AND REDEMPTION, and there can be no doubt, the time of the birth of the man of God, our righteous Messiah, exalted from Abraham and higher than Moses and all according to its ways requires the conjunction to RENEW***” (*The Messiah Conspiracy*, Moore, p.97-98)

Franklyn M. Brantley, in his book *The Christmas Sky*, commented on Moses, the Exodus, the constellation Pisces, and the planets Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. Brantley writes:”

"Records of the planets tell us that there were three planets in the evening skies of the fall . . . and that these planets moved closer together as the months went by. The three planets were Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. Saturn, in the constellation of Pisces, the fish . . . The magi knew about the planets. They were astrologers, the astronomers of that time and place. They studied the planets, and they knew of their positions and their motions. They also knew that these three planets were in a constellation where centuries earlier, according to Jewish scholars, planets had appeared around the time of the birth of Moses. Moses was the prophet who led the Israelites out of Egypt to the eastern borders of the Promised Land. *Pisces was therefore considered the constellation of the Jews. The appearance of the planets in Pisces may have been a SIGN to the Magi that an event of great importance was occurring in the land of the Jews. The Star of Bethlehem might have been these THREE PLANETS that had moved close together. . .*' (Franklyn M. Brantley and Stephen Foster, *The Christmas Sky*, New York: Harper Collins, 1960, 1996, p.43-44).

Moses himself was a figure or “TYPE” of the Messiah promised in the Scriptures. He delivered Israel out of Egypt, and brought them to the Promised Land. God led and inspired him to prophesy, “And the LORD said unto me . . . I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words into his mouth: and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him” (Deut.18:17-19).

A conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, in the sign of Pisces, introduced the birth of Moses, Israel's first messiah and deliverer. And, similarly, a conjunction of the same planets, in the same sign of Pisces, also introduced the ***BIRTH OF YESHUA HA MASHIAH – JESUS CHRIST!***

Such a conjunction has *not* introduced the birth of *any other* supposed Jewish

Messiah -- not Simon Bar Kochba, not any of the false messiahs that appeared during the Middle Ages, and not the recently deceased Rabbi Schneerson, whom many Orthodox Jews regarded as the "Messiah," although he never claimed such a title for himself!

The End-Time Fulfillment

We have seen how the birth of Christ in 4 B.C. fulfills a major portion of the 70 weeks prophecy of Daniel, chapter 9. But what about the duality? And the remainder of the prophecy – the “seven weeks”?

Historically, we see vital fulfillments counting from the decree of Artaxerxes in 457 B.C. and also his decree in 445 B.C.

But in this END TIME GENERATION, we have also seen another decree relating to the rebuilding of Jerusalem in OUR TIME! In Nehemiah’s time, the wall of Jerusalem was built in “TROUBLOUS TIMES” (Dan.9:25; see also Nehemiah 4:21-23). Nehemiah declared, “For the builders, everyone had his sword girded by his side, and so builded”(Neh.4:18). It was a dangerous time.

What about in our day, today?

Israel once again became a nation on May 6, 1948. The Jews had to fight the surrounding Arab nations to regain their inheritance. Then, in 1967, once again they had to fight for their very existence, in the Six Day War, in which they annihilated invading Arab armies and forces.

Says the *Worldbook Encyclopedia* in regard to this marvelous event:

“UN troops prevented raids across the Israeli-Egyptian border after the 1956 war. But Arab raids continued from Syria and Jordan into Israel, and Israeli forces raided those countries in return. Border clashes increased greatly in the mid-1960's.

“In May 1967, Israel and the three Arab countries all alerted their armed forces for possible war. At Egypt's demand, the UN troops left the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula. The Egyptians then again closed the Gulf of Aqaba to Israeli ships.

“On June 5, 1967, Israeli planes attacked airfields in Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. The Israelis destroyed the Arab air forces almost completely. Then they defeated the Arab armies. By June 8, Israeli troops occupied the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula, and Jordanian territory west of the River Jordan, including Jordan's half of Jerusalem. On June 10, Israel captured Syria's Golan Heights. The war was over in six days.

“When the brief war ended, the Israelis controlled Arab territory totaling more than three times the area of Israel itself. In June 1967, Israel officially made Jordan's half of Jerusalem a part of Israel” (“Israel,” p.393).

Wrote Winston and Randolph Churchill:

“Jerusalem was finally reduced to rubble and the harrow drawn across its former glories. In the new Roman city of Jerusalem no Jew was allowed to set foot more than once a year. The practice of Judaism was forbidden and even circumcision proscribed. Although the Jews remained in Palestine, there could be no further hope of a Jewish Kingdom” (*The Six Day War*, Churchill, p.2-3).

But now, incredibly, in 1967, for the first time since those ancient days, the Jews once again established Jewish CONTROL and sovereignty and authority over the TEMPLE MOUNT AREA OF JERUSALEM! Gentiles had ruled the region for almost two thousand years. Now, once again, it was under Jewish control – and the way was once again *prepared* for the rebuilding of the ancient Jewish Temple.

When the Jews conquered the Old City of Jerusalem, wresting it from the hands of the Jordanians, feelings were at an incredible level. Winston S. and Randolph S. Churchill wrote:

“The Wailing Wall is supposedly the last remains of the Temple, destroyed by the Roman Emperor Titus in the year 70 A.D. As he stood beside it Dayan affirmed: 'We have returned to our holiest of holy places, never to be parted from it again.' Ben-Gurion, too, when he visited the wall declared, in a voice charged with emotion: 'This is the greatest day of my life’” (*ibid.*, p.141).

Winston and Randolph Churchill conclude:

“Thus, by nightfall on Wednesday June 7, the Israelis had in their hands Jerusalem, the city of King David, Hebron, the city of Abraham, and all the Holy Land. Just a couple of weeks before, there were few Jews who would have believed they would see any of these places in their lifetime. For Jews the world over but particularly for those who had come to make their homes in Israel, *this was the fulfillment of a hope of centuries*” (p.147).

Is this astonishing victory for Israel in 1967 significant? A nation of 2 1/2 million put to rout the armies and military forces of Arab nations with a combined population of over 140 million. This was “a staggering achievement,” in the words of Winston S. and Randolph S. Churchill. Colin Legum in *The Observer* called the Israeli victory “a *miracle of arms*” (*ibid.*, p.194-195). He added that one of Israel's leading soldier-politicians remarked:

“The only analogy I can think of is if Britain had found herself in occupation of Berlin just three days after Dunkirk. The suddenness of the transformation from a situation of acute danger to unparalleled victory is too much for any people to absorb. It will take time to get over it” (*ibid.*).

On June 27 three laws were passed through the Knesset annexing the Old City of Jerusalem and reuniting it with the New City on the next day. Was this amazing Six Day War significant in relation to Biblical prophecy? *Of course it was!*

The Seven Weeks or 49 Years

"Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city until the measure of transgression is filled and that of sin is complete, until iniquity is expiated and eternal righteousness ushered in; and prophetic vision ratified, and the Holy of Holies anointed. You must know and understand: From the issuance of the word to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the [time of the] *anointed leader* is seven weeks . . ."

Let's figure it out!

In Daniel 9:25 the FIRST period mentioned (seven 7's) is **not** the first to HAPPEN. It is not in the era of the end of the 70 years of exile until we get to the SIXTY TWO weeks. The SEVEN 7's is **yet to happen!**

"Know and understand from the going forth of the word *to (future tense) return and to (future tense) rebuild Jerusalem* [in our time] to the coming of an Anointed One, a . . . shall be seven weeks" – that is, 7 weeks x 7 days or a total of 49 years.

$$7 \times 7 = 49 \text{ years!}$$

My Bible (Revised Standard Version/Nelson...translated from the original Greek and Hebrew) states there is a conjunction "then/and" before the scripture continues to the "62 weeks."

If we count 62 weeks or shavuah in the Hebrew, or 62 years, from 1948 and the founding of the state of Israel, we come to –

$$\begin{array}{r} 1948 \text{ A.D.} \\ +62 \\ \hline 2010 \text{ A.D.} \end{array}$$

During this time period, as in the days of Nehemiah, Israel has suffered "troubled times," the Palestinian intifada, suicide bombings, rocket attacks from Hamas and Hezbollah, the Gaza Strip and Lebanon, and intermittent wars with Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, and the surrounding Arab/Muslim nations!

"Then/and, for sixty two weeks Jerusalem (*present tense*, the era of the 70 years of exile) is built, again . . . but in troubled times. And AFTER THE 62 weeks (it is plain it is NOT 69 weeks because it says 62) the Anointed One shall be cut off and have nothing." Christ was crucified. "And the PEOPLE of the prince to come will destroy the CITY and its TEMPLE. . ." (this was the soldiers of Titus in 70 A.D.)

To recap, Artaxerxes Longamanus sent Nehemiah back to rebuild Jerusalem in 445 B.C. This edict began the *first* rebuilding of Jerusalem.

Then 62 weeks of years later, plus one week, brought us to 4 B.C. – when Christ was born in Bethlehem! Then, in 30 A.D., Christ was crucified, cut off, just as the prophesy states. 40 years later Jerusalem was destroyed again, this time by the Romans under Titus and Vespasian, in 70 A.D.

Fast forward to the year 1967. In 1967 there was another war of Jewish defense against its Arab neighbors. And another decree was issued concerning the city of Jerusalem!

The SECOND diaspora and return and rebuilding of Jerusalem started in Daniel 9:26 when the soldiers of Titus destroyed Jerusalem and disbursed all the Jews (eventually) to the four corners of the world. But *this* SECOND diaspora didn't last 70 years like the one of Daniel where the Jews did not let the land have her Sabbaths for 70 years (see II Chronicles 36:21 and Lev. 26:34). At that time God destroyed the land and it lay waste for 70 years so the land could enjoy its Sabbath rests.

This second diaspora began in 70 A.D. and has lasted almost 2000 years, till our day, today! Why? BECAUSE the Jews did NOT recognize their Messiah when He was born in 4 B.C. and began His ministry in 27 A.D., and then died on the cross for all our sins in 30 A.D., as the “lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world” (John 1:29; 3:16; see also Luke 19:43-44).

In 1948 Israel became a country again, but they did not possess the Old City of Jerusalem or the Temple Mount. Rather, the Jordanians and Palestinians possessed them. The Jews were given only the tiny sliver of land that was a small part of old Israel.

In the 1967 Six-Day war, Israel regained control of Jerusalem, the Temple Mount, all of the Sinai, Samaria, the Golan Heights, and Gaza. At this time another decree was issued to rebuild Jerusalem!

Jerusalem was rubble, but starting in 1967 it began to be rebuilt and is now a shining, resplendent NEW city on a hill.

The End-Time Decree

Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel sent a letter to President Jimmy Carter of the United States, at Camp David, Thurmont, Maryland, , saying:

17 September 1978

Dear Mr. President,

I have the honor to inform you, Mr. President, that on 28 June, 1967—Israel’s Parliament (The Knesset) promulgated and adopted a law to the effect: ‘the Government is empowered by a decree to apply the law, the jurisdiction and

administration of the State to any part of Eretz Israel (land of Israel—Palestine as stated in that decree.

“On the basis of this law, the Government of Israel decreed in July 1967 that Jerusalem is one city indivisible, the Capital of the State of Israel. Sincerely, (signed) Menachem Begin.”

The decree went forth in July 1967. What does the prophecy say? “From the decree going forth to rebuild Jerusalem, shall be seven weeks . . .”

$$\begin{array}{r} 1967 \text{ A.D.} \\ \underline{49 \text{ years}} \\ 2016 \text{ A.D.} \end{array}$$

2014-2015 was a time of four blood red moons – lunar eclipses occurring God’s annual holy days of Passover in the spring and Sukkot in the fall. A similar pattern of eclipses, called a “tetrad” occurred in 1967-68 and 1949-50.

This is prophetically significant!

There have been only 4 times in the last 500 years that blood moons occurred on Jewish feast days...these were 1493-4, the Spanish Inquisition, when the Catholic Church slaughtered thousands of Jews; 1949-1950, just after Israel fought for its independence and became a state; and 1967-68 when Israel fought the Six-Day War and liberated Jerusalem and the Temple Mount. Israel won back Jerusalem, and started the 2nd rebuilding of the city.

