

The Twelve Signs of the End Times

Are We really living in the prophesied “end times” – the “last days” of this world system? How much longer do we have? Here is startling new information which indicates that the “end” of this world and civilization are fast approaching and there is only a few years left until the “end of all things” as we have known them and the coming of the Messiah to rescue His people and the inhabitants of the earth from oblivion!

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We read in I Chronicles 12:32 of the “sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do.” How many people have understanding of the times, today?

Yeshua the Messiah said to the Jews, “When it is evening you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is read’; and in the morning, ‘It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times” (Matt.16:2-3).

What are the real “signs” of the times in which we live, today? What does Bible prophecy reveal concerning the signs that we are approaching the “end of the world,” as we know it? What does the evidence show?

What are the real identifying “signs” of the times?

Sign #1 -- Israel

One of the premier signs that we are living in the END of this age is the nation of Israel. In Scripture, Israel is compared to the fig tree. Yeshua said to His disciples, “Now learn this parable from the fig tree. When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!” (Matt.24:32-33).

God compares His people Israel to a fig tree. He says, in Jeremiah, “Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel: Like these good figs, so I will acknowledge them that are carried away captive of Judah . . . For I will set Mine eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land and I will build them and not pull them down; and I will plant them, and not pluck them up” (Jer.24:5-7).

Israel is a type of the fig tree and has been putting out fruit ever since it was established in 1948. Christ went on to say, “Assuredly I say to you, THIS GENERATION [THE GENERATION OF THE FIG TREE] will by no means pass away TILL all these things take place” (Matt.24:34).

How long is a Biblical “generation”? Psalm 90 tells us, “The days of our lives are seventy years” (verse 10). Thus a human generation would be 70 years. If we count 70 years from the founding of the state of Israel, in May 14, 1948, we come to the year 2018!

Sign #2 – 2300 Days

It is commonly understood that there is a “day for a year” principle in understanding Biblical prophecy. That is, often when the Bible says a “day,” the interpretation of prophetic fulfillment is a “year,” or a “prophetic year” of 360 days.

When the Israeli spies searched out the land of Canaan for forty days, and then returned to Moses with a negative report, saying the children of Israel were not strong enough to overcome the inhabitants of the land, God was furious with their lack of faith. So He said to them, “For FORTY YEARS -- one year for each of the forty days you explored the land -- you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have me against you” (Num.14:34).

This same principle of a day for a year is illustrated by Ezekiel the prophet. God told the prophet, “Then lie on your left side and put the sin of the house of Israel upon yourself. You are to bear their sin for the number of days you lie on your side. I have ASSIGNED you the SAME NUMBER OF DAYS AS THE YEARS of their sin. So for 390 days you will bear the sin of the house of Israel. After you have finished this, lie down again, this time on your right side, and bear the sin of the house of Judah. I have assigned you forty days, A DAY FOR EACH YEAR” (Ezek.4:1-6).

Taking this principle, then, Daniel heard the question of HOW LONG would it take for the VISION he saw in Daniel 8 to be fulfilled, or accomplished -- from beginning to end. That is, from the beginning moment when the Grecian “goat” attacked and pulverized the two-horned Persian “ram” -- till the END of the vision, when the “sanctuary” would be cleansed or restored, during the “TIME OF THE END” (Dan.8:17; also 8:13, and 5-7).

The prophesied length or duration of this vision was to be 2300 “days” (v.13). Using the “day for a year” principle, we have therefore 2300 YEARS of fulfillment.

Alexander the Great attacked and conquered the assembled Persian army at the river Granicus in 334 B.C., storming across the river with fury, with only 30,000 troops. In so doing, he changed the course of the history of the world from that moment, with one world empire falling, and another rising. Since the prophecy begins with this event, we must count the 2300 years from that very date. Beginning in 334

B.C., counting 2300 years, we come to the year of 1967 A.D.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 2300 \text{ days} = \text{years} \\
 \underline{-334 \text{ B.C.}} \\
 1966 \text{ A.D.} \\
 \underline{+1} \quad (\text{no year zero}) \\
 1967 \text{ A.D.} = \text{year of "Six Day War"}
 \end{array}$$

The Six Day War was 46 years ago. Obviously, it occurred during the “final generation” which began in 1948, determined by the “fig tree” of Israel’s rebirth. It occurred 19 years after the establishment of the state of Israel – one complete 19-year “time cycle,” a key computation of signs of the heavens, which return to their point of origin every 19 years (the intersection of the orbits of the earth, sun, and moon relative to each other). This leads us to the NEXT “sign.”

Sign #3 – the Jubilee Years

The apostle Peter declared, to the assembled Jews of his day, “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that *times of refreshing* may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you -- even Jesus. He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to RESTORE EVERYTHING, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets” (Acts 3:19-21).

