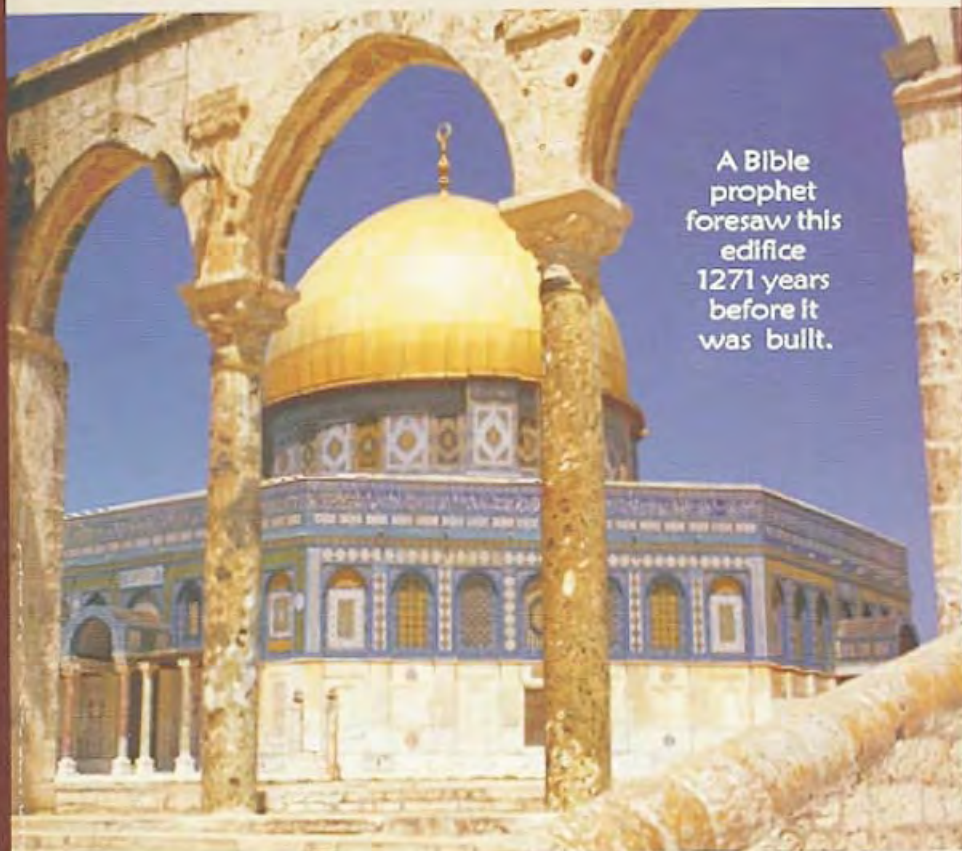


The Religious Battle Behind The Headlines

ISLAM

IN THE END TIMES



A Bible
prophet
foresaw this
edifice
1271 years
before it
was built.

ELLIS SKOLFIELD

Author of *The Shining Man* and *The False Prophet*

*“And if the beginning
of that interval could be ascertained,
this number of prophetic days,
TAKING A DAY FOR A YEAR,
would give us a prospect
of when the end should be.”*

Matthew Henry
Bible Commentary (1706-1721)
Vol VI, p. 1157, col 1, par 1 & 2

ALSO BY ELLIS SKOLFIELD

Daniel Is Out of Order

Sunset of the Western Church

Hidden Beast

Demons in the Church

Hidden Beast II

SOZO, Survival Guide
for a Remnant Church

The False Prophet

The Shining Man
with Hurt Hands

ISLAM

IN THE END TIMES

ELLIS H. SKOLFIELD

*"Truth can never be told
so as to be understood
and not be believed."*

WILLIAM BLAKE

FISH HOUSE PUBLISHING



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*This dedication was written fifteen years ago for an earlier book, but it
has never been more appropriate than it is today.*

DEDICATION

*They were stoned,
they were sawn asunder,
were slain with the sword:
they wandered about
in sheepskins and goatskins;
being destitute, afflicted, tormented;
of whom the world was not worthy:
they wandered in deserts,
and in mountains,
and in dens and caves of the earth.*

HEB 11:37-38

IT began with Stephen, Christians dying for Jesus sake: stoned to death, beheaded, stretched on the rack, boiled in oil, cast in among serpents, thrown to lions. Four to twenty million killed by the Roman Empire and many million since: skinned alive, burned at the stake, babies dashed against walls, pregnant women ripped open. Millions murdered by Nazis, a million Sudanese butchered by Islamic militias, many by crucifixion. In Cambodia, a million more in horrors unimaginable and Indonesian Christians, too. These brethren gone before us stand beneath the altar and never cease to cry: "How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"

This unworthy work is dedicated to those dear people and to the brethren who have yet to face their murderers in some dank and rat-infested dungeon. And it is to you, my beloved brother or sister in the Lord, for as surely as night follows day, that same fate awaits many who will read this book.

IMPORTANT PUBLISHER'S NOTE

To maintain the author's conversational style, an editorial decision was made to take many interesting details out of the body copy and place them in footnote. However, the footnotes add quite a bit to the prophetic picture painted by the author, so they should be read.

Some of this work will be familiar to those who have read *The False Prophet*, the earlier *Sozo*, the much earlier *Hidden Beast* series or the even earlier *Daniel is out of Chronological Order*. All except *The False Prophet* are now out of print. Of necessity, this book also contains chapters on day-years, time-times and the figurative beasts in Bible prophecy. Please forgive the repetition, but those not familiar with the prophetic principals covered in Skolfield's earlier works on the subject would be totally lost without them.

However, there is also much here that is new. Subjects not covered in his earlier works needed to be addressed, like identifying the "two hundred thousand-thousand horseman" of Rev. 9:16 (usually believed to be the battle of Armageddon). Also now disclosed is the identity of the final "beast" and the identity of those who worship it. Of even more importance, the name of the man whose number is 666 can now be told.

*A speecal thanks to Ginger Jackson, my vare pashunt editur,
who kep the anthur frum loking like a totul ident.*

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CRIME SCENE

Chapter 1

THIS is not an anti-Moslem, anti-Jew or anti-anyone else book. Neither is it about what you or I may want to believe. This is about what we can now prove from Bible prophecy and history. Real objective provable truth, not guesswork theology. Though the Bible is quoted a bit, proselyting you into becoming a Bible-thumpin' Christian isn't this book's intent either.

This is about how the Bible predicted the major events of the last two millennia to the exact year: the Crucifixion of Jesus, the coming of Islam during the dark ages, World War II, Hitler, the Holocaust and the formation of the new nation of Israel. It's about the Bible's prediction that Jerusalem would again be under Jewish control in 1967. It's also about the second rise of Islam and the Islamic Jihad the rest of the world now faces.

These events fulfill so many prophecies that the popular views of Bible prophecy we hear today can no longer be supported scripturally or historically. Bible prophecy isn't about the last seven years of this age, nor is it about events in China, Tierra del Fuego, Russia, Zimbabwe or the United States. It's about the geographic area where it all began: the Mideast and the new nation of Israel. For example, when we look at the following as a Middle Eastern prophecy – with Israel surrounded by enemies – isn't this verse being fulfilled right before our very eyes?

Zec 12:3 "And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will make Jerusalem a burdensome stone to all people: all that shall lift it up shall be rent and torn, and all the kingdoms of the earth shall be gathered together against her."

There are two major value-systems on the world's stage today that are diametrically opposed to each other: the Judeo-Christian ethic and Islam. We in the West know a lot about our own value-system, but precious little about Islam's. Since our ethic is in direct conflict with Islam's, we need to learn a bit about the Koran and what the Bible predicts about the future of Islam.

Islam has two faces, the benign face it prefers to show to the West and the militant face it openly displays in the Middle East. One face is true Islam, the other is a charade. According to the Koran, there are only two houses in Islam, the Dar el Salaam (*the house of peace*) and the Dar el Harb (*the house of war*). If you are a Moslem, you are in the Dar el Salaam, but if you're of any other faith, you are an "infidel" in the Dar el Harb and Islam is at war with you. That doesn't mean that every Moslem is a terrorist, no, but all terrorists today are Moslems and all Moslems believe that the whole world must become Islamic.

For over 40 years, Israel has been signing treaties with the Palestinian Moslems; to date, not one has been honored. Since we are all infidels, as far as Islam is concerned, any treaty signed with non-Moslems is not binding on them unless it is in Islam's best interests to observe it. Despite the wishful thinking of our ever so pragmatic politicians, that's reality!

It isn't that Moslems are worse than anyone else, they aren't. They are doing their best to adhere to a religion that has a very aggressive history because that is what the Koran demands of its followers. Western leaders refuse to recognize the religious component of this war so our real enemy is not being confronted at all. This is a war of belief systems, not guns and bullets, and the West is fighting it just like the Bible said it might:

1Corinthians 14:8 "For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?"

During the second Gulf War, Islamic Palestinians in the West Bank and Jordan were rioting in the streets and Mullahs all over the Mideast were preaching against the United States, inciting thousands of jihadists to fight for Saddam. Did they do so because of any great love for Iraq's murderous secular dictator? Of course not. Jihadists came into Iraq – and still do – because infidels, despite their goals, had a military presence in an Islamic state. Middle Eastern Islam was just behaving Islamic.

*Arutz Sheva Israel National Radio, 9/30/2001, 8:19am
Palestinian Mufti Forbids Moslems to Join Anti-terror Coalition*

The Middle East Media Research Institute reports that the Palestinian Authority (PA) Mufti in Jerusalem has called upon Moslems not to join the American anti-terrorism coalition. This past Friday, Sept. 28, 2001, the PA's Mufti, Sheikh Ikrimah Sabri, encouraged the worshippers in the Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount to oppose the coalition.

For years, Iraq's secular regime under Hussain prevented the Middle East from unifying into one massive fundamental Islamic super-state. But who now is able to stop that from happening? The United States could if it would stay in Iraq, but US leaders, primarily concerned about the flow of Middle Eastern oil, refuse to recognize who the enemy of the West really is. We keep hearing that we're just fighting a few million radical Islamic terrorists, but it isn't so. The enemy that threatens our value-system – indeed our whole way of life – is Islam itself.

Regardless of where Moslems might live or any internal differences they might have between themselves, Islam is one entity with one book they follow and consider holy . . . a Koran that instructs Moslems to bring the world into Islam, if necessary by the power of the sword . . . to fight against, subjugate and even kill all who are determined to remain out of Islam. We may not be at war with Islam, but as their violent history shows, Islam has been at war with the West ever since it's inception.

Despite hand-wringing protests to the contrary, this is a religious war. We may not think so, but fundamental Moslems certainly do. To them, it is their monotheistic Allah against a false polytheistic Christian God. The second Iraq war was barely over before Mullah's from Iran harangued a million or so Iraqi Shiites into demonstrating against the American forces that had just freed them from Saddam's brutal tyranny. And what was the stated purpose of those "spontaneous" gatherings? Fundamental imams wanted Iraq to become a fundamental Islamic state just like its neighbor Iran.

Islam has not been weakened by freeing the Iraqi people, it's been strengthened, and this war cannot be won by force of arms. If we kill bin Laden, another bin Laden will arise, and another, and another. The only way to win is to change the belief structure of those waging it. The message of the Bible could do that, as it has changed the mind-set of people in the West over the last two millennia, but with the Church asleep, the trumpet to arms has indeed been giving "an uncertain sound."

Bible prophecy states that we are now in the final time of trial to come upon the earth. The final enemy of us all is clawing at the gates and we're worried about gas prices, the economy, building a bigger house, buying a new car or what shows were on TV last night. Christian's keep hearing that they'll all be raptured out before the really bad times start, but it isn't so. "The day of the Lord" will be just like Scripture said it would be:

Amos 5:18-19 "Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light. As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him."

Have we so quickly forgotten the United States embassies in Iran, Kenya and elsewhere, the barracks bombings in Lebanon and Saudi Arabia, the bombing of the USS Cole, the destruction of the World Trade Center, IUDs against our soldiers and civilians in

Iraq, the saber rattling of Iran and other anti-western Islamic states, the increased activism of Islamic militants, the continuing attacks against coalition troops in Iraq and Afghanistan?

Arutz Sheva Israel National Radio, 6/15/2007, 8:52am
 Arab Media Reports Syria Making Preparations for War with Israel, *by Hana Levi Julian*

A Qatari newspaper, *Al Watan*, reported Friday that Syria is making concrete preparations for war with Israel, saying that the Syrian government has removed the Government and State Archives from the Damascus area. According to the paper, this move indicates preparations for war.

Syrian parliament member Muhammad Habash confirmed on Al-Jazeera Arabic world news satellite TV last week that Syria is indeed engaged in active preparations for a war with Israel. The conflict, said the Syrian MP, is expected to break out during the summer months.

That's not a picture of the distant future, it's today's news and Syria is not alone. Iranian Mullahs are plotting to destroy Israel and al-Qaeda is plotting a major strike against the United States. The Jews are expecting their Messiah to arrive at any moment, the Christians are looking for Jesus to return in the clouds, the Moslems expect their 12th Imam to float up out of a well, and the Mayan calendar ends in 2012. Everyone in the world knows these conditions can't last for long. Considering the weapons of mass-destruction now available to anyone with enough money to buy them, we find ourselves hurtling towards a cultural train-wreck of terrible ferocity and no one knows how to get off.

What the Bible tells us about Islam and this final battle with them is the story of this book, and it needs to be told. We may not be at war with Islam, but Islam has been at war with the rest of the world for over 1300 years, in fact, ever since the first Jihad of the 7th Century. The Bible tells us all about this continuing war by predicting when the Islamic Dome of the Rock would be built on the old temple mount in Jerusalem and by predicting when the

Jewish people would be restored to the Holy Land. The events of 688AD, 1948AD and 1967AD cannot be challenged.

Reconciling all the data available for the prophetic concepts explained in this book turned out to be a monumental task. It would have been easy to overlook or misinterpret some historic event or passage in Scripture, which could have lead to incorrect conclusions. We've listened closely to the advice of many friends over the years, but it was actually one super detective who helped us see the prophetic books in a new light. It's because of that detective that Bible prophecy is a mystery no longer. . .

NEWS BRIEF

*Arutz 7, Israel National Radio, 8/6/2007, 7AM.
One Meeting in Jericho, Two Agendas
by Hana Levi Julian*

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert (Israel) is going into a lunch meeting at the Intercontinental Hotel in Jericho with Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) on Monday prepared to discuss establishment of a PA state, but not specific final-status details, according to an official in Jerusalem.

PA Chairman Abbas, on the other hand, intends to focus his efforts on the down-and-dirty demands to divide Jerusalem, to bring about the immigration of five million foreign Arabs claiming descent from the Arabs who fled Israel during the 1948 war, and directly set final borders.

THE DETECTIVE

Chapter 2

*He revealeth
the deep and secret things:
He knoweth
what is in the darkness
and the light dwelleth with Him.*

Dan 2:22

ALL of us have read a mystery. We find clues along the way and part of the fun in reading a mystery is trying to solve it. Of course, none of us is ever smart enough to do it, so in the final chapter a brilliant detective solves the crime, calls in the police, and the miserable felon is carted off to prison.

1 Cor 2:7 “But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even the hidden wisdom*, which God ordained before the world.”

Hmm...the Greek word for mystery, *musterion*, appears 27 times in the New Testament, so part of the Bible is a mystery. Now much of God’s mystery has been explained in the first 65 books of the Bible, but not all. The mere fact that there are so many confusing end-time doctrines around is proof that we really haven’t got it all figured out. So where can we find a detective who can solve the rest of God’s mystery for us?

Rev 1:1 “The **Revelation**¹ of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John.”

For 2000 years, we have been trying to solve God’s mystery on our own. We’ve poured over the Bible, finding this clue and that, then with magnifying glass in hand we’ve gone to Revelation to see if we could figure out that book as well, as if Revelation was part of the mystery. But from the above verse, it’s apparent that Revelation isn’t part of the mystery, it’s God’s solution and God gave us a Great Detective in the person of Jesus Christ.

Rev 22:10 “And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.”

Folks, have we been looking at Bible prophecy through the wrong end of the telescope? Have we been going to Revelation with our various doctrines in place and tried to interpret that book through the filter of what we already believe? What if we stand behind Revelation and look back at the rest of Scripture through the grid of what God might reveal to us through that book? If we do, might Revelation emerge as Jesus’ unraveling of the mystery of God’s dealings with man throughout the ages? Might we be able to see the Jews, the church, Islam and the Middle Eastern terrorists in a whole new way? Let’s find out.

A VERY BRIEF HISTORY

During the Middle Ages, the Church fell into a dead formalism that led to the Great Reformation. Many Roman Catholic Priests, some long forgotten, Eckhart, Tauler, Rokycana, Bricconnet, Huss and others, were used of God to begin great spiritual revivals. At

¹ PUBLISHER’S NOTE: Occasionally the author has boldfaced a few words or a phrase in a Bible quote to draw your attention to a central subject. Such boldfacing does *not* appear in the original Bible texts.

the time, every one of those early evangelists was considered a radical heretic by the established church. Those excommunicate priests taught “heretical” doctrinal systems such as salvation “by grace through faith,” believer baptism and communion of both bread and cup for all believers. New converts followed those “left wing extremists,” supporting their “heretical” positions, and almost before you knew it, those reforming groups became new denominations.

Five hundred or so years have passed and those “heretical” extremists have become us: the Baptists, the Presbyterians, the Lutherans, the Free Methodists – the whole Protestant world. The worthy elders of the Reformation passed their views on down to us and most of them are still taught today. What’s more, their views were generally sound, until . . . until . . . it came to Bible prophecy. Since they couldn’t foresee our modern world, they viewed Bible prophecy from a medieval perspective.

Among other unlikely concepts, Revelation’s Leopard-Bear-Lion beast, Two Horned Beast and Scarlet Beast were believed to be real living animals that would roam the earth. When those views were in vogue, England was a great world power, spanning the globe, and the sun never set on the British flag. Europe was the cultural center of the universe and the United States was but a minor nation full of woodsmen and farmers. In their wildest dreams, theologians of horse-and-buggy days couldn’t imagine two 110 story glass covered buildings standing on an island for which the Dutch paid \$24. Much less, that those buildings would be destroyed by ten Islamic terrorists using commercial airplanes as flying bombs.

If we are honest with ourselves, we can see that the end-time scenarios proposed by those venerable theologians just don’t fit what’s happening in the world today. It is evident to all that we’re at the end of the Christian era, but as yet, there is no *visible* one-world government, no Antichrist, and no Seven-Year Tribulation

in sight. Is it possible that the Lord's plan for the end is somewhat different than the traditions we learned in Sunday school? It surely could be, because God appears to have opened His prophetic Word in a totally new way through two almost unbelievable fulfillments of prophecy that have taken place in the Holy Land during the last 60 years:

In 1948AD, the new nation of Israel was established and in 1967, Jerusalem again came under Jewish control for the first time in 2573 years!

Though they were dispersed from their land for two millennia and persecuted beyond measure, Jews again control the Holy Land and Jerusalem is again the capital of a sovereign nation called Israel. Impossible realities, but in the following chapters, we will show how those two events fulfill more Bible prophecy than any other events since the crucifixion. What's more, those events allow us to understand scriptures that were previously a mystery to us all – scriptures that change our view of God's plan and of how He intends to bring this age to a close.

It is apparent to all that a rocky road lies ahead for people everywhere. Storm clouds already loom on the horizon and there are questions that need to be asked. Will a worldwide holocaust again menace us all, and if so, can we escape it? How long will it last? Where would God have us be while it is here and how will that time of trouble come to an end?

There are some prophecies that nobody before this generation could possibly understand. They go something like: "From the time "X" takes place until "Y" happens there will be "Z" number of days." Well, "Y" happened in 1948 and 1967 so those mysterious prophecies can now be understood. However, we'll need a bit of Israeli history so that we can place ourselves at the correct starting date for "Y", which happens to be during the lifetime of the prophets who wrote those mysterious equations.

WHEN ARE WE?

Chapter 3

*When it is evening, ye 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 lowering.
O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky;
but can ye not discern the signs of the times?*

MATTHEW 16:2-3

THE God of the Bible sees creation from an eternal viewpoint. If we wish to understand His prophecies, we need to view them from His eternal perspective. If we could stand on a giant mountain somewhere and view our 6000 years of recorded history all at once, as God does, we would see a broad completed tapestry. On that tapestry would be every event that has ever happened or ever will happen. Time and space are creations of God and He stands outside them all:

Isa 45:12 "I have made the earth, and created man upon it:
I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all
their host have I commanded."

Man, however, is bound by time and space. We are physically placed in a material world, and as history records it, we are in the first decade of the 3rd Millennium AD. God told us about all this in the Bible and He partitioned His dealings with man into three separate time frames (three different biblical epochs), each lasting about 2000 years.

1. The era before the flood,
2. The era between the flood and Jesus' crucifixion,
3. Our own Christian era.

In each of those eras, God revealed Himself to man in a different way. In this chapter, we will focus our attention on the Christian era, the time that Gentiles controlled Jerusalem, spoken of in Scripture as the “Time of the Gentiles.”

Our era actually began at the crucifixion, 32-34AD and just before He went to the cross, Jesus told His disciples what this era would be like. Known to us as the “Olivet Discourse,” this chapter-long talk is actually a prophecy about the major events that would take place between His crucifixion and the end of the age. This discourse is recorded in the first three Gospels. Though all three agree, each Gospel gives us some important data not contained in the other two:

(1) Matt 24:31 - Matthew states that the elect are gathered at the sound of a “great trumpet.”

(2) Mark 13:14 - Mark declares that the Abomination of Desolation is an “it,” and not a “him.”

(3) Luke 21:24 - Luke defines the “time of the Gentiles.”

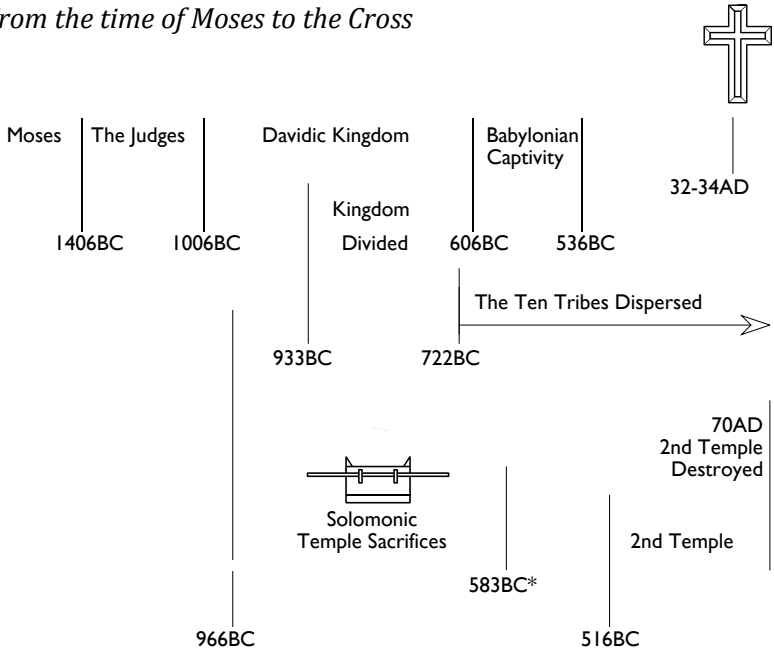
Christians hear a lot about special spiritual time-frames like “law” and “grace,” but in Luke 21:24, Jesus defines our own era in a totally different way, as a “time of the Gentiles.”

Luke 21:21-24 (*excerpts*) “Then let them [*the Jews*] which are in Judaea flee [*from Jerusalem*] . . . And they [*the Jews*] shall fall by the edge of the sword, and **shall be** led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem **shall be** trodden down of the Gentiles, until the **times of the Gentiles** be fulfilled.”¹

¹ PUBLISHER’S NOTE: Words or phrases [*in brackets and italics*] inserted within a Scripture quote are this author’s explanation or amplification of a passage, usually discernable by context. Words [*in brackets and italics*] are not in the original Bible texts. Some words are also **bold faced** to bring attention to them. The original texts are not boldfaced.

Graph Number 1 History of Israel

From the time of Moses to the Cross



* Conservative dating places the destruction of the Temple of Solomon at 586BC. However, Jeremiah 41:5 shows Levitical sacrifices continuing to be offered long after that date:

Jer 41:5 "That there came certain from Shechem, from Shiloh, and from Samaria, *even* fourscore men, having their beards shaven, and their clothes rent, and having cut themselves, with offerings and incense in their hand, to bring *them* to the house of the LORD."

Jer 41:5 is positioned at the end of the governorship of Gedeliah, and Gedeliah was elevated to that post after Nebuchadnezzar sacked Jerusalem in 586BC. The sacrifices above were offered seven to ten months later. After Gedeliah's time, Jews were taken captive to Babylon only once more:

Jer 52:30 "In the three and twentieth year of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive of the Jews seven hundred forty and five persons: all the persons *were* four thousand and six hundred."