The tetrad of 2014-15 of this century was also significant. What does it mean? Could it be the year when the way is paved for the rebuilding of the temple of God? Could it be the final countdown of the last 7 years to the end of the age and the coming of the Messiah?

The Final Week of Daniel’s Prophecy

These things will culminate in the final “week” of years of Daniel’s prophecy. The last seven days or final week of Daniel’s 70 weeks prophecy refer to the final *seven years* of this present age, which culminate in the return of the Messiah. This final week would extend from 2016 another seven years or one prophetic “week” – inclusive counting from 2016 to 2022.

In the end of this amazing prophecy of Daniel, we read that a wicked leader arises, and he will “confirm the covenant with many for *one week; and in the MIDST of the week* he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease” (v.27).

What is this strange-sounding “covenant”? The Hebrew word *berith* literally means “a cutting,” or a “compact, league, confederacy, treaty.” Could that refer to the notorious Iran nuclear agreement between the United States, the European Union, Russia

and the United Nations with the rogue nation of Iran?

Notice carefully! The word “confirm” in this passage is Strong’s #1396, the Hebrew word *gabar*, a primitive root meaning “to be strong,” that is, “by implication, to prevail, act insolently: -- exceed, confirm, be great, be mighty, prevail, put to more (strength), strengthen, be stronger, be valiant.”

“And in the MIDST of the Week”

Daniel goes on to say, “And in the *midst of the week* he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate . . .” The “midst” of the final week would evidently be the year 2018-2019.

In the passage just quoted, the subject of the entire passage, from Daniel 9:24 to verse 27, is the whole period of 70 WEEKS. The final week, then, must refer to the seven years (last week of days) leading up to the climax of the SECOND coming of the Messiah to inaugurate the Millennial rule of God upon the earth!

Therefore, when the passage states, “In the MIDST OF THE WEEK he shall cause sacrifice and oblation to cease,” this would be a clear reference to the FINAL WEEK OF THE PROPHECY!

Prophecy of the Chofetz Chaim

A leading Jewish rabbi known as the Chofetz Chaim foretold the Second and Third World Wars. On one occasion, Rabbi Yechezkel Levenstein said he heard the Chofetz Chaim say that there will be a second war which will cause the First World War to appear like child's play. There will then be a third war, which will make the second war appear like child's play.

A sense of dread and gloom fell over those listening, and Rav Shalom Schwadron found the courage to ask the Mashgiach why it was necessary to utter such harsh words. Wouldn't it be preferable to simply daven (pray) to be saved from future harsh decrees?

The Mashgiach Rabbi Yechezkel Levenstein, became very agitated and said, “You completely misunderstood what the Chofetz Chaim intended with these words! The Chofetz Chaim's main intention was that there will be a dearth of emunah [faith, truth]! The dearth in emunah [faith, truth] during WWI was child's play compared to the dearth of emunah [faith, truth] during WWII, and the darkening of emunah [faith and truth] that will be during the third war will make everything previous seem like child's play.”

Says Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz, “Great Torah sage Rabbi Yisrael Meir Kagan, known as the Chofetz Chaim, predicted almost 100 years ago that a Third World War will begin 75 years after the beginning of World War II.

The great sages of Israel are known for their exegesis and study of Torah law. Their intense devotion to God with every waking breath frequently transcends the material world. As such, divine messages are given over to them to pass on to the nation.

The author of the monumental work known as the Mishana Berurah, the Chofetz Chaim outlined the basis of laws Ashkenazic Jews still observe to this day. What is not generally known about the Torah sage is that he was occasionally the recipient of divine messages.

According to the Hebrew language website Sod Hachashmal, in one such case, the Chofetz Chaim predicted the war preceding the messianic age.

According to the prediction, the Chofetz Chaim said, “I received from the holy spirit that we are on the verge of a horrific war, that will end in 1945 (ה'ש"ה), but after that will come 10 sabbaticals to prepare for the messiah, and at the end of 10 sabbaticals which will end in the year 2015 (ה'ע"ה), this is the time the messiah must come.”

1945
<u>70 years (10 Sabbaticals)</u>
2015

Declares Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz, “These were the words said by Rabbi Yosef Ben Porat, in the name of the Chofetz Chaim, who said during the First World War, that 25 years after it, another war will break out which will make the first one seem like a child’s game, and 75 years after that will come a third war, greater than the rest, making the second world war seem like a child’s game, and then the messiah will come. And just like the Second World War broke out 25 years after the beginning of the First World War, *the third one will begin 75 years after the beginning of the Second world War*” (September 9, 2015).

Has the Third World War now broken out? The war of Islamic jihad against the Western world?

Clearly, the final “countdown” to the coming of the Messiah has begun. The clock is now ticking.

Jesus Christ explained, “And there shall be signs in the sun and in the moon and in the stars; and upon the earth distress among nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring. Men’s hearts will fail them for fear and for looking upon those things which are coming on the earth; for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up and lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh” (Luke 21:25-28).

“And He spoke to them a parable: ‘Behold the fig tree and all the trees. When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at

hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the Kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away” (vs.29-33).

Christ declared, “And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness and cares of this life, and so that Day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (v.34-36).

The Amplified Bible has it, “There will be signs (attesting miracles) in the sun and moon and stars; and on the earth [there will be] distress *and* anguish among nations, in perplexity at the roaring *and* tossing of the sea and the waves, people fainting from fear and expectation of the [dreadful] things coming on the world; for the [very] powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD with [transcendent, overwhelming] power [subduing the nations] and with great glory. Now when these things begin to occur, stand tall and lift up your heads [in joy], because [suffering ends as] your redemption is drawing near” (Luke 21:25-28).

“Then He told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they put out leaves, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is near. So you too, when you see these things happening, know [without any doubt] that the kingdom of God is near. I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, this generation [those living at that definite period of time preceding the second coming] will not pass away until ^[a]everything takes place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away” (vs.29-33).

“But be on guard, so that your hearts are not weighed down *and* depressed with the giddiness of debauchery and the nausea of self-indulgence and the worldly worries of life, and then that day [when the Messiah returns] will not come on you suddenly like a trap; for it will come upon all those who live on the face of all the earth. But keep alert at all times [be attentive and ready], praying that you may have the strength *and* ability [to be found worthy and] to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man [at His coming]” (Luke 21:34-36).

Other Articles on Daniel’s Prophecies

Daniel 7 and the New World Order

The Panorama of Prophecy

Daniel’s 2300 Days Prophecy

Daniel 8 and the End of Days

Daniel 9 and the Nuclear Agreement with Iran

Daniel’s Image, the Four Beasts and the End-Time King of Assyria

Daniel 11 – Urgent Warning!

Prophecy Briefs

Major Sex Scandal Rocks Cruz Campaign

The story, if it proves true, could be the kiss of death for Cruz's political ambitions.

The *National Enquirer* has broken the story in its latest issue, in which it includes identities and photos of the women who allegedly had relationships with Cruz.

The fact that the story originated with the *Enquirer* has generated a healthy level of skepticism — but it was the *Enquirer* that also initially broke an affair scandal that sunk former presidential candidate John Edwards.

And *Washington Times* columnist Drew Johnson on Twitter today claimed that he could confirm that at least two of the women named by the *Enquirer* were accurate. The *Washington Times* had also reportedly looked into the story.

The story of Cruz's alleged affairs took social media by storm today, with #CruzSexScandal trending on Twitter and generating millions of tweets and Internet memes.

The scandal is also raising fresh questions about a mysterious \$500,000 that a pro-Cruz political action committee donated to business executive Carly Fiorina's campaign last year. One of the women named in the *Enquirer* report is Sarah Isgur Flores, a veteran GOP insider and former campaign manager for Fiorina, leading to speculation that the donation may have been hush money.

If the allegations of extramarital affairs prove true, it could spell the end of Cruz's campaign and the squeaky-clean family-man image he's worked hard to portray. It would also hand the Republican presidential nomination to billionaire Donald Trump.

The allegations alone may be enough to destroy Cruz. And given that Trump and Cruz have been engaging this week in a war of words over each other's wives, some are seeing Trump's fingerprints all over this latest story.

In fact, Johnson hinted that Trump may have been sitting on this story for weeks. Johnson predicted nearly two weeks ago that Trump was going to drop a sex scandal bombshell on Cruz. (The Horn News, March 25, 2016).

Rubio Allies Spread Scandal Allegations

Rumors of Sen. Ted Cruz's alleged adultery have been circulating for months — and allies of former GOP presidential contender Sen. Marco Rubio were allegedly involved in spreading the accusations, The Daily Beast reports.

According to the news site, which cites unnamed GOP and media sources, reporters at the New York Times, the Washington Post, Politico, Bloomberg News and ABC News had all heard versions of the sex scandal.

The conservative Breitbart News also was pushed to run a story on the alleged affairs, an unnamed source tells the Daily Beast — and was given a video by a person "allied" with Rubio but not associated with his official campaign.

Breitbart didn't run a story because the video didn't provide any direct evidence of an affair, the source tells the Daily Beast.

"We got it from a Rubio ally," the unnamed source tells the Daily Beast. "It was too thin... There was no way to verify the claims."

This week, the National Enquirer published a **story** alleging Cruz had flings with five women — a report Cruz refuted as "garbage," and for which he blamed rival Donald Trump. Trump, in a Facebook posting, denied any involvement in the Enquirer story. (Newsmax, March 25, 2016).

Everything You Need To Know About The Ted Cruz Sex Scandal

TEXAS - The National Enquirer just dropped a bombshell on the Cruz campaign and the internet exploded overnight. Reports claim investigators found Ted Cruz allegedly had an affair with five different women.

According to the Enquirer:

"Private detectives are digging into at least five affairs Ted Cruz supposedly had," claimed a Washington insider. "The leaked details are an attempt to destroy what's left of his White House campaign!" The ENQUIRER reports that Cruz's claimed mistresses include a foxy political consultant and a high-placed D.C. attorney!

The publication did not name names and only printed pixelated photos. Internet users on [Twitter](#), [Reddit](#) and [4chan](#) quickly went to work to determine the identity of all five women while using the hashtag [#CruzSexScandal](#).

Things you need to know about Ted Cruz's sex scandal:

1. The National Enquirer Was Right About John Edwards, Tiger Woods and Jesse Jackson



Surprisingly The National Enquirer has a good track record reporting scandals like this. This same magazine broke the John Edwards scandal, Tiger Woods scandal, Jesse Jackson scandal, and the Gary Hart scandal.

2. Washington Times Reporter Confirms Story

Drew Johnson of the Washington Times confirmed on Twitter Thursday night that two of Ted Cruz's mistresses named by the National Enquirer are accurate.

3. The Internet Claims To Have Identified Who Most Of The Women Are

4. Donald Trump Spokeswoman Katrina Pierson Made Her Instagram Private Last Night

Donald Trump spokeswoman Katrina Pierson made her Instagram private last night after [#CruzSexScandal](#) started trending online. Pierson previously worked for Ted Cruz.

5. Texas Police Report From 2005 Claims Heidi Cruz Was "A Danger To Herself" When Officers Found Her Sitting Near Austin Expressway

6. Cruz Allegedly Paid "Hush Money" To Carly Fiorina

Sarah Isgur Flores worked for Carly Fiorina as deputy campaign manager. In July 2015 an unusual \$500,000 donation was made by Ted Cruz-affiliated Super PAC, Keep the Promise to Carly Fiorina's official campaign fund.

Before you jump to conclusions because it is a National Enquirer magazine, it must be noted that this same magazine broke the Sen. Edwards scandal, Tiger Woods scandal, the Jesse Jackson sex scandal, and the Gary Hart sex scandal.

Washington Times reporter confirms story here.

The picture of the Cruz article has 5 women, with blurred out faces and a black box to protect the identity of the individuals, but to also say with certainty that they know who is involved. However, whether they knew or not, 4chan is capable of anything.

