

Eighteen Signs –

Are These REALLY the “LAST DAYS”?

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” and the coming of the Messiah to save the inhabitants of the earth from utter destruction and oblivion!

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James Moffatt, in his translation of the Scriptures, quotes Daniel, who says to the angel sent to him, “O my lord, what is to be the *last phase before the end?*” (Daniel 12:8). The angel replies, “Ask no more, Daniel, for the revelation is to be kept secret and closed, *till the CRISIS at the CLOSE*” (verse 9).

We have reached that point in human history. The signs are all around us and the pace of fulfilling prophecy is accelerating rapidly, like a moon-shot rocket!

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? Do you?

Jesus Christ the Messiah said to the Jews, “When it is evening you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red’; 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?

Before we get into the timetable of end-time prophecy, there are many general “signs” we are told to look for which will occur before the Messiah returns.

In Matthew 24, the Mount Olivet prophecy, Jesus Christ gives us a rundown of these signs. He says, “For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows [birth pangs]. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you shall be hated of all nations for My name’s sake” (Matt.24:7-9). “Then many false prophets shall rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness shall abound, the love of many will grow cold” (vs.11-12).

Look around you. We see ALL these things already happening around the world, and increasing! We hear of weather upsets and storms almost daily, and new earthquakes in diverse places almost daily, with volcanic eruptions around the globe, and new diseases and epidemics and contagions, and the onslaught of famines, and droughts, and crop failures, almost every year.

In addition, false prophets and teachers are exploding out of the woodwork, coming out of nowhere, to deceive multitudes and being deceived themselves. Persecution of Christians and Jews is increasing dramatically, around the world, and even in the United States and Great Britain, while the Muslim religion marches forward, seeking to conquer the world for Allah, a pagan god masquerading as if he were the one true God, but is a vicious monster, a god of violence, human sacrifice and murder.

These signs are already occurring everywhere. Surely the “last days” are upon us and accelerating. Lawlessness abounds. Immorality and homosexuality are rampant and increasing on every side.

The world is fast becoming like it was in the days of Noah, another sign we are living in the “crisis at the close” of the end times. In Noah’s time, we read, “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Gen.6:5).

The chronicle of Genesis reports, “The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth” (Gen.6:11-12). And so it is, today.

These are strong indications that we are living in the “End of Days.” But there are other, more pointed signs, that absolutely pinpoint this generation as being the last, final generation of mankind, before the Messiah returns.

What are these signs? How can we tell “this is it”? There have always been wars, famines, and earthquakes, persecution, false prophets, and immorality. How do we know things are really coming to a head in OUR generation? Let’s take a new look.

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 TIL 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; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off and we fly away” (verse 10). Thus a human life span or generation would be 70 to 80 years. If we count 70 years from the founding of the state of Israel, in May 14, 1948, we come to the year 2018! If we count 80 years, it brings us to 2028!

Therefore, this indicates that we are NOW living in the final “generation” Christ spoke of, and its termination point would be about 2018 to 2028 – just a few short years from now!

Babylon Rising Up – Sign #2

Wayne Allen Root in “Is Obama Accelerating the Collapse of America?” declares that the United States is now being governed by a “stealth tyrant.” He says, “In my latest book, *The Ultimate Obama Survival Guide*, released in spring 2013, I called Barack Obama a ‘stealth Marxist’ out to destroy capitalism and make Americans dependent on government. This wasn’t just guesswork. Obama and I were classmates at Columbia University, where we were taught how to overwhelm the system until the economy collapses with spending, debt and entitlements. In my book, I called Obamacare the perfect ‘Trojan Horse’ that would make it all happen” (*Personal Liberty*, Feb.20, 2014).

Declares Root, “The cloak is off. Obama is no longer hiding his plans to destroy America. For anyone who isn’t blind, deaf or very dumb, it’s now all out in the open.

“The news of this past week proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that Obama is accelerating the destruction of America. Why the sudden rush? Obama and his Marxist cabal see the writing on the wall. Their internal polls show they are headed for a landslide defeat in November. Now that the disastrous effects of Obamacare are clear for the voters to see, they know Democrats are about to be destroyed at the polls.