The “times of refreshing,” and time of “restoring everything,” would logically occur on a Jubilee year -- the designated year of liberty, freedom, forgiveness of all debts, and restitution of all lands and properties and inheritances (Lev.25).

Jesus Himself, when He began His ministry, said, “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim FREEDOM for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to RELEASE the oppressed, to proclaim the YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR” (Luke 4:18-19, NIV).

Although this Scripture was fulfilled in *type* at Yeshua’s first coming, it will be fully fulfilled in its TOTALITY at His Second Coming! This Scripture also describes the “Jubilee year” -- the “year of the Lord’s favor,” the year of freedom and “release.” At the Second Coming of Christ, the Israelite prisoners in foreign lands around the world will be given their FREEDOM, and the oppressed everywhere will be RELEASED!

The year of “release” and “Liberty” in ancient Israel occurred every fifty years and was known as the “Jubilee year” (Leviticus 25). It symbolized the year of the return of Christ. He will return on a “Jubilee year”!

When is the next “Jubilee year”?

Times of Israel’s Punishment

Almighty God declared to ancient Israel, if they forsook Him and disobeyed His covenant with them, He would punish them as a nation “seven times” (Leviticus 26:14,18, 21, 24,28). What is this “seven times”?

According to Scripture, a “time” is a year in being fulfilled. Daniel speaks of a “little horn” rising up in the last days and ruling for “a time, times, and half a time” – 3 ½ years (Dan.7:25). John in the book of Revelation interprets this to be equivalent to 42 months, or 1260 days – 3 ½ years (Rev.13:5; 12:6, 14).

How long then is “seven times”? A biblical prophetic year, based on the original year, was 360 days long. Each day stands for a year in fulfillment. Therefore, 7 years of 360 days each comes out to 2,520 years that Israel would be punished!

Ancient Judah went into captivity as punishment for her sins in 604 B.C., taken captive by king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

Notice how it all works out. Let’s apply this principle to the “seven times” punishment God said He would pour out on his people if they broke His covenant (Lev.26).

If we count 2520 years from 604 B.C., we come to 1917 A.D.!

$$\begin{array}{r}
 2520 \text{ years} \\
 \underline{-604 \text{ B.C.}} \\
 1916 \\
 \underline{+1 \text{ (no year zero)}} \\
 1917 \text{ A.D.}
 \end{array}$$

What happened in 1917 A.D. that relates to the kingdom of Judah?

Counting from 604 B.C., 2,520 years brings us to 1917 A.D. – the very year General Allenby conquered Jerusalem and wrested control of Palestine from the Turkish

Empire during World War I! *In that very same year, the Balfour Declaration in Great Britain paved the way for the return of the Jewish people to their homeland in the Middle East.*

Arthur James Balfour (1848-1930) served as the Prime Minister of Great Britain from 1902 to 1905 and was a leader of the Conservative Party for over 20 years. The Balfour Declaration issued in 1917 bore his name. He served as Foreign Secretary in the coalition war cabinet of David Lloyd George from 1916 to 1919.

The Balfour Declaration dealt with the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. In 1922 the League of Nations endorsed the declaration and gave Great Britain a mandate to rule over Palestine. The British mandate ended in 1947. In 1948, the Jews in the territory mandated to Britain established the independent state of Israel.

1917 was the pivotal year. Notice! Once again, a very significant fulfillment of prophecy occurred, 2,520 years after the original nation of Judah was taken into captivity by Babylon in 604 B.C. This amazing prophetic fulfillment, like that for the kingdom of Israel, clearly validates the prophetic principle of 2,520 years of punishment on God's people for disobedience – for both Israelites and Jews.

The Jubilee Cycles

Since the “Jubilee cycle” is a yearly cycle of 50 years, the 50th year being the “Jubilee” year, or year of release, liberty, and freedom – the great year of “blessing” (see Leviticus 25:8-15). Since the punishment on Judah was completed in 1917, it makes sense that we should begin once again counting “Jubilee cycles” from that date. If we do so, several interesting things develop. Notice!

$$\begin{array}{r} 1917 \\ +50 \\ \hline 1967 \end{array}$$

Counting from 1917, then, the next “Jubilee year” was in 1967-68 – the year of the Six Day War when Israel smashed its Arab enemies, re-conquered the Golan Heights, the West Bank of the Jordan River (Samaria), and the Old City of Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount – the holiest site in the world!

If 1917 was a Jubilee year, and the next one was 1967, when would the NEXT one be?

$$\begin{array}{r} 1967 \\ +50 \\ \hline 2017 \text{ A.D.} \end{array}$$

Here is another “sign of the times”!