Nebuchadnezzar's 1st year was 606-605BC, and this final captivity took place in the 23rd Year of Nebuchadnezzar, so we have scriptural support that 583BC was the date of the abolition of Levitical sacrifices. $606\text{BC} - 23 = 583\text{BC}$.

So when and what is this “time of the Gentiles”? Well, it’s the total time Jerusalem was under Gentile governmental control. When Jesus spoke those words in 32-34AD, Jerusalem had been under the control of various Gentile governments for about 638 years.¹ But the Jews troubled their foreign rulers with revolt after revolt, so in 70AD, Titus the Roman destroyed Jerusalem and burned the 2nd temple to the ground. Jesus predicted the coming destruction of the city and a time of Gentile control of the city to follow. Look at the tense of the verb “shall be” led away captive. “Shall be” is future to when Jesus spoke.

After Titus destroyed the city, the Jews lost control of their homeland and were dispersed among the nations. They remained dispersed throughout the world until 1948AD. As a matter of historic record, Gentiles ruled Jerusalem through the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th centuries. The 11th and 12th century crusaders were still Gentiles. Gentiles continued to control Jerusalem through the 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, right on up until 1967AD. Throughout the whole Christian Era, Gentiles have ruled Jerusalem. “And Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles . . . *until* .” As a matter of historic reality, the city of Jerusalem did not again come under Jewish control *until* the Six-Day War of June 6th, 1967, “*until* the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.” The only people who are not Gentiles are Jews and as of June 6th, 1967, the Jews again

¹ Rome was the foreign government in control of the Holy Land during Jesus’ stay on Earth, but Gentile control of Jerusalem began when Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon sacked the city in 606-605BC. Gentile rule continued under Medo-Persia and Greece. The Holy Land did not come under Roman jurisdiction until 65BC. The Jews had a short period of self-rule under the Maccabees that began in 167BC. However, the Maccabean period does not appear to be prophetically significant. The Davidic monarchy was not re-established, and the Jews were continually in conflict with the Syrian Greeks. This conflict continued until Rome conquered the Holy Land in 65BC.

govern Jerusalem, for the first time in 2573 years. Some refuse to accept it, but that's reality!

Over in the Holy Land is a nation called Israel. It's filled with a people called Jews, many of whom are looking for their Messiah. The Jewish people again ruling in their own land fits that Luke 21:24 prophecy right to the letter!

Before the Six-Day War, we could argue about what Jesus might have meant by the "time of the Gentiles," but not anymore. From our vantage point in history, we can see the Jews in control of Jerusalem with our own eyes. Consequently, it is apparent that Jesus was naming the total time of Gentile rule of the Holy City as "the Time of the Gentiles." Do we grasp the full impact of that prophecy? The time of Gentile domination of Jerusalem is over. It's over! Gentiles will never again rule Jerusalem and God's eyes are focused on the physical seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, back to their promised land, in control of their Holy City.

But if the "Time of the Gentiles" is really over, *when* are we now? What kind of time are we in? There must be another kind of time because people are still here on Earth. Searching the Bible from end to end, there appears to be only one other kind of time following the time of the Gentiles:

Dan 12:4 "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to **the time of the end.**"

Dan 12:9 "And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till **the time of the end.**"

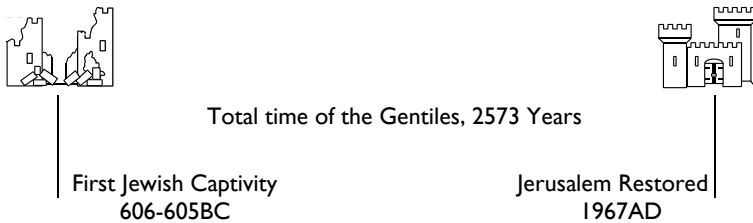
Since we are no longer in the time of the Gentiles (and we have to be in some kind of time), then we are probably in Daniel's "time of the end," or the "end times" as the NAS translates it and as a result . . .

We are probably the last generation this present Earth will see and the end of all things is at hand.

Graph Number 2

Time of The Gentiles

Luke 21:24 And they [*the Jews*] shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.



DISCERNING LOGICAL ERRORS

In Dan 12:9, God declared the book of Daniel sovereignly sealed until the time of the end. Sealed, which means nobody would really be able to understand it until the end. That doesn't sound so earth-shattering, does it? How significant can it be that a relatively obscure Old Testament prophet was sealed until the time of the end? It's this important:

If the "Time of the End" began in 1967, and Daniel was sealed until the "Time of the End," then all prophetic views theorized out of Daniel prior to 1967 would at best be incomplete and at worst, totally wrong.

And that's the point: Most popular end-time views held today were theorized from studies made in Daniel hundreds of years ago. But if the prophecies of Daniel were sealed until the "time of the end," and the "time of the end" didn't begin until 1967, then those end-time views we've been clinging to must be either incomplete or erroneous. And if they are, we could be basing the last decisions we'll ever make on this planet on theoretical events that will never happen. So wouldn't it be wise to revisit the prophecies of Daniel from which most of our popular end-time scenarios were derived?

69 WEEKS

Chapter 4

*Remember the former things of old;
for I am God, and there is none else;
I am God, and there is none like me,
Declaring the end from the beginning,
and from ancient times
the things that are not yet done.*

ISA 46:9-10

THE Jews returning to the Holy Land in 1948 and Jerusalem being freed of Gentile control in 1967, opened doors to the prophetic Scriptures that had been closed to us throughout the Christian era:

Dan 12:9 “And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words *are* closed up and sealed till the time of the end.”

Since Daniel’s prophecies could not be understood until the “time of the end,” any prophetic views proposed out of Daniel before the time of the end have to be questioned. The popular end-time views held today grew out of positions devised by two counter-reformation Jesuit priests, Ribera and Alcazar and any way you want to slice it, the 16th century wasn’t “the time of the end!”

DANIEL RECEIVES A MESSENGER

So let’s teleport back to Daniel’s own lifetime and stand in his shoes for a while. Let’s look at his 70 week prophecy from his position in history. Jerusalem had fallen to the Babylonians in

606-605 BC and Daniel had been taken captive to Babylon where he remained for the next 70 years. But at the end of Daniel's captivity, in 536BC, Darius, a king under Cyrus in the Medo-Persian Empire, began his siege of the great city of Babylon.

The night Babylon fell must have been some kind of night. Earlier that evening, Daniel interpreted the handwriting on the wall and King Belshazzar promoted him to the post of third ruler of the empire.¹ What did it matter that Darius' army was right outside the walls? The walls of Babylon were impregnable and there was plenty of food in store. The Babylonians couldn't run out of water because the whole Euphrates River ran right through the city, under the walls. They were so confident in their defenses they never even imagined the possibility of an invasion. In fact, the Babylonians were feasting and drinking and having a grand revel, or so they thought (Dan 5:1-4).

Meanwhile, upriver from Babylon, Darius dug a canal that diverted the whole Euphrates River. He then marched his army into the city on a dry riverbed. It was an easy victory and Belshazzar, King of Babylon, was slain (Dan 5:30).

In this new Medo-Persian Empire, Daniel was again just an ordinary citizen. So what would happen to his people, the Jews, under this new regime? Daniel remembered the words of the prophet Jeremiah, from which he knew the 70 year captivity of the Jewish people ought to be over:

Jer 29:10 "For thus saith the LORD, "That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place."

¹ Though his exact lineage still remains unclear, Belshazzar, son of Nabonidus, reigned as co-regent of the Babylonian Empire under his father (552-536BC). During the Medo-Persian invasion, Nabonidus was traveling in Arabia on an archeological dig and Belshazzar was ruling the city in his absence. As a result, "third ruler of the land" was the highest position to which Daniel could be elevated as long as both Belshazzar and Nabonidus were alive.

The Jews had been captives in Babylon for 70 years and Daniel's promotion to the post of chief satrap was still some time in the future. Daniel went home to read Scripture and pray. That prayer of Daniel's wasn't some little routine kind of prayer like: "Oh God, thank you for our food, in Your name we pray, Amen." He fasted and sat in sackcloth and ashes, probably for days (Dan 9:3). He also must have thought for a long time about what he was going to say to God, and then written out his prayer, for surely, this is one of the most eloquent in all Scripture. Here is part of what Daniel prayed:

Dan 9:16-19 "O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain. Because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us. Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake . . . for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies . . . O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name."

Daniel confessed his sins and the sins of his people. This man of God knew that he and the rest of the Jews deserved nothing of the Lord, any more than we do. But considering God's great mercy, and because of His word through the prophet Jeremiah, weren't the 70 years of captivity over?

While Daniel was praying, God sent the angel Gabriel to comfort him, and because the 70 years of captivity were indeed over, to tell him of a new and different kind of 70: a *future seventy weeks*, but seventy weeks of what? Here is the prophecy . . .

Dan 9:24-26 "Seventy weeks [*or sevens*] are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end 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 to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be* seven weeks [*or sevens*], and threescore and two weeks [*or sevens*]: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks [*or sevens*] shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself.”¹

The Bible is a historic book. Each book within it was written at an specific time and records events that took place in history. Its prophecies were written at a given time, to be fulfilled at a specific time in the future. Those points in time are usually stated in the prophecy, as they were in the above. “From the going forth of the commandment” is a definite starting time for that prophecy, while “after the three score and two weeks” is a definite time when the prophecy would be fulfilled. If we wish to understand how long those weeks are, we need to see if the events they prophesied have taken place, and measure the time that passed between the issuing of the prophecy and its fulfillment.

The 70 Weeks are divided into three sections: Seven Weeks, Sixty-two Weeks and One Week. Let’s look at 7+62, or the first 69 of those weeks. To whom are they addressed and what are they about? They are to the Jews, and about Jerusalem. What does verse 24 tell us will be accomplished in those 69 sevens?

1. “Finish transgression.”
2. “Make an end of sin.”
3. “Make reconciliation for iniquity.”
4. “Bring in everlasting righteousness.”
5. “Seal up vision and prophecy.”
6. “To anoint the most Holy.”

¹ Each day in those prophetic “weeks” represent a different length of time, a 360 day year we can prove from Genesis. We can test that thesis because both the starting and ending points of the prophecy are events that have already taken place. Events that we can read about in history.

When will they take place, and what is the time frame? We are told to start counting time after a decree to restore Jerusalem was sent out, and that it would be during a time of trouble.

There were four restoration decrees granted by the Medo-Persian Empire, but almost 100 years after Gabriel spoke to Daniel, a special decree was granted by Artaxerxes I to Nehemiah in 445-444BC. This is the *ONLY* decree recorded in the Bible that gave the Jews permission to “restore Jerusalem and rebuild its walls.” Since Scripture relates to Scripture, we should start counting time from that biblical decree.

Just as Daniel predicted, Nehemiah had a terrible time wall-building.¹ The people living around Jerusalem tried to stop him every way they could (Neh 4:1-23). They even tried to get the government to come down on him, just like the ungodly and pseudo-Christians come down on true Christians today. The Messiah is Jesus, of course, and He was crucified in 32- 34AD. He didn’t die for Himself, but for the sins of the whole world (1John 2:2) But are those 69 weeks of literal days or are they weeks of years? If they are years, we have 69×7 or 483 years.

The Lord usually spoke to His prophets in a language they understood. Daniel was a Jew, probably of the royal family (2Ki 20:18). Since our history is recorded in solar years of 365.24 days, we need to convert those 483 Old Testament prophetic years of 360 days into solar years to fit our historic record:

O.T. prophetic years $483 \times .9857 = 476$ solar years.

*Artaxerxes’ decree, 444BC + 476 years = 32AD,
the cross right to the year!*

¹ The whole book of Nehemiah is about events following the Artaxerxes I decree. Furthermore, the events recorded in Nehemiah perfectly match Daniel’s prophecy of them. The dating of this decree is fairly firm at 445-444BC. Though there were four decrees granted by the Medo-Persians for the return of the Jews to Israel, since this is the only decree granting authority to rebuild the walls, we should start our 69 week count-down with this decree.

The cross, right to the year.¹ But what about those six points that were supposed to be fulfilled during these 70 weeks? Aaah! All but one were fulfilled at the cross. Did not Jesus (1) finish transgression eternally, (2) make an end of sin, (3) make reconciliation for iniquity, (4) bring in everlasting righteousness and (6) anoint the Most holy with His own blood.² Of course, however, point (5), “Seal up vision and prophecy” was fulfilled in 396BC when the last of the Old Testament prophets wrote its final prophetic book:

*7 x 7 O.T. prophetic years = 48.3 Solar years.
444BC - 48.3 is 395.7BC, Malachi written.*

¹ The Old Testament year of 360 days is used when interpreting O. T. prophecies and here's why: From I Maccabees and the Book of Jubilees (both circa 150BC), the Jews of inter-testamental times considered a year to have 12 months of 30 days each. The Babylonians also had a year of 360 days. Then in Gen. 7:11, 7:24, 8:4 we see that 150 days were five months (150 divided by 5 = 30, for a 30 day month, which leads us to accept O.T. prophetic years as having 360 days, a concept accepted by many conservative theologians.

The moon circles the earth in about 29.12 days, forcing a vacillation between a 30-day and a 29-day month. Twelve of these lunar months equal 354.14 days, or about eleven days short of the solar year. The Jews in Babylon learned to add an extra month every two or three years. In rabbinical times this "intercalary" month was inserted seven times in nineteen years. (From *Calendar, Holman's Bible Dictionary*). However, the Apostle John was writing during the Christian era when a year was understood to have 365.24 days, so the solar years is used when interpreting N.T. prophecies.

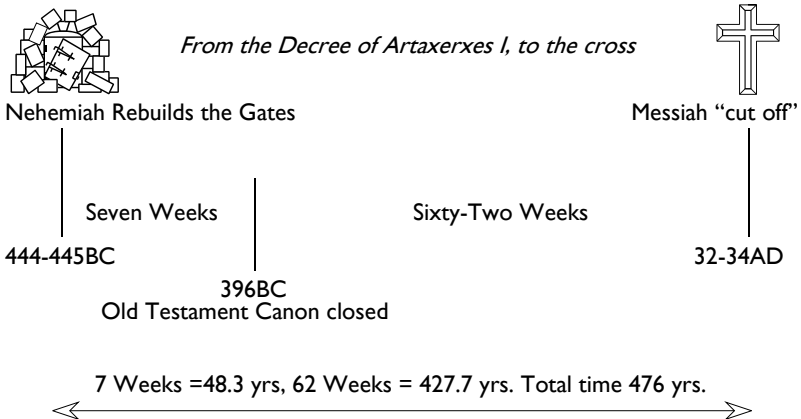
² Though his work is hotly debated, it appears that the archeologist Ron Wyatt might have found the Ark of the Covenant. The prophet Jeremiah knew that Jerusalem was about to fall, as it did in 606BC, so he is believed to have hidden the Table of Showbread, the Altar of Incense and the Ark of the Covenant in a cave under where Jesus would be crucified some 640 years later. The cave was forgotten, and those articles remained hidden until Wyatt found them. If Wyatt is correct, it explains a previously inexplicable prophecy: “and He shall anoint the Most Holy.” The most holy object in the Old Testament is the Arc of the Covenant. During His crucifixion, Jesus’ side was pierced and the rocks beneath the cross rent, Matt 27:51. According to Wyatt, the Ark is about 20 feet under where the Lord was crucified, that Jesus’ blood ran through a fissure in the bedrock and fell on the Mercy Seat. If so, then in accordance with Dan 9:24, Jesus did indeed “anoint the Most Holy” with His blood. Videotapes and various newsletters are available from Wyatt Archeological Research, 713 Lambert Dr. Nashville, TN 37220. World Net Daily, www.wnd.com has more data on Wyatt in its archives. Search Ron Wyatt.

Graph Number 3

69 Weeks

Dan 9:24-26 (KJV) "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end 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 to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah

the Prince *shall be* seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: 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."



Note: Historical dates are recorded in Solar years, so for O.T. prophecy it is necessary to convert from the O.T. prophetic year of 360 days to a solar year of 365.24 days. The conversion factor is .9857. (See Graph on p. 34). To keep the math simple, the absence of the zero year is ignored. Late evidence indicates that the Artaxerxes 1 decree could have been issued between 444 and 445BC, while other evidence indicates that Jesus was crucified not earlier than 32AD and possibly as late as 34AD. This one to three year ambiguity gives wide latitude for scholarly differences on the exact dating of these events, but does not negate the historic fit of this prophecy. Regardless of man's faulty record of these historic events, it was still 483 O.T. prophetic years from the Artaxerxes decree to the cross.

Malachi was inspired to write the last book of the Old Testament in about 396BC. The O.T. to the Jews was then complete and no more prophetic scripture was written until the New Testament era. Old Testament “vision and prophecy” were indeed “sealed up.” As one Jewish Rabbi lamented in about 200BC, “The Holy Spirit has departed from Israel” and until this very day, the Jews, as a people, have not been permitted to see any further. The New Testament states that God “blinded their eyes” so they could not recognize Jesus (Yeshua) as their Messiah (Rom 11:8).

THE DAY-YEARS

So what have we learned so far? Not only that 69 Weeks were fulfilled at the Crucifixion, but also that those “weeks” were not weeks of ordinary days at all, but sevens of years. Every day of those 69 weeks represented a prophetic year, and we can prove it through known historical events. There are even three verses in Scripture backing up the day-year interpretation.

Captive with Daniel in the province of Babylon was a priest named Ezekiel. He was the prophet who wrote the canonical book bearing his name. We know Daniel studied Scripture from Dan 9:2. We can prove he studied Jeremiah, so no doubt he studied the other scriptures that were available to him, including the books of Numbers and Ezekiel. Within those two books are three verses that gave him the insight he needed to understand prophetic day-years:

Num 14:34 “After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, **each day for a year.**”

Eze 4:5-6 “For I have laid upon thee the years... according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days . . . so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee **each day for a year.**”

A day for a year. Here, in the only two places it appears in the Bible, the Lord showed Daniel that one *prophetic* day was equal to one of our earthly years. ONE DAY = ONE YEAR! Using this day-year unit of measure to interpret his prophecies, Daniel could not only understand the 69 weeks of Dan 9, but also the 1290 and 1335 days of Dan 12. If we use the same unit of measure that Daniel did, we should be able to understand those day-years as well.¹

This is not a new concept in the Church. Sir Isaac Newton understood day-years as did the great Anabaptist theologian, Thielemann van Braght who wrote in *Martyrs Mirror*, pages 21-24:

“a thousand two hundred and threescore days, which, reckoned according to prophetic language **means as many years** ... let it be reckoned as it may, say we, as a very long period of time.”

A couple of hundred years later, Matthew Henry, in his *Commentary on the Whole Bible*, came to the same conclusion (Vol VI, page 1157, column 1, para. 2):

“... if the beginning of that interval could be ascertained, this number of prophetic days, taking a **day for a year**, would give us a prospect of when the end might be.”

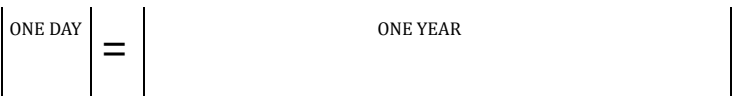
So we now understand the day-year, but the concept is so important that it should be more fully explained. Daniel was raised under the Levitical code and the Jews in Babylon were familiar with a twelve-month calendar, each of thirty days, for an

¹ There is a generally accepted one to three year ambiguity in Babylonian empire dates. The interpretations of Daniel's prophecies proposed in this book fit within that window and are in fact the recognized *conservative* dates for those events. Conservative Bible scholars date the 70 year Babylonian captivity from the beginning of the Jewish exile (606BC) to their return to the Holy Land (536BC), while orthodox rabbinical scholars date the Babylonian captivity from the destruction of the temple (586BC) to the building of the 2nd Temple (516BC). Both were periods of 70 years. However, the starting times of Daniel's day-year and “time, times” prophecies are not tied to either view of the captivity, but to the accession years of Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar as kings of Babylon (606BC and 552BC), and to the 3rd year of Cyrus the Persian's reign over that city (533BC).

Old Testament 360 day prophetic year. Consequently, it is correct to use a 360-day *prophetic* year to interpret Old Testament prophecies like Daniel's. But since our records of ancient history are in Solar Years of 365.24 days, we need to convert those 360 *prophetic* day-years to fit the historic record. The Apostle John lived his whole life during the Christian Era under the Roman government, and his book is primarily to the Gentile church. Consequently, it is proper to use the solar calendar of 365.24 days to interpret the prophetic days in the book of Revelation.

Graph Number 4

Day-Year Principle



(In the O.T., Hebrew 360 day. In the N.T., Solar 365.24 day)

After the day-year revelation was given to Ezekiel, when "days" are spoken of in a prophetic sense, they should be viewed either as O.T. prophetic or Solar years unless context clearly dictated otherwise. The day-year interpretation is scriptural, and it is not hermeneutically sound to view prophetic days differently unless an intervening Scripture negates the principle.

O.T. prophetic year = 360 days, or .9857 Solar year:
ONLY for interpreting Old Testament prophecy.

The Old Testament prophetic year of 360 days is used when dealing with O. T. prophecies and this is why: From I Maccabees and the Book of Jubilees (both circa 150BC), the Jews of inter-testamental times considered a year to have 12 months, each having 30 days. The Babylonians also had a 360 day year. Then in Gen. 7:11, 7:24, 8:4 we see 150 days equaling five months, for months of 30 days each, which leads to a 360 day year.

Solar Year = 365.24 days:
ONLY for interpreting New Testament prophecy.
John was under Roman rule and used the solar calendar.

In the interest of simplicity, the zero year or lack thereof is ignored because of the one to three year uncertainty for all dates prior to the 1st century, including the date of the birth of Jesus. For example: Solid archeological evidence shows that Herod the Great died on or before September of 4BC so Jesus must have been born before that date.

1290 DAYS

CHAPTER 5

*The word of the LORD was unto them
precept upon precept, Precept upon precept,
line upon line line upon line;
here a little, and there a little.*

ISA 28:13

WHEN I began this study of Revelation twenty-eight years ago, what I really had in mind was finding scriptural support for the *Seven-Year Tribulation* view I was so confidently teaching. I was just as convinced as everyone else that there had to be one. The surprise of my life came when I couldn't support the view from the Bible. Major pillars of that view are the prophetic "days" of Dan 12:11-12. We now realize we should probably interpret prophetic days as years. But if they are years, how do we know when they began or when they end? For that, we need look at *when* the Lord gave this prophecy to Daniel:

Dan 10:1 "In the third year of Cyrus the Persian, a thing was revealed unto Daniel . . . but the appointed time was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision."

Dan 10:1 through Dan 12:13 is the final vision of Daniel's prophetic ministry. The year was 533BC and the prophecy is obviously about the future of Daniel's people, the Jews, after their captivity. A major portion of this prophecy is a detailed prediction of the Medo-Persian and Greek control of the Jews in the Holy Land for the next 400 years. The Babylonian empire had fallen some three years earlier and Daniel was now a very old man,

probably in his nineties. He had been captive in Babylon for 73 years. According to Ezra 3:2, the Jews had begun their trek back to the Holy Land under the leadership of a Jewish prince named Zerubbabel and a high priest named Jeshua. That's the historic setting for Daniel's final prophecy, within which is a curious verse about "times" and another one about "days":

Dan 12:11 (NAS) "And from the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be **1290 days**."

Curious, indeed. Are these prophetic "days" just ordinary twenty-four hour periods, or could they be years again, like they were in the 69 weeks . . . and if they're years, what in the world is an "Abomination that maketh Desolate?"

Well, the verse refers to the "daily sacrifice" and since those sacrifices were only offered at the temple in Jerusalem, then temple sacrifices had to be involved. As a result, that abomination would have to be something done on God's temple site that would defile it and make it impossible for the priests to offer sacrifices there. It was true in Daniel's time and it's still true today. God has not changed where Jewish sacrifices should be offered anywhere in the Bible.¹

But to which "abolition of sacrifices" is the Lord referring in this 1290-day prophecy? Now please, let's not try to make a New Testament doctrine out of this Old Testament Scripture. The addressees are clearly defined. The verse is in Hebrew and to the

¹ The OT continually corrects Israel's people for offering on the "high places," instructing them to bring their offerings to the temple instead (2 Ch 28:24-25). Priests were authorized to sacrifice only on the Altar of Burnt Offering (Deu 12:10-14); so to the Jews, an Abomination that made Desolate would be anything that kept them from offering sacrifices on the temple site. Levitical law dictated that anyone who desecrated the temple was to be stoned until dead. In defiance of this, a Greek king, Antiochus Epiphanies, sacrificed a pig on the altar of burnt offering (circa 168BC), an incident has been known ever since as an "abomination that made desolate," which led to the Maccabean revolt. After the desecration, the priests had to perform an extensive purification of the altar before they could again offer burnt offerings upon it.

Jews so it's about the Holy Land while Gentile powers were ruling there. Context refers to "thy people" (Dan 12:1). Daniel was a Jew and the prophecy was given to him, so it is to and about the Jews during the Time of the Gentiles. There is no reason to believe the Lord was telling Daniel about an abolition of sacrifices that might take place 2500 years later at the end of the Christian Era.