“Knowing Democrats can no longer get elected, or re-elected, Obama has decided to go it alone. Without regard for the law, the Constitution or the American people, he and those pulling his strings behind the scenes have obviously decided to do the most damage possible to America during his final three years. He’s finally taken off the mask and shown himself to be the true communist tyrant he is.”

Encroaching Tyranny

In February, 2014, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office finally reported the truth: Obamacare is the perfect job-killing machine. Says Root, “Millions of people have already been downsized from full-time to part-time work, and now we know from the CBO that an additional 2.3 million jobs will be eliminated. As I predicted from Day One, this is exactly what Obamacare was intended to do: destroy the middle class and make us all dependent on government checks to survive.

“Obama’s Kool-Aid-drinking supporters are so far in the tank that when the CBO courageously pointed out that Obamacare makes it less likely millions of Americans will want to work, they called it ‘choice.’ Obama’s propagandists painted it a wonderful development. But letting middle-class wage earners and small businesses pay for all those who want to be freed from the need to work, so they can enjoy their free time and pursue their hobbies isn’t ‘choice.’ It’s theft.”

Says Wayne Allen Root, “Folks, it is time to stop treading lightly and being politically correct. Let’s call it what it is. This is communism, pure and simple. Anyone who thinks the American dream is to choose to stay home, not work and collect a government check is reading directly from Karl Marx. Anyone who thinks some people (who vote 100 percent Democrat) should have a ‘choice’ not to work, by stealing the money of others, is reading directly from *The Communist Manifesto*.”

Root goes on, “But wait; it gets far worse. As part of the new illegal Obamacare directive to postpone the law for businesses with 50 to 99 employees, Obama put the Internal Revenue Service in direct control of critical U.S. business decisions. He demanded that businesses must ‘justify’ hiring and firing decisions to the IRS to qualify for the exemption. Plain and simple, putting government in charge of the decisions of a private business is the *very foundation of communism*. It is how *communist economies like North Korea, Cuba, the old Soviet Union and East Germany have always been run*. [Italics mine].

In addition to these things, Obama now shows his total disdain for Congress and the American people, by unilaterally loosening the rules for citizenship to allow foreigners with only a “minor” connection to terrorism to become citizens!

Why is our President so desperate to open the borders and let in “minor” terrorists? What is the pressing need in a country with 92 million unemployed working-age Americans to bring in potential terrorists and give them safe haven and work opportunities? Is this the way Obama creates instant Democratic voters?

Says Wayne Allen Root, “The evil and terrible news is coming in waves. And it’s all coming from one man — a man no longer hiding the fact that he is a tyrant, dictator, communist and hater of America, capitalism and Judeo-Christian values.

“Obama no longer cares to hide his radical Marxist ideology. It’s now clear it’s ‘pedal to the metal’ toward the destruction of America.

“The question is: *Who will stop him?*”

The answer? NO ONE! The United States is becoming the prophesied “BABYLON THE GREAT,” the daughter of ancient Babylon, leading the world into a “New World Order” dictated by fascism and communism. Freedom and liberty are rapidly being lost – sign number 2 that we are in the End Times! This is the “final generation”!

הדור האחרון

Sign #3 – Ha Dor Ha Acharon

The Hebrew term which can be translated “the final generation” or “the last generation” or “the generation to come” is *ha dor ha acharon*. It means the time of the end or “the generation that comes”, or “**the generation at the end.**” Says *Gesenius Hebrew Lexicon*, “(1) *hinder, latter*, as opposed to former, foremost . . . (2) *after, later, following*, ‘after generation,’ Psalm 48:14, ‘after-time,’ Prov.31:25; Isa.30:18 . . . (3) *last*, Neh.8:18; Isa.44:6, ‘I (God) am the first, and I am the last’; Job 19:35. Fem. Adv. *At last, last*, Dan.11:29. Also Deut.13:10 and Num.2:31; Eccl.1:11, *at last, lastly.*”

Let’s notice how this term applies to the last, final generation..