Sign #4 – 70 “Weeks”

In the book of Daniel, chapter 9, we read:

“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 consummation, 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”?

The historical fulfillment of this tantalizing prophecy is explained in our article “Daniel’s 70 Weeks Prophecy.” It reveals how the original fulfillment points to the very year Jesus Christ began His ministry and proves He is the anointed Saviour and Messiah of Israel. But there is also a latter days, “end time” fulfillment of this prophecy as well!

Notice!

The Hebrew word for “weeks” in the prophecy of the 70 weeks, is the word *shavuot*. It also designates the “Feast of Shavuot,” or “Feast of Weeks,” which follows Passover, fifty days later. We are told to “count seven weeks,” till the 50th day, from the day after Passover, counting beginning Nisan 16, and the fiftieth day is “Shavuot,” the Feast of Weeks. Its name is derived from the counting of seven weeks from Passover, thus, “Feast of Weeks.”

The Hebrew word Shavuot, therefore, also refers to an ANNUAL HOLY DAY, which is counted, and looked forward to with great expectancy and joy. Anciently, it represented the day of the covenant God made with Israel on that day at Mount Sinai.

The Hebrew word “Shavuot” literally means #7620, *shavua*, (plural *Shavuot*), and means “literally *sevens*, *i.e. a week*.” It also means, #7621, “something sworn, an oath.” It was at Mount Sinai, after a period of seven sevens, that the Feast of Shavuot was arrived at, and it was the day God and Israel swore an “Oath” – a Covenant of Marriage.

So literally, the prophecy of Daniel is the prophecy of “seventy sevens” or even “seventy Shavuot” – that is, Festivals of Shavuot. If we look at it that way, then seventy such Festivals would equal 70 years, as the Feast occurs once a year!

Now, let’s take a fresh look at this intriguing prophecy.

“Seventy weeks [Shavuot] are determined.” Seventy Feasts of Shavuot would be 70 years!

“. . . for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression . . . to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.” (Dan.9:24).

So this prophecy says (also) that there will be seventy years to the end point – the coming of the Messiah and the Kingdom of God, ending the period of man’s transgression on the earth.

“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince . . . (v.25). The United Nations voted to partition Israel in November 1947, and Israel became a state May 14, 1948. Both of these occurred during the Hebrew year 5708. This would be the date for the restoration of Israel and Jerusalem.

“There shall be seven weeks and sixty two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall [of protection], even in troublesome times” (v.25b). Seven “weeks” also means “seven Shavuot,” or Feasts of Weeks – meaning “seven years.” Sixty two “weeks” likewise can mean 62 years. So we have a period of seven years, and a period of 62 years. From Israel’s inception in 1948, there was war. The nation was born in a bloodbath as surrounding Arab nations immediately attacked.

In May, 1948, Israel had to fight the surrounding Arab nations which invaded her territory, and the following years were “troublesome times.” War again broke out in 1956, and in 1967 the “Six Day War” was fought, and the “Yom Kippur War” in 1973, then the invasion of Lebanon in 1982, and the subsequent Palestinian intifada in 1987, lasting to the present time.

“And after the sixty two weeks Messiah [anointed one] shall be cut off . . .”

62 “weeks” is also 62 Shavuot = 62 Shavuot or “years.” From 1948, counting 62 years, brings us to 2010 A.D.

1948
+62
 2010 A.D.

After these “62” Shavuot, ending in 2010, the “anointed one” – a designation for the *anointed people of God, Israel* – shall be “cut off” – that is, begin to be “cut off” as a nation, as a people, and destroyed.

What happened in 2010? The Muslim Barack Hussein Obama became president of the world’s last remaining superpower in 2009 – the United States – and by 2010 he began compromising Israel’s security, independence, and forcefully turning against America’s only true ally in the Middle East. Currying favor with the Arab oil producing nations, he has begun cutting Israel off at the knees. Denying them missiles and bunker-busting bombs. Threatening them with sanctions, and trade embargoes. Treating their diplomats and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with contempt, hostility, scorn and derision.

Israel has begun to be “cut off” – the anointed people are being persecuted by their supposed sole remaining “friend” and ally in all the world.

“And the people [army] of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. . .” (verse 26).

Israel will be invaded! Jerusalem destroyed! Jihad will reign! Desolations and destruction will rage and follow till the end of the period of conflict and warfare.

“Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering” (v.27).

The final “week” – THE FINAL SEVEN YEARS – could very likely be from 2010 to 2017 – the last week of years! In the middle of this final period Temple sacrifices and prayers will cease. The dark prince will force them to stop.

“And on the wing of ABOMINATIONS shall be *one who makes desolate*, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate [or, desolator, marginal reading]” (verse 27b).