THE FIVE SO FAR

Katrina Pierson, who is Donald Trump's spokeswoman, and worked for Ted Cruz in the past.

? We are unsure of the second, but it is stated in the article that it is an Austin area schoolteacher.

? We are unsure of the third as well, but we do know that this is potentially a prostitute. The photo is provocative, with a woman in a low cut dress (shirt?).

Sarah Isgur Flores. This is where things get juicy. Flores was the Deputy Campaign Manager for Carly Fiorina. Remember when one of El Rato's super PACs gave Carly's PAC \$500,000? Maybe it's because Cruz had boned her campaign manager, and Fiorina knew and it was some "hush-money". Amanda Carpenter who in 2014 worked on Ted Cruz's staff.

Sanhedrin Performs Rare Biblical Commandment Not Seen For 2,000 Years



“This month shall be unto you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you.” *Exodus 12:2 (The Israel Bible.)*

Last Thursday, a Biblical commandment that hasn't been seen in 2,000 years was fulfilled. In the Cardo neighborhood of

the Old City of Jerusalem, two witnesses stood before the Sanhedrin and gave testimony that established the beginning of the new month.

Setting the new month by witnesses is considered by Rashi, a prominent commentator on the Bible, to be the first *mitzvah* (Biblical commandment) the Nation of Israel received after leaving Egypt. With great spiritual meaning, establishing the calendar is far more than a convenience. It is so important that it takes precedence over the Sabbath. In Biblical times, witnesses were permitted to break the Sabbath in order to arrive in Jerusalem and stand before the Sanhedrin.

Professor Hillel Weiss, spokesman and secretary of the Sanhedrin, explained the significance to *Breaking Israel News*.

“On a simple level, without this *mitzvah*, we are saying that God does not exist in nature or the passage of time, that nature runs like mechanical clockwork,” Professor Weiss said.

On a technical level, the event was a step in the process of correcting the Hebrew calendar. By Biblical law, the new month for the Hebrew calendar was established by reliable witnesses appearing before the Sanhedrin. Hillel II, president of the Sanhedrin in the fourth century, established a written calendar based on astronomical calculations. This calendar, still in use, standardized the length of months and the addition of months in leap years over the course of a 19-year cycle, so that the lunar calendar realigns with the solar years.

In the times of the Temple, the new month would be established by both calculation and by witnesses appearing before the Sanhedrin. When the Temple was destroyed and the Sanhedrin disbanded, the Hebrew calendar was figured solely according to the astrological calculations and the template established by Hillel II.

It is remarkable that Hillel II's calculations stood for as long as they did. However, 1,700 years later, there are discrepancies between his calendar and the astronomical reality. This is a serious problem the Sanhedrin is taking steps to gradually fix.

“Though we have received witnesses in the past, this is the first time we have done so publicly,

which is an essential part of the *mitzvah*,” Professor Weiss explained.

“The only thing lacking is for all of Israel to agree on one central authority for this,” he continued. “This is just one of many *mitzvot* we neglect merely because we haven’t done them for so long. There is no other reason not to do this and raise Judaism.”

Professor Weiss expanded on the idea. “For 2,000 years we practiced Judaism a certain way. Even though we are in Israel, the Torah and *mitzvot* are still in *galut* (diaspora). There are many practical things we could do, and in truth, should do, to make Judaism richer and more like it was in the times of the Temple.”

Joshua Wander, a resident of the Mount of Olives who attended, thought the event was clearly necessary. “Things come up when you actually do these things, dilemmas that you could never anticipate from just sitting in Yeshiva and learning from a book.

“For example, the witnesses were questioned by the Sanhedrin. They were asked where in the sky it was, what direction the moon was facing, what time it was exactly. It seemed that the witnesses were not prepared for this level of questioning, which is dictated by the Talmud. One of them asked if he could look at a photo from his cell phone. After consultation, the Sanhedrin ruled that it was permissible.”

The Sanhedrin’s declaration of the new month was preceded by a ceremony recreating the Temple service. The ceremony, intended for instructional and not religious purposes, did not include slaughtering an animal, though in many other respects it was absolutely authentic. The musical instruments, and vessels, provided by the Temple Institute, were made to Biblical specifications. The priests were *kohanim*, members of the Jewish priestly class. Dressed in holy garments, they performed the priestly blessing. A small scale model of the altar was also set up, and a grain offering was burnt on it. (Breaking Israel News, Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz, March 15, 2016).

Historic Pivot – Jihad in 2016

The Muslim Brotherhood and its various offshoots have chosen 2016 as the year they will turn their focus away from the Middle East and toward the Western democracies seen as ripe for revolutionary activity, says a former FBI counter-terrorism specialist and Islam expert.

The revolutionary jihad movement that swept through the Middle East and North Africa as part of the “Arab Spring” is starting to take root in Europe with attacks already carried out on Paris and Brussels, said John Guandolo.

This movement will eventually spread to the United States, said Guandolo, a former Marine and instructor at the U.S. Army War College who now provides training to law enforcement agencies that want to learn more about the jihadist network in the U.S.

That network is operated, he said, by the International Muslim Brotherhood through its many front organizations. Among them are the Muslim-American Society, or MAS; Muslim Student Association, or MSA; Council on American-Islamic Relations, or CAIR; Islamic Society of North America, or ISNA; and North American Islamic Trust, or NAIT.

Guandolo, author of the book “Raising a Jihadi Generation,” said the Muslim Brotherhood is teaming up with the Black Lives Matter movement to create violent events that will surprise many police agencies in cities across the U.S.

He said parts of the strategy leaked out at the annual convention of the Muslim-American Society on Dec. 28, 2015, in Chicago.

Nihad Awad, executive director of CAIR, was very upfront about the U.S. Muslim community’s embracing of Black Lives Matter.

“We have direct evidence of Muslim Brotherhood-Hamas working with anarchists and Black Lives Matter,” Guandolo told WND. “You have Nihad Awad saying, ‘Black Lives Matter is our matter,’ and ‘2016 is our year to make our mark.’”

At that same convention, another Muslim Brotherhood operative, Khalilah Sabra, the executive director and project developer for the

Muslim Society of America's Immigrant Justice Center, was even more blunt.

"We are the community that staged a revolution across the world," she said. "If we can do that, why can't we have that revolution in America?"

Guandolo sees a further coming together of the Muslim Brotherhood entities and the forces of radical revolutionaries associated with Black Lives Matter.

"Sabra is a senior executive in the Muslim Brotherhood, but she also represents the Department of Justice in their executive office of immigration review, and she's saying we had a revolution in the Middle East, why can't we have one in the U.S.?" Guandolo said. "That is astonishing. These two movements are taking parallel paths."

While Brussels was one of the most unprotected and jihadist-friendly cities in Europe, other cities are also vulnerable, not only in Europe but in America, he said.

Guandolo said the U.S. is probably less than 10 years behind Europe in terms of the advancement of Islam.

"You have a different situation here. We're much larger than any of the countries in Europe, and we have some significant cultural differences. But we are making the same mistakes," Guandolo said.

"We have Jewish and Christian leaders falling over themselves to kiss the asses of Muslims, and they clearly have no clue to what Islam teaches -- when Muslims are teaching one another -- nor do they understand the jihadi network here and that almost all the major U.S. Muslim organizations are dominated by the Muslim Brotherhood."

Guandolo is advising several states right now on security issues and has uploaded a wealth of information, including original source documents from the Muslim Brotherhood, on his website, [Understanding The Threat](#).

"I do get a lot of these questions from state leaders, and I tell them, 'You're going to see

individual acts of jihad,' but you should think in terms of one precipitating event," he said.

For example, in California a couple years ago, there was an attack on the power grid.

"And if they had not been able to shut that down quickly, you would have had a large portion of California without power for up to a year," Guandolo said. "We still don't know who did that, but it was a handful of individuals armed with weapons and wire cutters, and that could have been a huge precipitating event followed by riots and shootings. You just can't make this stuff up. They are preparing the battlefield in every way, and we are asleep at the wheel."

Guandolo still works in law enforcement and once commanded a SWAT unit in Washington, D.C.

"I can tell you most SWAT teams are in no way prepared for what is coming," he said. "And I'm not talking about their equipment. They are just not mentally prepared for real, raging battle, a battle that can last eight to 10 hours on the streets. They're not prepared for that, but that's where we are heading." (Leo Hohmann, March 24, 2016, World Net Daily.

Saudi cover-up proves US government complicit in 9/11 terror attacks

Among the numerous views held by those espousing "9/11 truth," one central idea remains the same: The United States government is complicit in the September 11, 2001 terror attacks.

An article in the New York Post this week, boldly titled "How US covered up Saudi role in 9/11," details how the highest levels of the US government not only helped conceal Saudi involvement but assisted the perpetrators in escaping the country.

The Cover-up

"The kingdom's involvement was deliberately covered up at the highest levels of our government. And the coverup goes beyond locking up 28 pages of the Saudi report in a vault in the US Capitol basement," Paul Sperry writes.

“Investigations were throttled. Co-conspirators were let off the hook.”

Everyone from Join Terrorism Task Force members to FBI agents and Virginia law enforcement say that despite evidence leading to the Saudi Embassy in Washington, investigations were derailed repeatedly by higher ups.

“Those sources say the pages missing from the 9/11 congressional inquiry report — which comprise the entire final chapter dealing with ‘foreign support for the September 11 hijackers’ — details ‘incontrovertible evidence’ gathered from both CIA and FBI case files of official Saudi assistance for at least two of the Saudi hijackers who settled in San Diego.”

The Saudi Connection

One name specifically, that of Saudi Ambassador Prince Bandar, commonly known as “Bandar Bush” due to his longtime relationship with the president, came up frequently during investigations.

“Some information has leaked from the redacted section, including a flurry of pre-9/11 phone calls between one of the hijackers’ Saudi handlers in San Diego and the Saudi Embassy, and the transfer of some \$130,000 from then-Saudi Ambassador Prince Bandar’s family checking account to yet another of the hijackers’ Saudi handlers in San Diego,” Sperry continues.

Upon learning of the agent’s knowledge, State Department officials responded not by detaining Bandar, but by providing him with round-the-clock protection.

“An investigator who worked with the JTTF in Washington complained that instead of investigating Bandar, the US government protected him — literally,” the article says. “He said the State Department assigned a security detail to help guard Bandar not only at the embassy, but also at his McLean, Va., mansion.”

Former FBI agent John Guandolo, a Washington field agent who investigated Bandar following 9/11, says the Saudi should have undoubtedly been treated as a suspect.

“The Saudi ambassador funded two of the 9/11 hijackers through a third party,” Guandolo said. “He should be treated as a terrorist suspect, as should other members of the Saudi elite class who the US government knows are currently funding the global jihad.”

The Getaway

The article goes on to state that just two days after the attack, Bandar visited the White House to enjoy several cigars with President Bush before being granted safe passage out of the country with other Saudis.

“After he met on Sept. 13, 2001, with President Bush in the White House, where the two old family friends shared cigars on the Truman Balcony, the FBI evacuated dozens of Saudi officials from multiple cities, including at least one Osama bin Laden family member on the terror watch list,” Sperry says. “Instead of interrogating the Saudis, FBI agents acted as security escorts for them, even though it was known at the time that 15 of the 19 hijackers were Saudi citizens.”

Then-White House adviser Richard Clarke also stated in 2003 that he aided the Saudis escape after being assured by FBI agents that they had been cleared of wrongdoing.

“The adviser, Richard Clarke, who ran the White House crisis team after the attacks but has since left the Bush administration, said he agreed to the extraordinary plan because the Federal Bureau of Investigation assured him that the departing Saudis were not linked to terrorism,” Times writer Eric Lichtblau stated.

The Saudi Panic

In response to growing knowledge of the Saudi’s role, the Islamic kingdom has threatened to “sell up to \$750 billion in treasury securities and other assets in the United States” if legislation backing the release of the 28 pages is passed.

“Adel al-Jubeir, the Saudi foreign minister, delivered the kingdom’s message personally last month during a trip to Washington, telling lawmakers that Saudi Arabia would be forced to

sell up to \$750 billion in treasury securities and other assets in the United States before they could be in danger of being frozen by American courts,” writes The New York Times.