Deuteronomy 29:14-24—“The Lord made this covenant so that no man, woman or family of all the tribes of Israel should turn away from him to worship gods of other nations and so that no root would bear such poisonous and bitter fruit. Let no one who hears the words of this oath written in this book of the law bless himself in his heart and think he will have peace (be safe), even though he follows the dictates of his heart (goes his own way)—as though the drunkard could be included with the sober. The Lord would not spare him; for then the anger of the Lord and his jealousy will burn against that man and every curse that is written in this book would settle on him and the Lord would blot out his name from under heaven.

“So that **the generation to come** of your children that shall rise up after you, and the stranger that shall come from a far land, shall say, when they see the plagues of that land, and the sicknesses which the Lord has laid upon it; And that the whole land is brimstone, and salt that is burning, that it is not sown nor bearing, nor any grass grows therein, *like the over-throw of Sodom and Gomorrah, Adman, and Zeboim* which the Lord overthrew in his anger and his wrath. All nations shall ask, ‘Why has the Lord done this to the land? What is the meaning of this great anger?’”

Take note especially of the fact that *ha dor ha acharon* can just as readily be translated as “THE LAST GENERATION,” or “the FINAL generation.” *Acharon* means “hindmost, last in order, last of a series.” Or, simply, “last.”

The “Last Generation” in the Psalms

Next notice Psalm 48:1-14—“Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God in the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great king. God is in her palaces; He is known as her refuge. The kings of the earth joined forces. When they advanced together, they saw her and were astounded; they fled in terror. Fear took hold of them there, and pain, like that of a woman in labor. You destroyed them like *ships of Tarshish shattered by an east wind*.”

“As we have heard, we have seen in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God. God will establish her forever. We have thought of your loving kindness, O God in the midst of your temple according to your name, so is your praise to the ends of the earth; Your right hand is full of righteousness; Mount Zion rejoices, the villages (daughters) of Zion are glad because of your judgments. Walk about Zion and go around her, count her towers, consider her ramparts, view her citadels that you may tell it to **the generation following** [*L’Dor Acharon* -- “the last generation”]. For this is God, our God forever and ever. He will be our guide even unto death.”

This whole Psalm speaks of the trouble of the great tribulation, a woman in labor pangs, disastrous winds on the high seas, and the plagues of God poured out on the wicked, and is a special message for “the last generation”!

Psalm 102 is another prophecy for the future end-time generation (last generation). It is a prayer of the afflicted—when he is overwhelmed and pours out his complaint before the Lord.

“Hear my cry. In the day that I am in trouble incline your ear to me: in the day when I call, answer me speedily. My days are like a shadow that declines – my health is gone, my heart is smitten and my enemies are sworn to kill me; I eat ashes like bread and my drink is mixed with weeping because of your indignation and wrath: for you have lifted me up and cast me down. But you O Lord shall endure forever, and your remembrance unto all generations. You shall arise and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favor her, **the set time is come**.

“So the heathen shall fear the name of the Lord and all the kings of the earth your glory. When the Lord (Christ) shall build up Zion, he shall *appear in his glory* [the second coming of the Messiah]. The Lord will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. This shall be **written for the generation to come [the final generation]**: and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord.”

Remember, the “generation to come” is a special reference to the LAST or FINAL generation – the generation that will see and experience all these things!

The Psalm continues: “You looked down from your sanctuary TO hear the groaning prisoner, TO declare the name of the Lord in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem: when the people are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the Lord. You weakened my strength and shortened my days. O God do not take me away in the midst of my days, your years will have no end. You laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of your hands. They shall perish, but you shall endure. All of them shall wax old like a garment; a vesture (clothing) shall you change them and they shall be changed: but you are the same, and your years shall have no end. The children of your servants shall continue and their seed (descendants) shall be established before you.”

This prayer could be the prayer of all of us, today.

God is making his last appeal to our generation today—to listen and to understand the ancient words of scripture. We fit the description of the ‘final generation.’”