This constitutes a shocking, incredible new view of Daniel’s 70 weeks prophecy, as it applies to the END TIME, – a pattern of fulfillment beginning in 1948 and ending 70 years later – in 2017-2018 A.D.

If this scenario is accurate, then we are sitting on the very cusp of the Great Tribulation prophesied for the “end of days” and are hurtling into the “crisis at the close” of this world civilization, as the Moffatt translation puts it!

Sign #5 – the 120 Years

Remember, Yeshua the Messiah said in plain language, “*As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man*” (Matt.24:37).

The world today is rapidly becoming just like it was during the days of Enoch, Methuselah, and Noah! Once again, great wickedness is filling the earth! Great immorality, sexual depravity, and corruption is polluting the earth! Once again, violence and the threat of international violence and terrifying wars are escalating around the earth!

And Christ said, “All this is but the *beginning* [the early pains] of the *birth pangs* [of the intolerable anguish]” (Matthew 24:8, Amplified Parallel Bible).

So amazingly, the description of the woes and crimes of mankind, and the wicked angels, was a frightening TYPE and EXAMPLE of what conditions on the earth would be like *in the generation that will see and experience the return of the Messiah!*

But what about the “120 years”? How are we to understand them? What significance do they have for our end-time generation? Do they help pinpoint the final “end-time generation” and give us a clue, or hint, as to WHEN that time will occur?

The Mysterious 120 Years

God said His Spirit would not always strive with man, but that He would give him 120 years. The books of Jubilees and Jasher both show that God gave mankind 120 years of powerful warnings, from Methuselah and Noah, preachers of righteousness, of their impending doom and judgment, before the Flood came upon the world and wiped out every last man except those left alive on the Ark, who numbered eight souls.

Jasher continues, “And after the lapse of many years, in the four hundred and eightieth year of the life of Noah, when all those men who followed the Lord had died away from amongst the sons of men, and only Methuselah was left, God said unto Noah and Methuselah, saying, Speak ye, and proclaim to the sons of men, saying, Thus saith the Lord, return from your evil ways and forsake your works, and the Lord will repent of the evil that he declared to do to you, so that it shall not come to pass.

“For thus saith the Lord, *Behold I give you a period of one hundred and twenty years*; if you will turn to me and forsake your evil ways, then will I also turn away from the evil which I told you, and it shall not exist, saith the Lord.

“And Noah and Methuselah spoke all the words of the Lord to the sons of men, day after day, constantly speaking to them. But the sons of men would not hearken to them, nor incline their ears to their words, and they were stiff-necked. *And the Lord granted them a PERIOD OF ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY YEARS*, saying, If they

will return, then will God repent of the evil, so as not to destroy the earth” (Jasher 5:6-11).

The Flood and the End-Time Catastrophe

The Flood occurred in 2348 B.C., according to the chronology of James Ussher, the most famous Christian scholar of his time. Therefore, the time of warning began 120 years before that or 2468 B.C.

Biblical prophecy is often *dual* in fulfillment. That is, there is often a forerunner, or “type” fulfillment, and then the final, end-time fulfillment. Does this mean that there will be a final 120 years witness leading up to the second coming of the Messiah, who will once again bring judgment and devastation upon a wicked, sinning mankind?

When Christ returns, He will judge the nations in righteous fury and with Divine vengeance!

One key explanation of the “120 years” interprets them as “Jubilee years.” That is, the ancient Jubilee cycle God gave His people is a 50 year cycle. 120 Jubilee cycles would mean a period of 120×50 or 6000 years in fulfillment. Adam was created in 4004 B.C. Six thousand years from that time brings us to the year 1997 A.D.

What is the significance of that date?

One Jubilee cycle, or 50 years, before that date brings us to 1947 – the year of the United Nations resolution to divide the Holy Land and partition it to restore the state or nation of Israel, on their ancient territory!

Fifty years before that date, another Jubilee cycle, takes us to 1897. That was the year when the modern Zionist movement began. Zionism is the movement designed to reestablish the Jewish state in Palestine, the ancient homeland of the Jews. Theodore Hertzl, an Austrian journalist who covered the Alfred Dreyfus trial in France, developed political Zionism, which worked for political recognition of the Jewish claim for a Palestine homeland.

Hertzl was a reporter at the famous trial in 1894 of Alfred Dreyfus, a Jew, the French army officer who was falsely charged and convicted of treason. The Dreyfus trial convinced Hertzl that if anti-Semitism could be such a powerful force in an enlightened nation such as France, which boasted of freedom, equality, and fraternity, then Jews could not assimilate in a non-Jewish society. To Hertzl, the only solution was to establish a Jewish nation – an independent Jewish state.