Although such information is devastating to the US, Saudi Arabia and the “official story” of September 11, much of it has been public since the years following the attack.

The Other Whistleblowers

Largely ignored by the press are the countless other government officials who also say they experienced similar treatment when trying to investigate America’s largest ever terror attack.

Former NSA senior executive Thomas Drake, who blew the whistle on domestic surveillance during the Bush presidency, has commented repeatedly on NSA intelligence that would have “undoubtedly” stopped 9/11.

“The NSA had critical intelligence about Al Qaeda and associated movements in particular that had never been properly shared outside of NSA,” Drake said in 2014. “They simply did not share critical intelligence although they had it.”

Former senior intelligence officer Lt. Col Anthony Shaffer was similarly sidelined by the Defense Intelligence Agency for blowing the whistle on covered up operations that identified two terrorist cells later charged for the 9/11 attacks.

“I had no intention of joining the ranks of ‘whistle blowers,’” Shaffer said in 2009. “When I made my disclosure to the 9/11 commission regarding the existence of a pre 9/11 offensive counter-terrorism operation that had discovered several of the 9/11 terrorists a full year before the 9/11 attacks my intention was to simply tell the truth, and fulfill my oath of office.” Shaffer also joined the Alex Jones Show well over one year ago to discuss the Saudi’s role in 9/11 and the 28 pages.

Former FBI wiretap translator Sibel Edmonds, who had access to top-secret communications, also stated in 2004 that the FBI had detailed 9/11 foreknowledge that specifically mentioned a terrorist attack involving airplanes.

“We should have had orange or red-type of alert in June or July of 2001. There was that much information available,” Edmonds said. “There was specific information about use of airplanes, that an attack was on the way two or three months beforehand and that several people were already in the country by May of 2001. They should’ve alerted the people to the threat we’re facing.”

9/11 Truth & the 2016 Election

The 28 pages are now so mainstream that presidential candidates are being forced to find a stance on the topic.

The first candidate to touch the subject was none other than Republican frontrunner Donald J. Trump, who earlier this year pointed the finger at Saudi Arabia.

“But it wasn’t the Iraqis, you will find out who really knocked down the World Trade Center,” Trump said at a campaign event in Bluffton, South Carolina. “Because they have papers in there that are very secret, you may find it’s the Saudis, okay? But you will find out.”

Other candidates have been less forward. Democrat candidate Hillary Clinton refused to say Monday whether she had even seen the 28 pages at all. “I am not commenting,” she said.

Although Clinton has remained tight-lipped, her and fellow Democrat Bernie Sanders are backing legislation that would allow families of loved ones killed in the 9/11 attacks to sue the Saudi government.

“Obviously, we’ve got to make anyone who participates in or supports terrorism pay a price, and we also have to be aware of any consequences that might affect Americans, either military or civilian or our nation,” Clinton told ABC. . . .

Regardless of one’s exact theory on the details of 9/11, it’s time for Americans and people around the world to admit they were lied to. The “9/11 truthers” were right (Mikael Thalen, *InfoWars*, April 18, 2016).

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2016 AVIV Barley Report, the Leap Year and God's Annual Holy Days

Nehemia Gordon of the Karaites has reported that this year's Official Aviv Barley Search showed that the state of the barley in Israel was NOT YET "AVIV" as of March 9, 10, and therefore a 13th month, "Adar 2" will be added. The new moon seen on Thursday evening, March 10, began "Adar 2".

Because the New Moons of "ABIB" and "TISHRI" are certain this year, the Holy Days are therefore as follows:

NEW MOON ADAR 2	Friday, 11 th March.
NEW MOON ABIB	Sabbath, 9 th April.
PESACH SEDER (Passover)	Friday Evening, 22 nd April.
PESACH (1 st Day Unleavened Bread)	Sabbath, 23 rd April.
PESACH (7 th Day Unleavened Bread)	Friday, 29 th April.
SHAVUOT (Pentecost)	Sunday, 12 th June.
YOM TERUAH (Trumpets)	Monday, 3 rd October.
YOM KIPPUR (Atonement)	Wednesday, 12 th October.
SUKKOT (1 st Day Tabernacles)	Monday, 17 th October.
SHEMINI ATZERET (8 th Day)	Monday, 24 th October.

The really interesting thing about these dates on the "Observed New Moon" calendar is that they coincide exactly with the Rabbinic "Fixed" Jewish calendar dates this year. Have a wonderful, inspiring and uplifting Passover season.

Nehemia Gordon reports:

“Barley not Aviv, 13th New Moon Sighted, Passover April 22”

“After scouring the Land of Israel for Aviv Barley, the Aviv Search Team has concluded beyond any doubt that the time of the Aviv has not yet arrived. We found individual stalks of Aviv barley in the Judean Desert and northern Negev. However, we did not find any fields with substantial quantities of Aviv Barley.

“The answer is clear. The new moon sighted on March 10, 2016 is the beginning of the 13th Hebrew Month. The First Hebrew Month, Chodesh Ha-Aviv, will begin on April 8, 2016 (barring clouds). The festival of Passover (Chag HaMatzot) will begin April 22 at sunset and Shavuot will fall out on Sunday June 12, 2016.

“We sighted the new moon of the 13th Hebrew Month on March 10, 2016 from

Jerusalem. The new moon was first sighted by Keith Johnson followed shortly thereafter by Nehemia Gordon, Yoel Halevi, Devorah Gordon, and Gil Ashendorf.”

In a later report, Nehemia discussed the controversy over this year’s abib state. He declared:

“Abib Barley and the Golden Pandas”

“With the Aviv Search now over, last night I finally got my first good night of sleep in a week! The intensity of the Aviv Search had me going on adrenalin, coffee and prayers. This year’s Aviv Search has been a true cliffhanger. This morning I prayed about it and read over the ‘other’ Aviv reports that are making their way around the internet. It was clear to me that we looked through the very fields where some have claimed to find Aviv. We even shared some of this process as we were doing it in the podcast Proclaiming a Hebrew Leap Year of Faith. I can understand how someone who already decided it was turning into a New Year before his very eyes based on the vineyards, goat utters, and other factors (or is that utter factors?) could climb up one of the hills in that area and be convinced that he is looking at fields of Aviv Barley. On Tuesday March 8 we spent at least 1.5 hours driving through the back roads of those fields with the aid of a new (and very costly) GPS app that provides near-military grade maps, basically the highest you can get without being on an active IDF combat mission. As much as I was expecting to find Aviv, especially based on the exterior appearance of the barley, it just wasn’t Aviv yet. We returned to the same area on Thursday March 10, just to give the barley the maximum amount of time to turn Aviv before entering into a new Hebrew month. And it still was not Aviv.

“Reading over the ‘other’ reports has removed all doubts I could have possibly had. I didn’t really have doubts to begin with, but you know how Ha-Satan works, going to and fro in the Earth, planting his seeds which turn into doubt. Through prayer and study and quite literally fear and trembling in the presence of Yehovah, that seed has now been uprooted and cast out for me. I was in those very same fields and know for certain that it is not Aviv. Yet my heart truly aches for those who weren’t with us who may have genuine doubts. Please join me in praying that they too are led to work this out for themselves in fear and trembling with prayer and study before our heavenly Father. When the Temple is rebuilt the High Priest will figure all this stuff out for us. Until then we need to do the best we can with what we have available to us, asking our heavenly Father always to guide us. In the past few years I have been taught humility and come to daily pray:

“Trust in Yehovah with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear Yehovah and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body and refreshment to your bones.”

-- Proverbs 3:5-8

“When I say I was quite literally in fear and trembling, that is because I consider the Aviv Search to be an awesome and truly frightening responsibility. It is a responsibility I never asked for and never wanted. I was out looking at Aviv fields in the early 1990s when it was just me and a handful of Karaite Jews. And nobody knew or cared what we were doing. Now there are a half-dozen different groups out there looking for barley every year, some with different understandings of the term ‘Aviv.’ Many are also being guided by what I believe to be non-Torah considerations such as the equinox, wheat, blooming flowers, and even migrating birds! I will never forget one man who spent years working out the calendar with the help of a very complex calculation that he created. When he learned about the Aviv Barley he was so excited, because he was sure it would confirm his life's work. He ended up coming on two or three Aviv Searches and then set out on his own.

“One year I was in our beloved ‘Pomelo Field’ just south of Beth Shean. He proclaimed that he found Aviv in that very field, an hour after we had examined it and found that it was not Aviv. But he already knew it was Aviv from his calculations and that is what he saw in the field. This has become a familiar story. In some ways it is very frustrating. In other ways, I look at it as a blessing that so many of God's people are yearning to rediscover His truth.

“In my recent audio study Aviv Barley and the Spirit of Constantine, I quoted the 9th century quasi-Karaite Mishawayh al Ukbari, who famously said:

“All money is a convenience, so cleave to the counterfeit money in hand.”

“Mishawayh's point in the 9th century was that there were several different competing calendars, which was just leading to disunity and confusion. From his perspective, without the Temple, any calendar is just a remembrance of what God commanded, so why not use the easiest one. By which, of course, he meant the Hillel II calendar used by most Jews. There was a time when I would have mocked and judged Mishawayh and his followers, but then God humbled me. Today, I say that every one of us needs to work this out through prayer and study in fear and trembling. If that process leads you to follow Hillel II and Mishawayh, then that is between you and the Creator of the universe.

“Yesterday morning before Keith left for the airport we were sitting in my living room in Jerusalem discussing Mishawayh and his ancient coin parable. I told Keith that I don't believe the Feasts of Yehovah are just a convenience or that *all* calendars are counterfeit. There are true appointed times that Yehovah has hard-wired into Creation. We just need to figure out what they are by going out and doing what the ancient Israelites did: looking for the new moon and the Aviv Barley in the Land of Israel.

“Now this year something unusual happened that got me thinking about Mishawayh in a whole new light and this is what I was sharing with Keith as he prepared to leave for the airport. The night before, we were standing around in a Jerusalem park, perched on a hillside, looking for the new moon. An Orthodox Jewish couple walked by and were

curious why we were staring at the horizon with cameras set up on tripods. They followed the direction that our cameras were pointed and got very excited when they saw the new moon. The man told us that for years his wife had said how wonderful it would be to see the new moon on Rosh Chodesh-the beginning of the Hebrew month. He meant the day that rabbinical Jews observe Rosh Chodesh. This Orthodox Jewish man explained that they never saw the new moon on Rosh Chodesh, and now finally after years of hoping and praying there it was hanging low in the sky over the Israel Museum. What really moved me about this Orthodox Jewish couple is that they were as authentic as can be in their genuine desire to walk in fellowship with the Creator of the universe.

“So back to Mishawayh and his counterfeit coin analogy. A few years ago I started researching gold coins. This was when the word on the street was that the US dollar was about to collapse and we all needed to take every last dime and buy physical gold and silver. Back then I learned about the Gold Panda, a coin produced by the government of China. These troy ounces of gold were in high demand, but there was a major problem. On a hunch, one collector sawed open his Gold Pandas and found out some were counterfeit! On the outside they were made of gold, but on the inside he found a cheap metal. What all came together for me as Keith was fixing to leave for the airport, was that our desire to know the true times of the Biblical feasts was like sitting there with a pile of Gold Pandas with the knowledge that some are fake. For years we have been spending all this immense effort to determine which Gold Pandas are real and which are counterfeit. Often this results in intense debates and arguments. In some groups and communities it causes pain and division. What encountering the Orthodox Jewish man and his wife made me realize is that determining which Gold Pandas are real and which are not, should never be an end in itself. The purpose is so that we can use those Gold Pandas to buy bread when the US dollar collapses.

“Similarly, the purpose of the Aviv Search, New Moon Sightings, and observance of the Appointed Times of Yehovah is not an end in itself. The purpose is to attain that spiritual bread and walk out our covenant relationship with Yehovah the best we can. If that leads to conflict with others who are genuinely trying their best to walk with our heavenly Father, then we need to push aside our pile of Gold Pandas and get back to praying for humility in dealing with our neighbors and the sojourners in our gates.