Sacrifices were suspended three times in the Old Testament: once before Daniel (2Ch 28:24-25), once during the Babylonian captivity (2Ch 36:19), and once, about four hundred years later by the Greek king Antiochus Epiphanies. So to which event do you suppose the Lord might be referring? Well, to whom was this prophecy given? To Daniel in 533BC. As a result: we have every reason to believe the Lord was referring to sacrifices that were abolished during Daniel's own lifetime: an abolition of sacrifices *to which Daniel could relate!*

Was it at the time of the destruction of the temple? It doesn't seem so. Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the temple in 586BC, but the prophet Jeremiah tells us that sacrifices continued at the temple site long after the temple was burned:

Jer 41:5 "That there came certain from Shechem, from Shiloh, and from Samaria, *even* fourscore men, having their beards shaven, and their clothes rent, and having cut themselves, with offerings and incense in their hand, to bring *them* to the house of the LORD."

Those men came to the temple *after* the governorship of Gedaliah, seven to ten months *after* the temple was burned, so there must have been some purified priests at the temple site who were still carrying on. Two more years pass, then in the very last chapter of Jeremiah we read:

Jer 52:30 "In the three and twentieth year of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive of the Jews seven hundred forty and five persons."

Nebuchadnezzar ascended the throne of Babylon in 606-605BC. Twenty-three years later is 583BC. Therefore, this final captivity of 583BC is a scripturally supportable time for sacrifices to have been abolished. Babylonians took the nobles, artisans and priests captive; they left only the poorest people in the land.¹ There were apparently no purified priests left in the land who could offer sacrifices. What a devastating experience this must have been for God's people in captivity.

Oh, how the Jews repented. From the Babylonian captivity to this very day, they have not departed from the Lord their God, nor has an idol been found among them. As a conquered people in exile, they had 70 years to regret their waywardness, and they never forgot it. Their repentance is poignantly recorded in this short quote from an unknown psalmist:

*By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down.
Yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.
We hanged our harps
upon the willows in the midst thereof.
For there they that carried us away captive
required of us a song;
and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying,
Sing us one of the songs of Zion.
How shall we sing the LORD's song
in a strange land?*

PSALM 137:1-4

Though he was hundreds of miles from Jerusalem, Daniel knew all about these new hostages. Another group of Jewish captives being brought back to Babylon by Nebuzaradan, captain of the king's guard, could hardly have escaped Daniel's notice. He was daily in King Nebuchadnezzar's court (Dan 2:48-49). How it must

¹ There is a one to three year ambiguity in all Babylonian dating with the exception of the year Nebuchadnezzar ascended to the throne of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar's father Nebopolassar died while Nebuchadnezzar was in Syria fighting Pharaoh Necho of Egypt. Several contemporary sources pin the date of the Battle of Carchemish to 606-605 B.C.

have hurt that saintly man to hear of the sacrifices being stopped and of the Lord's temple now in utter ruin. We can prove that the temple site was abandoned during Daniel's lifetime from Dan 9:17 and Ezra 3:2-3. Now with that historic background in place, let's look at Dan 12:11 again:

Dan 12:11 "And from the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished, and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there will be 1,290 days.*"

By applying the day-year unit of measure to that verse, Daniel could understand the vision.¹ He remembered when the regular evening and morning sacrifices had been abolished. He then looked 1290 *prophetic* years into the future from his own time. He now saw that an unbelievable abomination was going to trespass on the temple mount, an atrocity that would make it desolate. He knew this coming abomination would defile the site and prevent future sacrifice to the God of Israel there. What could that terrible thing be? Daniel couldn't know what, but we can because those 1290 *prophetic* years were fulfilled 1300 years ago. They were fulfilled in 688AD.²

¹ This is how Daniel could understand the vision. God gave the 1290-day vision fifty years *after* the regular sacrifices had been abolished. Looking back, Daniel could see that nothing of any special significance had taken place just 1290 literal 24 hour days after their abolition, so he knew the Lord was speaking of something other than ordinary days. Daniel then put together when sacrifices were abolished with the definition for prophetic days given by the prophet Ezekiel (Eze 4:6 "I have appointed thee each day for a year.") and saw that the abomination was still 1290 O.T. prophetic years in his future.

² Some may argue that sacrifices could have been abolished a year or two earlier, or a couple of years later than 583BC, as suggested by the author. But none argue that they were abolished earlier than the destruction of the temple (586BC), nor more than ten years later. The Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque were under construction on the temple mount for about 20 years, from 685 to 705AD. Leaving the widest latitude for scholarly argument, that 20-year window cannot be circumvented.

So what happened in 688AD? Well, from 685 to 705AD, the Moslem Kalifah, Abd el Malik ibn Marwan, built a memorial to Muhammad, the Dome of the Rock, on God's temple mount! Thus, we now have a positive identification. It's an Islamic structure:

The Dome of the Rock is the Abomination of Desolation!

The above is not just coincidence or suppositional theology. The day-year interpretation fits the words of Daniel 12:11 to the letter and it fits known history to the year. The date of the construction of the Dome of the Rock is so well-known that you can prove it for yourself from any good encyclopedia.

And so, for the first time in Scripture, we run into Islam. Nobody but Islam was responsible for the construction of the Abomination that maketh Desolate! Furthermore, the Dome of the Rock being that abomination is not new theology. It's a truth that's been in the Church for almost 1400 years, but somehow we have managed to forget the prophetic words for which Sophronius, Bishop of the Jerusalem Church, gave his life.¹

That temple mount of the God of the Bible was made spiritually desolate 13 centuries ago and it remains desolate today. The Jews can't offer sacrifices to the Lord on His holy mountain while that structure remains there. That is why there is such an interest among conservative Jews in tearing it down. It is no secret to the Jewish Rabbis that the Dome of the Rock is an abomination that makes desolate. In the following chapters we will see how the New Testament fully supports the identity of that dome as the "Abomination that maketh Desolate."

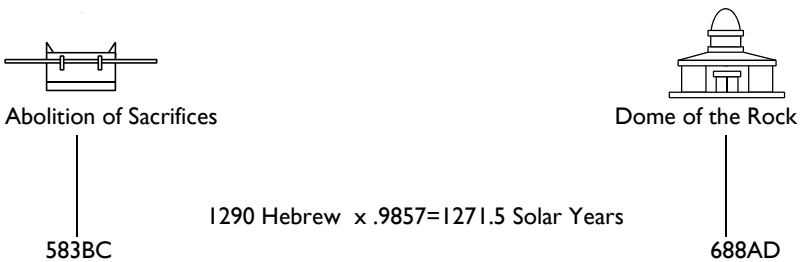
¹ Jerry Landay in his book, *The Dome of the Rock* (Newsweek, New York, NY, 1972) p. 18, records that when Khalifah Omar entered Jerusalem in 639AD, he was met by Sophronius, Bishop of the Jerusalem Church, who showed him around the city. Seeing the temple mount (then in rubble), Omar declared that he was going to build a memorial to Muhammad on the original site of the temple of God. Sophronius exclaimed in horror, "Verily, this is the Abomination of Desolation as spoken of by Daniel the prophet, and it now stands in the holy place." Though Sophronius was an old man of about 80, Khalifah Omar put him in prison and to forced labor, the severities of which killed him.

Now don't forget 583BC, 688AD or the Dome of the Rock. We're going to run into those dates and that structure again and again. Those dates are prophetically important.

Graph Number 5

Abomination of Desolation

Dan 12:11 (KJV) And from the time *that* the daily *sacrifice* shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, *there shall be* a thousand two hundred and ninety days.



Note: Biblical day-year prophecies have a beginning date in history specified by context, and now we can see their historic fulfillments. In Mark 13:14 the Abomination of Desolation is referred to as an "it" not a him, and this dome, a Moslem structure, has now stood on God's temple mount for over 1300 years. There are now over a 1.5 billion people in that religion, so Muhammad could certainly qualify as the prophet of Rev 19:20. Best estimates are that 10-15 percent of Moslems worldwide are militants, which means over 150 million human beings are, to a greater or lesser degree, participating in what will probably be the world's next holocaust. Since there are about five to six million Moslems in America today, it is reasonable to conclude that somewhere between 500,000 to 900,000 American Moslems also support the fall of the free world.

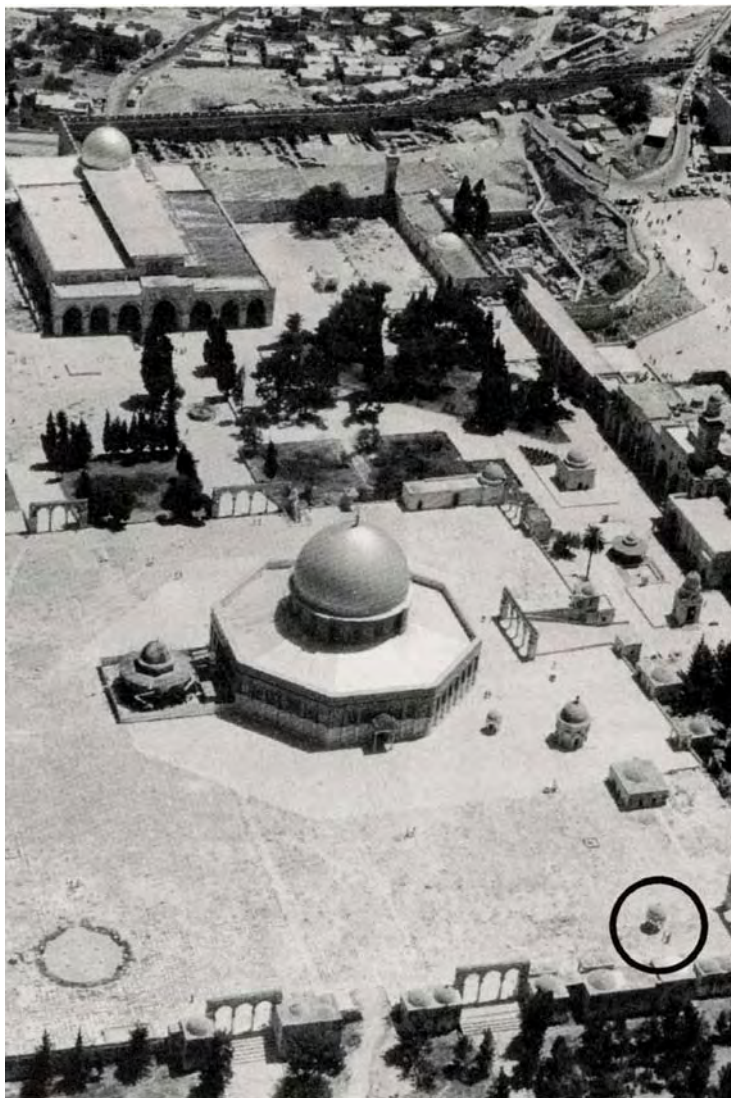


Photo courtesy of Biblical Archeology Review

The Temple Mount as seen from the North. The Islamic memorial, the Dome of the Rock, stands in its center as it has for over 1300 years. In the upper left is the Al Aqsa Mosque, considered by Moslems to be their 3rd most holy. Circled in the lower right is a little, unimposing cupola, the Dome of the Tablets. Late archeological evidence indicates that the Holy of Holies in both the Solomonic and the 2nd Temple was located here, some 330 feet north of the Dome itself. The Dome appears to be in what was once called the Court of the Gentiles.

WRONG ROCK

Chapter 6

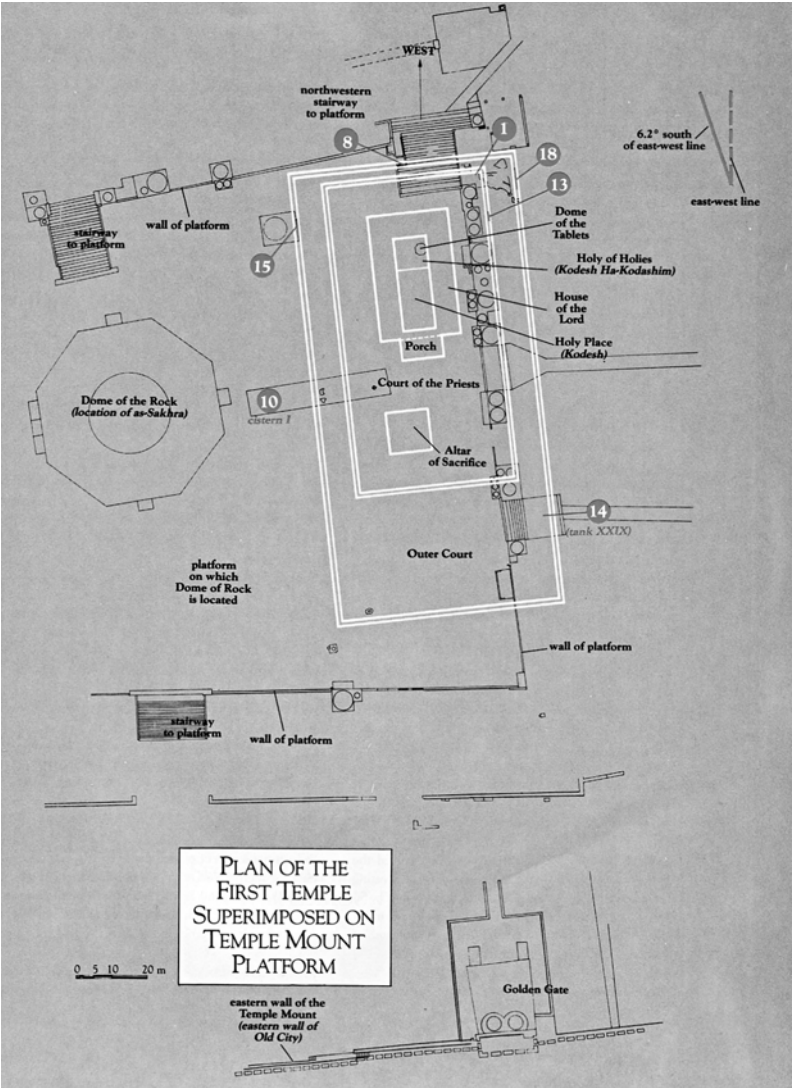
*Behold ye among the heathen,
and regard, and wonder marvelously:
for I will work a work in your days,
which ye will not believe,
though it be told you.*

HABAKKUK 1:5

FROM our position in the opening days of the 21st century, we can just begin to see a little of God's plan. The "Abomination that maketh Desolate" is not an antichrist in our future; it's an Islamic building that has been standing on Mount Moriah for over 1300 years. But like the Lord said to Habakkuk, we wouldn't have believed Him if He had told us in advance, and now that we can see it, we can still hardly believe it.

LOCATING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

The 1290 days of Daniel, when interpreted as years, fitting one incident in history is not sufficient evidence to prove that all prophetic "days" should be understood as years – even when the 1290 days hit an event as remarkable as the construction of the Dome of the Rock on Mount Moriah, *right to the year*. However, in Daniel's 70 Weeks, we saw 69 of those weeks were really 69 weeks of years that were fulfilled at the cross. Since that's the prophetic time system the Lord used in one part of Scripture, wouldn't we need scriptural authorization to change our method of interpretation if we ran into prophetic days somewhere else?



Drawing Courtesy of Biblical Archeology Review

This drawing of the Temple Mount shows the Islamic *Dome of the Rock* to be some 330 feet south of the site of the Solomonite temple. Notice that the temple faces East, directly in line with the Golden Gate. The flat bedrock, now under the little Dome of the Tablets, was part of the floor of the *Kodesh ha-Kodashim*, or Holy of Holies (Asher S. Kaufman, *Biblical Archeology Review*, March, 1983). Dr. Kaufman's discovering that the Solomonite temple was located here strikes a death blow to futurist interpretations of Revelation.

Wouldn't it be inappropriate to leave a divinely ordained system that we can prove works and try to interpret "days" in some other way, particularly since that would go against, "I give you a day for a year"? Of course, so to remain constant with Scripture, we should at least look at the possibility of historic day-year fits for the other prophetic "days" in the Bible.

Let's begin by finding out where the first temple was actually located. It is commonly believed that the temple stood on the present location of the Islamic Dome of the Rock, but both Scripture and archeology do not support that view. Look at where the Bible says the Temple was built . . .

2Ch 3:1 "Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where *the LORD* appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite."

Now I'm no farmer, so I don't claim to know a whole lot about threshing grain, however, you can find drawings of how they used to thresh grain in olden times. Farmers either used animals with threshing instruments or stood around a flat area called a threshing floor where they manually beat the grain free from the chaff. They still do it that way in many parts of the third world. But regardless of the method used, threshing floors had to be perfectly flat and preferably on a windy hill where the wind could blow the chaff away.

Now as-Sakhra, the rock over which the Dome of the Rock was built is indeed on a hill, but no farmer in his right mind would have ever tried to thresh there because as-Sakhra is as rough as a corn cob. Any farmer would have chosen the flat rock, at the same elevation, on the same hill, just 330 feet North. So even without archeological support, from Scripture alone, 2 Ch 3:1, we know the Temple's true location.

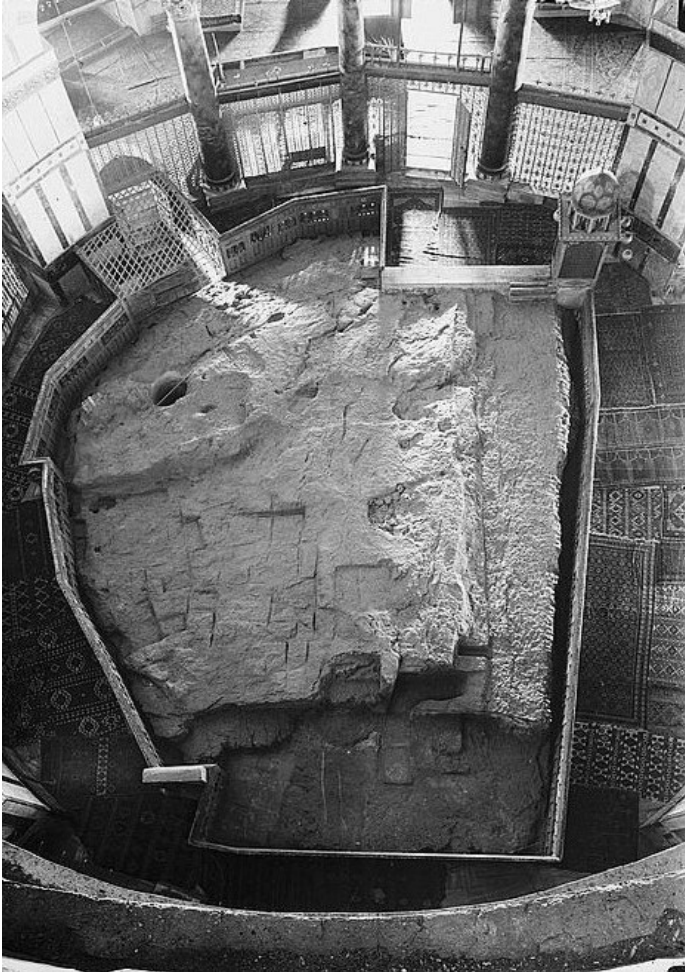


Photo in Public Domain

As-Sakhra, the stone under the Dome of the Rock, is in the middle of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. It is considered to be the third holiest place in Islam. Though Jerusalem is not named anywhere in the Koran, Islamic traditions hold that Muhammad's footprint is embossed in this rock and that he ascended into heaven from this spot. However, this rock is not prophetically significant because it is outside the temple itself, in an area the Bible calls "The Court of the Gentiles." As-Sakhra never has been the location of either the first or second temples, both of which were built over a threshing floor as stated in 2Ch 3:1. Furthermore, as-Sakhra is obviously unsuitable for threshing.

Now let's pan forward 1100 years and imagine ourselves on the Isle of Patmos at the end of the 1st century, looking at the world through the eyes of the Apostle John as he writes Revelation. It's about 70 years since Jesus was crucified; the Jews had once again rebelled against Rome as they had been doing ever since the occupation began in 65BC. Roman army after army had been sent to the Holy Land to quell the continual uprisings, but they kept on happening. Losing all patience, Rome finally sent her best general against Jerusalem and the city was almost totally destroyed. An estimated 1,000,000 Jews fell to sword and famine and the beautiful Second Temple was torn down to bedrock. It had taken 45 years to build, but stone by stone the Romans threw it into the valleys of Tyropoeon and Kidron just as Jesus had prophesied 37 years earlier: "not one stone will be left standing upon another." His prophecy of the coming devastation is recorded in three places, Matt 24:2, Mark 13:2, and Luke 21:6.

The Christians in the city were aware of Jesus' prophecy, so just prior to that city's destruction they fled Jerusalem in haste. Early church records assert that no Christians were left in the city, and that no Christian lives were lost during the ensuing massacre. The demolition of the temple was so complete that even the memory of its exact location was lost. Then, except for a short-lived temple of Jupiter, God's temple site remained in rubble for over 600 years.¹

Then in 685AD, the Islamic governor of Jerusalem, one Calif Abd el Malik ibn Marwan, began clearing the temple mount. He used the local people to do so, including the Christians and Jews

¹ According to Tacitus, the city was crowded with 600,000 visitors. After five months the walls were battered down, the Temple burned, and the city was put to the sword. Josephus states that over 1,000,000 Jews were killed and 95,000 taken captive. Henry Halley, *Halley's Bible Handbook* (Grand Rapids, MI, Zondervan, 1965) pp. 655-656. Eusebius writes, "On the other hand, the people of the church in Jerusalem, were commanded by oracle given by revelation to those in the city who were worthy of it, to depart and dwell in one of the cities of Perea, which they called Pella." *Ecclesiastical History*, Book 3, v. 5, ln. 3-4.

still living in the city. When the bedrock was exposed, they found two solid rock promontories within 300 feet of each other. The one to the south they named “as-Sakhra,” and over as-Sakhra they built the memorial to Muhammad, the Dome of the Rock, the actual construction of which began in 688AD. You remember the numbers from the last chapter:

$$\begin{aligned} &1290 \text{ O.T. prophetic years (1271.5 Solar years)} \\ &\quad \text{after 583BC is 688AD!} \\ &583 + 1271.34 = 688.66. \end{aligned}$$

Over the other promontory – an unusually flat stone to the north and slightly west of as-Sakhra – a little, unimposing cupola was constructed they aptly named “The Dome of the Spirits,” or “The Dome of the Tablets.” Having no science of archaeology during those days, guess what?

*The Moslems built the Dome of the Rock on the wrong rock!*¹

Now I have no idea how you feel as you read that line, but I remember how I felt almost thirty years ago when I first understood it. I sat at my desk, stunned for a moment, and then just leaned back and laughed uproariously. I read the scriptural and archeological data again and again, praising God. The rock over which they built that dome, as-Sakhra, has no historic or spiritual significance whatsoever. The Dome of the Rock is right in the middle of what was once known as the court of the Gentiles. Even ceremonially unwashed Canaanite slaves were allowed into the court of the Gentiles. You didn’t have to be a priest, or a Levite, or even a Jew to be there.

² According to Islamic tradition, as-Sakhra is the rock from which Muhammad supposedly ascended into heaven. How spiritually appropriate it is that they built on the wrong rock. Muhammad is not just a little minor prophet; he and those who followed him changed who was worshiped on the temple mount for over 1300 years, a change that continues to this day.



Photo courtesy Biblical Archeology Review

We are filled with awe when we realize that surrounding the now exposed bed-rock under this little cupola, was the Holy of Holies of the temple of Solomon. On this rock once rested the Ark of the Covenant. When Solomon erected the temple in 966BC, this very space was filled with the Shekinah glory of God. The Ark was "lost" during Nebuchadnezzar's siege of Jerusalem. Jewish tradition states that the prophet Jeremiah took the Ark and the original tabernacle through a secret tunnel under Jerusalem and buried them on Mount Nebo. However, it now appears that the Table of Showbread, Altar of Incense and the Ark of the Covenant were buried in a cave under Golgotha.

The House of the Lord, into which only the sons of Aaron could go, stood over that little flat rock some 300+ feet north of where the Dome was positioned. We know exactly where the temple stood because of holes drilled in the bedrock spaced on the sacred cubit. The sacred cubit could be used only in the temple itself, and those holes pinpoint the exact location of the House of the Lord.¹

The *Kodesh Ha-Kodashim* or Holy of Holies, was directly over that little flat rock (labeled the “Dome of the Tablets” in the illustration on page 44). Bathed in Shekinah Glory, that flat rock was the resting place of the Ark of the Covenant: “God’s dwelling place, and the footstool of His feet, forever.” It was exactly on an East-West line with the Golden Gate. The very gate through which Jesus walked on His way to teach in the temple.² Now, for the first time ever, we can discern the meaning of a baffling verse in Ezekiel:

Eze 42:20 “He measured it by the four sides: it had a wall round about, five hundred reeds long, and five hundred broad, to make a separation between the sanctuary and the profane place.”