Hertzl organized the Zionist movement on a worldwide scale at the First Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, in 1897.

The movement gained momentum during World War I, with the passage of the Balfour Declaration, in Great Britain, in 1917, which pledged British support for a Jewish national homeland in Palestine. Turkey, the previous ruler of Palestine, had been defeated by the British and driven out of the region, in World War I.

In 1947, the United Nations approved the partition of Palestine into a Jewish state and an Arab state. This was the end of one Jubilee cycle, 1897-1947. The following Jubilee cycle ended in 1997, which was also the end of 6,000 years (120 Jubilees) from the creation of Adam and Eve.

Interestingly, if we count “120 years” from 1897, and the beginning of political Zionism and the movement for Jews to return to Palestine and establish a Jewish state, it brings us to 2017 – as the time when the end-time warning of 120 years would be completed, and “the final cataclysm would come – the End Time catastrophe, likened to the Flood of Noah’s day!

This could be the awesome return of Jesus Christ – Yeshua the Messiah – to punish sinners and to save the world from utter, total destruction, annihilation of all life on the planet, and establish the Kingdom of God!

Sign #6 – the 7000 Year Plan

The apostle Peter seems to have this Scripture in mind when he writes, in the New Testament, "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that *ONE DAY is with the Lord as a THOUSAND YEARS, and a thousand years as ONE DAY*. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the *day of the Lord* will come as a thief in the night: in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (II Peter 3:8-10).

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

This "millennial rest" of 1,000 years is termed a "Sabbath rest" by Paul in the book of Hebrews. Paul speaks of this mystery in the 4th chapter of Hebrews, saying:

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"Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. . . For he spake in a certain place of the *seventh day* on this wise, And God did rest

the seventh day from all his works. . . . There remains therefor a REST to the people of God" (Heb.4:1-9).

The Moffatt translation is even plainer. It says: "There is a *sabbath-Rest*, then, reserved for the people of God" (Heb.4:9). Moffatt goes on, "(for once a man enters His rest, he rests from work just as God did). Let us be eager then to enter that Rest, lest anyone fall into that same sort of disobedience" (Heb.4:10).

Clearly, then, the millennial reign of the Messiah is pictured in Scripture as lasting one thousand years, and is called a "Sabbath Rest."

Why a "Sabbath" rest?

Let's understand this! The Sabbath day, according to the Word of God, is the seventh day of the week. Almighty God commanded: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. *Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work. But THE SEVENTH DAY IS THE SABBATH* of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work . . ." (Exo.20:8-10).

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

Thus when Peter said a "day" with the Lord is as a thousand years, he was not just joking, or being rhetorical! Literally a "day" in God's plan is a thousand years, and therefore a "week" in God's plan is *seven thousand years!*

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

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

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

Ussher believed, as many did in his time, that the end of the world or age would occur 6000 years from Creation. His calculations were widely accepted at the time and

were inserted into the margins of many published Bibles of the Authorized King James Version in 1701.

6000 years from 4004 B.C. brings us to the year 1997. However, as we can all see, at this time, the world did not end and Christ did not return at that date. Why not? Was Ussher wrong? Or is there more to the story?

The Book of Jubilees

The Jewish book of Jubilees tells us that the 6,000 years of man's rule should not be counted from the date of Creation, but implies that we should count from the date of Adam and Eve's transgression in the garden of Eden -- when they came under the influence of the serpent, Satan the devil. *This was seven years after their original creation!*

Although we cannot state with absolute certainty, the indication from Biblical prophecy and Biblical evidence, is that the 6,000 years from Adam and Eve should be counted from the time they sinned, and were expelled from the Garden of Eden. That's when the countdown began. The book of Jubilees tells us that this occurred seven years after their original creation in 4004 B.C. Notice:

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

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

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

4004 B.C.	6000 years	2003 A.D.
<u> -7</u>	<u>-3997 B.C.</u>	<u> +1</u>
3997 B.C.	2003 A.D.	2004 A.D.!!!

Some may wonder why we "add" a year in the final column, to reach 2004 A.D. The answer is simple. There is no year "zero." Therefore, when counting from B.C. to A.D., we must "add" an extra year for the years to correspond to reality.

Of course, the year 2004 was ten years ago, from 2014 (this coming year). What happened? Is there another mysterious prophecy which will enlighten us as to why the “end” did not come in 2004 A.D.?

Sign #7 – the 15 Years

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

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

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

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

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

Hezekiah replied, “It is an easy thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees; no, but let the shadow go backward ten degrees.” So Isaiah the prophet “cried out to the LORD, and He brought the shadow ten degrees backward by which it had gone down on the sundial of Ahaz” (II Kings 20:8-11). In other words, the earth stopped its diurnal rotation, paused, and then backed up ten degrees, thereby lengthening the day by at least 40 minutes, the time it would require the sun to travel 10 degrees across the sky!