God has commanded us to search the Scriptures for the hidden inner meaning of these verses that would illuminate God’s plan for each one who searches. Chiefly and clearly this would include the Messianic prophecies of Christ’s coming, prophecies which have been hidden from the generations since the days of Daniel until now – this final generation – this “*L’Dor Acharon* – the “last generation”.

Sign #4 – the Apostasy and the Antichrist

King David declared, “Hold not thy peace, O God of my praise. For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful are opened against me; they have spoken against me with a lying tongue. They compassed me about also with words of hatred and fought against me without a cause. For my love they are my adversaries, but I gave myself unto prayer [Heb., “I am or became prayer”]. And they have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love. . . . Let Satan stand at his right hand. When he shall be judged, let him be condemned, and let his prayer become sin. . . . Let there be none to extend mercy unto him . . . Let his posterity be cut off and ***in the generation following [the final, last generation] let their name be blotted out***” (Psalm 109:1-13).

This prayer is a clear prayer of a servant of God suffering from the lying hatred of a powerful king – a type of the end-time “Antichrist.” In type it referred to Judas Iscariot, the disciple who betrayed Christ due to his own heart of “causeless hatred.” The Antichrist will be such a son of Satan, the son of perdition and doom, just as Judas was, and will go into perdition and be cast into Gehenna fire at the return of Christ (Rev.19:19-20). His family will be “cut off.”

The apostle Paul writes of him, “Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the FALLING AWAY [APOSTASY] comes first, and the MAN OF SIN [lawlessness] is revealed, the SON OF PERDITION, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped,, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” (II Thess.2:3-4).

He is called “the lawless one,” in verse 9. He is empowered by the “working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved” (vs.9-10).

The appearance of the “Antichrist” is the third great sign we are really in the End Times!

The apostle Paul writes, “Let no one deceive you by any means for that day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the *man of sin* is revealed, the son of perdition, who *opposes and exalts himself* above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” (II Thessalonians 2:3-4).

The Great Apostasy has to occur first and the man of sin revealed. The Greek word for falling away is “*apostasia*” which means departure from the truth. This is talking about the Antichrist who is going to be revealed. He *is going to be a lawless man*.

The Antichrist is called “the man of sin.” Paul also speaks of him saying, “And then the lawless one will be revealed” (II Thess.2:8). In verse 9 he says, “The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs and lying wonders.”

What does that mean? “Sin,” by definition, means “lawlessness.” The apostle John wrote, “Sin is LAWLESSNESS” (I John 3:4). So the Antichrist will be a man of extreme lawlessness – an imperial dictator who despises law, the Constitution, and especially the laws of Almighty God!

His administration is going to be the most lawless administration in human history. He will bend the law, circumvent it, go around it, and change the law. The prophet Daniel declares, “He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to *change* times and laws” (Daniel 7:25).

What politician today has the motto “*change* that you can believe in!”?

God warns us, “My son, do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the wicked; for there will be no prospect for the evil man; the lamp of the wicked will be put out. Fear the Lord and the king. *Do not meddle (associate) with those given to change*, for their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knows the ruin those two can bring?” (Proverbs 24:19-22).

The more we watch Barack Obama in action, the more the evidence multiplies that he could well be the one destined to play the role of the world’s final dictator – the one called “the Beast,” and “the Antichrist”!

Sign #5 – the 6000 Year Plan

In Psalm 90:4, we read: “For a *thousand years* in thy sight are but as *yesterday* when it is past, and as a watch in the night.”

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).

The *Jewish New Testament Commentary*, by Dr. David H. Stern, in a commentary on II Peter, chapter 3, dealing with the “day for a “thousand years” equation, explains that this idea “has deep roots in Judaism, specifically in connection with *dating the Messianic Era.*” He then quotes the Talmud, in tractate Sanhedrin, as follows:

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

“It has been taught in accordance with Rav Kattina, 'Just as every seventh year is a year of *sh'mittah* [letting the land lie fallow], so it is with the world: one thousand years out of seven are to be fallow -- as proved by the following three texts taken together [in which the key word is "day"]: 'The Lord alone will be exalted in that day' (Isaiah 2:11); 'A psalm and song for the day of *Shabbat*' (Psalm 92:1), meaning the day that is entirely *Shabbat*; and, "For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past" (Psalm 90:4).