That spiritual wall of separation, probably guarded by holy angels, has stood on the temple mount for over 1300 years, and we haven’t seen it. The Dome of the Rock is 300 feet to the South of the temple. That Islamic edifice is not now and never has been over the old temple site. The dome was, is, and shall be (as long as it stands) right in the middle of the Court of the Gentiles.

¹ The Hebrews had two units of measure: the ordinary cubit of about 18 in., and a sacred cubit, “a cubit and a span” of about 21½ in. The sacred cubit was used only in temple construction.

² Where the Ancient Temple of Jerusalem Stood, *Biblical Archaeology Review*, Mar. 1983.

42 MONTHS

Isn't it wonderful to know by permitting the temple's total destruction, that God protected His Holy of Holies from the desecration of having a memorial to a false god, and a false prophet, built over it? Of even more importance, if Calif Abd el Malik ibn Marwan had not built on the wrong rock, it would be impossible for this next quote from Revelation to be fulfilled. Now look carefully at the language and see how perfectly it fits the situation on the temple mount today:

Rev 11:2 "But the court which is without the temple leave out and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months."

"Leave out the court ... it has been given to the Gentiles!" The Dome of the Rock is in the court, and it is a Gentile structure. So we now have the location. Then we read that the city of Jerusalem itself would be under Gentile control for 42 months. Farfetched as it may sound, should those 42 months be converted into days and then understood as years? It was day-years in the Old Testament, and there is no Scripture anywhere that does away with that interpretation, so let's at least try for a historic fit using day-years. When do they begin and when do they end? We need a historic setting.

On the 6th day of June, 1967, at the end of the Six-Day War, General Moshe Dayan and a tough, battle-hardened contingent of Israeli commandos stood before a wall of ancient stones. Their shoulders were shaking, and tears were streaming down their faces. They were at the Wailing Wall in East Jerusalem, that Holy Place from which they had been exiled so many centuries before. They were crying thanks unto God for restoring their ancient city to them. There they solemnly swore: "Never again shall we be driven from this place." For the first time in 2573 years the Jews

were again in control of their Holy City. Could that touching moment be the historic end of, “and they [*the Gentiles*] will tread under foot the Holy City for 42 months?” 42 months x 30.44 gives us roughly 1278.5 days:¹

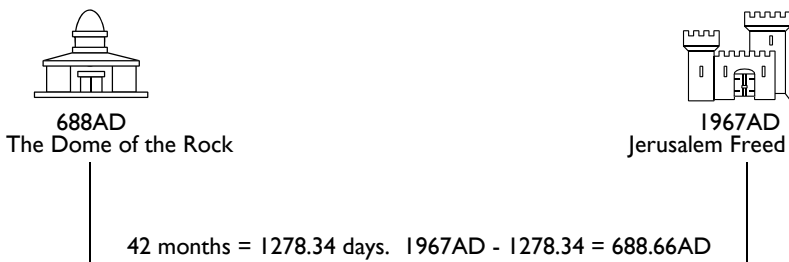
1967AD - 1278.5 = 688.5AD ... the Dome of the Rock!

Bulls eye! In the 1290 days of Dan 12, the Lord took us from 583BC, and an abolition of sacrifices in Daniel’s time, to 688AD and the Abomination that makes Desolate, the Dome of the Rock. Then in the 42 months, the Lord shows us the accuracy of that interpretation. He takes us from the restoration of Jerusalem in 1967, right back to 688 AD, and the Dome of the Rock.

Graph Number 6

42 Months

Rev 11:2 “But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot *and* two months.”



Note: Please study Rev 11:2 carefully. This interpretation fits Scripture and history too well to be ignored. “And the holy city shall they tread underfoot forty and two months.” Forty-two months is 1278.34 days , and it is exactly 1278 years from the beginning of the construction of the Dome of the Rock until Jerusalem was again under Jewish control. Then, “Leave out the court . . .” The Dome of the Rock is in the Court of the Gentiles, 300 feet south of the temple.

¹ A Solar year is 365.24 days. Dividing 365.24 by the 12 months in a year gives us a monthly length of 30.44 days.

So we come from both directions to 688AD and that dome, right to the year. As a result, from God's point of view, the central event to take place in Jerusalem during the time of the Gentiles was the building of the Abomination of Desolation on the footstool of His feet. And it is not just the numbers that work. Look at how this fits the very words of Scripture:

- (1) "Sacrifices abolished."
- (2) "Abomination set up."
- (3) "Leave out the court."
- (4) "Holy city tread under foot for 42 months."

This many factors coming together can't be just a numerical or verbal fluke, can they? Writing it off as coincidence is statistically unreasonable, and there are other fulfillments using the same yardstick still to come.

TIME OF JACOB'S TROUBLE

When God unlocks a book and opens our eyes, He does so in such a way that it cannot be reasonably refuted. Using the day-year principle again, God gives us proof upon proof:

Rev 12:1-5 "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne."

Who is this woman, and who is the man child? When we read His description, there is only one Person in all eternity who matches that portrait. Who will rule all nations with a rod of iron?¹ Who descended from Heaven, and who ascended up into it again?² Who now sits at the right hand of the throne of God?³ None other than Jesus Christ the Righteous. That makes the woman Israel, and the 12 stars the 12 tribes. The dragon would then be Satan, who tried to defeat Jesus at the cross, and the fallen stars would be the fallen angels.⁴

Rev 12:6 "And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days."

During the Christian Era, the Jews were dispersed into the nations.⁵ For centuries the Jews have been hounded from country to country, made slaves of, were robbed, beaten and murdered wholesale, as in Nazi Germany . . . but never again. God has promised that never again would the Jews suffer anything like that holocaust in which 6,000,000 of the physical seed of Abraham were murdered:

Jer 30:3-8 "And these are the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah. For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? Wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it:

¹ Rev 19:15 "And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron."

² Eph 4:10 "He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fulfill all things."

³ Col 3:1 "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."

⁴ Rev 1:20 tells us that the stars are the "aggelos" or messengers (Strong's No. G32). That same Greek word is also used in Rev 12:4. Aggelos, pronounced "anglos" is usually translated angels.

⁵ The wilderness is the Gentile world, Ezekiel 20:35.

it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it."

A more moving account of the atrocities of the Nazi concentration camps would be hard to imagine. There, in the winter snow, stood line after line of Jewish men, naked, their hands in front of them to cover their nakedness. Shivering bodies, numb with cold, beatings and starvation. Faces pale, they shuffled slowly into oblivion. As Your Son hung naked on the cross so long ago, so now it has happened unto thy people, Oh God.

But that is all in the past now. The time of Jacob's trouble is long over. The Lord has broken Satan's yoke from off their neck, and the Jews will never be in bondage again.

Jer 30:7 "For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves [*make slaves*] of him."

As of 1948, the Jews are no longer dispersed in the nations. On May 15th of that year, Israeli Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, stood on the floor of the Knesset and declared the nation of Israel to be a sovereign state. That is a historic fact nobody can dispute. As of 1948, the woman, Israel, is no longer in the wilderness, and since she isn't, Rev 12:6 is fulfilled.

According to Rev 12:6, the woman, Israel, would be in the wilderness 1260 days. Could this be years again? In this instance, the Lord gave us prophetic days straight out with no complicated mathematics.¹ Even a 2nd grader can figure this one out:

1948 - 1260 = 688 . . . and the Dome of the Rock!

¹ It is correct to use the 365.24 solar year to interpret NT prophecies. In New Testament times, the Jews were under Roman rule and the 365.24 day Roman year was in common usage.

Graph Number 7

1260 Days

Rev 12:6 “And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days.”



688AD

Dome of the Rock



1948AD

New nation of Israel

1260 years, no conversion. John used the Solar calendar.

Note: Before 688AD, both Christians and Jews could freely worship in Jerusalem, and on the temple mount. They were not prophetically in the “wilderness” of the nations until the Moslems made it unsafe for them to worship in that city. That is why the 1260 days begin in 688AD.

How come we couldn’t see it sooner? God planned it that way, and even told us so. Remember in Dan 12:9, when the Lord stated that Daniel’s book would be sealed until the time of the end? Until the new nation of Israel became a historic reality (*which BEGAN the time of the end*) it was impossible to prove that Daniel’s 1290 days were fulfilled by the Dome of the Rock.

According to futurists, those prophetic “days” are about either the first or the last half of the Great Tribulation, but obviously, that is not what they are about at all. They are about the Moslems, the Jews, Jerusalem, and the Holy Land. They are about the restoration of the people to whom God gave the land in the first place: the PHYSICAL descendants of Israel.

How can we deny the evidence of our own eyes? An Israeli flag, complete with the star of David, flew over the battlements of Jerusalem in the exact year God predicted it would, and Jews by the millions have returned to the land. That’s not guesswork theology, folks, that’s reality.

TWO WITNESSES

Chapter 7

*Can a woman forget her sucking child,
that she should not have compassion
on the son of her womb?
Yea, they may forget,
yet will I not forget thee.*

ISA 49:15

AS already discussed, Revelation is not a mystery, but God's solution of one. Consequently, we can't go to that book with our doctrines in place and expect to learn what the Lord may have in store for us there. The Two Witnesses of Rev 11:3-7 are good examples of why. Most believe these two witnesses to be a couple of Old Testament saints like Enoch and Elijah, but they might be someone else entirely:

Rev 11:3 "...and I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

Since the day-year principle fits our history so far, it's likely those two witnesses will witness for 1260 years. No one in any age lived 1260 years so this can't be about two individuals. We need another clue:

Rev 11:4 "These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth."

Hmm . . . olive trees and candlesticks. What can those figures mean? Unless the Lord's Two Witnesses are a pair of real elderly

fruit-bearing olive trees and a couple of really ancient, oil-dripping candlesticks, then like it or not, we are dealing with figurative language. So let's see if we can find biblical definitions for olive trees and candlesticks.

To sort these figures out we probably need to apply one of the rules of hermeneutics.¹ Now, hermeneutics is not a discipline we play games with to fit our doctrines. It is a sound study of how to interpret either the spoken word or a written document. Hermeneutics has some excellent, time-tested rules. Among them is the rule of "scriptural adjacency." That rule states: When you read something you don't understand, first study the surrounding text, then the chapter, then the book in which that chapter appears, then the testament that contains that book, and finally, relate the verse to the whole Bible. That is one of the rules, and it's a very sound one. In other words . . .

*We don't go to the Old Testament for definitions of New Testament figures when there are New Testament definitions that fit perfectly!*²

In Rev 11:4 quoted above, the Two Witnesses of the Christian Era are described as olive trees and candlesticks. To find the correct definition for those figures, we should find the closest contextual address that explains them. Lo and behold, right in Revelation we find candlesticks defined:

¹ Hermeneutics is the science of interpretation, especially of the Scriptures, the branch of theology that deals with biblical exegesis.

² Candlesticks and olive trees are used figuratively in Zec 4, but the figures within that chapter were defined for us as things that existed during Zechariah's time (the Jewish leader Zerubbabel being one of them). So on the basis of the definitions in Zec 4, could Zerubbabel and "the two anointed ones" be the Two Witnesses of Rev 11? Not very likely since he died about 2500 years ago. We see no end-time reference to a personage like Zerubbabel in the New Testament, and furthermore Revelation does not call the two witnesses of the Christian Era "anointed ones." However, since Zechariah's two "anointed ones" are not clearly identified, they might possibly be an OT reference to the Two Witnesses in Revelation 11.

Rev 1:20 “The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in My right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.”

Right in Revelation 1, candlesticks are defined as churches. Now if candlesticks are churches in Rev 1, then guess what? Candlesticks are *still* churches in Rev 11. The only way they would not be Churches is if God Himself changed the symbolic meaning of that word somewhere between Rev 1:20 and Rev 11:4. No change of definition appears there (or anywhere else in Scripture for that matter) so the candlesticks of Rev 11:4 are churches. That interpretation is not the product of some clever theologian’s overactive imagination. Candlesticks are churches because the Bible itself defines them as such.

So, if the seven candlesticks of Rev 1 are seven churches, what do you suppose the two candlesticks of Rev 11 might be? Why, two churches of course. But if the Two Witnesses are only two churches, which churches are they? Probably every denomination in the world would like to believe it is one of the Two Witnesses (with the rest of Christendom being heretics, of course), but God’s churches of the Christian Era are far broader than man’s sectarian restrictions, and the Olive Trees figure positively identifies who they are.

Still applying the principle of scriptural adjacency, we first try for a definition of olive trees in Revelation and then in the rest of the New Testament. Four times in the Old, and twice in the New, Israel is defined as an olive tree. Old Testament verses are included in footnote, but we still don’t use Old Testament definitions to define New Testament figures when there are New Testament definitions that fit perfectly:

Rom 11:17 “And if some of the [*Jewish*] branches be broken off, and thou [*the Gentile church*], being a wild olive tree,

wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree.”

Rom 11:24 “For if thou [*the Gentile Church*] wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree [*the Jews*]: how much more shall these [*Jews*], which be the natural *branches*, be grafted into their own olive tree?”

Revelation is a New Testament book, and a New Testament definition for olive trees appears in Romans 11.¹ According to that whole chapter, the Gentile church is one olive tree, and the Jewish people are the other. As a result . . .

*One witness is the Jewish people
and the other witness is the Gentile church!*

That’s not optional. If we just accept the scriptural definitions for olive trees and candlesticks, we are not left with a lot of doctrinal options. Take a realistic look at history. The nation of Israel could not have maintained its identity through nineteen centuries of dispersion, under constant persecution, were it not for the protecting hand of the Lord our God. The Bible itself affirms it. Listen to what Scripture says:

Jer 31:35-37 “Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, *and* the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts *is* his name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, *then* the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me

¹Jer 11:16 “The Lord called your name, “A green olive tree, beautiful in fruit and form;” With the noise of a great tumult He has kindled fire on it, and its branches are worthless.”

Isa 17:6 “Yet gleanings will be left in it like the shaking of an olive tree, Two or three olives on the topmost bough, Four or five on the branches of a fruitful tree, Declares the Lord, the God of Israel.”

Isa 24:13 “For thus it will be in the midst of the earth among the peoples, as the shaking of an olive tree, as the gleanings when the grape harvest is over.”

Hos 14:6 “His shoots will sprout, and his beauty will be like the olive tree, and his fragrance like Lebanon.”

for ever. Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.”

Our Heavenly Father has not forgotten those words. He stated right there that the children of Israel would be a *nation* before Him forever, so He has remembered His chosen people all along. The Lord’s plans for the physical seed of Israel throughout all time, including the Christian Era, is recorded in too many Scriptures to ignore.¹

Replacement theology notwithstanding, from the multitude of verses cited in the footnote, it appears that the Lord never intended to forget the physical seed of Israel. Let me tell you how important that is. If the Jews could not trust the promises God made to them in the Old Testament, how can the Church trust the promises God made to us in the New? Despite man’s doctrines to

¹ Gen 17:7 speaks of an unconditional everlasting covenant with the physical seed of Abraham. Lev 26:44-45 shows that Israel’s restoration was not to be conditional. Isa 11:11 speaks of a second restoration of the Jews. Isa 26:20-27:1 speaks of a final hiding of the children of Israel followed by Satan’s complete judgment. Isa 27:12-13, in context with the above, speaks of a final re-gathering of Israel. Jer 30:4-8 speaks of the time of Jacob’s trouble and future restoration. Jer 30:18-24 states that a restoration for the tents of Jacob will take place in the latter days, i.e. not the first restoration of 536BC. Jer 31:35-37 speaks of the permanent nation of Israel. Jer 33:24-26 is a definitive unconditional covenant with Jacob’s descendants. Eze 16:60-63 speaks of an unconditional everlasting covenant with the Jews. Eze 37:1-28 speaks of an unconditional future restoration of Israel, followed closely by a so-called Armageddon in Eze 38-39. Hos 11:9-10 speaks of a future restoration of Israel from the West. Joel 3:1-3 predicts the restoration of Judah, followed by Armageddon. Amos 9:11-15 speaks of an Israel restored to the land. Zec 8:8 speaks of a post-exilic, unconditional restoration of the Jews to Jerusalem and the land. Zec 10 and 12 are more prophecies of a future restoration of the Jews. Zec 14 speaks of Armageddon, with the Jews in Jerusalem. Luke 21:24 speaks of a dispersion, the time of the Gentiles, and a restoration following. Rom 11:11 states that the Jews have not fallen so as to be lost. Rom 11:17 states that only some of the branches were broken off. Rom 11:17 states that the church was grafted in among the Jews. Rom 11:28 states that the gospel-age Jews are still elect. Rom 11:29 states that God’s calling of the Jews is irrevocable. Rev 7:4-9 speaks of the 12 tribes of Israel in the Christian Era. Rev 12:1-6 speaks of Israel in the Christian Era. Rev 15:3 is a passage primarily about the Christian Era; there are two songs, one for the Jews, one for the Gentile church.

the contrary, it is comforting to know that the God of the Bible keeps His Word eternally.¹

Psalm 33:11 “The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.”

But if the Two Witnesses are two churches, when are they going to witness? If we stand by the day-year principle, they would have to witness for 1260 years:

Rev 11:3 “And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* three-score days.”

The time of the Two Witnesses cannot come after the time of the Gentiles because Jesus told us there would be only ONE generation following 1967: “This generation (*after the time of the Gentiles*) will not pass away until all things are fulfilled” (Luke 21:24, 32). A generation cannot be over 70 years (Psalm 90:10), and is usually considered to be 40 years, so we have to look back in history for these 1260 years. The author could find only one 1260 year time period that had any spiritual significance at all during the whole Christian Era:²

1948AD - 1260 = 688 AD and the Dome of the Rock!

And this fits history perfectly! As of 1948, the Jews are no longer witnessing in the nations. The “Abomination that maketh Desolate” was set up in 688, and the Jews were driven into the

¹ Simply stated, Replacement Theology is the belief that the Church, as adopted Israel, has totally replaced the physical seed of Abraham and that God is completely finished with the Jews of the Christian Era. This view holds that during this era, the Church is all the Israel there is. The Scriptures cited in the preceding footnote, plus Rom 11:15, stand directly against such a doctrine.

² Since there have been Hebrew believers all the way back to Abraham’s time, and the Church has existed since Pentecost, why do the 1260 days start in 688 AD? Before that date, both Jew and Christian were free to worship in Jerusalem, even on the temple mount itself. After 688 the Moslems persecuted the Christians and Jews and drove them out of the land. That is when the most final of all the dispersions of the Jews took place. By now we should begin to get the picture. God’s Word is eternal, and regardless of what nation ruled in the Holy Land, that old temple site was always of inestimable importance to the Lord.

“wilderness” of the nations at that time.¹ Now, 1260 years later, there is a new autonomous nation of Israel, and the Jews are back in the Holy Land again. So the Jewish people are one of the Two Witnesses of the Christian Era.

THE OTHER WITNESS

We can see 688 to 1948 as the time of Jewish witness, but what about the second witness, the Church? How can the church’s time of witness be over since we are still here? Well, look at what has happened to the Church since 1948. Most Christian homes have a Bible, but few Christians still read them or continue to witness to the lost. The immorality, involvement in the occult and satanism in the western nations has mushroomed since 1948, and the church has done little to slow the decay. As a result of our apathy and the questionable lifestyles that follow, much of the Gentile church has fallen into apostasy.

Many churches in America are terminally ill and most in Europe no longer hold Christian services. Many are beyond reach, “the sin unto *spiritual* death” (1 John 5:16). Since our battle is really spiritual, one is inclined to wonder if the coming destruction of the visible Church may not be more spiritual than physical. If it is, we are frighteningly close to that hour:²

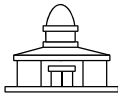
¹ Eze 20:35 “And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people,” shows the Gentile nations to be the wilderness.

² The National Council of Churches (to which your church might belong) joined the World Council of Churches in 1948. That organization has a declared goal of causing social change rather than teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. That’s what “Liberation Theology” is all about.

Graph Number 8

Two Witnesses

Rev 11:3-4 “And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two Candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.”



688AD

Dome of the Rock



1948AD

The New nation of Israel

1948AD - 1260 Days = 688.66AD

Note: Before 688, both Christians and Jews could freely worship in Jerusalem, and on the temple mount. They were not prophetically in the nations until the Moslems made it unsafe for them to worship in that city. That is why the time of the Two Witnesses began in 688.

Rev 11:7 “And when they [*the Two Witnesses*] shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.”

One way or another, in the final hours of this age, the Two Witnesses are going to be destroyed. Read Rev 11:7 in the original Greek or any translation you like. All predict the end of the visible Church. How can that be? Didn't Jesus promise that the gates of Hell would not prevail against His church? Yes, but the true Church that remains are not all those big buildings out there, the Church is only a remnant now ... a few hairs hidden in a hem of the Lord's garment (Eze 5:3).

For the first time since the invention of the printing press, books on astrology, satanism, and the occult are outselling the Bible. Truth has fallen in the street (Isa 59:14), and the consciences of our people have been seared as with a branding iron (1Tim 4:2). This will eventually lead to a worldwide rejection of

God and of His Word. As the spiritual decay deepens, a ruthless and devastating evil is being unleashed upon this planet, and it is coming with an intensity unknown since the flood.

What is a true Church to do when conditions become unbearable? Later in this book, you will read how we may become united with Israel, to stand with them in steadfast array against the enemies of our God:

Isa 11:13-14 "The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together."

That verse may not seem applicable to a true Church today, but it's relevance will be explained later.

NEWS BRIEF

Israel National News, July 11, 2007, Iran May Go Nuclear in 6 Months; NATO: Go It Alone, by Ezra HaLevi

According to the IDF (Israeli Defense Force), Iran will be able to produce nuclear weapons within six months. NATO says Israel must go it alone according to Strategic Affairs Minister Avigdor Lieberman.

The IDF Military Intelligence (MI) assessment was reported Tuesday to the Knesset and included a concrete assessment determining that Iran could cross the technological threshold required to produce nuclear weapons in the next 6-12 months and possess an operational warhead by the middle of 2009. The assessment is at odds with US estimates that put the date between 2010 and 2013. Both agree, however, that military strikes could set back the technology for years.

IDF MI also is of the opinion that sanctions against Iran have not weakened the regime, because huge oil reserves still provide all the money necessary to neutralize any pressure created by the international community.

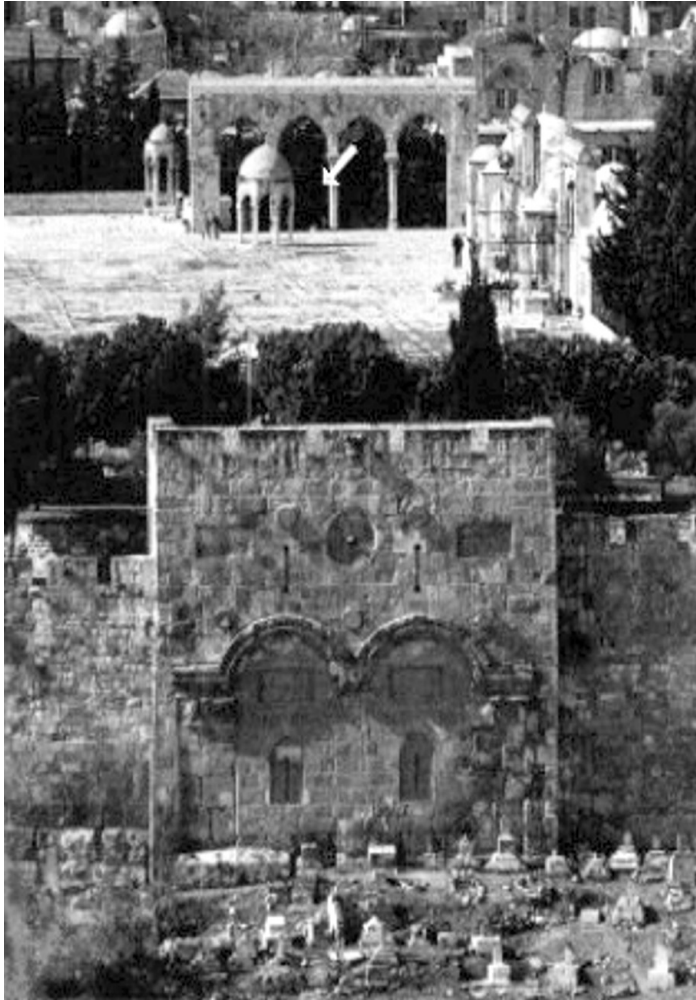


Photo courtesy Biblical Archeology Review

The true Gate Beautiful through which Jesus entered the city was located here. The first and second temples were located directly to the West of this gate, in line with the little cupola aptly named "The Dome of the Tablets." For documentation see: Asher S. Kaufman, (*Where the Ancient Temple of Jerusalem Stood*, Biblical Archeology Review, Vol. IX, No.9, March, 1983, pp 40-59). The Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies rested on the bedrock to which the arrow points. The gate in this picture was built by Islam not Israel. Israel's original gate, buried by Arab graves and centuries of debris, is directly under this gate.