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

by heavenly signs in our time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There was an ancient Babylon, there is a modern end-time Babylon (Rev.18:1-4). There was the ancient fall of Jerusalem, and a future fall of Jerusalem (Zech.14:1-4). There was the abomination of desolation in the time of Antiochus Epiphanes, and there

will be a second abomination of desolation in the END time (Dan.11:31, Matt.24:15).. There was a first Adam, and a second “Adam” – Christ (I Cor.15:45-49).

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

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

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

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

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

Why has God given us an extra 15 years, as the prophecy of Hezekiah indicates? The answer is found in Peter’s prophecy. Peter wrote, “The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance” (II Pet.3:9, NIV).

Sign #8 – the Prophecy of Ezekiel

In the book of Ezekiel we read that the prophet was told to lie upon his side for 390 days as a sign to Israel. “And you, son of man, take a tile and lay it before you, and make upon it a drawing of a city, even Jerusalem.

“And put SIEGE works against it, build a siege wall against it, and cast up a mound against it; set camps also against it and set battering rams against it round about.

“Moreover, take a plate of iron and place it for an iron wall between you and the city; and set your face toward it and it shall be besieged, and you shall press the siege against it. This is a SIGN to the house of Israel!

“Then [bound as you are] lie upon your left [and north] side to bear symbolically the iniquity of the house of the TEN TRIBES of Israel upon that side. According to the number of days that you shall lie upon it you shall bear their iniquity.

“For I have laid upon you the *years of their iniquity, according to the number of days*, 390 days [representing 390 years]; so you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel” (Ezekiel 4:1-5).

This is talking about the times of Israel’s punishment!

In Leviticus 26, God says to Israel, if they disobey Him and break His covenant, reject His Torah, His laws and way of life: “I will chastise and discipline you *seven times more* for your sins” (Lev.26:18); “I will bring seven times more plagues upon you” (v.21); “I will smite you seven times for your sins” (v.24); “I also will chastise you seven times for your sins” (v.28).

Notice! So if you take 390 years of punishment God decreed on Israel, and multiply it by “7” times, you come to 2,730 years. $390 \times 7 = \underline{2,730}$ years.

$$\begin{array}{r} 2730 \text{ years} \\ -718 \text{ B.C.} \\ \hline 2012 \\ +1 \text{ (because no year zero)} \\ \hline 2013 \text{ A.D.} \end{array}$$

In 718 B.C. Israel was conquered, taken captive and deported from the land and carried off beyond the Euphrates River. 2730 years later brings us to 2013 A.D. What is so significant about this year?

Could 2013 be the year of the beginning of “great tribulation” and the “seventieth week” or the final week of years of Daniel’s prophecy?

Sign #9 – Ephraim’s Prophecy

Another very interesting prophecy is found in the seventh chapter of Isaiah. God tells the prophet, “In *sixty five years, Ephraim will be broken* [lit., “shattered”], so that it will not be a people” (Isa.7:8, NKJV). The NIV has it, “Within sixty five years Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people.”

In a parallel prophecy, Isaiah says of Ephraim, “See, Damascus will no longer be a city but will become a heap of ruins. The cities of Aroer [Syria] will be deserted and left to flocks which will lie down, and no one to make them afraid.

“The fortified city will disappear from Ephraim, and royal power from Damascus . . . In that day the glory of Jacob will fade; the fat of his body will waste away” (Isa.17:1-4).

I have often pointed out that Ephraim, in the Bible, represents primarily the United States of America. The Anglo-Saxon people, our forefathers, are of the ancient Hebrew tribe of Ephraim, Joseph’s son to whom was promised the blessings of the birthright. See my new book *America in Heraldry and Prophecy*.

These verses in Isaiah foretell a devastating defeat and catastrophe for end-time Ephraim, or the United States. Fortified cities, or “fortresses,” as the King James Version has it, will disappear or be destroyed. This implies war and terrorism on a massive scale.

When will this happen? Isaiah warns it will occur in “sixty five years.” But 5 years from what date? If these verses have a message for the end-times, our day, what is the message? What is this mysterious “sixty five” years? When would it be counted from?

Since much end-time prophesy is predicated on the founding of the state of Israel, the flowering of God’s “fig tree,” then consider the following: *If we count 65 years from 1948, the year of the founding of Israel, then we come to the year 2013 A.D.! And remember, the Biblical year overlaps the Roman year. Therefore, the year 2013 really means fall 2013 to fall 2014.*

Could this date be an indication that this year the United States is going to suffer some major catastrophic reverses in its outlook and prosperity? Could it be the year we lose our independence, and martial law is enacted to maintain political stability and control over the masses?