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

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

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

of God – from the time of Abraham, 2004 B.C. to the *birth of Jesus Christ in 4 B.C.!*

The “Messianic Era,” then, runs from 4 B.C. to 1997-98 A.D. – our time, today!

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

David H. Stern writes concerning this fateful prophecy:

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

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

“Concerning the third 2,000 years, a footnote to this passage in the Soncino English edition of the Talmud says, '*Messiah will come WITHIN THAT PERIOD. He should have come at the beginning of [it]; the DELAY is due to our SINS.*' It should be obvious that the Messiah, who 'should have come at the beginning' of the last 2,000 year period is in fact Yeshua, who did come then. The delay is not of his coming but of our recognizing him, and this delay is indeed 'due to our sins.' . . .

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

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).

Therefore, when the apostle Peter tells us that a “day” is with God as a thousand years, we should sit up and take notice! This implies that seven days of the week would equal SEVEN THOUSAND YEARS. And when we learn from prophecy that the Millennial day of “rest” or Millennial SABBATH is one thousand years, literally (Rev.20:4), then this tells us plainly that the preceding six days equal six thousand years!

Counting from Creation of Adam and Eve in 4004 B.C., the six thousand years of man’s rule of earth would end in 1997 A.D., as there was no year zero. But from what year should we begin counting? Is 4004 B.C. the correct date? Not necessarily! According to the book of Jubilees, Adam and Eve did not sin until seven years after Creation. Therefore, they did not come under Satan’s influence and rulership until 3997 B.C. Counting from this date would put the end of 6000 years at 2004 A.D.

Sign #6 – 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.”

The author of Jubilees goes on, “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.

Sign #7 – the Measure of the Mikvah

The mikvah pool in ancient times was a minimum of 40 *seahs* in volume of capacity. To understand this, we begin with a simple “egg.” To the ancient Hebrews, the egg was the smallest unit of *volume* measure and also symbolically represents an increment or unit of *time*.

A person can hold 3 eggs in one hand; 6 eggs in two hands. Six eggs is called a *log*. Four logs comprise a *cab* of measure, or 24 eggs (4 x 6 = 24). Six cabs (24 x 6) equals 144 eggs. This is the volume of a *seah*. Since there are 40 *seahs* in a mikvah, this means that a mikvah (symbol of a larger unit or measure of time) equals (40 x 144) a total of 5760 eggs! Thus, understanding that an “egg” represents a “year,” the mikvah period represents a time of 5760 *YEARS in fulfillment!*

What is so significant about that? Simply this: *The year 2000-2001 in the Jewish Calendar was the year 5760!*

Thus we have completed one complete TIME CYCLE of the Mikvah – one complete “baptism” or period of “immersion.” The year 5760 was the final year of the preceding “mikvah period” – from the time of Creation to the END OF DAYS!

Sign #8 – Ezekiel’s Amazing Prophecy

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).

The siege of ancient Israel, the northern ten tribes, was from 721-718 B.C., when they were carried captive by the Assyrians.

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.

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

If you add Daniel’s final week or seven years to 2013 A.D., then the end date becomes 2020 A.D. This scenario indicates that the coming of the Messiah and the END of the prophecy will come about 2020 A.D., or shortly thereafter!

Sign #9 – the Enigmatic “65 Years” till Ephraim’s Fall

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). I have often wondered if this verse has a message for the end-times, our day. What is this mysterious “sixty five” years? When would it be counted from? Ephraim refers to the United States and its allies, descended from ancient Ephraim the son of Joseph and leading tribe of the northern kingdom of Israel.

If we count 65 years from May 14, 1948, when Israel became an independent nation, then we come to 2013 A.D.!

Hebrew years overlap the Roman year, and go from spring to spring or fall to fall. Therefore this is really 2013-2014 A.D.

Could this date signal the beginning of the fall of end-time Ephraim, the United States of America? Could it be the time when we begin to lose our national sovereignty and descend into national slavery and great tribulation? Could it signal the beginning of and formation of the New World Order – end-time “Babylon”?