“My prayer is that the Appointed Times of Yehovah will not be a source of doubt and division, but a healing to the souls of those who want to walk in fellowship with Avinu SheBashamayim. I pray that Yehovah grant me the wisdom to trust in Him with all my heart, to not lean on my own understanding, to acknowledge Him in all my ways, so that He may make my paths straight!”

-- Nehemia Gordon, Jerusalem, Israel

What Do You Mean, “Sighting” the New Moons?

Having forsaken God’s true calendar, the world today has no regard for the New Moons. Yet the New Moon sighting was crucial for the ancient Hebrew calendar God gave His people! Should we sight the New Moons today? Are there times a month should be declared even when the New Moon crescent is not visible to the naked eye? Should a month be delayed a day just because there is haze in Israel?

William F. Dankenbring

According to the Bible testimony, God commands to begin each month with celebration of the “New Moon” – the first visible faint crescent of the moon. But who is to do this? Should every region of the earth do its own New Moon sightings, and have their own calendar months, and observe God’s Holy Days accordingly? Or should we go by sightings in Jerusalem or Israel, today?

And what if there is cloud cover in Israel, so the New Moon is not seen – even though it normally would be? Should we then postpone the month till the following day? Or should we go by “potential visibility”?

These are volatile questions, and deserve answers.

Calendars have been invented by nations to record the passage of days and times, the length of days required for the earth to circle the sun, and the moon to circle the earth. However, different societies attacked the problem from different viewpoints, and came to contrasting solutions and therefore different calendars were produced around the world.

Which system of time keeping is divine in origin? Or does it really matter?

To most men, probably not. To churches, however, it does matter, for each has its own holy days and system of beliefs. The Muslim calendar is based solely on the lunar months, and the year is 12 lunar months of about 29 ½ days each, thus their year is about 11 days short of the solar year (one circuit of the earth around the sun). This causes their seasons to pass through every month, beginning 11 days earlier every year.

The Roman calendar is solely sun based, so the year is 365 ¼ days in length, with no regard to the lunar months at all. Each month is 30 or 31 days, disregarding the appearance of “new moons.”

Does time matter? Is it important to God?

Jesus Christ said, “The Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35). He reiterated, “Thy Word is TRUTH” (John 17:17). And the Scriptures tell us that God set the sun, moon and stars to divide the days, months, and years. “Then God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for *signs and seasons, and for days and years*. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good” (Gen.1:14-18).

As for the moon, God said, “He appointed the moon for seasons [Hebrew *moadim*, meaning festivals, which are determined by the beginning of months]” (Psalm 104:19).

In fact, the Word of God commands, “Blow up the trumpet IN THE NEW MOON, *AT THE TIME APPOINTED*, on our solemn feast day” (Psalm 81:3, KJV).

The whole world has gone sadly, perversely, astray from the simple commands of God! Every nation on earth has altered and changed and repudiated God’s true Biblical Calendar instructions! Even the Jews have forsaken the true Biblical Calendar to maintain their “traditions” and ritual instructions, contrary to the Scriptures!

But how do we determine these basic principles?

Back to the Basics

Alfred Edersheim, in his book *The Temple: Its Ministry and Services*, writes:

“Scarcely any other festive season could have left so continuous an impress on the religious life of Israel as the 'New Moons.' Recurring at the beginning of every month, and marking it, the solemn proclamation of the day, by – 'It is sanctified,' was intended to give a hallowed character to each month, while the blowing of the priests' trumpets and the special sacrifices brought, would summon, as it were, the Lord's host to offer their tribute unto their exalted King, and thus bring themselves into 'remembrance' before Him. Besides, it was also a popular feast, when families, like that of David, might celebrate their special annual sacrifice (1 Sam. 20:6,29); when the king gave a state-banquet (1 Sam. 20:5,24); and those who sought for instruction and edification resorted to religious meetings, such as Elisha seems to have held (2 Kgs.4:23).

And so we trace its observance onwards through the history of Israel; marking in Scripture a special Psalm for the New Moon (in Tishri – Ps.81:3); noting how from month to month the day was kept as an outward ordinance, even in the decay of religious life (Isa.1:13; Hos. 2:11), apparently all the more rigidly, with abstinence from work, not enjoined in the law, that its spirit was no longer understood (Amos 8:5); and finally learning from the prophecies of Isaiah and Ezekiel that it also had a higher meaning, and was destined to find a better fulfillment in another dispensation, when the New Moon trumpet should summon 'all flesh to worship before Jehovah' (Isa.66:23), and the closed eastern gate to the inner court of the new Temple be opened once more to believing Israel (Ezek. 46:1). And in New Testament times we still find the 'New Moon' kept as an outward observance by Jews and Judaising Christians, yet expressly characterised as 'a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ' (Col. 2:16,17)" (pages 229-230).

The great irony today is that both Christians AND Jews have in effect both ignored and rejected God's divinely ordained calendar and replaced it with either the pagan Roman calendar, for the so-called "Christians," and the "permanent" Jewish so-called calendar of Rabbi Hillel II of the fourth century after Christ – a calendar which was based on mathematics and the study of heavenly cycles, and no longer based on divine commands of physical sighting of New Moons.

The Hebrew Month

The Hebrew word for "month" is actually "chodesh" – it means, literally, "THE NEW MOON; by implication a *month*" (Strong's Exhaustive Concordance). A month, according to God's Word, should begin with a "new moon." It is so simple! But look at the Roman calendar – a "month" there can begin on ANY day, new moons are utterly disregarded! How far we have removed from the ways and teachings of God!

The Jews give lip service to the new moons with their approximating the new moons, by means of mathematics, but they do not really "observe" real, genuine NEW MOONS – except for a few, such as the Karaites of Jerusalem and Israel!

God Almighty says, in Exodus, "This month (CHODESH – "NEW MOON") shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you" (Exo.12:2).

But the Jews today reject this command and declare Tishri 1, the SEVENTH month, as the beginning of the year, basing all their calculations on Tishri 1, and ignoring Nisan or Abib 1, in the spring, which God says is the true "first month of the year to you."

The Word of God says, "He appointed the MOON for seasons" (Psalm 104:19). The Hebrew word for "seasons" is *moadim* and means "festivals," the annual Holy

Days of God. Without knowing the true new moon days, how can we possibly observe God's annual holy days correctly, on the right days? It is ludicrous – insane – utterly ridiculous to think we are correctly observing the holy days on the right day if we cannot even get the first day of the month right! Says Strong's Concordance on "Moadim," "an appointment, i.e. a fixed time or season; spec. a FESTIVAL . . ."

When are we going to get serious and get back to the "faith ONCE DELIVERED to the saints"? (Jude 3).

Neither Abraham, Moses, or Christ Himself ever heard of the traditions added to influence the calendar in 358 A.D. by the Rabbis! In their day, a "new moon" had to be SEEN to be recognized as such! Observers were stationed each month to watch carefully for the New Moon's first faint crescent. But in 358 A.D. the Jews abolished this principle, exchanging it for mathematical formulas and calculations instead, creating in the process a hybrid calendar with holy days occurring on different days, because they are calculated differently!

God says, "There is a way that *seems right* to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Prov.14:12).

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and LEAN NOT on your own understanding" (Prov.3:5).

God says, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:7-9).

In fact, God's Word says, "Blow the trumpet at the time of the NEW MOON (*CHODESH*); at the full [keseh] moon, on our solemn feast day. For this is a statute for Israel, a LAW of the God of Jacob" (Psalm 81:3-4). To blow the trumpet to celebrate any OTHER day than the true New Moon would constitute disobedience to God's LAW – an act of flagrant rebellion and stubborn iniquity!

The word "keseh" here in Hebrew means "appar. From 3680; prop. Fullness or the full moon," but the root 3680 is *kacah* and means "to plump, i.e. fill up hollows, by impl. To cover (for clothing or secrecy): – clad self, close, clothe, conceal, cover (self), hide, overwhelm." Its usage here is strange – very interesting. Since the verse is speaking of the NEW MOON, it follows that the new slender crescent of the moon is the beginning of the "plumping up" of the moon – its growing into fullness, becoming fully clad, covered, no longer 'concealed' or 'hidden' from view by the earth's shadow. It means, in my view, the "manifestation" of the new moon!

God's commandment then is that we blow the trumpet – announce the “new moon” – WHEN IT BECOMES VISIBLE – WHEN IT IS SIGHTED – and not to “proclaim” it until or unless we KNOW it is truly the ‘New Moon’!

In ancient times, Alfred Edersheim reports,

“THE DETERMINATION OF THE NEW MOON

“We have already shown of what importance the right determination of the new moon was in fixing the various festivals of the year, and with what care and anxiety its appearance was ascertained from witnesses who had actually seen it; also how the tidings were afterwards communicated to those at a distance. *For the new moon was reckoned by actual personal observation, not by astronomical calculation*, with which, however, as we know, many of the Rabbis must have been familiar, since we read of astronomical pictures, by which they were wont to test the veracity of witnesses. *So important was it deemed to have faithful witnesses, that they were even allowed, in order to reach Jerusalem in time, to travel on the Sabbath, and, if necessary, to make use of horse or mule (Mish. Rosh ha Sh. i. 9; iii. 2)*. While strict rules determined who were not to be admitted as witnesses (*Mish. Rosh ha Sh. i. 8*), every encouragement was given to trustworthy persons, and the Sanhedrin provided for them a banquet in a large building specially destined for that purpose, and known as the *Beth Yaazek (Mish. Rosh ha Sh. ii. 5)*.”

Today, unfortunately, the Jews place too much reliance upon rabbinical innovations and halakah and reject the Torah and its principles and precedents. They rely too much on TRADITIONS and ignore the plain Word of the living God!

No wonder Christ rebuked them, saying, “Why do you also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?” (Matt.15:3). He denounced them, saying, “*Thus you have made the commandments of God of no effect [null and void] by your tradition. Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in VAIN they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the COMMANDMENTS OF MEN’*” (Matt.15:6-9).

In the gospel of Mark, He declared to them, “For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition making the word of God of no effect [null and void] through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do” (Mark 7:8-13).

In ancient times, even on a Sabbath day, upon seeing the New Moon, Jews would saddle up a donkey or a horse and gallop for miles to report it to the Sanhedrin, it was deemed so important an event! But today, they will not even pick up a telephone and

phone in a new moon sighting on the weekly Sabbath – even on a month where a festival observance is at stake!

Truly Isaiah prophesied,

“Inasmuch as these people draw near to Me with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught *by the commandment of men*, therefore, behold, I will again do a marvelous work among this people, a marvelous work and a wonder; for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden” (Isaiah 29:13-14).

The times of this ignorance and foolishness God winked at. But as the apostle Paul says, “Truly these times of ignorance God overlooked, BUT NOW COMMANDS ALL MEN EVERYWHERE TO REPENT, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained” (Acts 17:30-31).

What about “Potential” Visibility?

But the question arises, what “new moon” should we use to begin the month? A question has arisen about the sighting and declaring of the New Moon if the skies are cloudy in Jerusalem and Israel, and the faint crescent is not seen – even when it has already been seen EAST of Jerusalem, as the earth turns upon its axis – in the Americas, Asia, and points east of Jerusalem.

In other words, today we have virtually instant communication, via telephone, telex, and the internet, so sightings of the New Moon can be verified at all points and communicated everywhere. So if we know the moon *should* be seen in Jerusalem because of its astronomical illumination, azimuth, and location in the sky, but only cloud cover or inclement weather prohibits the Jews from seeing it, then should a New Moon be declared anyway? Or should it be declared automatically the NEXT day?

For example, if we know on the 29th day of a month, that the New Moon SHOULD be easily visible the next day, weather permitting, but the weather intrudes, should we declare it based on “potential visibility” or should we wait till the next day?

The fact that the New Moon has already been seen EAST of Jerusalem should tell us that we should go ahead and declare it, even if it is obscured in Jerusalem or Israel. The earth is a very small planet today – due to rapid modern transportation and communication.