Will another war soon break out in the Middle East and involve America?

Will its worldwide consequences lead to the devastation of Damascus, Syria, and its ruination? Isaiah foretold, “See, Damascus will cease to be a city, and will become a heap of ruins” (Isa.17:1). America is threatening to attack Syria at the present time, accusing the Syrians of using weapons of mass destruction against their own people and children.

Is Jeremiah prophesying of this very day? He wrote, “Against Damascus. Hamath and Arpad are shamed, for they have heard bad news, they are fainthearted; there is trouble on the sea [American destroyers equipped with cruise missiles are off the Syrian coast]; it cannot be quiet. Damascus has grown feeble, she turns to flee, and fear has seized her. Anguish and sorrows have taken her like a woman in labor. Why is the city of praise not deserted, the city of My joy? Therefore her young men shall fall in her streets, and all the men of war shall be cut off in that day, says the LORD of hosts. I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus, and it shall consume the palaces of Ben-Hadad” (Jeremiah 49:27). Is Syria about to fall? Is the prophesied destruction about to occur?

Will Muslim terrorists respond by setting off terrorist nuclear weapons – even satchel sized weapons – within the borders of the United States? Will biological-chemical agents be unleashed in American cities? Will America’s fleet – her pride and power – suffer a devastating attack? Isaiah prophesied for Ephraim – modern America, “The fortress will disappear from Ephraim, and the kingdom from Damascus. . . . On that day the glory of Jacob will be brought low, and the fat of his flesh will grow lean” (Isa.17:3-4, NRSV).

When will this occur? Isaiah also declared, regarding Ephraim, “Within sixty five years Ephraim will be shattered, no longer a people” (Isa.7:8). He then adds, “If you do not stand firm in faith, you shall not stand at all” (v.9).

Have we indeed entered the final period in prophecy known as the “time of Jacob’s trouble”?

Sign # 10 -- a New Look at the Mayan Calendar

Does the Mayan calendar also predict the “end of the age” in the year 2012?

According to the Mayan calendar, we are living in the Mayan “end times.” The Great Cycle of the Mayan Long Count calendar, we are told, ends at the winter solstice in 2012 A.D.

In Mayan mythology, the winter solstice sun corresponds to the deity known as One Hunahpu, or “First Father.” The dark rift of the Milky Way, in Mayan cosmology, is known as the “Black Road,” the mouth of the Cosmic Monster, and the birth canal of the Cosmic Mother.

The Mayan calendar has a Great Cycle, ending 13 “bactuns” or a period of 5,125 years. To the ancient Mayans, this conjunction of the sun and Milky Way center or mid-point occurring on the winter solstice, December 21, in 2012 A.D. is a major transition point, *the creation of a new World Age*.

The Mayan Long Count calendar is strikingly different from the Roman calendar, or any other for that matter. A “month” is 20 days, and 18 months is a year of 360 days. Twenty 360 day years comprise a “katun,” and a “baktun” is 20 katun, equaling 144,000 days.

These numbers are surely interesting. In the days of Noah the year was one of 360 days (5 months were 150 days, so 12 months were 360 days – see Genesis 7:11, 8:3-4). The number 144,000 is also interesting, as it is the number of the “firstfruits” redeemed to God at the coming of the Messiah (Rev.14:1-4).

The present Great Age of the Mayas, the fifth, is believed to have been initiated by the famous Quetzalcoatl in 3,113 B.C. During that time the sequence of seasons and the duration of days and nights became disarranged.

But does the Mayan calendar really “end” in 2012? Here is an incredible fact. The answer is, NO!

The Mayans lore held that the present Sun or Age would end with the 13th Baktun, or 1,872,000 days later. If you divide this number by a year of 365.25 days, you get 5,125 years. If you subtract 3,113 years (B.C.), the date of the beginning of the Mayan calendar, from 5,125, what year do you get?

Let’s see.

$$\begin{array}{r} 5125 \text{ years (13}^{\text{th}} \text{ Baktun)} \\ 3113 \text{ B.C. (starting date)} \\ 2012 \text{ A.D} \\ \underline{\quad +1 \text{ (no year zero)}} \\ \mathbf{2013 \text{ A.D.!!!}} \end{array}$$

Hold the phone! Everyone has been focused on 2012 as the end of the Mayan calendar. However, in going from B.C. to A..D. dates, we must cross over the BC-AD horizon, and there is no year “zero” Therefore, you must “add 1” when computing dates from B.C. to A.D. .

In other words, the Mayan calendar really ends December 21, 2013 – not 2012 A.D.! Incredible!

How has the world, and Mayan investigators, overlooked this principle? It is a common mistake. Astronomers often make it. But historians ought to know better.