We are living in extremely dangerous times.

Will another WAR occur soon in the Middle East? 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).

Will Arab terrorists or Iranian secret cells in America respond by setting off terrorist nuclear bombs – 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). We are certainly entering into harrowing times.

Sign #10 – Years of Punishment and Restoration

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). A prophetic year is 360 days. Thus $360 \times 7 = 2520$ years! Let us count 2520 years from 604 B.C, the year king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took ancient Judah into captivity.

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

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. The Declaration read as follows:

“His Majesty’s Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.”

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.

Sign #11 – the Jubilee Cycles

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!

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

1967 could also be considered the end of one Jubilee cycle beginning in 1917 when Israel was “restored” in Palestine by the Balfour Declaration! It is also the fateful year of the miraculous “Six Day War” in which Israel defeated the surrounding Arab states in a blitzkrieg type war in a mere six days!

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).

This astounding war occurred exactly 2300 years from the pivotal battle between Greece and Persia that began Daniel’s vision of the eighth chapter. This furious battle, like its predecessor 2300 years ago, was fought against overwhelming odds, and the outcome was decided by Divine Providence. Something occurred during this battle in 1967 which proves it was the terminus of this ancient prophecy. The Jews seized the Old City of Jerusalem, historic Jerusalem, and along with it THE SACRED TEMPLE MOUNT, where history shows that Solomon's Temple, and the Second Temple, were both constructed!

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!*

But now let’s continue the “Jubilee cycle.” The next 50 years ends in the year 2017. Could this also be significant?

$$\begin{array}{r} 1967 \\ +50 \\ \hline 2017 \end{array}$$

Notice! This date, 2017, is the same date as the 70 years beginning in 1947, the year of the UN mandate to divide Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state! By this reckoning, the year 2017-2018 is a JUBILEE YEAR!

Could this be the “Jubilee year” on which the Messiah will return in glory?

Or could it introduce the final “ten years” the ten “days of awe” depicted by the ten days from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur?

Sign #12 -- the Ten “Sefirot” of God and the Ten “Days of Awe”

These final 10 years are also pictured by or correspond to the “ten sefirot” of God – His ten characteristics revealed to mankind. The first three are “hidden” from view. The visible “sefirot” are seven in number, depicting the final SEVEN years of the age. The ten sefirot picture the final 10 years – but the first three are “hidden” or “obscure” and not easily recognized.

The number “ten” is very important, Biblically. There are ten patriarchs and ten generations of mankind before the Flood; there were ten plagues on ancient Egypt; God gave Israel the “Ten Commandments”; there were ten tribes in the northern kingdom of Israel; the fourth beast of Daniel has ten horns (Dan.7:7, 24); the beast of Revelation has ten horns also (Rev.13:1); ten kings will fight Christ when He returns (Rev.17:12-14); the Church of God is described as being composed of *ten virgins* (Matt.25:1); the tithe is *one tenth* of one’s income (Lev.27:30-32).

Ten is also a number of perfection or completion. But it signifies completion or perfection of God's divine order. The first ten numbers is the pattern for the whole numerical system, as “numerical DNA” as it were – and originates the system of numerical calculation called “decimals.” Completeness of order, then, is represented by the number “ten.”

And, of course, there are the “ten days of Awe.” In end-time prophecy, when God begins to reveal Himself, the ten days represent ten years – a day is a year being fulfilled. So if we add 10 years to 2012, we come to 2022 A.D.!

All together, then, there are ten divine *sefirot* or “traits” of God which represent the connecting link or “chain of command” between God and our physical world in which we live. These *sefirot* are revealed in the “Omer Count,” in the spring of the year. God commands His people to “count the Omer” each day, from the beginning of barley harvest (Abib 16), till Pentecost, seven weeks later (Lev.23:15-16).

The first three of the divine sefirot are *chochma* (Wisdom), *binah* (Understanding), and *dat* (Knowledge). These are invisible attributes. Could these also refer to the first three years, of the final ten days of this world before Christ comes? In other words, could the first three “invisible” years begin from 2012, and end in 2015?