TIME, TIMES & A HALF

Chapter 8

*But if ye turn unto me,
and keep my commandments, and do them;
though there were of you cast out
unto the uttermost part of the heaven,
yet will I gather them from thence,
and will bring them unto the place
that I have chosen to set my name there.*

NEHEMIAH 1:9

SO far, we have only studied prophetic days. In every instance we found them to be years. But day-years are not the only duration of prophetic time in the Bible. Twice in Daniel, and once in Revelation, there is the expression “time, times, and half a time.” So how long is a time? Look at these times in Daniel:

Dan 7:25 “And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a **time and times and the dividing of time.**”

Dan 12:7 “And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for **a time, times, and an half;** and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.”

Is a *time* a year like the day-years? One thing for sure, a *time* is not a year. Here is how we know. The Hebrew word for day is *yom*. The Hebrew and High Syriac words for *time* (as used in Dan 7:25 and 12:7) are *iddan* and *moadah*. Surely, the Creator of the universe knows the difference between *iddan*, *moadah* and *yom*.

Of course, and He gave us a *yom* for a year, not an *iddan* or a *moadah* for a year. So *iddan* (time), and *moadah* (time), must mean something else. Lets call them time durations “X.”¹

And what about the cryptic way in which those words were used, “time, times, and the dividing of a time?” How many “times” do we have here? As is true of English, Hebrew is full of idiomatic language. For instance, the Hebrew idiom “cut off” means to kill. “Ate the pieces of” means to bring malicious accusations against, and so on. Is “time, times, and the dividing of a time” also an idiom? Let’s see if there is Scripture to support that hypothesis:

Job 33:14 “For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not.”

Job 40:5 “Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: yea, twice; but I will proceed no further.”

Psalms 62:11 “God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God.”

In the above, *once* is one, and *twice* is only one more, for a total of two: $1+1=2$. A singular *one* followed by a plural *twice* is only two. In the same way, a singular *time* followed by a plural *times* might be only two. Only two! The words are different, but the idiomatic form is the same. If the Lord had said, “time, yea times” we might have seen it instantly.

Now let’s employ the same idiomatic language to interpret time, times, and half a time. *Time* = one; *times* = one more, for a total of two times. Add a *half a time* and we have two and a half times, or $1+1+\frac{1}{2}=2\frac{1}{2}$. That is pretty simple, isn’t it?² So why have people been saying that “time, times, and half a time” are three

¹ Day: Strong’s Nos. H3117, *yom*, from an unused root means to be hot; a day (as the warm hours), whether lit. (from sunrise to sunset, or from one sunset to the next). Time (Dan 7:25): H5732, *iddan*, (Chaldean), from a root corresponding to H5708; a set time. Time (Dan 12:7): H4150, *moade* (feminine) *mow’adah*: from H3259; prop. an appointment, i.e. a fixed bad time or season.

² Sorry about this $1+1$ stuff. I know I’m down on the kindergarten level, but it seemed the easiest way to explain the concept.

and a half years? Who knows? Probably because it fits the *Seven-Year* tribulation scheme. However, Hebrew scholars, plus the Jewish Tanach itself, do not support 3½ as a correct rendering.

All right, so “time, times, and half a time” are actually two and a half times. But if a time isn’t a year, how long is it? Daniel understood day-years, but he didn’t understand *time*. Why? Because day-years were defined for him in Old Testament scriptures while time was not. In fact, *time* was not defined until late in the New Testament epistles:

2Pet 3:8 “But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day [*Greek word, hemera*] is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”

On the surface that doesn’t look like much of a definition for time, does it? It certainly doesn’t work in English. But something is wrong here. God has already given us the definition for day. He gave us a day for a year. Is the Lord changing His definition of prophetic days here? Not at all. We can prove that the correct interpretation for prophetic days is still years by the 42 months and 1260 days of Revelation that we have already studied.

What we have here is an “X with the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years is as an X.” So how do we solve for “X”? By doing a word study in Greek, the original language of the New Testament. The Greek word translated “day” in 2Pet 3:8 is *hemera*, (ἡμέρα).¹ *Hemera* is an ambiguous word sometimes translated: period, moment, season, year, and, guess what ... *Time*. So what is the correct translation here? In Greek, context often determines translation, but in the above verse, the correct translation cannot be established with certainty because context

¹ Strong’s No. G2520. *hemera*, hay-mer’-ah: feminine. (with G5610 implied) of a derivative of *hemai* (to sit; akin to the base of G1476) several days were usually reckoned by the Jews as inclusive of the parts of both extremes; figuratively a period (always defined more or less clearly by the context): age, + always, forever, judgment, (day) time, while, years.

does not suggest the correct concept. Understandably, translators went with “day,” the most common usage, but that may not reflect the intent of the author. *Hemera* is translated *time* in four verses in the KJV, and twelve verses in the NAS. So *time* is a very acceptable translation. So is it possible that duration of “X” is a thousand years?

If *time* is a thousand years, and we have 2½ of them, then “time, times, and half times” could be 2500 years. Thus far, we have only a supposition and a weak one at that. But that is all we had for day-years until we started plugging them into history. Let’s see if there is an exact 2500 year historic fit that fulfills the Bible’s description of these *times* right to the year.

After Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon died in 562BC. Each of his three sons only ruled for a couple of years so the empire must have been really unstable.¹ King Labashi-Marduk was murdered as a mere child. Though the archives don’t give us a lot of details, reading about those ancient Middle Eastern empires from secular sources gives us a picture of what must have been going on back then. Daniel must have been walking on eggs to avoid the plots and political intrigue in the Babylonian court. Many of his fellow rulers in Babylon hated him and some even plotted his death (Dan 6:4-13). However, the Lord protected Daniel in that harrowing environment.

Then in 555BC, a nephew of Nebuchadnezzar named Nabonidus seized the throne. He proved to be a very able ruler. However, he couldn’t stomach the Babylonian court life, so three years later, in 552, he chose a close relative, Belshazzar, to rule the empire for him. Then Nabonidus spent the rest of his life wandering around Arabia, doing archeological digs and writing lots of poetry.

¹ Nebuchadnezzar was succeeded by his eldest son Awel-Marduk, the Evil-Merodach of 2 Kings 25:27-30 (561-560BC) who was followed by Neriglissar (560-558 BC), who was succeeded by Labashi-Marduk (557BC).

During these turbulent times, the Lord gave Daniel the vision of four great beasts coming up out of the sea.¹ Scripture tells us when this was, right to the year, “In the 1st year of Belshazzar” (Dan 7:1).² In pictorial language, the vision then describes the four great kingdoms that were to rule in the Holy Land during the time of the Gentiles. At the end of that prophecy, the Lord tells Daniel about *times*:

Dan 7:25 “And he shall speak great words against the Most High and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.”

Sometimes our doctrines get messed up because we don’t think about who the Lord is speaking to, or when. In this instance, the Lord is speaking to Daniel in 552BC.

So in Daniel’s day, who spoke out against God? Then, as now, Satan speaks out against God. Who were the saints in Daniel’s time? The Jews, of course. So from 552BC, when this prophecy was given, the Lord is telling Daniel that the Jews would be under satanically controlled Gentile powers for two and a half times, or possibly 2500 years. That the Holy Land would be ruled by Gentile strangers far into the future. Now let’s run that up and down the framework of history and see what it fits. Since the definition for time was given in the New Testament, we don’t need to convert from Hebrew to solar years to fit our calendar. A simple subtraction will do just fine:

2500 - 552BC = 1948AD, and new Israel!

¹The sea is the peoples of the Earth (Rev 17:15): “The waters which thou sawest . . . are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.”

²To date, there is no direct archeological evidence for 552BC being the 1st year of the Belshazzar’s regency. However, that date can be supported by correlating evidence about the reign of Nabonidus. John Walvoord, *The Key to Prophetic Revelation* (Chicago, Moody Press, 1971) p. 115 accepts a 553BC Belshazzar dating, and most authorities recognize a one to three year ambiguity in Old Testament dating.

Just a lucky hit? If that is not the correct interpretation, then it has to be one of the most remarkable coincidences in all of recorded history. It fits Scripture and our records right to the year. But remarkable as that fulfillment of prophecy may be, we would still have only a theory if this was the only 2500 year *time* period that fit antiquity.

Graph Number 9

1st Time, Times & ½ a Time

Dan 7:25 And he shall speak *great* words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.



552BC, 1st Year of Belshazzar



New Israel, 1948AD

Exactly 2500 years

But when God really does open prophecy, He gives us enough proof to know that we are headed in the right direction. At the end of Daniel's prophetic ministry, God gave Daniel another vision containing times (This prophecy also includes the 1290 days that led us to understand the Dome of the Rock as the Abomination that makes Desolate). This last vision can be dated at the third year of Cyrus the Persian, or 533BC:

Dan 10:1 "In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar."

Daniel is now a very old man. He knows he is going to die soon. The temple mount had been abandoned and sacrifices abolished during his own lifetime. He knows that an Abomination of Desolation was going to stand on that beloved site in less than 1300 years. Would the Jews ever control Jerusalem again? Of

course. Many Old Testament Scriptures tell him so including Isa 11:11. But when? The Lord told him that as well, right to the year, but then hid it so that no one would know when that time would be, until it happened:

Dan 12:7 "And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished."

Three years earlier, Cyrus had given a decree that would permit the Jews to return to their homeland. They had begun their trek back to the Holy land, and soon they would begin to build the 2nd temple. That temple stood until 70AD, when the Jews were driven from the land again. But God knew the end of this second dispersion, as well. He knew at the end of it, that the Jews would return to the Holy Land one more time and again control Jerusalem. When was the vision given? In 533BC, the third year of Cyrus. So this "time, times, and half a time" should begin in the third year of Cyrus:

2500 - 533BC = 1967AD
Jerusalem freed of Gentile control!

The Lord even worded the last phrase of that prophecy in such a way that it would be difficult to miss His intent: "... and when he shall have accomplished to scatter [*or shatter, NAS*] the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished."

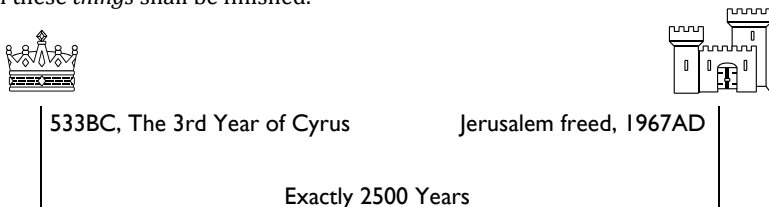
As of 1967AD, His holy people, the Jews, were no longer scattered among the Gentiles. They have their nation again, and their power is shattered no longer. But please look at that last phrase again: "and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished." Since that was fulfilled by 1967, then all of Daniel's last vision,

and perhaps his whole book was fulfilled by 1967, closing the door on those end-time views based on this vision.

Graph Number 10

2nd Time, Times & ½ a Time

Dan 12:7 “And . . . he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that *it shall be* for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these *things* shall be finished.”



Note: When the Jews again took control of Jerusalem in 1967, the “scattering of the power of the holy people” was over. Daniel was a prophet to the time of the Gentiles. Daniel’s prophecies were, in the main, fulfilled in 1967AD. This does not include the last half of Dan 8, which directly states that it is a vision of “the ultimate time of the end.”

A SEASON AND A TIME

There is a third *time* in Daniel that proves a prophetic “*time*” to be a thousand years. The four beasts of Daniel 7 are understood by most conservative theologians to be figurative pictures of the great Gentile empires that would rule in the Holy Land during the time of the Gentiles. The first three beasts were Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece. The fourth beast, Rome, fell in 476AD (*more on these empires in a later chapter*). The Moslems came on the scene soon after Rome fell, but the Moslems were not granted world dominion like the empires that came before them; however, the Lord did permit the Islamic states to rule in the Holy Land for a “season and a time”:

Dan 7:11-12 “I beheld *even* till the [4th] beast [Rome] was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning

flame. As concerning the rest of the beasts [*the Islamic nations controlling Jerusalem*], they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives [*in the holy Land*] were prolonged for a season and time.”

If time is 1000 years and there are four seasons, then a season would be one fourth of a time, or 250 years. $1000+250=1250$. A season is not defined by a certain number of days and could fluctuate a week or two in either direction so this “season and time” fits history well, indeed.

*New Israel became a nation a “Season and Time,”
(1260 years) after the Dome of the Rock was built.*

So now we have seen three examples, from Daniel alone, of *time* fitting history, when *time* is understood to be a thousand years. Consequently, it is unrealistic to hold that prophetic *times* mean anything else. Folks, I’m gullible so I could accept time equaling 1000 years as a coincidence one time, but three times? Not a chance! These solutions span thousands of years – from historic events that took place in antiquity to historic events that have taken place in our own lifetimes. That is a statistical impossibility, so we no longer have a hypothesis; we have a sound biblical and historically supportable doctrine¹.

In these times and day-years, we have a solid empirical argument, a prophetic jigsaw puzzle in which all the pieces interlock with each other. We can argue about the placement, color, or shape of any one piece, but when the whole puzzle is put together, we can stand back and view a completed picture. It’s not so easy to discredit a prophetic picture in which all the elements fit perfectly. If it is not of God, it will crumble back into its original

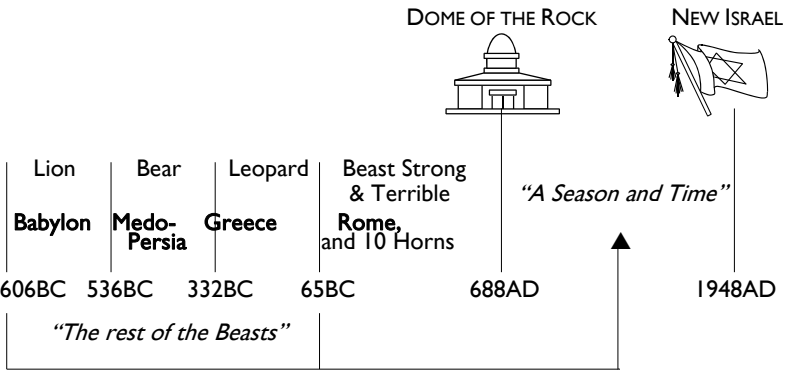
¹ There is a further message in Dan 12:7: “all these things shall be finished” shows that all events predicted in Daniel’s last vision, including “Michael standing up,” were fulfilled by 1967. This brings to an end the contention that Dan 11:36-45 is about some period in our future or about a coming antichrist. These verses are all fulfilled.

pieces all on its own; but if it is of God, it will remain and flourish, no matter who comes against it (Act 5:35-39).

Graph Number 11

A Season & a Time

Dan 7:12 “As **concerning the rest of the beasts** [*the Islamic Nations of the Mideast*], they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.”



A Time = 1000 years
A season is 1/4 of a time, or about 260 years
Total = 1260 years

NOTE: A season is generally considered to be a fourth of a year, but it is an indefinite time that can vary by a week or so. Consequently, this "season and a time" from the Dome of the Rock to new Israel is a dead hit, and it proves from Daniel itself that a prophetic "time" should be understood 1000 years.

These day-year and *time* prophecies are truly remarkable. They show the sovereignty of a timeless God over the affairs of men in a way that is difficult to dispute, and they do so over eons of time. Despite the best efforts of the enemy and the complexity of 2500 years of history, God not only foreknew what was going to happen in the Holy Land, but managed history in such a way that what His prophets foretold took place in God's chosen location at God's chosen time, right to the year. Humanly impossible? Of course. This has to be either the correct view of Daniel

7:11-12, or we need to totally disregard everything we thought we knew about probability and statistics.

NEWS BRIEF

Israel National News, 7/24/2007: Syrian Official: War with Israel will be Ballistic, by Gil Ronen

Syria sees the next war with Israel as involving missile attacks on civilian infrastructure and front-line guerilla warfare, an anonymous senior official in the Syrian Ministry of Defense told Defense News Weekly, in an interview appearing Monday. Syria prefers to avoid a direct, "classic" confrontation with Israel, he said. Instead, the next war will involve Katyusha rocket and ballistic missiles that will target strategic points in Israel, especially civilian infrastructure.

The official said that the war will not be limited to a single strike, but will be protracted in nature. "This will be a war of attrition, which the Israelis are not good at," he explained. The conflict, he said, "will be more like a war between cities than a war on the battlefield."

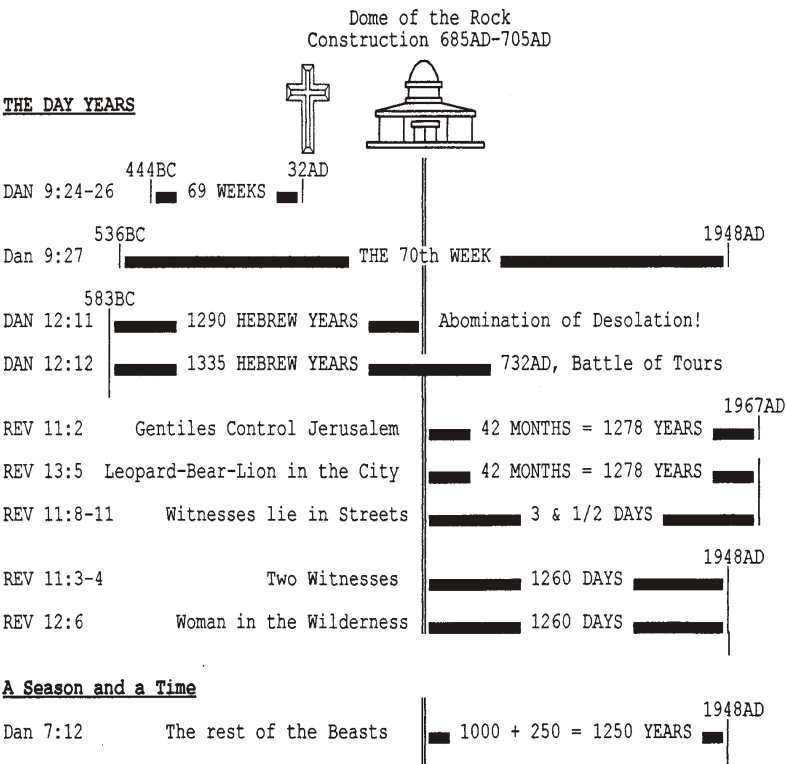
Quoting from the above: "the next war will involve Katyusha rocket and ballistic missiles." In the "final plagues to come upon the earth," in the bowls of wrath, there is a figurative description of those rockets and the war Israel is fighting even now:

Rev 16:21 "And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent [100 pounds]: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great."

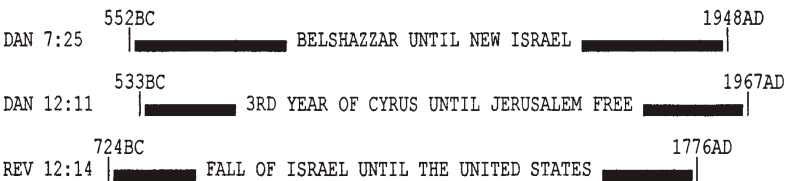
The prophet John had no idea what a rocket would be like, that the weight of the warhead would be "about the weight of a talent" or 100 pounds . . . but the God of the Bible knew!

Graph Number 12

Summary of the Day-Years & Times



THE TIME, TIMES, & 1/2 TIMES



NOTE: Thirteen day=year historic fits are too many to ignore. The mathematical and historic evidence for his method of interpretation is overwhelming.

MOUNTING EVIDENCE

Chapter 9

*He hath remembered his covenant forever,
the word which he commanded
to a thousand generations.*

PSALM 105:8

SO far, you have read about several Bible prophecies that have been fulfilled during our own generation. All were about the Jewish people, Jerusalem, the Holy Land or Islam. All were timed prophecies and all were fulfilled right to the year. Let's review those prophecies for a minute:

1. The 1290 days of Dan 12:11, fulfilled in 688AD by the construction of the Islamic Dome of the Rock.
2. The 42 months of Rev 11:2, fulfilled in 1967AD by the freeing of Jerusalem from Gentile control.
3. The 1260 Days of Rev 11:3, fulfilled in 1948AD by the Jewish people returning to their homeland.
4. The 1260 days of Rev 12:5, fulfilled in 1948AD by the establishment of the new nation of Israel.
5. The Time, Times and Half Time of Dan 7:25, fulfilled in 1948AD by the new nation of Israel.
6. The Time, Times and Half Time of Dan 12:7, fulfilled in 1967AD by the freeing of Jerusalem.
7. The Season and Time of Dan 7:12, fulfilled in 1948AD when Gentiles lost control of the Holy Land.

Seven prophecies fulfilled to the year. It is a statistical impossibility for the above seven prophecies to exactly fit Scripture and history to the year, as they do, unless those are the correct interpretations. And my, what doors of understanding those prophecies open for us. Looking back at the rest of the Bible through the prophetic microscope the Great Detective has given us, we now know that Gentile control of the Holy Land is over. We can also identify the Two Witnesses so we now know God has never forgotten the Jews. We further know that the Abomination of Desolation is not an antichrist in our future, but a building that's been on Mount Moriah for over 1300 years. And because of those fulfilled prophecies, it appears that most of Revelation is not about events still in our future, but about things that have taken place in our era. These fulfillments of prophecy are real, folks, whether we want to believe in them or not, and they strongly impact our traditional ideas of what is yet to come. Prophecies thought to be about a future Seven-Year Tribulation were actually about something else entirely.

What follows in the rest of this book are the conclusions to which I was inexorably driven as I built logically on the prophetic importance of the Holy Land and the new nation of Israel to the God of the Bible. If we stand behind Revelation as we now can, and look back at the rest of the Bible through the grid of what that book teaches us, a totally new picture of this era and our future appears. A picture that's very hard to believe.

But to introduce these new concepts we better first talk a little about elephants.

LEOPARD-BEAR-LION

Chapter 10

*I will bring the worst of the heathen,
and they shall possess their houses:
I will also make the pomp of the strong to cease;
and their holy places shall be defiled.*

EZEKIEL 7:24

FOUR blind men went to a zoo to learn about elephants. The first grabbed the elephant's tail and said, "The elephant is much like a rope." The next felt the elephant's side and said, "The elephant is really like a wall." The third felt his leg and said, "The elephant is obviously like a tree." The fourth felt his ear and said, "Oh no, the elephant is actually like a leaf." Well, guess what? They were each 100% accurate, but each man was "seeing" only a small part of the elephant. Important? Yes, because that's the way Revelation was written. Revelation is not one grand figurative picture about the end of this age, but 12 parallel prophecies being fulfilled at the same time. Twelve views of the Christian era that we couldn't understand until Daniel was opened.¹

The day-years we've been looking at are recorded in the middle of Revelation, actually in chapters 11 and 12 so a major part of that book is less about the end-times than it is about the Holy Land during the Christian era. Once we see that, isn't it possible that other prophecies in Revelation could also be about the Christian era and the Holy Land? Of course, so let's look at the rest of Revelation with that possibility in mind.

¹ For documentation on the parallel nature of the Hebrew poetic forms used in the prophetic books, please read *Bifids & Chiasms* on the Fish House Ministries site: http://www.fishhouseministries.com/pdf/Bifids_Chiasms.pdf

TIMES & EMPIRES

Knowledge is cumulative. It's always been "line upon line, precept upon precept." We needed to see prophetic days as years before we could identify the Dome of the Rock as the "abomination that maketh desolate." Only after recognizing that dome for what it is could we understand how the God of the Bible viewed Islam's rule in Jerusalem. We also needed to understand day-years to identify the Two Witnesses. Only then could we see the importance of the Jewish people during this era. In the same way, we now need to identify the four beasts in Daniel 7 before we can identify the Leopard-Bear-Lion Beast of Revelation 13.

Please keep in mind that Bible prophecy is figurative in nature. It's full of concepts expressed in pictorial ways such as *beasts*, *horns*, *seals*, *trumpets*, and *bowls*. If we are to understand God's intent for these figures, we need to determine what they mean. Let's first look at a couple within the "Bowls" of Wrath:

Rev 16:1-2 (NAS) "And I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the seven bowls of the wrath of God into the earth." And the first *angel* went and poured out his bowl into the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore upon the men who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image."

Not for a minute does anyone believe that holy angels up in Heaven will be pouring out an alphabet soup of trials on Earth from huge gold-rimmed alabaster "bowls." Many severe trials – both physical and spiritual – have indeed come upon the Earth, but enormous bowls full? Not likely. Isn't it more reasonable to conclude that God is using "bowl" figuratively, to show us the severity and vast number of trials that will happen to man sometime future to when the prophecy was written?

Of course, so let's look at other prophecies in Revelation that might also be figurative. For instance, does anyone believe we are going to have an actual flaming red, ten-horned, seven-headed

dinosaur thundering about the land with an all-decked-out, blood-drinking, prostitute riding on its back (*the Scarlet Beast of Revelation 17:3*)? Or are we going to see a strange genetic mutation that looks like a cross between a leopard, bear and lion, with blasphemous names tattooed on its seven heads (*the beast of Rev 13:2*)? How about a spellbinding oration from a stone idol that looks like that beast (*the image of Rev 13:15*)? Well, if we are to take Revelation literally, that's what we've got to believe because that is what it says. Since none of the above is even remotely sensible, then most of Revelation is probably figurative in nature. God's eternal plan in pictorial language.