The end of the Mayan 13th Baktun is really December 2013 A.D. – the very month the ISON comet in all its glory and brilliance is scheduled to make its appearance on the stage. This is the real time presaging the “end” of the world, as we know it, or the “end times.”

Sign #11 – the Peace Process -- the "Covenant of Death"

The peace pact between Israel and the Palestinians is a fraud. Secretary of State John Kerry in August 2013 said in nine months there will be a peace treaty between Israel and the Palestinians. Nine months is the gestation period of a human fetus, interestingly. Nine months from August 2013 brings us to April 2014, the time of the Passover!

Will we achieve “peace” at that time? It will not work. God says to modern Israel:

"Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scornful men, who rule this people who are in Jerusalem, because you have said, 'We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol [the grave] we are in agreement. When the overflowing scourge passes through, it will not come to us, for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood we have hidden ourselves.'

"Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation: Whoever believes will not act hastily [or rush into some false, foolish treaty]. . . . The hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters will overflow the hiding place. Your covenant with death will be annulled, and your agreement with Sheol will not stand; when the overflowing scourge passes through, then you will be trampled down by it. As often as it goes out it will take you; for morning by morning it will pass over, and by day and by night [could this be a reference to continual missile bombardments and attacks?]; it will be a terror just to understand the report'" (Isaiah 28:14-19, NKJV).

The present "peace pact" is fictitious fraud. God warns in His Word, "While people are saying, 'Peace and safety,' DESTRUCTION will come on them SUDDENLY, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape" (I Thess.5:3).

Jeremiah adds, "Ask and see: Can a man bear children? Then why do I see every strong man with his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor, every face turned deathly pale? How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it" (Jeremiah 30:6-7).

Will 2014 see incredible war break out in the Middle East?

Is this the final beginning of the "time of Jacob's trouble"?

Interestingly, this coming Passover 2014 is the beginning of a set of a triad of Blood Red Moons – lunar eclipses – the first one occurring on Passover itself and the second one during the Feast of Sukkot (Tabernacles) in the fall!

Sign #12 – the Blood Red Moons

We will have four blood red moons for the third time in any of our lifetimes during 2014-2015. The first one occurs on Passover 2014. At the previous time when we had a tetrad of Blood Red Moons, significant things happened affecting God's people, Israel. In 1948 the Nation of Israel was born followed by war, when the Blood Red Moons occurred. And then when the 1967 Six Day War broke out, when the Old City and the temple mount was taken back, there was another set of Blood Red Moons.

So what is going to start happening in April-May 2014? Are we in for some major prophetic events in the near future?

In 2014 - 2015 a rare sequence of Red Blood Moon lunar eclipses will occur on the Jewish Holidays of Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot). In addition to the Tetrad occurrence, 2 solar eclipses will complement the 4 lunar eclipses on the Jewish

New Year and the Feast of Trumpets and the ISON comet will hover in the sky during the Feast of Hanukkah in December 2013. .

2013 - 2015 Jewish Holiday Eclipse & Comet Schedule

						
28 Nov 2013 Hanukkah Comet	15 Apr 2014 Jewish Passover	08 Oct 2014 Feast of Tabernacle	20 Mar 2015 Jewish New Year	04 Apr 2015 Jewish Passover	13 Sep 2015 Feast of Trumpets	28 Sep 2015 Feast of Tabernacle

What do these things mean? Jesus Christ declared, “Immediately after the distress of those days, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken” (Matt.24:29, NIV).

Mark has it, “But in those days following that distress, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken” (Mark 13:24-25, NIV).

Luke declares, “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the sign of the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

“When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near” (Luke 21:25-28).

The *Amplified Parallel Bible* has this passage of prophesy: “And there will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; and upon the earth [there will be] distress([trouble and anguish) of nations in bewilderment and perplexity [without resources, left wanting, embarrassed, in doubt, not knowing which way to turn] at the roaring (the echo) of the tossing of the sea. Men swooning away or expiring with fear and dread and apprehension and expectation of the things that are coming on the world; for the [very] powers of the heavens will be shaken and caused to totter. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with great (transcendent and overwhelming) power and [all His kingly] glory (majesty and splendor). Now when these things begin to occur, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption (deliverance) is drawing near.”

Surely, when we look at the accumulation and totality of prophetic evidence, in the light of current world affairs, there can be no doubt whatsoever that we are living on the cusp of the end times – in fact, teetering on the brink of “Day of the Lord” – poised precariously on the edge of the cataclysm known as the Great Tribulation. These twelve signs point to the inescapable conclusion that we are the “end time” generation. This is it! The time is here. The time is now!

And the coming of Christ is near – even at the very door!