As Daniel foretold of the time of the end: “Many shall run to and fro, and *knowledge shall be increased*” (Dan.12:4). We live in a time of exponentially exploding knowledge! Therefore, unlike previous ages of mankind, today we can KNOW if the

Moon has been sighted EAST of Jerusalem, showing us the New Moon has begun, even before its crescent reaches the skies over Jerusalem. Should we just ignore this fact, and stubbornly insist that we delay the month a day, or should we not go by the SPIRIT of the law?

To ignore knowledge is the way of death. God says, “My people are DESTROYED FOR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the LAW of your God, I also will forget your children” (Hosea 4:6).

As Nick Wood of England pointed out in a message sent to me, “All the evidence we have from Scripture and ancient history shows that the original calendar had a 360 day year consisting of 12 x 30 day months. Although I have no concrete proof to offer, it would seem entirely biblical and logical to me, to believe that every month would begin with the first crescent new moon visible over what is now known as the Holy Land. There is no indication from either Scripture or ancient history, as far as I am aware, that these 30 day months varied in any way for whatever reason. If a cloud obscured the view of the first crescent moon, would there have been a postponement giving a 31 day month? Would the next month then have been a 29 day month? This original calendar is the one that Christ will restore after He returns to usher in the Kingdom of God. In a sense it would be a ‘fixed’ calendar.”

Nick goes on, “After major disturbances in the moon and earth’s orbit at the time of the Flood and Exodus, the moon no longer orbited the earth in exactly 30 days, nor was the year any longer exactly 360 days long. It now began to orbit the earth in approximately 29.5 days, so again it is entirely logical to me that the Jews would manage their calendar so that each month would have either 29 or 30 days. To neglect some form of management of the calendar would in my view, quickly lead to chaos and confusion.”

What about the issue of scientific advancement? Must we rule it out in determining the New Moon? Although using a telescope or binoculars would “cheat” in viewing the New Moon with the human eye, to determine its beginning or not, that does not mean we must rule out modern marvels of communication! If it has been seen by the naked eye east of Jerusalem, then obviously IT EXISTS, and it has BEGUN! If it has been seen clearly enough, and is not a “borderline” sighting, then it should be easily visible in Israel and it would be logical to declare it as seen based on “potentiality.” I see no problem with that.

Of course, in any “borderline” sighting situation, all bets are off, and we should go based on true objective sighting – and if it is not seen at the end of the 29th day, then we should declare the month a full month and declare the next day as the 30th day of the month, and the following day would be the New Moon!

Nick Wood asserts, “I don’t see any real consistency in saying that we shouldn’t use scientific knowledge when it comes to determining the visibility of the crescent new moon, but we are quite happy to use computers and emails to pick up the message that

the new moon has been seen and verified by at least two or three witnesses. The ancients were very clued up on astronomy and were very accurate in their predictions. After all Hillel II was able to mathematically calculate the fixed calendar, which is still accurate to within 2 days nearly 1,700 years later. No mean feat. Surely we should be using all our God given talents in the pursuit of true and right knowledge.”

Nick goes on: “When the potential visibility of the new moon over Israel is uncertain on the 29th day, and there is some cloud cover making visibility impossible, I have absolutely no problem in postponing the new moon one day in this situation, even on the 1st of Abib or Tishri. These cases are the only ones where it is truly justified in my view.”

In conclusion, he writes: “Where I do have reservations is when there is real potential visibility over Jerusalem on the 29th day and there is some cloud cover. The position on the earth of the first crescent new moon sighting, varies every month. Let us take the example of the first crescent sighting over say New York and the eastern seaboard of North America. As the earth turns, the crescent grows more visible each hour until it is much clearer over Japan. Then as the earth turns further and the crescent is physically over Jerusalem, some high, wispy cirrus cloud obscures the new moon till it goes below the horizon. I cannot see any logical justification in postponing for a day if the astronomical calculations show that the new moon will be easily visible over Jerusalem. If the crescent has already been seen with the naked eye hundreds and even thousands of miles to the east, then the crescent is physically there. No doubt about it.

“In the case above, if you were to postpone a day, and the new moon was still obscured on the 30th day, then would you continue to postpone until the moon was actually seen, maybe 2 or 3 nights later on the 32nd or 33rd day? This does not make any sense and the moon would be far from new by then. Or would you declare the new moon anyway on the 30th day? If so then you are in effect using the principle of potential visibility,” Nick concludes.

Living in the scientific age of vast knowledge and communication, we must not ignore the established knowledge that we possess when it comes to the New Moon sightings, lest we become like the Pharisees who sought to cross every “t” and dot every “i” as they interpreted the Law of God, adding their own pronouncements and rules when there was insufficient evidence in the Law itself!

A Little Common Sense

Interestingly, according to the Karaites, the Bible never explicitly states that we should determine the beginning of months based on the New Moon. This is because the Hebrew word “CHODESH” itself *implies* that the month begins with the crescent New Moon. Nor does the Bible say we MUST observe the crescent of the new moon in order to declare the month! It is silent on the subject. It simply states that the month equals or begins with the new moon. Obviously, in ancient times, human sighting was the only real way to observe the first faint crescent of the new moon.

However, the fact is that the ancient Hebrews knew the moon circles the earth every 29 ½ days – not 28 or 31. Therefore, a month would have to be either 29 or 30 days long – partial days don't count!

This suggests that we should never postpone beyond the 30th day, because after that the moon would be far from new. If there is bad weather for five days in a row, so the Moon cannot be seen in Israel for five days, must we 'postpone' the New Moon declaration UNTIL it is finally "sighted" by the human eye? By then it would almost be a quarter Moon!

That would be absurd!

On the other hand, if we literally went ONLY by lunar sightings of the crescent, that could lead to amazing calendar problems. For example, if there were cloud cover in Israel, when the new moon should appear, and the new moon date was therefore postponed till the 30th day, and that happened the next month as well, it also being declared a 30-day month, even though it normally would have been visible, then the next month the new moon might be seen by observers at the end of the 28th day – *making a 28-day month!*

This would be absurd as well, cutting the month short by a day!

What Would David REALLY Do?

Was David as ignorant about the movements of heavenly bodies as some seem to suppose?

In the Psalms we read, "*The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork*" (Psalm 19:1).

David also wrote, "*When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained*" (Psalm 8:3).

No doubt David spent a lot of time in the fields as a shepherd and spent a lot of his time praying and meditating on the glory of the night sky. He, along with the astronomers of the time, would surely have understood something as relatively simple as the fact that a lunar month always has 29 or 30 days.

The following information is from the Jewish website www.chabad.org. I have capitalized some areas to emphasize what I consider to be extremely important points.

The Jewish Month – The Sanhedrin Sanctification

The following is a brief description of the procedure the Sanhedrin followed in days of yore to determine the date of the onset of a new month.

On the 30th day of every month, (see footnote *A*) the Sanhedrin would “open for business” in a large courtyard in Jerusalem called Beit Ya’azek. Witnesses who claimed to have seen the new moon on the previous night would come to give their testimony and be cross-examined.

The members of the Sanhedrin were WELL SCHOOLED IN ASTRONOMY. They knew EXACTLY WHEN THE NEW MOON WOULD HAVE APPEARED, and where it would have been visible. Nevertheless, the sanctification of the moon depends on the crescent new moon actually being seen by two witnesses.

The rabbis of the Sanhedrin would question the witnesses in the order of their arrival. They knew what the proper responses to their questions ought to be, and were thus quickly able to identify fraudulent claims. Starting with the elder of each pair, they would ask: “Tell us how you saw the moon:

- In which direction was it in relation to the sun?
- Was it to the north or south?
- How high in the sky did the moon appear to be?
- In which direction were the crescent’s tips facing?
- How wide was it?”

After they had finished questioning the first witness, they would bring in his partner and question him in similar fashion. If the two accounts corroborated, the evidence was accepted.

That day, the thirtieth day, was now declared Rosh Chodesh of the new month. The head of the Sanhedrin would proclaim: “*Mekudash!*” (“Sanctified!”) and everyone would respond, “*Mekudash! Mekudash!*” The previous month was now retroactively determined to have had only twenty-nine days.

The 30-Day Month

If no witnesses came on the thirtieth day—either because the moon had not been “reborn” yet, or because it was not visible—then the next day, the thirty-first day, was automatically declared Rosh Chodesh, retroactively rendering the previous month a *malei* month.(see footnote *B*)

Members of the Sanhedrin would go to a highly visible location, where they would partake in a celebratory meal to signify the new month. No fires were lit that night. The new month is ALWAYS EITHER ON THE 30th OR 31st DAY; if they hadn’t lit fires the night before, it was understood that the new month started on the 31st day.

Footnote (*A*) – If their ASTRONOMICAL CALCULATIONS indicated that the new moon could not possibly have been seen on the previous night, the Sanhedrin would not convene on the thirtieth day.

Footnote (*B*) – *On certain occasions, IF THE ASTRONOMICAL DATA REQUIRED SO, the Sanhedrin would establish Rosh Chodesh on the 30th day even in the absence of witnesses who saw the new moon.* For example, suppose that the land of Israel was COVERED WITH CLOUDS on the 30th night for several consecutive months. If the Sanhedrin would allow all these months to be *malei*, then several months down the line the new moon could appear on the 25th day of the month! *The Sanhedrin always ensured that the new moon should never possibly appear on any night other than the 30th or 31st.*

As the above documentation from CHABAD shows, we can clearly see from the above extract from the CHABAD website, the Sanhedrin were very much aware of whether a new moon was “potentially visible”. And, “on certain occasions [when necessary due to astronomical data] . . . even in the absence of WITNESSES WHO SAW THE NEW MOON” they would do so! In other words, the crescent did not actually have to be seen by witnesses, if astronomical evidence showed the new moon should be seen clearly if it were not for cloud cover or bad weather or other extenuating factors!

Also, we find on www.emishnah.com the following quotation:

Rosh Hashanah:2:8.

On another occasion two witnesses came and testified: We saw it in its expected time [on the night preceding the thirtieth] but on the night of its intercalation [the thirty-first] it was not seen, and Rabban Gamliel accepted their testimony. Said Rabbi Dosa ben Harkinas: They are false witnesses. How can they testify that a woman has given birth when on the next day her belly is still [swollen appearing to be] between her teeth? Rabbi Yehoshua said to him: I approve of your words [and Rosh Hodesh should be on the thirty-first. However, Rabban Gamliel KNEW THROUGH ASTRONOMICAL CALCULATIONS that the new moon should have been visible on the evening of the thirtieth and explained the discrepancy to cloud cover or similar reasons].

Our Interconnected World

Here from the Mishnah itself is clear proof that those observing the new moon in Temple times were able to CALCULATE which night the new moon would be visible. Those of us who use the “observed” new moon calendar must admit that the calculated, mathematical calendar is indeed still accurate to within one or two days, even after nearly 1,700 years.

We read in the books of Kings and Chronicles of the ships of Solomon sailing to distant parts of the world. Sometimes the voyages lasted THREE YEARS.

“For the king had merchant ships at sea with the fleet of Hiram. Once every THREE YEARS the merchant ships came bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and monkeys” (I Kings 10:22).

These sailors had to be able to NAVIGATE around the world and to do that they would undoubtedly have had a good knowledge of the heavens and the movements of the sun, moon and planets.

Surely we must think very carefully about arbitrarily postponing a new moon day because of cloud cover in Israel, even though the new moon is visible in countries hundreds of miles to the EAST of Israel. To have even the possibility of ending up with a month of 28 DAYS OR LESS should tell us that this is most definitely the wrong path to go down.

“It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings” (Proverbs 25:2).

Our Creator has given us wonderful minds to search and discover knowledge and truth. If we can be scientifically certain of a new moon (i.e. potential visibility) then surely it should be acknowledged regardless of cloud cover or hazy conditions. We have astronomical observatories today and even space telescopes, which can track the movements of the moon and planets down to the microsecond. I am simply unable to conceive in any way that our Heavenly Father would want us to just IGNORE this knowledge that, when put simply, is based on scientific fact. Surely we want to base our New Moons on TRUTH as opposed to ERROR.