Now, figurative language is as different from literal language as Japanese is from English. If Japanese was the only language I spoke and you wished to tell me something, you would need to speak to me in Japanese. If you addressed me in English, I would not understand a word you said. A few of your words might sound familiar and I might even try to make sense of them, but I'd be guessing and probably guessing wrong. Well, Revelation is written in a special language, too – a pictorial language – and its prophecies cannot be understood unless you “speak” the pictorial language in which they were written.

So let's look at the pictorial language God used to tell the Jews about the nations that were going to rule in the Holy Land during the “Time of the Gentiles.” This is a rather lengthy quote and commentary, but I don't know of an easier way to explain these verses. Comments are set within the Bible text itself, in [*italics*]. Please study the passage carefully because your ability to identify the beasts in Revelation will depend upon your understanding of these principles.

This following prophecy was given to Daniel in 552BC. Daniel lived at the beginning of the time of the Gentiles, so he is looking forward at world history from that time. The identity of these

beasts has been understood by the church for centuries and this view is accepted by most conservative theologians.

Dan 7:3-4 “And four great beasts came up from the sea [*the sea is the peoples and nations of the world, Rev 17:15*], diverse one from another. The first was like a lion [*The national emblem of Babylon was the winged lion*], and had eagle’s wings [*The Ishtar gate of that city has bas-reliefs of winged lions upon it*]: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man [*The Neo-Babylonian Empire, begun under Nebopolassar, was brought to the peak of its power by his son Nebuchadnezzar, 606-562BC, the most absolute monarch in human history*], and a man’s heart was given to it [*Also a reference to Nebuchadnezzar, Dan 4:37*].

Dan 7:5 “And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear [*After Babylon fell to Darius in 536BC, Medo-Persia became the dominant world power*], and it raised up itself on one side [*The Persians were “raised up” over and ruled the Medean half of their empire*], and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it [*The Medo-Persians conquered three other empires: Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt*]: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

Dan 7:6 “After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl [*Alexander the Great defeated the Medo-Persian Empire at the Battle of Issus, in 332BC*]; the beast had also four heads [*Alexander had four great generals under him: Ptolomy, Selucius, Lycimicus, and Cassander*]; and dominion was given to it [*After Alexander died in Babylon, 323BC, his empire was divided between those four generals*].

Dan 7:7 “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it [*Rome destroyed the remnants of the divided Grecian Empire and began to control the Holy Land in 65BC. The Roman Empire continued until 476AD*]: and it was diverse from all the beasts that

were before it; and it had ten horns [*After Rome fell, the empire was divided into roughly ten Eastern and western nations that have continued to this day*].

Dan 7:8 "I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots [*Adolf Hitler, i.e., The Nazi regime, controlled most of the geographic area of the old Roman Empire. Which three nations Daniel is writing about is open to question, however Nazi Germany did pull up the surrounding states by the roots, replaced by what is now known as the Common Market*]: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man [*Same expression as is used to describe Nebuchadnezzar, so the prophet is describing a single king with absolute power, Adolf Hitler*], and a mouth speaking great things [*Dan 7:11 continues on to tell us of the fall of Nazi Germany, which was the death-knell of the Roman Empire*].

Dan 7:12 "As concerning the rest of the beasts [*Lion-Bear-Leopard, i.e., the Islamic nations of the Middle East*] they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time [*After Rome itself fell, the Holy Land came under control of the eastern Roman Empire, the capitol of which was Constantinople. Islam conquered Jerusalem in 639 and built the Dome of the Rock in 688. They continued to rule in the Holy Land until the new nation of Israel was founded. A time of 1000 years, plus a season of 260 years equals 1260 years: 688AD+1260=1948AD*].

Dan 7:17-20 "These great beasts, which are four, are four kings [*or kingdoms*], which shall arise out of the earth. But the saints of the most High [*the Jews were the saints during Daniel's time*] shall take the kingdom [*i.e., the Holy land*], and possess the kingdom forever, [*the Jews began controlling the Holy Land again in 1948, and this prophecy states they are going to keep it*] even forever and ever. Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast [*Rome*], which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured,

brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet [*Rome dominated the known world for over 400 years*]; And of the ten horns that were in his head [*the Roman Empire divided into many smaller states including the major European nations we know today*], and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things [*Adolf Hitler*], whose look was more stout than his fellows [*The Nazi regime. Nazi Germany was the last gasp of the old militaristic Roman Empire*].

Dan 7:21-22 “I beheld, and the same horn [*Hitler*] made war with the saints [*the Jews were the saints when God gave Daniel this prophecy*], and prevailed against them [*the holocaust during which 6,000,000 Jews were slaughtered by the Nazis*]; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom [*and in 1948 the Jews did indeed take the Holy Land back and become a nation*].

Dan 7:23-24 “Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth [*This is how we know that this passage is not about just individual kings, but really about kingdoms or empires*], which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings [*Austria, France and Italy were indeed subdued by Hitler during WW2*].¹

Dan 7:25 “And he shall speak *great* words against the most High [*Satan speaks out against the Most High, so God is now telling Daniel about the vast unseen spiritual battle taking place behind the scenes*], and shall wear out the saints of the most High [*When this was written in 552BC, the Jews were*

¹ Dan 7 is not an end-time prophecy. Dan 8:17-19 identifies the little-horn out of the He-Goat (Greece) as the final enemy of Israel and the Church. Since Syria-Lebanon was recognized as Grecian during John's time, the final enemy leader to come against Israel will be Islamic and from the Middle East.

all the saints there were], and think to change times and laws¹ [Islam begins counting its years in 622AD and it's Jummat day of prayer is Friday, not Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath]: and they [the Jews] shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time [The Jews were given into the enemy's hand from 552BC, when this prophecy was given, until the new nation of Israel, 1948AD. That is $2\frac{1}{2} \times 1000$ or 2500 years].”²

IDENTITY OF THE LEOPARD-BEAR-LION

Now the most important thing to notice in the above quote is that the “beasts” in Daniel were *not* conquerors or kings. In fact, they were not people at all. Those “beasts” were world empires. Nowhere in the Bible does God change the definition of “beasts” and that key that unlocks the hidden identity of the “beasts” in Revelation. It's a pretty obvious key once you see it:

*The definition for beasts in Bible prophecy
is kingdoms and empires!*

Daniel 7 firmly establishes the figurative identity of the first three Middle Eastern empires that dominated the Holy Land after the fall of the Kingdom of Judah:

Lion = BABYLON.

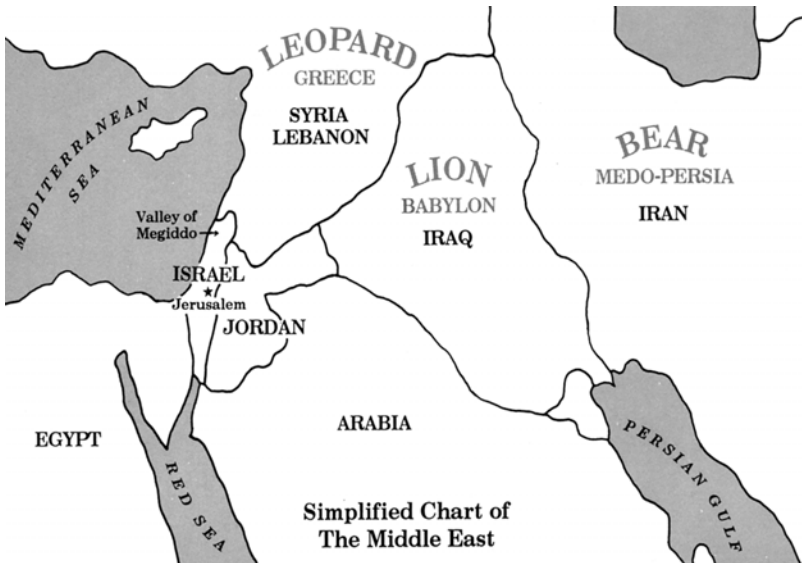
Bear = MEDO-PERSIA

Leopard = GREECE

The modern counterparts of those beasts are:

¹ June 25th, 622 AD marked the turning point in Islam as Muhammad migrated (Hijra) to Yatrib (now Medina) and was declared as head of state and commander in chief of the first Islamic Umma (community of believers). Moslems start their dating from that year. According to Islam, we are in the fifteenth century not the twentieth.

² Since it is evident that this “time, times and half a time” was fulfilled in 1948AD, regardless of who we wish to claim as the “Little Horn” of Dan 7, that person would have to be placed before 1948. Looking at history, it appears that Adolf Hitler and the German Third Reich accurately fulfill this 4th beast.



Lion = IRAQ

Bear = IRAN

Leopard = SYRIA-LEBANON

Nowhere in the Bible have those figurative identities been changed. Throughout Scripture, Lion remains Babylon or Iraq, Bear remains Medo-Persia or Iran, and Leopard remains Greece or Syria-Lebanon. So when we read about a beast in Revelation with those same names, we have every reason to believe the Lord is telling us of the offspring of those empires:

Rev 13:1-2 “And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a **leopard**, and his feet were as the feet of a **bear**, and his mouth as the mouth of a **lion**: and **the dragon** gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”

So we can now see it . . . the Leopard-Bear-Lion Beast (*LBL*) of Revelation 13. Notice that this one beast looks like all three of

those old empires rolled into one, and it should be because each of those empires controlled the Whole Middle East. So what has tied the Middle Eastern states together during the last two thirds of the Christian Era? Islam and its prophet Muhammad, that's what! Though they have sometimes battled each other, for thirteen centuries Iraq, Iran, Syria and associates, including Saudi Arabia, have been the home of the radical Moslems, the lair of assassins, a haven for terrorists and a roost for all who hate Israel and the Christian nations.

That's not guesswork theology, folks. The Islamic states have historically been the enemies of the West and they still are. Furthermore, those Islamic states will continue to be enemies of the God of the Bible until Jesus returns. Why? Well, notice who empowers those countries, *the dragon!* And Satan has always been the implacable enemy of God and God's children. Do not be deluded, the Islamic god, Allah, is NOT the same as the God of the Bible. The Creator of the Universe is a God of love, a word conspicuously missing from the Koran. There may indeed be loving Moslems, but their Koran doesn't teach it.

The Leopard-Bear-Lion is the Islamic nations of the Middle East. Now we need to know when this beast will control Jerusalem. We've already been there, but here's a little review:

Rev 11:2 "But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty *and* two months."

The 42 months of Rev 11:2 were explained at length in Chapter 5. They were 1278.34 years, and it was 1278.34 years from the construction of the Dome of the Rock until Jerusalem was again under Jewish control. In this Rev 13 prophecy about the Leopard-Bear-Lion, we again see 42 months, vs. 5. LBL was also granted authority over Jerusalem for 42 months:

Rev 13:5 “And there was given unto him [LBL] a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.”

The Leopard-Bear-Lion was also given authority to “blaspheme God’s tabernacle,” which the Dome of the Rock certainly does, so Rev 11:2 and 13:5 are parallel accounts of the same event. Both are about the Islamic control of Jerusalem from 688 to 1967.

As a result, we can now positively identify the Leopard-Bear-Lion beast of Revelation 13 as the Islamic states of the Middle East. LBL is not some future antichrist after all. LBL is the Islamic nations that now stand against Israel and the rest of us. Lets look at Rev 13:3-10 in detail; the explanatory notes are again set within the text, in *[italics]*:

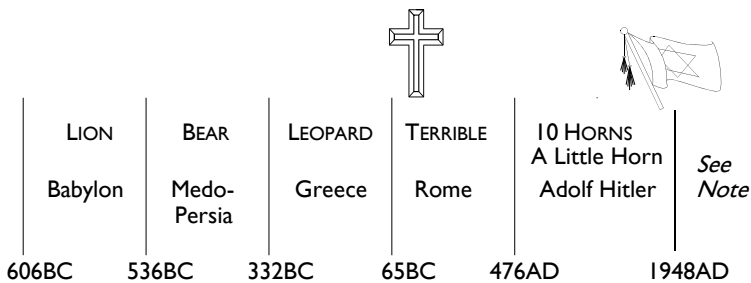
Rev 13:3-4 “And I saw one of his [LBL’s] heads as it were wounded to death [*The battles of Tours and Vienna struck death blows to Islamic expansion into Europe and destroyed their hope of world conquest*]; and his deadly wound was healed [*After WW2, the western nations sent billions of dollars into the Middle East, which enabled the Islamic states to rebuild*]: and all the world [*Remember that Bible prophecy is ethnographic – The “whole world” refers to the part of the planet the prophet knew about, the known world of the Roman Empire. The God of the Bible is not telling us about China, Australia, or the Americas*] wondered after the beast. And they worshiped the dragon [*This shows that Islam is not another road to heaven – The dragon is Satan, ergo, Islamists worship Satan*] which gave power unto the beast [LBL]: and they [*the Islamists*] worshiped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? [*During the 1st Jihad the Moslems were indeed victorious over the weaker Christian Middle Eastern nations, the North African states and the Eastern Roman Empire*].

Graph Number 13

Beasts in Daniel

Dan 7:3-24 (excerpts) “And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. The first *was* like a lion, and had eagle’s wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man’s heart was given to it. And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and *it had* three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it. After this ... behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth; and it

devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns . . . and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn *were* eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things . . . Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. And the ten horns out of this kingdom *are* ten kings *that* shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.”



NOTE: The Ten Horns of the fourth beast (strong and terrible), arise out of the remnants of the old Roman Empire. Throughout the Christian Era the nations from Roman roots have struggled for world dominion ... the final attempt being made by Adolf Hitler, the “little horn” of Dan 7:8. However, Daniel 7 is not the vision of “ultimate time of the end.” Daniel 8 is the end-time vision (Dan 8:19-23), and that vision points to the Leopard-Bear-Lion as the final enemy of the Church and Israel.

The Leopard, Bear and Lion beasts had their dominion taken away, but they continued to control the Holy Land during the Christian Era, and that control lasted for “a season and a time” (See graph No. 12 for details).

Rev 13:5-6 “And there was given unto him [*the Leopard-Bear-Lion*] a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power [*over Jerusalem*] was given unto him to continue forty and two months. [*the Islamic domination of Jerusalem lasted from 688 to 1967 or 42 months of day-years*] And he [*LBL*] opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle [*The Moslems built a memorial to Muhammad on the footstool of God’s feet*], and them that dwell in heaven [*In spirit, Christians dwell in the heavenlies right now, “and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places,” Eph 2:6*].

Rev 13:7-9 “And it was given unto him [*LBL*] to make war with the saints, and to overcome them [*The 1st Jihad overwhelmed the Coptic Church, that at the time, covered the whole Middle East including North Africa, from India to Spain*]; and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations [*remember that Bible prophecy primarily addresses the countries that surround the Holy land*]. And all that dwell upon the earth [*the world known to the prophet*] shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world [*again showing that Islam is not another road to Heaven*]. If any man have an ear, let him hear.

Rev 13:9-10 “He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity [*during the 1st Jihad, the area controlled by the Coptic church went into captivity, including the Holy Land*]; he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword [*the Islamic armies of the Middle Ages were defeated at Tours and Vienna, with great loss of life*]. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.”

The beasts of Revelation appear to be figurative pictures of Satan’s total kingdoms on Earth, both physical and spiritual. The Leopard-Bear-Lion appears to be a **VISIBLE** aspect of Satan’s unseen spiritual kingdom in the Middle East. The Islamists who controlled the Holy Land are held together by a common religion, a spiritual unity, rather than by a common government. In Rev

13:2, the prophet John also declares the Mideast to be the seat of Satan's power, and Satan's throne does appear to be there.

TEN HORNS OF LBL

There is probably one more aspect of the Leopard-Bear-Lion we ought to examine. When God gave the land of Canaan to Abraham, He set the boundaries thereof: From the River of Egypt (at the southern border of the Gaza Strip) to the River Euphrates (near Damascus in Syria). That area has always been the land God gave to Isaac and Jacob. The Jews know it and the Arabs know it. Arabs came into the Holy Land during the 1st Jihad and claimed possession, however, though the Arabs are also children of Abraham through his servant Hagar, Scripture states that God gave the Holy Land to the descendants of Sarah's son Isaac: "Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called" (Rom 9:7). But ever since, the Moslems have been trying to take for themselves the land God gave to Israel:

Gen 15:18-21 "The LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

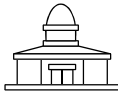
Those peoples were the original inhabitants of the land. When Joshua and the Children of Israel entered Canaan in 1406BC, God commanded them to drive out all the people who were living there. They didn't. Instead, Israel enslaved the local people and put them to forced labor. When Nebuchadnezzar took the Jews captive to Babylon, he left the "poorer people in the land." They would have been the descendants of those Canaanite slaves and the descendants of those slaves have been a thorn in the side of

Graph Number 14

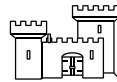
Domain of the Leopard-Bear-Lion

Rev 13:1-5 (excerpts) “And I . . . saw a beast rising up out of the sea having seven heads and ten horns . . . And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great

authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed . . . And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty *and two* months.”



Dome of the Rock
688AD



Jerusalem Freed
1967AD

“Authority was given unto him for forty-two months”

Leopard
Early Greece
now SYRIA

Bear
Medo-Persia
now Iran

Lion
Babylon
now IRAQ

LBL is one beast,
THE ISLAMIC WORLD!

“Head slain...” In 732AD, Charles Martel defeated a 300,000 man Islamic army at the Battle of Tours in southern France. At the Battle of Vienna, 15,000 Christian knights under Jan Sabieski won against another 300,000 man Islamic army. These two battles stopped Islamic incursions into Christian Europe.

42 Months of days=1278.34 day-years. 1967-1278.34 = 688.66AD, the Dome of the Rock! That’s how long LBL had “authority” over the Holy City.

Israel ever since. They are the Palestinian people of today, but only part of the 10 horns.

The ten horns of the Leopard-Bear-Lion include jihadists like Usama bin Laden, al-Qaeda, the Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, the Palestinian Intifada and the Middle Eastern nations that support them.

Jews are being tortured and killed by Moslems living in the Gaza strip and Jericho right now, with the full blessing of Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, not to mention the surrounding Arab states. If an Israeli kills a terrorist in self-defense it's front page in the world's newspapers, reported as a vicious homicide. But if a Palestinian bombs a busload of women and children, you'll find it as a two inch filler on page eight of section "B," and even then, reported as a justifiable execution in a Palestinian "war of liberation" against their Jewish "oppressors."¹

Should we be surprised at that kind of biased journalism? Not at all. It's what we should expect from our media today, considering the influence OPEC money, Islam and the liberals have on our news agencies. According to them, the Palestinians are a poor misunderstood people being "oppressed" by horrible Jewish landlords. It isn't so. The Holy Land was a dust-bowl until the Jews returned and started cultivating it again, and that's another fulfillment of prophecy:

Isa 35:1 "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad . . . and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose."

¹ The name "Palestinian" is derived from Philistine, the people who were the worst of Israel's enemies. Goliath of Gath was a Philistine.

TWO-HORNS

Chapter 11

*"When will the new moon be over,
so that we may sell grain
and open the wheat market,
to make the bushel smaller and the shekel bigger,
and to cheat with dishonest scales,
so as to buy the helpless for money
and the needy for a pair of sandals?"*

AMOS 8:4-6 EXCERPTS

IN the middle of the prophecy about the Leopard-Bear-Lion beast, another beast springs to life: a beast with "Two Horns like a Lamb." Since the 42 months of LBL's control of Jerusalem take us from 688 to 1967, this new beast must be about other events that will take place during that same time . . .

Rev 13:11 "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon."

Look at how this new beast is described: It is "like a lamb." The Greek word used here for lamb is *arnion*,¹ accurately defined as a little lambkin. *Arnion* appears 26 times in Revelation, and in every time except this one, *arnion* referred to the little "lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world" (John 1:29). So why does the God of the Bible use *arnion* to describe this new beast?

ἀρνίον, Strong's No. G721. *arnion*, ar-nee'-on; diminutive from G704; a little lambkin: lamb.

Because on the surface this beast will look like Jesus. This empire will talk and even appear to be a Christian empire, but its Two-Horns will really speak like the dragon. In other words, these two horns will come out of a sham Christian empire, but those horns will be militant and influenced by Satan.

Now this empire has two horns, so it will control Jerusalem twice. They could control the city at the same time, or from examples like Dan 8:3 and 8:8, they could appear one after the other. So how can we know who these horns are? Well, the Bible doesn't directly tell us, but it does say when they will rule:

Rev 13:12 "And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him [*i.e., in his sight or presence*], and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed."

The Old English of the King James Bible is a bit confusing here, but "before him" is *enopion* in Greek, which mens "in the sight of."¹ This two-horned beast will rule *in the sight of*, or in the presence of the Leopard-Bear-Lion. Now we already know that LBL was given authority from 688 to 1967, so for this lamb-like beast to rule "in the sight" of LBL, it would have to rule in the Holy Land during that *same time*! These two horns would have to come up between 688 and 1967 and that's the key to the identity of the Two-Horned Beast so I'm going to say it again:

For the beast with Two Horns like a Lamb to be in the presence of the Leopard-Bear-Lion, those horns would have to exist while LBL was in power; in other words, his two horns would have to come up between 688 and 1967!

"In his presence" also means something else. Two Horns and LBL would co-exist. Two Horns will not destroy LBL, but will be given authority while LBL remained in Jerusalem. So let's look at

¹ ἐνώπιον, Strong's No. G1799. enopion; neut. of a comp. of G1722 and a der. of G3700; in the face of (lit. or fig.)--before, in the presence (sight) of.

the history of the Holy Land, and see if the “horns” of a so-called Christian empire ruled there sometime between 688 and 1967.

The Moslems conquered Jerusalem in 639AD. Forty-nine years later, Abd el Malik Ibn Marwan began construction of the Dome of the Rock on the old temple mount. Construction was completed in 705 and Islam ruled victorious in Jerusalem for the next 200 odd years. Satan must have thought it was all over for the Jews and the Church there. No doubt the Moslems rejoiced over defeating God’s Two Witnesses, their attitude being prophesied as well:¹

Rev 11:10 (NAS) “And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets [*the Two Witnesses*] tormented those who dwell on the earth.”

Then in the 11th Century, Pope Urban II called for a Crusade to free the Holy Land and particularly Jerusalem from Islamic control. Christian knights from all over Europe, England included, captured Jerusalem and ruled in the Holy Land for about 200 years. But by the end of the 12th Century, the Crusaders were driven out and Islam again ruled the country. Islam continued to rule in the Holy Land through several regimes, the final one being the Ottoman Empire.

Though we don’t read about it in western histories, the Crusaders pillaged, raped and murdered the people living in the Holy Land. They claimed to be Christians but they indeed “spake as the dragon!” They didn’t destroy the Dome of the Rock nor drive the Moslems out, they coexisted with them, so the Crusaders were “in his sight.” They were the first horn, and they were in the presence of the Leopard-Bear-Lion!

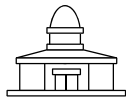
¹ A full explanation of the 3½ days or Rev 11:9, is contained in the chapter about the *Hour, Day, Month, and Year*.

Graph Number 15

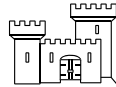
Two Horns Like a Lamb

Rev 13:11-12 "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed."

Rev 13:13-14 "And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live."



Dome of the Rock
688AD



Jerusalem Freed
1967AD

Dominion of the Leopard-Bear' Lion Beast
Islamic domination of the Holy City

New
Jihad

Beast with Two Horns
"In his Presence"

1000AD

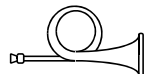
1200AD

1917AD

1948AD

The Western "Christian" nations control
led the Holy Land twice during this era.
Once during the Crusades, and again after
WWI, during the British Mandate.

Two Horns continues to exist today as the western nations. The Beast with "two horns like a Lamb" would appear to be Christian, but speaks like the dragon. In other words, it would be aggressive and ungodly in its behavior. When the "Christian" nations conquered the Holy Land, they did not destroy the Dome of the Rock, nor drive the Moslems out of the land, so they were in the presence of the Leopard-Bear-Lion beast. Today, the western nations are in bondage to Arab oil, so it is Two Horns that is bringing the likeness of the first militant Islam back to life by financing a new Jihad that threatens us all.



Seven Centuries later, during World War I, a different group of “Christian knights” again fought in the Islamic world and entered the Holy Land. Lawrence of Arabia and General Allenby (with the blessing of the League of Nations) took control of what became known as the *British Mandate*. The western nations, appearing “like a lamb,” then ruled in Jerusalem from 1917 to 1948. They didn’t destroy the Dome of the Rock or drive the Moslems out so they were the other horn “in the sight of” or “in the presence” of the Leopard-Bear-Lion. Thus, the *British Mandate* was the second horn of the Two-Horned Beast.