But in 2015 will people begin to wake up and SEE what has really been happening, right under their noses! The invisible will become visible! As Paul wrote, “For the mystery of iniquity is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be REVEALED . . .” (II Thess.2:7-8).

Sign #13 -- the Blood Red Moons Connection

Interestingly, a rare cycle of solar and lunar eclipses will begin this year 2014,

occurring at the time of God's holy days cited in the Bible.

In the Old Testament, the prophet Joel states, “The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come” (Joel 2:31).

In the New Testament, Jesus is quoted as saying, “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light . . . And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matthew 24:29-30).

In 2014 and also in 2015, a tetrad of blood red moons, or lunar eclipses, occurs on both Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles. Could this be the beginning of the final week of Daniel 9, and a signal that the final visible seven “sefirot” of God will be revealed?

“All these signs, coming together at one time, are potentially the culminating signals that God is closing this chapter of human history,” declares pastor Mark Biltz, author of the book and DVD, *Blood Moons: Decoding the Imminent Heavenly Signs*.

Sign #14 – the 70 Weeks Prophecy

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 mysterious 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 *sevened*, *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.

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

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.

Sign #15 – the Covenant of Death

“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).

“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).

The vast majority if not the whole world has misunderstood these words. Many assume – falsely – that this covenant or treaty will be between Israel and the Palestinians, a “peace” treaty. But it says no such thing! It is merely a “treaty,” and “agreement,” or an “alliance” which involves “many.” The Jews are not even mentioned!

The passage is discussing a “prince” or end-time ruler, the Antichrist, who will form an alliance with many against Israel and invade the land and cause worship on the Temple Mount to stop!

The apostle John speaks of the ten-horned “beast” of Revelation 13, the resurrected, end-time “Roman Empire” or “Babylon.” He is told, “As for the ten horns you have seen, they are ten kings who have no royal power as yet, but receive royal authority for an hour along with the Beast; they are of one mind, , and they confer their power and authority upon the Beast” (Rev.17:12-13, Moffatt).

This could well be a SECRET agreement – not even “public” knowledge!

This may well be the same “plot” alluded to in Psalm 83. We read, “How are thy foes in uproar, thine enemies are alert, *plotting against thy folk with cunning, CONSPIRING against thy precious people, saying, ‘Come, let us blot them out of being, till Israel be no more a nation.’*”

“So they plan with one consent, in a LEAGUE against thee – Edomites and Ishmaelites [Turkey and Arab Muslim nations], Moabites [Jordan] and Hagrites [Iraq], Gebal [Lebanon], Ammon [capital of Jordan], and Amalek [Palestinians] and Tyre, Samaria are confederate, ALLIED to the sons of Lot” (Psalm 83:2-8, Moffatt).

Moffatt says “Samaria” is confederate – the leader of the northern ten tribes of Israel. Today it stands for the United States. The King James, New King James, and Jewish Tanakh have it “Assyria.” The term “Assyria” refers to the World Empire reigning in the earth at the time. It began with the Assyrian Empire, followed by the Babylonian Empire, also called “the king[dom] of Assyria” (II Kings 23:29), and the Persian Empire. Ezra, who lived during the Persian Empire, called its “king” the “king of

Assyria” (Ezra 6:22). Today, that would be the “New World Order” led by the United States Great Britain and Europe.

Notice this! This league, or conspiracy is a PLOT against Israel! It includes “Samaria,” which was the capital of the northern kingdom of Israel, led by Jeroboam and the tribe of Joseph – particularly, Ephraim. Samaria, today, refers to the United States of America, the tribe of “Ephraim,” and her allies, who are all a part of this UNHOLY ALLIANCE!

This alliance may well have already begun to form, as the U.S. allies itself with Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the Sunni Muslim nations and the Muslim Brotherhood!

Sign #16 – the Temple

And what about the “sacrifices” and “offerings” which will cease mid-way through the final seven years (Dan.9:27)? Does this mean that a Temple must be built on the Temple Mount before the coming of Christ, the Messiah?