There are times however, when God does indeed “conceal” from us when a new moon will be. When we have a genuine borderline case, or when there is not absolute certainty of a crescent sighting according to all the astronomical data, then we must wait until its visual sighting is verified from the land of Israel. If it is not seen after 29 days then of course it would be correct to have a full month of 30 days and declare the new moon the following evening.

On the other hand, today we do not live in isolated communities anymore. We live in one big world of 24,000 miles in circumference, with seven billion people. We have finger-tip communication through radio, TV, computer, fiber optics, phones, cameras, satellites, and we have incredible astronomical, mathematical knowledge and telescopes that have “shrunk” the world down to one big community. Modern science provides immediate worldwide communication no matter where you live, around the world.

We know what percentage of the moon is visible and that its cycle is definitely 29 ½ days. It is now a science. Now that our knowledge is increased and communication is instant, should everybody still act as if they live in the “dark ages” or “horse and buggy” period? Should everybody have their own local calendar, depending on THEIR own sighting of the new moon? Does this make sense? Should we ignore new moon sightings around the world just because there is haze over Jerusalem and Israel and the new moon is not seen there?

History of the Jewish Calendar

Arthur Spier, in his book *The Comprehensive Jewish Calendar*, points out that the Jewish people have sanctified the new moons throughout the ages. In the early times, the beginnings of the months was determined by observation of the new moon. New moons were sanctified “after witnesses had testified that they had seen the new crescent and after their testimony had been thoroughly examined, confirmed by calculation and duly accepted” (p.1).

In the fourth century, however, when oppression and persecution threatened the continued existence of the Sanhedrin, Rabbi Hillel II took drastic measures to preserve the unity of Israel. Spier notes, “In order to prevent the Jews scattered all over the surface of the earth from celebrating their New Moons, festivals and holidays AT DIFFERENT TIMES, he made public the system of calendar calculation which up to then had been a closely guarded secret. It had been used in the past only to check the observations and testimonies of witnesses, and to determine the beginnings of the spring season” (Spier, p.2). The Jews understood how important UNITY is to a people!

Does it not seem obvious, therefore, that today we should all have ONE calendar, and it should be valid anywhere on earth? And to accomplish this, new moon observation should be made at the place where God put His name – Jerusalem, Israel!

What the Scriptures Reveal

We read that when the Messiah returns, “He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest, and the Lord God will give Him the *throne of His father David*” (Luke 1:32). The throne of David was in Jerusalem! In fact, the Messiah will rule over ALL the nations FROM His royal city of JERUSALEM!

Jeremiah declares, “At that time *Jerusalem* shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow the dictates of their evil hearts” (Jeremiah 3:17).

Isaiah the prophet tells us:

“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we will walk in His paths.' For *out of ZION shall go forth the LAW, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem*” (Isaiah 2:2-3).

Micah the prophet also records a very similar prophecy:

“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it. Many nations shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem” (Micah 4:1-2).

Judging by this Biblical criteria, then, it would certainly appear that in God's great Plan everything should begin with His people Israel – Mount Zion – and His headquarters city, JERUSALEM! – and it WILL, in the Kingdom of God!

God's system of day and time keeping would cause the new day, weekly Sabbath, and Holy Days to arrive FIRST AT JERUSALEM, and then be proclaimed there, and

THEN follow the sun and moon around the globe of the earth, westward, until all the earth then observes that very same day, *as it arrives at their location.*

Beware of Doctrinal Confusion

There are many ways people can go astray, but for the unity for God's people, we all need to be on the same page and not everyone doing what is right in their own eyes. As Solomon wrote, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Proverbs 14:12; Proverbs 16:25).

In Ephesians 4:1-6, the apostle Paul says, "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; *one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God* and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

"One faith" means one body of beliefs and practices – not a hodge podge of different beliefs and practices, or a smorgasbord of local new moon calendars all over the earth!

God's Kingdom is UNITED – it is ONE KINGDOM!

The apostle Paul made this clear. He declared, "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all *speak the same thing*, and that there be *no divisions among you*, but that you be *perfectly joined together in the same mind* and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, 'I am of Paul,' or 'I am of Apollos,' or 'I am of Cephas,' or 'I am of Christ.' *Is Christ divided?* Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect" (I Corinthians 1:10-17).

We live in a one world generation today. Therefore, there is no excuse today not to have unity and one calendar. God is not divided against himself.

God's calendar should be ONE calendar and his people everywhere should keep the same appointed times *together, unified as one in body and spirit!*

I Corinthians 14:33—"God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints."

God is the author of unity and peace—agreement; not confusion and disorder where everybody has their own local calendar.

Satan the devil is always set to ambush God's people. This current division over the month and new moon is an example of Satan's devious work. He is always plotting to lead God's people astray, to subvert their cause, to lead them blindly into error.

The moon's orbit does not change. Every 29 ½ days the moon completes its orbit going from crescent to crescent so it will be seen every 29 or 30 days. Therefore a true month cannot have 28 days, or 31 days, unless God performs a stupendous miracle, and changes the moon's orbit!

Nowhere in the Bible does it say we have to literally observe the new moon crescent, in every case, in order to declare a "new moon." What it does say in Exodus 12:2 is simply — "This month (*chodesh*) shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you."

Notice also Isaiah 66:23—"And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, All flesh shall come to worship before me, says the LORD."

The month begins with the new moon, but Scripture does not say that you have to *see* it visually for the month to begin. Otherwise, if cloud cover concealed the new moon for several months, and you kept "postponing" it until you SAW one, you could arguably end up with a very long month, until you saw the crescent, or a very short month eventually, as you were eventually forced to acknowledge the visible crescent!

If you can calculate it and know because of science and celestial mathematics the new moon should be easily seen if there were no clouds, then the new moon day can be declared.

In other words, the Scriptures do not say exactly how we determine the new moon. The principles are clear. We are to "observe" it. That can mean visibly or intellectually. How we determine it we understand by the precedent of the ancients and by common sense. Now we have science and technology in a worldwide environment where we can get reports from Israel, within hours of the new moon. We know the exact orbits of the sun and the moon and the earth, so we can calculate the new moon in a very finely tuned manner which enables the people of God to be unified in this matter today.

The new moon can be observed in Jerusalem and reported around the world with today's technology with lighting speed. Therefore when necessary we can utilize "potential visibility" to declare the new moon. This is the logical, common sense thing to do to preserve the unity of the faith.

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These articles are sent FREE of charge, as Almighty God provides.

Take note: We can only send 7-10 articles or booklets at a single time. Do not request more than this amount.

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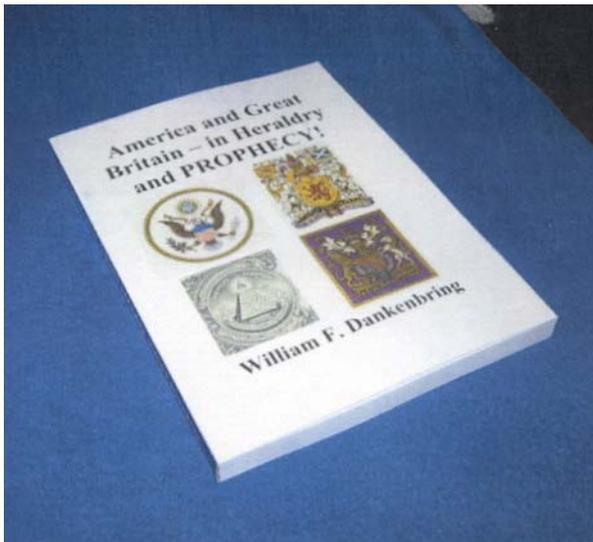
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- __ Should a Christian Vote?
- __ Is the Law of God Still in Force Today?
- __ Barack Obama’s Faustian Bargain with the Devil
- __ Cry for America, the Beloved Country!
- __ Daniel’s Image, the Four Beasts and the “King of Assyria”
- __ The Power of Living Faith
- __ Ancient Chronology and End-Time Prophecy
- __ A Voice in the Wilderness
- __ If John the Baptist Were Here Today
- __ “Elijah Shall Come and Restore All Things”
- __ The Astonishing Life of David
- __ Repentance and the Thirteen Attributes of God
- __ Signs of the Antichrist!
- __ God’s Holy Days or Pagan Holidays – Which?
- __ Mystery of the Shemitah and God’s Judgment on America in Heraldry and Prophecy
- __ The Muslim Invasion and the Growing Darkness
- __ Obama’s American Subversion – How Much Time Is Left?

Where Are America and Great Britain in *END-TIME Prophecy*?

Are the United States and Great Britain mentioned in the Bible? If so, under what names? What is the real evidence of our national heraldic emblems and symbols? Where do we *really* come from? Could we be totally ignored?

Millions have been mystified, and perplexed about our ancient pedigree. Who are we descended from? Believe it or not, the ancestors of the English speaking peoples of the world *are found throughout* the pages of Scripture. But our true IDENTITY has been SEALED – hidden from view until *NOW!* Who are we – really? How has this knowledge been lost through the centuries?

The United States and Britain are *often* mentioned in END-TIME Bible prophecies! But most people don't understand WHO IS WHO! The world has been in TOTAL ignorance of the amazing prophecies in the Bible about EPHRAIM! The whole book of Hosea the prophet seems to FOCUS on this people! But WHO ARE THEY? Ephraim now stands IDENTIFIED in the world today AS AMERICA! Great Britain stand identified as the people of "Manasseh"! Here is the astounding Biblical PROOF!



Yes, by all means, send me your new book at \$20 per copy, and \$5 for postage. Please send _____ copies. Enclosed is _____.

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The Mystery of God's True Calendar *Revealed at Last!*

Did God give His people a calendar, to keep track of time?

How important is TIME? In the Scriptures, God commands His people to observe certain days as holy festivals. How can we do that if we can't keep track of when they occur? Hence, God gives us His Calendar in His Word. It is the basis of worshipping Him in "spirit and in truth."

Does it really matter when we observe God's annual Holy Days? Does it matter if we are just a few days off? There is an old saying, "Close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades." But does it really matter if we get God's days right?

The Word of God does tell we should observe His annual Feast Days as "holy days to the Lord" (see Leviticus 23). The Biblical holy days are obviously based on the Biblical calendar – the original calendar God gave to Moses and Israel.

God set aside certain days as HOLY, and He meets with us on THOSE days. If we are not present, then TOO BAD – *for us!* It is serious business to keep an appointment with a BOSS or human employer or a KING "on time," and to be punctual. *HOW MUCH MORE IS IT IMPORTANT TO KEEP GOD'S APPOINTMENTS ON TIME?*

Is it all right to tell God, "Well, I only sinned a little bit!"? God's Word says, plainly, "The wages of sin is DEATH" (Rom.6:23). God says, "The soul that sins, it shall DIE" (Ezek18:4, 20). So which is going to be? Are we going to obey GOD? Or go the route that "seems right" to a man, but ends in DEATH (Prov.14:12, 16:25)?

Keeping God's appointments is a vital thing to do to receive His divine blessings, protection, and spiritual benefits in our lives, and the gift of eternal life in His coming Kingdom!

Isn't it about time we learn all we can about His wonderful, divine Calendar?

Yes, please send me your book on *The Mystery of God's Calendar*. I want to know the Real, genuine, honest TRUTH. I want to "prove all things" (I Thess.5:21). Enclosed is \$15.00 plus \$5.00 for postage. Please send it as soon as possible!

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Letters from Our Readers

“I have received the latest P.F. magazine and can only Praise the Lord (Yahovah), for His protecting hand over your family and property. Thank you for keeping in contact with me. I do appreciate your concern. I am at 76 years in life and am grateful to God for sparing me thus far. Moreover, to have contact with you and *Triumph* magazine which is an inspiration, teaching and informative about world happenings. Not just for myself only, but for all those who are on your mailing list.