In 1948, the new nation of Israel was established and that ended Gentile dominion of the Holy Land, forever. But twice during that 42 months, “Christian nations” did rule in the presence of Leopard-Bear-Lion, so the western, so-called “Christian” nations are the beast with Two Horns like a Lamb.

THE HEALED BEAST

That takes us to 1948 and though Two Horns [2H] prophetic picture continues on for a bit, new Israel ended the Two-Horned Beast’s control of the Holy Land forever:

Rev 13:12-14 “And he [2H] exerciseth all the power of the first beast [LBL] before him [*in his presence*], and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast [LBL], whose deadly wound was healed. And he [2H] doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the [LBL] beast.”

After World War II, the Beast with Two Horns experienced an accelerated growth in science and economy. With western oil fields insufficient for its industrial economy, Two Horns turned to the Middle East. Over the following decades, a major portion of western hard currency flowed into the coffers of the Leopard-

Bear-Lion. The Middle Eastern nations then used those funds to revitalize Islam, to buy modern weaponry and again threaten the West. The Beast with Two Horns “healed” the beast that had “a wound of the sword,” and the Leopard-Bear-Lion came back to life! So for the first time since the battles of Tours and Vienna, Islam again invades the Western world.

The Beast with Two-Horns does indeed “performs great signs” which deceive men and turn their eyes from God. The western nations are the most scientifically advanced on earth. If you had been standing on the streets of Baghdad in 1991 or 2003, “and he (*Two-Horns*) even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men,” would have been no mystery to you. American guided munitions and smart-bombs are indeed a “fire from heaven” that is visible to all.¹

We have dived to the bottom of the bottomless sea, harnessed the atom, sent probes beyond our solar system, and placed men on the Moon. These are great signs which deceive us into thinking man is God (2Th 2:4).

IMAGE OF THE BEAST

There has probably been as much written about the image and mark of the beast as about any other passage in the Bible (Rev 13:14-18). It has always been assumed that this “image of the beast” was something physical, like a statue that was carved, cast, or sculpted out of stone, wood, or metal. But that is not all the dictionary says an image can be.

An image is a likeness of any kind. A photograph is an “image” of the original scene, a book is an “image” of the thoughts of the

¹ There is no special word for “heaven” in the Greek language. The Gr. word translated heaven in this verse, Strong’s G3772, οὐρανός (*ouranos*), is sky by definition, only heaven by implication. Ouranos is translated heaven when context so indicates. Translators in the 16th century couldn’t have imagined bombs being dropped out of airplanes.

writer and a boy can be the “image” of his father.¹ If we use that broader definition for “image,” the new jihad that faces the West and Israel is an image of the first jihad. For indeed, this new Islamic threat is just as menacing as the one that came before it.

Rev 13:14 “And he [*the Two-Horned Beast*] deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast [*LBL*]; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the [*LBL*] beast [*a likeness of, or a new Islamic power*], which had the wound by a sword, and did live.”

A likeness of the first jihad is springing up all over the world. The fastest growing religion in Europe is Islam and as of this writing, the largest mosque in the Western world is in Rome. The largest place of worship in Toronto is a mosque and there are more people attending mosques in England than there are going into the Church of England. In fact, Islamic Mullahs in England claim they will soon control that whole country. In Holland, state-owned Christian churches are being turned over to the Moslems, and 14% of the immigrants into the United States are Islamic.

Worldwide, there are about 1.5 billion people in Islam today. Best estimates are that 10-15 percent of all Moslems are violently anti-Israel and anti-Christian. In other words, 150 to 200 million people are ardent supporters of the world's most violent religion. Since there are an estimated five to six million Moslems here in the United States, if that 10-15% statistic holds true for us, we could reasonably conclude that between 500,000 and 900,000 American Moslems support a jihad against their adopted country. Did you know that a major portion of funding for Hamas comes from Moslems in the United States?

¹ Image: A duplicate, counterpart, or other representative reproduction of an object. One that closely or exactly resembles another, a double. A mental picture of something that is not real or present.

NEWS BRIEF

Israel National News, 7/25/2007, 8:16am, US Treasury Cracks Down On Two Muslim Charities Funding Terror, by Ezra HaLevi:

Legal action is being taken against two Muslim charities in the United States due to their support of the Hamas and Hizbullah [*Israeli spelling*] terrorist groups. On Tuesday, the US Treasury began legal action against the Iran-based Martyrs Foundation and what it says is a front-group for it – the Goodwill Charitable Organization (GCO), which has a US branch in Dearborn, Michigan. The organization is accused of providing funding to Hizbullah. Action was also initiated against al-Qard al-Hassan, a Lebanese firm believed to have been used by Hizbullah as a front for managing its finances. The administrative order also includes a warrant for the arrest of two Lebanese men who acted as go-betweens from the charitable foundations to Hizbullah.

That money isn't being sent to the terrorists by tooth fairies. In Dearborn, MI, crowds of Moslems have carried signs reading, "We have no army but Hamas!" It is considered an outrageous sin for any Moslem to betray a fellow Moslem to an infidel, regardless of the crime. As a result, terrorists can hide in any group of Moslems. We couldn't understand some of the prophecies of Daniel until now, but today their meaning is glaringly obvious:

Dan 8:23-25 "And in the latter time of their kingdom, [*though identified differently, this prophecy is also about the Gentile control of the Holy Land*], when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance [*Muhammad or the satanic prince behind him*], and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully [*during the 1st jihad*], and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people [*the Jews were the holy people during Daniel's time*]. And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand [*the Koran says it's just fine for Moslems*]

to lie to infidels to further Islamic goals]; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many [*does that sound familiar?*]; he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes [*That's Jesus, but Islam claims God has no Son*]; but he [*Muhammad and his satanic prince*] shall be broken without hand [*still future*].”

We are being taken for fools. While claiming to be our friends, Islamic militias are killing thousands of Christians in Nigeria, over a million Christians in the Sudan, many by crucifixion, thousands in Indonesia, the Philippines and anywhere else in the world where there are large Islamic populations. So what are the differences between the United States and Nigeria, the Sudan, and Indonesia? Many, but there is one glaring difference between us – there are a lot more Moslems in those troubled countries than there are here.

The real problem is this: Who in our government is willing to call us to arms? Despite a mountain of evidence to the contrary, even the President of the United States publically claims that Islam is love and peace. There are peaceful Moslems, but the Koran has always called for war. Maybe a few can now hear three verses from Revelation 16; they're from the Bowls of Wrath:

Rev 16:12-14 “And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates [*which flows between Iraq and Iran*]; and the water thereof was dried up [*the “waters” that separated them were figuratively dried up by Muhammad because through Islam they have become one people in spirit*], that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared [*The major Islamic countries like Iran and Saudi Arabia are East of Israel*]. And I saw three unclean spirits [*the Leopard-Bear-Lion is a three-part empire*] like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon [*Satan*], and out of the mouth of the [*Islamic*] beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet [*now historically, who might that be?*]. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world [*for*

the first time in history, Islam is now spreading into the Western world], to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."

Note the location of this prophecy: the River Euphrates that runs between Iran and Iraq and into Syria. So Revelation again points to Islam – the lair of the Leopard-Bear-Lion. Notice how many evil spirits like frogs there are: THREE and LBL is a composite three-part beast. It is the release of these three demons into the world that is triggering the war we're fighting right now. To our own destruction the Two-Horned Beast helps the Leopard-Bear-Lion regain its strength:

Rev 13:15-16 "And he [Two Horns – 2H] had power to give life unto the image [*or likeness*] of the [LBL] beast, that the image of the [LBL,] beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed."

Christian martyrdom still happens in countries controlled by Islam, but all of that is far away and could never be a danger to America, right? Most of us thought so until the World Trade Center fell. But by then, Islam was already a major force among Afro-American youth. Many prison populations are now controlled by Black Muslims as has been reported time again on Fox and CNN news.

Moriel Ministries:

www.moriel.org/articles/discernment/islam, *Moslems Firebomb English Church During Islam Awareness Week*

"In the recent UK observances of Islamic Awareness Week, the church burnings that are normal Moslem behaviour in Nigeria, Pakistan, Indonesia and elsewhere, came home to Great Britain. Islamic gangs hurled anti-white racist insults at an Anglican vicar in a parish church in Bradford, setting alight an automobile parked in front of it, and then attacked the church with the aim of burning it down.

"We have warned for years that Islam is not a tolerant religion, and would do the very things in Britain and elsewhere in the West, to Christians and Jews, that they do in Islamic countries. The fact is, that the British and American Governments, wilfully ignore the fact that the rights of Christians are guaranteed nowhere in the Islamic world, and their basic human rights consistently violated. In no place does Islam accord to Christians and Jews the same rights they themselves demand in Judeo-Christian democracies.

"The British Government, of course, has not been honest with the country in confronting the militant Islamic threat or the reality of it. This came after the violent assault by Moslem youth on a 70 year old veteran of the Normandy invasions - in Oldham, beating him within reach of his life for the crime of being a "white Christian" on "their territory". The media and the Government and stupidly, so much of the church, refuses to recognize the reality of jihad and what it really means. The bombardment of the Australian cricket team on the field, with projectiles, by raging Islamic supporters of the Pakistan team is, to the militant Moslem mind, part of *jihad*. It is not mere sport. So too, the devotion of British Islamic youth to the now defeated boxer Prince Nazim, who was humiliated in the ring when he was finally obligated to fight a viable contender - was not mere sports - but a battle between Islam and the West."

The above incidents didn't happen in some third-world country, but in England, one of our closest allies in the war against Islamic terror. Such incidents, and worse, will soon be happening here in America, but we'll avoid "ethnic profiling" because someone's feelings might be hurt, allowing our enemies to use our unbelievable gullibility against us. We suffer from a deadly new psychosis known as "political correctness," a malady that will eventually kill us!

MARK OF THE BEAST

Chapter 12

*He that hateth dissembleth with his lips,
and layeth up deceit within him;
When he speaketh fair, believe him not:
for there are seven abominations in his heart.*

Proverbs 26:24-25

IT'S downright ludicrous to believe that Saudi Arabia and her Islamic associates are our friends. Fifteen of the 9/11 hijackers were Saudi nationals and Saudi Arabia is the home of the most radical sect in Islam, the Wahabi. The Saudis themselves are believed to be spending about \$1,000,000 a week in this country to subvert our people – our dollars for their oil coming back to haunt us. Even as we write, Islamic radicals hold secret meetings in such unlikely places as Tampa, Los Angeles, Oklahoma City, and Kansas City to plot terrorist acts against our nation.¹ But despite the destruction of the World Trade Center, western nations, including our own, still favor Arab interests above those of Israel, our only true friend in the Middle East.

Ignoring the fact that Yasser Arafat with his henchman, Abu Abbas (*present head of the Palestinian Authority*), engineered many terrorist attacks on Israel, those same Palestinians have access to the highest echelons of our government. We listen in a vain attempt to further a “peace process” that Bible prophecy states will never work. Arafat was one of the most murderous

¹ M. Ali, *Christianity's Greatest Challenge* (Kaduna, Nigeria, Soul Winning Team Ministries) pp. 2-5

terrorist who ever lived, yet we demand that Israel make peace with his successors. You cannot make peace with those intent on your obliteration, and though still in our future, Bible prophecy further predicts that our listening to the Leopard-Bear-Lion will lead to the destruction of our society as we know it:

Rev 11:7 “And when they [*Christians and Jews*] shall have finished their testimony [*among the Gentile nations, fulfilled in 1948-1967*], the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.”

That death is not physical, but spiritual, as the Gentile Church stumbles about in a self-induced doctrinal trance. At no time since the Reformation has the Church known less about the God of the Bible than it does right now. Blinded by tradition, lethargy and the cares of this world, it's not going to be another century of business as usual. We are in the final generation. In Matthew 24:25, Jesus promised to tell us about all this in advance, and He did, but He will still return “as a thief in the night,” for few there are who await His appearing. I now repeat a couple of verses to give us the correct time setting:

Rev 13:15-18 “And he [*2H*] had power to give life unto the image of the [*LBL*] beast, that the image of the beast [*the present Islamic jihad*] should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed [*brought into Islam or else*]. And he [*the image of LBL*] causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the [*LBL's*] mark, or the name of the [*LBL*] beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man [*who?*]; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.”

Like the rest of the church, for years I taught that the above verses were a worldwide prophecy. I was wrong. It just doesn't fit the rest of scripture or what we now know about Bible prophecy. All of Revelation 13 is about the Middle East. That's so important I'm going to say it again:

*This Leopard-Bear-Lion prophecy is about a
middle eastern empire!*

"That no man might buy or sell" is about conditions that have existed for Christians and Jews in Islamic countries ever since the 1st Jihad. One only needs to watch the nightly news or read a reasonably unbiased newspaper to see how true that is. But to understand the "mark" given by the Leopard-Bear-Lion, we first need to understand other "marks" in the Bible.

In 606BC, when the Kingdom of Judah was about to fall, the prophet Ezekiel saw spiritual marks in a vision. He watched when an archangel said . . .

Eze 9:4 & 6 " . . . Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a **mark** upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof . . . Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house of the Lord."

Later, the writer of Chronicles, Ezra, a historian and priest, wrote about the same event, but he didn't see the mark:

2 Chr 36:17 "Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand."

So why was Ezekiel able to see a spiritual mark, but the writer of Chronicles wasn't? Well, the writer of Chronicles recorded

what happened in the material world. Ezekiel was having a vision, so he was seeing into the spiritual world. So let me ask, according to the Bible, aren't all Christians also marked (*sealed*) by the Holy Spirit? (2Cor 1:22, Eph 1:13, Eph 4:30) Of course, but you don't see that seal on anyone, do you? Then in Revelation:

Rev 7:3 & 14:1 "Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads . . . And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb [*Jesus*] stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads."

Those seals are on the foreheads of every believing Jew of the Christian Era, but you don't see them on anyone, do you? Of course not, God's mark is only visible in the spiritual world. Those are not physical marks, but spiritual marks, and that's the key to understanding the Mark of the Beast.

Since the mark of God on His servants is only visible in the spiritual world, it's only reasonable to conclude that Satan's mark, given to the servants of the Leopard-Bear-Lion is only visible in the spiritual world. This is not "spiritualizing" as some would argue, but accepting that figurative language demands a figurative interpretation. Scripture goes on to say:

Rev 14:9-11 "... If any man worship the [*Islamic*] beast and his image [*the author of Islam Reviewed believes this image – to which all Moslems bow – is the Kaaba stone in Mecca*], and receive his [*spiritual*] mark in his forehead, or in his hand [*with the mind man thinks to do evil and with the hand he does evil*], the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb [*Jesus*]: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the [*Leopard-Bear-Lion*]

beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name."

So did the God of the Bible see Islam in the future of the Middle East and is Islam another road to heaven? The Bible categorically states that it isn't, and God stated so over 500 years before Muhammad was born. As written earlier, the Middle East is facing a spiritual tragedy of unimaginable proportions, and it will happen because the followers of the Leopard-Bear-Lion have been deceived into rejecting the Son of God who died for the sins of all mankind. Scripture adds the following:

Rev 13:18 "Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the [*Leopard-Bear-Lion*] beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six," i.e., 666.

Endless books have been written about that number, all speculative, but about 20 years ago a former Moslem who could read Arabic told me that 666 was the number of the Koran. I believed him, sort of, and promptly forgot about it. Then about six months ago, another friend told me there were many Islamic sites on the Internet claiming 666 to be the number of the Koran. (You can find those sites yourself by searching: Quran666.) And then Walid Shoebat (a former Palestinian terrorist whose native language is Arabic), stated on TV that he immediately recognized 666 in a Greek New Testament to actually be "Bismallah," naming the god of Islam.¹

And so, suddenly, the last piece of the Leopard-Bear-Lion puzzle fell into place! Let's look at that verse again:

Rev 13:18 "Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the [*Leopard-Bear-Lion*] beast: for it is the number of a man [*who might this be?*]; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six."

¹ On a Zola Levitt show, see archives at: www.levitt.com.

The number of a man! So what man has led a billion and a half people away from the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? Who claims to be "the seal of the prophets" while at the same time claiming that the words of all other prophets, including Jesus', have been corrupted? What man said, "Far be it from God's glory that He should have a son"? Is this not Muhammad, the prophet of the Leopard-Bear-Lion? According to Bible prophecy, the end for him and his followers will be grim indeed:

Rev 14:9-11 "If any man worship the [LBL] beast and his image [*this second rise of Islam*], and receive his [*spiritual*] mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: [*Allah won't be coming to rescue them*] And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the [*spiritual*] mark of his name."

Rev 19:20 "And the [LBL] beast was taken, and with him the false prophet [*Muhammad*] ... with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone."

May the longsuffering God of the Bible, who sacrificed His Son for all mankind, take the blindness from the eyes of us all while there is yet time.

SCARLET BEAST

Chapter 13

*And the light of a candle shall shine
no more at all in thee;
and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride
shall be heard no more at all in thee...
And in her was found the blood
of prophets, and of saints,
and of all that were slain upon the earth.*

REVELATION 18:23-24

DANIEL'S prophetic ministry was to tell the Gentile nations and the Jews about the future of the Holy Land during the 2573 years the land would be under Gentile control. Daniel did so in a series of parallel and repetitive prophecies.¹

Historically positioned at the fall of the Davidic kingdom, Daniel's visions accurately predict the four great Gentile empires that would rule in the Holy Land during the Time of the Gentiles. The visions of the "Great Image" and "Four Beasts" identify those major Middle Eastern empires as Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome (Daniel chapters 2 and 7). The descendants of those empires, uniting under Islam, continued to rule the Holy Land from 639 until 1948-1967.

After the crucifixion of Jesus, God inspired another prophet, the Apostle John, to write Revelation. John was positioned at the

¹ For details read: www.fishhouseministries.com/pdf/Bifids_Chiasms.pdf

beginning of the Christian Era so his book is primarily about this era. Revelation's Leopard-Bear-Lion identifies the Islamic beast that would trespass on the Holy Land for 1278 years, while the Scarlet Beast tells us about the various empires that ruled in the Holy Land back to the time of King David.¹

Rev 17:3 "So he carried me away in the spirit [*i.e., the prophet is having a vision and all prophetic visions are figurative*] into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns."

When we look back at history through the grid of Revelation, the seven heads of Rev 17:3 exactly fit the world empires that controlled the Holy Land down through the ages. But to understand who these empires are, we need to view them from the historic position of the Apostle John, about 100AD: ²

Rev 17:10-11 "And there are seven kings³: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space."

¹ Like Daniel, Revelation is a figurative work, organized in exactly the same way as Daniel. Both books are structured as repetitive prophecies. The beasts in Rev 13 and 17 are parallel pictures of world history, and they are repeated in an organized way. Rev 17 equals Rev 13 as the "B-B" of Revelation's 2nd chiasm. The chiasm is a Hebrew poetic form used in both Daniel and Revelation. The essay about Chiasms & Bifids on www.fishhouseministries.com explains this poetic form and shows how it is key to understanding the parallel nature of the visions in the apocalyptic books.

² Preterists teach that the seven kings of the Scarlet Beast were Roman emperors of the 1st century and that Revelation was primarily written to the Church of John's time. However, we can now conclusively prove that the Two Witnesses, the Leopard-Bear-Lion, and the day-years are repetitive prophecies that span the Christian Era. Consequently, it is contextually unsound to conclude that out of the whole book of Revelation, only Chapter 17 would be addressed to the Church of the 1st Century. If Rev 17 was only to the 1st century Church, it would be a departure from the repetitive chiasmic pattern the Lord revealed through the prophet Daniel. For details, see the essay about Chiasms & Bifids on www.fishhouseministries.com.

³ Gr. βασιλευς basileus (bas-il-yooce') a *sovereign* (abstractly, relatively or figuratively): a king or figuratively a kingdom.

During John's lifetime, Rome was in power, so Rome was empire number six, the empire that "is". . . and that sets our historic position. The "five are fallen" would then represent the five empires that controlled the Holy Land prior to John's time. Those empires can be historically identified as the original kingdom of Israel established by David, followed by Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece.

The 7th empire follows after Rome and continues a "short space." In other words it will be in control of the Holy land a bit longer than those earlier empires. After the Eastern Roman empire lost control, the next major power to rule in Jerusalem was the Leopard-Bear-Lion and in God's eternal eyes, Islam did indeed remain a little while. 1278 years is a "short space" for the God of the Bible.¹

So the seven heads of the Scarlet Beast are empires that existed in both Old and New Testament times, but who is the beast itself? The Scarlet Beast, out of which those heads came, must have existed for thousands of years. No human empire lasts through millennia, so this beast must be some unseen kingdom that existed in the spiritual world for millennia. And indeed it has as a verse in Revelation 12 reveals . . .

Rev 12:3 "And another sign was seen in the heavens. And, behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns! And on his heads were seven diadems."

¹ Nazi Germany geographically duplicated the old Roman Empire, and it lasted for a very "short space" (just 12 years), so in 1988, in *Hidden Beast*, I wrote that Nazi Germany was probably the 7th head of the Scarlet Beast. I was wrong, because Germany didn't rule the Holy Land. Since a "short space" is a rather vague term, I was looking at that space of time from man's perspective rather than God's. That "short space" probably means something like, "I'm going to the library, and I'm going to stay there for a short space," indicating that I am going to spend some time at the library. When the Lord declared that the 7th head would continue "for a short space," it now appears He was declaring that the Leopard-Bear-Lion Beast would rule in the Holy Land for 1260 to 1278 years, just as the day-years and time, times have now shown.

Then in Rev 17:3 “I saw . . . a scarlet coloured beast.” Isn’t scarlet red? Of course, and there are seven heads and ten horns on both of those beasts. I’m a bit slow, but I finally get it, the red dragon of Rev 12 is the same creature as the Scarlet Beast of Rev 17. And we know who that “dragon” is; it’s Satan. So the Scarlet Beast must be a picture of his unseen spiritual kingdom. The heads and horns being the human movers and shakers of every age. The kingdoms of this present world were given into Satan’s hand long ago, just as the Bible told us at the temptation of Jesus:

Luke 4:5-6 “And the devil, taking him [*Jesus*] up into an high mountain, showed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me.”

Since the Scarlet Beast transcends time, it would almost have to be a figurative representation of the kingdom of darkness of all time. Satan was given dominion over all the kingdoms of the earth, so Satan’s kingdom is the Scarlet Beast:

Rev 17:8 & 11 “The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.”

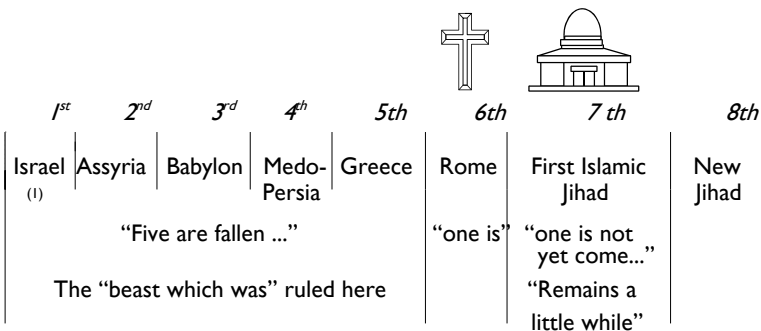
There is something else peculiar about this satanic beast. This beast “was, and is not, and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit.” What can that mean? It means that before Jesus went to the cross, Satan had direct control over the empires of the world, but after the crucifixion “he is not.” Satan lost control of the world at that point, and was cast into the bottomless pit. We read about it from two verses in the Gospels:

Graph Number 16

Heads of the Scarlet Beast

Rev 17:8 “The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.”

Rev 17:10 “And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, *and* the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.”



▲

He “is not” during the Christian Era, but “will come.”

NOTE: To understand this prophecy, we must stand in the historic shoes of the prophet John in 95-105AD. Rome was in power then so Rome was the kingdom that “is “! The five “that are fallen” were kingdoms that existed before John. Kingdoms seven and eight come after John. Since Rev 17 speaks primarily of the Gentile nations that dominated the Holy Land throughout time, the 7th head has to be the Islamic powers controlling Jerusalem from 688 to 1967.

¹ Though Egypt had considerable influence over the land of Canaan prior to Joshua’s invasion, Israel was the first “kingdom” to unite the territory under one government. Scripture and history indicate that the independent Canaanite city-states of Gen 15:19-21 are probably at least part of the 10 horns of the LBL. We can recognize the descendants of those Canaanites as the Palestinians of today. Palestinians are being supported by and giving support to the surrounding Islamic nations, now known to us as the LBL.

Luke 10:18 "And he [*Jesus*] said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."

John 12:31 "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out."

Then during the Christian Era we find this verse to be in force:

Rev 1:6 "And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever."