Not necessarily.

When the Jews returned to Jerusalem from Babylon, in 536 B.C., in the days of Ezra, the priests and Levites installed an altar on the Temple Mount and offered the daily offerings BEFORE the Temple itself was built – before even the foundation was laid. In Ezra 3 we read, “And when the seventh month had come, the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered together as one man to Jerusalem. Then Jeshuah . . . and Zerubbabel . . . and his brethren, arose and built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it . . . Though fear had come upon them because of the people of those countries, they set the altar on its bases; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD, both the morning and the evening burnt offerings” (Ezra 3:1-3, NKJV).

“From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD, although the foundation of the temple of the LORD had not been laid” (v.6).

In other words, there does not have to be a Temple as such there for these burnt offerings to cease, as the prophecy says. But John in Revelation is told, “Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there” (Rev.11:1). The word for “temple” here is *naos*, #3485 in Strong’s Concordance, and is used of “the sacred edifice (or sanctuary) itself, consisting of the Holy place and the Holy of holies.” It also is used in the Bible “of any temple whatever prepared for the true God . . . of miniature silver temples modeled after the temple of Diana. . . metaph. of a company of Christians, a Christian church, as dwelt in by the Spirit of God” (Thayers Greek-English Lexicon).

With this knowledge in mind, it is very noteworthy that a large group of prominent rabbis in Israel have issued a united call to establish a Synagogue on the

Temple Mount in Jerusalem! According to an article by Moshe Cohen in *Arutz Sheva*, March 30, 2014:

“A wide ranging group of rabbis from the National Religious camp have written a letter to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu advocating the construction of a synagogue on the Temple Mount, Judaism's holiest site.

“Among the rabbis are those considered religiously “conservative” and who have avoided making public calls for prayers on the Temple Mount until now – including Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu – as well as those considered more “liberal,” including Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, Rabbi She'ar Yashuv-Cohen, Rabbi Menachem Borstein, and Rabbi Daniel Shilo. Many of the latter have also avoided calling for prayers on the Mount as well.

“Also signing the letter were prominent Religious Zionist figures Rabbi Dov Lior, Rabbi Eliyahu Zinni, and Rabbi Haim Cohen.

“The letter was also signed by many professors, educators, and professionals; it was authored and delivered by the Amutat Yishai organization, which advocates building a synagogue on an area of the Temple Mount that many rabbis agree Jews are allowed to ascend to.”

The letter went on to say, ““The Temple Mount is a unique place for prayer. As Prime Minister, we ask you to do what is necessary to establish a place of prayer for Jews on the Temple Mount, in a respectable and peaceful manner, that will honor the holy place we all long for.”

Public opinion in Israel is swinging to having a place of worship on the Temple Mount for Jews. Interestingly Jewish synagogues themselves, as holy places, are often referred as “Temples.” Each of them has an altar, and prayers are made at the customary times for prayer, during the time of the evening and morning sacrifices.

Clearly, the stage is being set for the final fulfillment of all these ageless prophecies. We are much closer than most people imagine or begin to think!

We are now sitting on a powderkeg – on the very cusp of the Great Tribulation prophesied for the “end of days.” We are hurtling at unbelievable speed into the “crisis at the close” of this world civilization, as the Moffatt translation puts it!

Sign #17 – the 120 Days

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?

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).

Sign #18 – 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?

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?

The Final Curtain Call

This could be the final curtain call before the Great Tribulation mentioned in the Bible.

These eighteen signs point to the soon coming of Jesus Christ, Yeshua the Messiah, to intervene in this world’s hellish, wicked affairs, to save mankind from himself and utter oblivion and extinction!

Analyze them. Pray about them. Meditate on them.

God has always wanted to warn His people, and the rest of the world, before He intervenes. He is a God of mercy and compassion. He does not like to see mankind suffer any more than is necessary. But His Word warns, “Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. TURN, TURN from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’” (Ezsek.33:11).

The day of Judgment is rapidly approaching. It is time to examine our ways, before it is too late. “*PREPARE to meet your God, O Israel!*” (Amos 4:12).