“The reality of God’s prophetic words is before our very own eyes – a blind man can actually feel it literally. For the sake of the Good News of the kingdom soon coming, it behooves me to pull myself together for what lies ahead and be prepared. Few people accept truth. Some do see it and only say, “Ah, this does not make sense, then search or study no further to prove and obey it. I want to “obey” what God teaches us from Genesis to Revelation. Please remember me and the many others on this side of the oceans when you pray and do thank you. Will you please be so kind as to send me the 2016 calendar for observing God’s holy days. I find it a bit difficult to pinpoint these holy days on my own and do not want to follow after a “fixed” Holy Days program. Please also send: Is God a Trinity, Israel in the Last Days, The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse Ride Forth, 70 Years, Jubilee Cycles, Daniel’s 2300 Days and Seven Times Prophecy, and Signs of the Antichrist. Thank You! I am keeping in the prayer-line for you ALL at Omak.”

– South Africa

“Dear Friends in Christ, thank you for continuing to send me *Prophecy Flash*. Please continue to send me the magazine in the upcoming year. I also want to thank you for sending me a copy of the book, *Mystery of the Holy Days*. I spent two months reading and studying the book. All twenty-eight chapters were a blessing to me. Each chapter was easy to read and understand. You explained everything so clearly using scripture to interpret scripture. The plan of salvation and how it applies in my life made the book all that much more personal to me. I will no longer look at Christmas and Easter as holy days again. Please send me a copy of the Holy

days as they fall on our English calendar, or print them in an upcoming issue of *Prophecy Flash*.

I keep your ministry in my prayers. I am also glad to have read that you all were spared from the wildfires that occurred this past year in September. It reminded me of how God spared the Israelites and the land of Goshen during the plagues that fell upon Egypt in Exodus 8:22.”

– North Carolina

“Greetings to everyone in Omak, Washington, of the body of Messiah. I was recently browsing through my NIV Bible and noted how the NIV translators chose to use the word “twilight” instead of “between the two evenings” to describe the proper timing of not just Passover, but also the incense offering and the lamb offering. Within the New Testament, I found explicit proof for how the Jews understood “between the two evenings” in those days.

“**Acts 3:1** — ‘Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.’ The hour of prayer was also the time for incense to be offered.

“**Luke 1:9-10** — ‘According to the custom of the priest’s office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of YHVH. And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.’

“**Acts 10:2-3** — ‘A devout man, and one that feared Elohim with all his house, which gave much alms to the people and prayed to Elohim always. He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day, an angel of Elohim coming into him and saying to him . . .’ (Cornelius). This explains that he (Cornelius) was praying at that time.

“**Exodus 29:38-39** – the two lamb offerings per day. **Exodus 30:7-8** – the two incense times per day. **Exodus 12:6** – time to kill the Passover lamb. These verses in Exodus point out that the second lamb and second incense burning as well as the Passover lamb are to be *offered between the two evenings* (NIV claims ‘twilight’). The New Testament verses point out that this second time of incense/prayer is the ninth hour (3 p.m.) – hardly twilight, right? Yeshuah

our Messiah was offered up as our Passover lamb at the third hour of the day (9 a.m.). **Mark 15:25** – morning prayer/incense/lamb) and died at the ninth hour (3 p.m.). **Mark 15:34-37** (afternoon: prayer/incense/lamb...at this time He prayed aloud, ‘My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?’ It’s all there in plain English (Hebrew and Greek!), so why do so many Bible translations and dictionaries (Vines) persist in using *twilight*? It’s like a Satanic conspiracy, right?

“Thank you for all your Biblical insights! You actually **do** back up your teaching with scriptures and historical documentation.”

– North Carolina

“The way things are going, I don’t want to be in Donald Trump’s shoes. I do not see the system allowing Trump becoming president. I still think Trump is a final warning from God that we need to repent and turn back to God but I do not see it happening.

“I do not support the Ohio governor because Bayner the ex-speaker of the House supports him and anybody Bayner supports gets a thumbs down from me.

“With all of the severe weather that is affecting this country makes me wonder if it is weather warfare or the wrath of God. Maybe it is some of both.

“It looks like everything is being set up like a lot of dominoes and when the first one is knocked down, the rest fall in sequence. It seems like the masses are totally in the dark and are only interested in their little or fake gods.

“To sum it up we have turned our backs on God and now we are just waiting for the hammer to fall.

“Keep up the good work of putting out God’s warning and may you and Cappy and His Church be blessed in every way He wills.”

-- Charles Rearick, Ohio

“I have never written to you before but have read your magazine for years. I also received your cassettes years ago and have passed them on to others. I depend on your insight and knowledge to keep me educated.

“You are one of the most informed teachers (rabbi, if I may) that I have ever known. I have been blessed

since finding your ministry and most importantly I trust you and study nothing else.

Cappy is a wonderful source of strength and support and a great example for women. Please continue to bless each other and thank you. When I was without a source of income you were kind enough to send me literature.

“I love the new CD’s and I will be sending some donations periodically. Being on a fixed income at 66 it may vary but postage, mailing, packages all cost.

“I do have one observation that bothers me. Knowing HWA’s shortcomings and the ‘breakoffs’ from it, **must people keep bringing him up constantly?** These teaching and errors are reiterated time and time again. This uses up valuable magazine space which can be used for more valuable items. These people really need to move on, grow up, and put the errors that were taught behind.

“I am 66. My family background was catholic. I went to a Messianic Judaism and later converted to Judaism. I am now back to Messianic Judaism and I have seen how important Jeshua is.”

-- E-mail

“You have blessed me with your bi-monthly news *Prophecy Flash* for two years now, and I read them in one sitting. You would think that being in prison would leave me with nothing but time. However, it’s quite the opposite and it never seems that there are enough hours in the day. I reread your articles and share them with anyone willing to receive them and have even had a few taken hostage.

“Mr. Dankenbring has an astounding ability to paint a vibrant picture with scriptural truths as a backbone. In a sense, I am in Egypt under Pharaoh’s rule at this time and I have many restrictions placed upon me. Triumph has given me straw to make bricks. An audible voice came to me during a Catholic mass several years ago just after I realized that the congregation was worshipping and idolizing the Eucharist. I was startled from my reverie by hearing the words loudly spoken, ‘WHY ARE YOU HURTING ME?’ I looked all around, but there was no one close enough un my vicinity to have to have boomed out those words. I high-tailed it out of there, never to return. That night I prayed to Abba, YAH, with life threatened fervor; and said you obviously don’t want me where you found me. I need you to

show me, in no uncertain terms exactly what You want me to do and how to do it. I said a lot more than just that, plus an apology and a plea for forgiveness.

“The very next day, a Jewish brother with whom I was barely acquainted, handed me the book, *Fossilized Customs* by Leon White. Everything I learned in that book was profound and startling. I wanted more? I tried to get that book as well as Alexander Hislop’s, *The Two Babylons*. I joined the Jewish community and began sorting through truth and tradition – WHEW! I was blown away by all the lies that I was raised to believe in. I could go on outlining the following year, but I will jump to another prisoner who introduced me to you. I met another prisoner who introduced me to you. The truth started opening up to me again, and I felt a much greater purpose calling me again. Eventually, my fire dwindled within a year and I spent another year standing still in my studies.

“My fire is burning again, since YAH fanned the flame and I sense a great urgency to pursue YAH’s will for my life. I’ve been clearing out my schedule to make more room for prayer and study these past few weeks and I’m working toward a fuller obedience. Every rabbi, chaplain, and reverend that I approach with my questions shies away, lashes out, or spins me with tradition or oral law. There are times when I find myself in discussions of YAH’s law when I try to spell things out for people in black and white truths and the people just shut down — refusing everything I have to say—and this angers me greatly.

“I am humbly open to any guidance you might be willing to offer. I understand you are most likely swamped with correspondence. But I pray that you may find time to offer me some direction. I don’t want to be a watchman who is guilty of sounding the shofar. I am nearing my release this year and I am open and willing to be a servant. I just don’t know where to go or what, or how to do it. At the very least, please pray that the *Ruach ha Qodesh* supply me with spiritual discernment. I would like to ask you, if you would please send to me a copy of “Revealing the Secrets and Unlocking the Hidden Codes of the Annual Holy Days and Festivals of God.” I am looking forward to being released this summer and returning to work, so I can make a contribution to your ministry”.

– Pennsylvania

“Long time no write, so here is an update communication from us [David and Sharon Lacey and friends – TTSAOY] here in Arizona.

The Omak fire

“I read your article on the Omak fire... it struck me as almost funny when I viewed the pics you took of your property and to see how your property was so well protected. YHWH does indeed protect His chosen! ... and even the chickens, heh-heh! I'm so glad your property, library, studio, etc were protected. You have been, and are expected to continue to be for some time, a great contribution among the sabbath community. Thank you very much for that from Sharon, I, and others.

Abib confusion

“This sacred year's hot topic seems to have been on the abib search. Indeed, it caused a schism in our area as well as across the USA and further among many sabbath keepers. Sadly, Brian Convery's report, with the help of Brian H. Hoeck, posited an early abib blitz on social media which put the abib in doubt when there was none before. I liken this to authoring confusion. In your article titled *The Amazing Mystery of God's True Calendar*, you wrote the phrase, ‘CHANGE THE DATE ON YOUR OWN CREDENCE’. This too seems to fit those for this year's debacle.

“There's a thing I learned when acquiring my psychology degree called in-group narrative within many cultures. Myself, for example, am a Briar among native Appalachians'; but is generally received as an insult when an outsider calls me one. Regarding the month of the abib, their proselytizing approach is not something that should have been done outside their own small circle of followers. By doing so, in my opinion, they have created division as a result. As you suggest, the power of the seed of doubt is a powerful thing. It grieves the spirit to say, even the long-time observer Norm Willis was deceived and observed an early Passover this year. Oye!

But all's well

“However., I was encouraged to see your annual calendar for 2016, which is the same as ours and most of those who understand the luni-solar calendar. After reading your letter I must agree with your excitement – this year our calendars align with Yahudah's perfectly! How often does that happen?

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I've never witnessed a full year in agreement in over 15 years of observations.

"I am equally encouraged to suggest that the calendar may play a role in the matter of re-uniting the two tribes, a prelude at least to the uniting upon the Messiah's return. But, let all things happen in their due time, eh?"

-- Arizona

"When potential visibility of the new moon is ignored, then this is the total mess and confusion that is the result. I pointed this out to Nehemia Gordon myself about 18 months ago, about the problem of possible 28 day months, but he didn't appear to think it all that important.

"Personally I quite like Nehemia and have had various friendly correspondence with him in the past few years. I believe him to be very sincere in his search for truth, but on this issue of potential new moons Nehemia is sincerely wrong.

"Last Friday evening's new moon crescent has been verified as seen in Darwin, Australia and also Colombo, Sri Lanka, both well to the East of Israel. It seems totally illogical to me that although the crescent is visible thousands of miles to the East of Israel, just because of cloud or haze obscuring the crescent in Israel then the new moon day is postponed. All the visibility charts I have checked show the crescent to have been clearly visible over Israel and even Nehemia has acknowledged this. The only justification for postponing a day, it seems to me, is when crescent visibility over Israel is genuinely a borderline case."

-- Nick Wood, England

"Greetings once again: You have made the right and correct decision to observe PASSOVER on the evening of Friday, April 22,2016 at sun set.

It was true that it was very cloudy all over Israel on the evening of the NEW MOON, on April 8, 2016.

When I had observed the so-called new moon on Saturday evening, April 9,2016, I could tell that the MOON was now into it's second day. I have gain experience reading the light of the moons from day

one until the seventh day and then after the seventh day the light of the moon becomes a bit fuzzy for me to read. Nehemia Gordon has been looking at moons longer than I have, he should have known better to double check his moon reading skills.

"I am sorry for the delay of sending out this email sooner."

-- William Norman, Israel

"I have never written to you before but have read your magazine for years. I also received your cassettes years ago and have passed them on to others. I depend on your insight and knowledge to keep me educated.

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"I am 66. My family background was Catholic. I went to a Messianic Judaism and later converted to Judaism. I am now back to Messianic Judaism and I have seen how important Yeshua is." -- Email

COMMENT: Many people are still hypnotized by the Armstrong charisma and sunk into his errors – it is so sad. It is time for all men to repent and to come to the knowledge of the truth.