As history shows, the Church hasn't done a very good job of ruling in the Spirit of the Lord, particularly since the 2nd World War, and that's why the scourge of Islam has once again been loosed upon us. After 1948-1967 this happened:

Rev 12:12 "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

That prophecy is coming to pass right before our eyes; it has never been more dangerous in the Middle East than it is right now. Then comes the final event that Jesus warned us of:

Luke 21:29-32 "And he [*Jesus*] spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree [*Israel*], and all the trees [*the rest of the nations in the Middle East*]; When they now shoot forth [*leaves, i.e., come back to life from a dormancy that lasted centuries*], ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, [*as they did in 1948-1967*] know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass away [*the generation that was alive in 1948 will still be alive*], till all be fulfilled."

So you see, 2000 thousand years ago Jesus knew exactly how this age would end. The some of the generation that was alive and helped free the Holy Land from Gentile control in 1948 would still be alive when Jesus returns to stand on Zion.

HOUR, DAY, MONTH & YEAR

Chapter 14

*The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying,
Surely as I have thought,
so shall it come to pass;
and as I have purposed,
so shall it stand:*

ISA 14:24

THERE are Seven Trumpets in Revelation and four angels appear within the 6th Trumpet. Those angels can now be positively identified. Three of those angels have already been released and their messages were delivered between 688 and 1967!

Rev 9:13-16, (NAS) "And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, 'Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.' And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they might kill a third of mankind [*the church used to have three branches, the Coptic, the Eastern Orthodox and the Church of Rome. Islam destroyed one third, the Coptic Church whose center was Jerusalem*]. And the number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million [*300,000 of those horsemen were defeated at the Battle of Tours, another 300,000 at the Battle of Vienna, and there have been thousands upon thousands of jihadists since, ending in the 1.5 billion Moslems we face today*]; I heard the number of them."

The Euphrates River area is the Middle East and that's the location of the Leopard-Bear-Lion. From other Scripture we recognize LBL to be the Islamic world! So these four angels were to be released from within the Islamic states.

That's not a whole lot to go on, so from what scriptures can we get further insight into these angels? Why, from somewhere between where this prophecy is given (Rev 9:14) and where the Lord sets up His eternal kingdom (Rev 11:15). These four angels appear after the 6th Trumpet blows, but before the Last Trumpet, (Rev 11:15). And since we go directly into the eternal Kingdom of God at the last trumpet . . .

*The only place to find out more about these angels
would be between Rev 9:14 and Rev 11:14!*

Now four angels don't appear between Rev 9:14 and Rev 11:14, however there is another clue to follow – TIME! Those four angels – or messengers – were prepared for four different time periods: for an Hour, Day, Month, and Year. Well, guess what? The hour, day, and month appear once, in three different verses in Rev 11, within the prophecy about the Two Witnesses:

MONTH: Rev 11:2 “And leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two **months**.”

DAY: Rev 11:3 “And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty **days**, clothed in sackcloth.”

HOURLY: Rev 11:13 “And in that **hour** there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; and seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.”

The above is no coincidence. Those “month” and “day” angels were the Islamic scourge on the Holy Land from 688 to 1967. From context, it’s obvious that the final “hour” angel is future, but where is the year angel?

Ενιαυτός (eniautos, Strong’s No. G2094), usually translated year, does not appear between Rev 9:14 and Rev 11:14, but since all things are fulfilled by Rev 11:15, that “year” has to be in there somewhere. Let’s examine the passage carefully to see if there are any other time designations that could be understood as “years.”

Rev 11:8-9 “And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. And those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their dead bodies for **three and a half days**, and will not permit their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb.”

Rev 11:11 “And after the **three and a half days** the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were beholding them.”

The Greek word *hemera* (ἡμέρα), translated “days” in the above is an ambiguous word.¹ Since the above 3½ days are the only other time frame within the passage that could be possibly translated years, then it’s possible that the correct translation for *hemera* in this passage is years. Let’s look at that possibility:

Rev 11:9 “And those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their dead bodies for three and a half *hemera* (YEARS), and will not permit their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb.”

¹ Gr. *ἡμέρα* (*hemera*, Strong’s No. 2250g) found in vs. 9 and 11 is an ambiguous word, variously translated as day, moment, mid-day, time, and year, the correct translation depending upon context. In Rev 11:9 and 11:11 there are no contextual guidelines to determine the correct translation, so translators went with the most common usage, rendering *hemera* day. But twelve times, the translators of the NAS understood *hemera* to be year, Luk 1:7, 1:18, and 2:36 etc., so year is a perfectly acceptable translation.

Rev 11:11 "And after the three and a half *hemera* (YEARS) the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were beholding them."

We are in the New Testament era, using the Roman calendar, so if YEAR is the correct translation, using "I give you a day for a year" to interpret this prophecy, look at what we find:

$3.5 \times 365.24 = 1278.34$ Years

1967AD (Jerusalem free) - 1278.34 = 688AD

So once again we see the Dome of the Rock! The 3½ "days" of Rev 11:9-11 appear to be a repetitive prophecy about the Islamic domination of Jerusalem and the temple mount. If that's the correct way to view those verses, here is how the whole passage's figurative language may be understood. *Italic comments* are once again inserted within the Bible text:

Rev 11:8-15, NAS (*Excerpts*) "And their dead bodies [*the empty churches*] will lie in the street of the great city [*Jerusalem*] which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. And those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations [*the Moslems in the surrounding lands*] will look at their dead bodies [*the empty churches*] for three and a half days [*Years of day-years, i.e., from 688AD to 1967AD*] and will not permit their dead bodies [*the empty churches*] to be laid in a tomb [*to be torn down*]. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets [*the Christians and the Jews*] tormented those who dwell on the earth [*it is torment for the wicked when a truth is taught that they refuse to accept*]. And after the three and a half days [*after Jerusalem was freed*] the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; [*After 1967, God's people returned to Jerusalem's churches and synagogues*] and great fear fell upon those [*the Palestinians*] who were beholding them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them,

"Come up here." (*both Jew and Gentile, taken up into heaven. Still in the future. Compare with Rev 4:1*) And they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies beheld them . . . and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. And the seventh angel sounded; [*the Last Trumpet*] and there arose loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

The above interpretation is in keeping with both Scripture and history. Now lets look at the 6th Trumpet [*the 2nd Woe*] again:

Rev 9:13-15 "And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." And the four angels, who had been prepared for the **hour** and **day** and **month** and **year**, were released, so that they might kill a third of mankind."

Those four angels were released during the 6th Trumpet! From the prophecy of the Two Witnesses, we can see that three of those angels were freed from 688 to 1967. Remembering that "angel" really means messenger, look at what those messengers can now show us:

1. For **42 Months**, Islam dominated Jerusalem.
A 1st "messenger" from the Middle East!
2. For **1260 Days**, the Two Witnesses were driven out of the Holy Land.
A 2nd "messenger" from the Middle East!
3. For **3 1/2 Days**, "*Hemera*" (actually 1278 Years) God permitted Islam to control Jerusalem.
A 3rd "messenger" from the Middle East!
4. An **Hour**, two final weeks of trial for Israel and the rest of us, could be happening at any time.
A 4th "messenger" from the Middle East!

Those four angels were delivering messages to the Jews and the Gentile Church; and three of those messages have already been delivered to us, with malice, by the bloody swords of Islam. But has the West been able to hear God's messengers from the Middle East, trumpeting to us down through the ages? It doesn't seem so, and it looks like the 4th messenger from the Middle-East, "the hour of trial," is at hand. Only a handful seem to notice, but this battle, too, will be fought against Islam. Fought by Israel and by what's left in the West who have ears to hear.

The above is separated by light-years from the prophetic superstitions of today's church, but few question our end-time traditions. If God were not in control, I would despair. Unless church leaders start doing their homework in the Bible instead of relying on dusty commentaries and worn-out doctrines that can now be proven wrong, I fear we are doomed to remain in the spiritual darkness that is even now triggering our final holocaust. It's a tragedy too, because it doesn't have to be this way. But, as the God of the Bible said through His prophet:

Hos 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

Within the Dome of the Rock is a large inscription in Arabic that reads: "Far be it from God's glory that He should have a son." That and many other teachings of Muhammad turned one fourth of the world's population away from the Savior of mankind:

" . . .The Christians call Christ the Son of God. That is a saying from their mouth. [In this] they but imitate what the unbelievers of old used to say. God's curse be upon them." (Surat at-taubah, 30).

So was Muhammad the false prophet of Revelation 16:13? Of course. This isn't just a little "clash of cultures" over the words of some minor figure in world history. It is the God of the Bible on one side and Satan and his lies on the other, in a war that began

in the garden of Eden. The declarations of Muhammad stand directly against what the God of Heaven says in the Bible:

John 3:36 "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

Despite Muhammad's claims to the contrary, during the Christian era all authority was given into Jesus' hands . . .

Phil 2:8-11 "And being found in fashion as a man, he [Jesus] humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Islam stands directly against those Bible truths. Understanding the Leopard-Bear-Lion beast as the Middle Eastern nations leads irrevocably to the conclusion that Islam is the final enemy of the true God. The day-year prophecies also show that we are in the last generation of the Christian era. God knew the future of Islam and the Holy Land, right to the year, and God told us about it many centuries before Muhammad was born.

There is nothing like those prophecies in the Koran. The Holy Land and Jerusalem again being under Jewish control is something Allah could not foresee. It is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy, not of Koranic prophecy. The comparison would be comic were it not so tragic. Many will stand before the Great White Throne in horror as their rejection of the truth is brought to a light from which they cannot flee. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb 10:31).

Since there are an estimated five to six million Moslems in the United States today, could terrorists be hiding in American mosques? The answer is obvious. If we don't get our act together,

our nation will never again be free of Islamic terrorism, if it survives at all. Not since the war of 1812 have foreign soldiers been allowed on United States soil. But liberal rhetoric and political correctness being what they are, we'll ignore God's warning about those who have rejected His Son. We'll march blithely on, to an Armageddon we're bringing upon ourselves.

The Lekarev Report, August 5th, 2007: Israel Warns America

Israeli Counter-terrorism expert, Juval Aviv, met recently with reporters at Fox News and revealed information, which he believes is accurate, concerning an imminent Al Qaeda attack on five to seven American cities simultaneously.

"I predict, based primarily on information that is floating in Europe and the Middle East, that an event is imminent and around the corner here in the United States. It could happen as soon as tomorrow, or it could happen in the next few months. Ninety days at the most," said Mr. Aviv.

Mr. Aviv knows of that which he speaks. He is a former Israeli Counterterrorism Intelligence Officer and has also served as a special consultant to the U.S. Congress on issues of terrorism and security. Currently, Aviv is the president of Interfor, Inc., a corporate investigations firm in New York City.

Considering Aviv's background and experience in global terror and its operating methods, it would be foolish to ignore or minimize this veteran's expert prognosis. Mr. Aviv told Fox that, from what his sources have been relating, sleeper cells already positioned inside the continental United States are on the verge of carrying out major attacks.

"What they're going to do," he explained, "is hit six, seven or eight cities simultaneously to show sophistication and really hit the public. This time, which is the message of the day, it will not only be big cities. They're going to try to hit rural America. They want to send a message to rural America: "You're not protected. If you figured out that if you just move out of New York and move to Montana or to

Pittsburgh, you're not immune. We're going [to] get you wherever we can and it's easier there than in New York."

At no time since the Lord led me into this ministry have I been more afraid for the United States than I am right now. What you have read in this book isn't new and it hasn't been hidden under a rock. Thousands of copies of my earlier works on prophecy have been sold in the United States since the first was published in 1984, but does anyone really hear that we now face our final enemy? With pastors bound by tradition or lethargy, only a tiny handful take the time to verify the truth or error of what has been written here, but it's all true, nonetheless.

NEWS BRIEF

*Arutz 7, Israel National Radio, 8/10/2007, 8:43 am.
Dutch Lawmaker Calls on Netherlands to 'Ban the Koran'
by Hana Levi Julian*

Dutch Member of Parliament Geert Wilders made the call in a letter published in the *De Volksrant* newspaper that began, "I have been saying this for years: there is no such thing as a moderate Islam."

Wilders, whose Freedom Party holds nine of the 150 parliamentary seats in the Netherlands, added that sections of the Koran "call on Muslims to oppress, persecute or kill Christians, Jews, dissidents and non-believers, to beat and rape women and to establish an Islamic state by force."

That's the real Islam. As current events amply document, Islam didn't cease its aggressive behavior when it was allowed into France, Holland or England and it hasn't become peace-loving by crossing the Atlantic. In this land we still have individual liberty based on Judeo-Christian principles, but that liberty is now threatened all over Europe. In many places, Moslem women are treated as little more than slaves, and that's with the full blessing of the their holy book. Wives are actually locked in their homes by day and can't even go grocery shopping unless accompanied by

a male member of the family. Clothed in a burka from head to toe, “you can only tell which way a Saudi woman is facing by which way her shoes are pointing.”¹

According to A.H. Ali, female circumcision, considered an unspeakable child abuse in civilized countries, is commonly performed on young Moslem girls. According to Ali, the operation is even performed in some Islamic communities right here in the United States. Some groups remain in total isolation, reading nothing but the Koran, so that their faith in Allah be not tarnished by Western influences.^{1a} Islam cannot permit open scholarly analysis; it can only survive if its followers are kept in ignorance.²

I am not angry at Moslems nor do I hate them. I actually fear for them and pray for them daily. As a people, they are in a more terrible bondage than anyone else on earth because Islam is not a religion of hope. Moslems believe they can be rescued from Hell by good works, like being dedicated to jihad or by becoming a martyr, but the Koran states that even Muhammad will go to Hell, from which he hopes Allah will rescue him.

If what you have been reading in this book is true, those who remain in Islam will not go to heaven because Bible prophecy links the Allah they serve with Abaddon the destroyer, and Abaddon is the enemy of the God of the Bible. Bible prophecy shows that the people in Islam unknowingly worship a dragon, and biblically, that dragon is Satan.

But the Creator of the Universe loves the Moslem people just as much as He does anyone else and He will surely save them if they’ll just turn to His Son, Jesus.

^{1, 1a} Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a former Moslem, in her astonishing book, *Infidel* (Free Press, New York, NY, 2007) documents in great detail the plight of Islamic women and children in Africa and Europe.

³ Don Richardson, *Secrets of the Koran* (Regal books, Ventura, CA, 2003) or M. Ali, *Islam Reviewed* (Fish House Publishing, Ft. Myers, FL, 1999).

A LITTLE ABOUT RIVETS

Chapter 15

*Who is blind, but my servant?
or deaf, as my messenger that I sent?
who is blind as he that is perfect,
and blind as the LORD'S servant?
Seeing many things, but thou observest not;
opening the ears, but he heareth not.*

ISAIAH 42:19-20

TWO major problems face the western world today. Apostasy in the Church and a militant religion bent on world conquest. If the Church would teach what we can now prove from Bible prophecy, we could stop Islam in its tracks and start a new revival.

This book has primarily been about Islam in the Bible and most of those prophecies have now been covered in detail. A lot more could have been written here because most of the rest of Bible prophecy has also been fulfilled, much of it detailed in my earlier books or on a new DVD series available from Fish House: www.fishhouseministries.com

Views of the day-years identical with those in this book were held by such notable Reformation theologians as Thielemann van Braght, Sir Isaac Newton and Matthew Henry. The popular end-time views we hear today (a coming antichrist, seven-year tribulation and so on) actually morphed out of the creative inventions of two Jesuit priests intent on stopping the Reformation.

Point being: this book is not new theology; Unlike the commonly held Preterist and Dispensational views,¹ this book is a fresh look at the prophetic insights held by major theologians of the 16th through 18th centuries.²

The seminal views of those earlier theologians can now be more fully understood because of the two miraculous events that happened during the last 60 years: the Jews establishing the new nation of Israel 1948 and Jerusalem again being freed from Gentile control in 1967. Those events are truly pivotal because they enable us to see God's true intent for Bible prophecy.

But accepting doctrinal reform has never been easy for the Church. Over the years, I've visited many Christian chat rooms, hundreds of churches and even taught in some. Many of those churches have leaders who claim to be prophecy experts.

It isn't so. They are actually "ism" experts: Preter-ism, Historicism, Dispensational-ism, or some other "ism." And it's a tragedy

¹ Dr. Harry Ironside of Moody Bible Institute, himself an ardent supporter of the Dispensational eschatological scheme, admitted in his *Mysteries of God*, p.50: "until brought to the fore through the writings of . . . Mr. J. N. Darby, the doctrine taught by Dr. Scofield [*i.e., the Seven-Year Tribulation theory*] is scarcely to be found in a single book throughout a period of 1600 years. If any doubt this statement, let them search, as the writer has in measure done, the remarks of the so-called Fathers, both pre- and post-Nicene, the theological treatises of the scholastic divines . . . the literature of the reformation . . . the Puritans. He will find the 'mystery' conspicuous by its absence." Author's note: Yes indeed, that so-called mystery is absent, because the Bible doesn't teach it!

² The futurist view, contrived by the Jesuit priest Ribera in 1591AD, was the foundation for John Darby's tribulation musings. Ribera theorized a future antichrist, a rebuilt Babylon and a Jewish temple in Jerusalem at the end of this age. The Praeterist view, conceived by the Jesuit priest Alcaqzar in 1614AD, claimed just the opposite - that the book of Revelation was fulfilled by the fall of Jerusalem in 70AD. Both views were in opposition to the linear historic view that until then had been the generally accepted position of the true church. Those two innovative Jesuit positions succeeded in excluding fifteen centuries of unsavory Roman Church history from the scrutiny the Bible prophecies that identified the Roman Church hierarchy to be one face of Rev 17's whore of Babylon. For documentation, read Michael de Semlyen, *All Roads Lead To Rome?* (Gerrards Cross, Bucks, UK, Dorchester House Publications, 1991) p. 202.

because those "isms" have closed their minds to any meaningful studies in Bible prophecy for over 300 years! With "isms" in place, the church never noticed when, after 1967, God actually opened His prophetic books for the first time in history.

I'm reminded of one church leader who typifies the problem. When I met this ism-ite, he was just bubbling over with the usual gossip about who the antichrist might be, when "THE tribulation" was going to start and whether there was going to be a pre, post or mid trib rapture. I asked if we could go to a blackboard. When there, we opened our Bibles and read . . .

1Cor 15:51-52 "Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

On his blackboard I scratched in all caps, "LAST TRUMPET," and asked, "You believe the Church will be taken to be with the Lord at the last trumpet, don't you?"

"Of course, that's common knowledge," he replied, smiling.

"Great, then you also believe there can't be any trumpets after the last trumpet?"

"Sure," he said a bit weakly; probably guessing where I was headed.

Well then," I said, "If the Church is going to be on earth until the last trumpet, we're going to be here through six of the seven trumpets in Revelation."

"Oh no," he replies, "the seven trumpets of Revelation are trumpets of judgment and they come after that trumpet in Corinthians."

That lead me to ask, "Are you saying trumpets will be blown after the last trumpet? Isn't that contradicting a plain declaration of Scripture?"

"The last trumpet in Corinthians has nothing to do with the trumpets in Revelation," he says with conviction.

"Well then, unless I misunderstand you, what the Bible says is the last trumpet isn't really the last trumpet." His view seemed so unlikely I just had to ask, "Is that what you really believe?"

"The last trumpet of 1 Corinthians 15:52 refers to Levitical trumpets only," he said in his most authoritative voice, "Revelation's trumpets take place during the Seven-Year Tribulation. That's generally understood."

"Really? Well, let me see if I've got this straight. A trumpet in the New Testament, claiming to be the last, only refers to Old Testament trumpets, even though there are seven more trumpets in the New Testament?" What he was saying was so absurdly irrational I just had to ask, "What kind of exegetical slight-of-hand brought your denomination to that conclusion?"

You see the problem don't you? Despite its irrationality, this young pastor couldn't see past his church's tradition. Now I'm not being critical of this young man and don't doubt for a moment that he was doing the best he could, but like most church leaders, regardless of denomination, he could only see the Bible through his doctrinal filter.

In another church, I used a blackboard to graph the prophetic days. I showed this church's pastor how Daniel predicted the coming of Islam 1200 years before Muhammad was born. I showed him how Revelation predicted the first Islamic Jihad, the Crusades, the birth of new Israel in 1948 and Jerusalem again under Jewish control in 1967. I graphed those fulfilled prophecies so clearly they were virtually impossible to dispute.

From the way he responded, you'd have thought I'd just shot his favorite bird dog. In fact, he started screaming at me, and I do mean screaming:

"YOU'RE DOING AWAY WITH THE TRIBULATION!"

Pointing to the graphs, I said, "Please calm down, my friend, I'm not trying to do away with anything. I'm just showing you another way to look at those verses; a way that we can now prove both scripturally and historically."

"YOU'RE DOING AWAY WITH THE TRIBULATION!" He was nose to nose with me and shouting so loud my ears were ringing. Reasoning with him was out of the question; I'd just threatened his end-time "ism" and he was beyond reason. If he could have gathered a fist-waving mob, shouting "Blaspemy! Blasphemy!" like the Moslems do, doubtless he'd have done so.

Though that pastor was the noisiest example of doctrinal blindness in the church, unfortunately he was far from unique. Some time later, I chatted with a Christian author who had just written a humongous – in fact, a several hundred page – book on Bible prophecy. Thinking he might be interested, I showed him how the prophetic days had been fulfilled in new Israel. It seems that prophetic days didn't conform to his "ism" either, and they certainly weren't in his book, so he heatedly disagreed. Even after showing solid scriptural evidence and historically irrefutable proofs for the prophetic days, he kept on with his, "There's no such thing as prophetic days."

So how do you relate to someone who defends error when Scripture and known history dictates otherwise? I tried a new approach: "OK, Henry, I can understand your total aversion to the prophetic day concept, so lets call them something else. How does 'rivets' sound to you?"

I showed him how the 1290 "rivets" of Daniel 12:11 predicted the coming of Islam 1200 years before Muhammad was born and how the 1260 "rivets" of Revelation 12:6 predicted the birth of new Israel in 1948 and the 42 months of "rivets" in Revelation 11:2 predicted that Jerusalem would again be under Jewish control by 1967 . . . all three events to the year!

Then I said, "But you now have me convinced. I won't believe in prophetic days anymore. From now on, I'll believe in 'rivets', because those 'rivets' fit Scripture and nail the historic record right to the year."

Henry was not amused, sad to say, and no matter how simply explained, Henry still couldn't hear truths that didn't fit his end-time "ism," even when you could positively prove them.

The above accounts may sound humorous, but really aren't; I'm telling them to make a point: No blindness is as profoundly dark as the blindness we inflict upon ourselves, and experience leads me to believe that our Church leaders are in the forefront of that sightless parade. A little strong? Perhaps, but I've been teaching these same prophetic realities ever so gently – to little effect I might add – for over 25 years and something has to be done if we in the West are to survive as a free people.

Jesus faced the same problem with the Pharisees of His day. He addressed it by saying, "By your traditions you make the word of God to no effect." The generally accepted end-time traditions of today also make the word of God to no effect. God is truth, and how well we serve Him is not determined by how artfully we can defend our cherished traditions, but on how willing we are to search out and follow the truth.

We now know the identity of the False Prophet whose number is 666. We also know who in the Middle East has the Mark of the Beast and can recognize the people who serve Satan by their behavior. Jesus said it best, "Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?" In other words, we'll know the bad guys by their deeds and hopefully not be fooled by their honeyed words.

We sometimes forget how inseparable our personal liberty is from free speech; lose either and you lose both. Anyone writing a book like this in an Islamic country would be murdered out of

hand. Not by a few crazy “radicals,” as our media keeps trying to tell us, but by ordinary mom-and-pop Islamic citizens, obeying the Koran as best they know how.

By design, Islam isolates its followers from Judeo-Christian influences and that isolation will end in a spiritual tragedy unequaled in human history. Not because I say so, but because the God who prophesied these things, says so.

I’ve now written six books on Bible prophecy, my first published in 1983. The prophetic principles taught in those earlier works are the same as those I hold today. As Scripture became clearer, the later books were actually just updates of the earlier works. These prophetic principles are either true and of God or they’re not; that’s for you to decide. But if they are of God, they will change your life, just as they changed my life and ministry and the lives of all who have read them with an open heart.

Rev 22:16-21 “I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”

And so closes the final curtain on this age.

ABOUT OUR AUTHOR

Ellis H. Skolfield, now 80, is a conservative Bible teacher who received his theological training in the early 50s from Columbia Bible College (CBC), in Columbia, SC. Skolfield has written six books on Bible prophecy, two on church ordinances and one on Multiple Personality Disorder. Better known in Africa than in the United States, Skolfield is supposedly retired in Florida, but he still holds the occasional prophecy seminar for church leaders, missionaries and Bible teachers.

Fish House has been publishing Skolfield's studies in Revelation since 1983. Some of his books are already out of print while others are considered standard reference works by many churches.

Some of Skolfield's latest studies in Bible prophecy are FREE downloads from our site, as are some essays and audio interviews. Skolfield's eight-hour video seminar on prophecy is now available from Fish House as a 4 DVD set. Those of his earlier works still in print may also be ordered from us:

www.fishhouseministries.com