

## What's in a name ?

### The significance of names in the Bible

the Names of God - Titles given to Jesus - Palestine - the Old Testament

In the bible there is great significance in many names - many have a prophetic significance while others reflect peoples faith and gratitude to GOD.

### The Name of God

The second line of "The Lord's Prayer", so familiar to us all, says, "Hallowed be thy name." (Luke 11 v2)

We are also promised that, "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved." (Romans 10 v13)

In Acts 2 v21, Peter quotes Joel 2 v32, "In the last days everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

So what is his name?

The name of our GOD and the titles by which he is known are extremely important and a casual use of " God " fails to communicate adequately the greatness, majesty, holiness, and grace of the one to whom we refer.

A god is merely any deity which somebody worships or trusts in. Included in this are the gods of the ancient Egyptians, the people of Canaan, all sorts of wood, stone and metal idols through to the newest New Age concepts of God in everybody.



The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob has a name by which he wished to be known. This most holy name of GOD is written in Hebrew by the letters *yod hey vav hey*. This four letters name is called the "*Tetragramaton*".

Jewish tradition holds that this name is so holy that it may not be uttered. It may have been uttered once a year by the High Priest when he entered the Holy of Holies. Jews will refer instead to *Hashem* ( meaning "The Name" )

For the Christian this is worth pondering - are we as respectful as we should be to the name of our god? Remember the second commandment, "You are not to use lightly the name of YHVH your God, because YHVH will not leave unpunished someone who uses his name lightly." (Exodus 20 v7 CJB)

These letters sound as YHVH, or YHWH, but the *vav* can also be used as an "o" or "oo" sound.

The four letters are written without vowel sounds, which is common practice in Hebrew.

The pronunciation of YHVH is considered to be unknown but is believed by some to be *YAHVEH* (Yarvay). (Remember that *Halleluyah* is the Hebrew word meaning literally "praise Yah".)

The Name could also be pronounced applying the vowel signs belonging to *Adonai* ( LORD), producing the word *YeHoVaH*.

Remember that in Hebrew, vowel sounds tend to be very underplayed. This came to Europe as "Jehovah", but while many mainland Europeans pronounce the letter J as "Y" the English speakers pronounce a hard "Jay" .

(YHVH is translated as LORD in the NIV Bible and as *ADONAI* in the Complete Jewish Bible - look out for the capital letters)

"*The Name YHVH* " means "Was, is and will be" (A complete existence). "**I AM**" was the name he said Moses was to call him by. This is why *Yeshua* so upset the religious authorities when he said, "before Abraham was, I am." (John 8 v 58)

"Holy to *Yahveh*" by Terrye Goldblum Seedman explores this issue and its implications for the believer. For the benefit of those new to this issue, I have continued the use of "GOD" and "Jesus" in this website although I believe *Yahveh* wants us to move back to a proper use of his name.

*Yahveh* is given other titles, all of which are more informative than God or Lord.

*Adonai* means Lord or My Lord

*Elohim* means God. (interestingly *Elohim* is plural) (Elohenu means our God.)

*El Shadai* means Almighty God

*Elohai Olam* means Everlasting God. In the blessing where God is called *Melekh ha Olam*, it means King, or ruler, of the Universe. God is clearly seen as ruler of both time and space.

There is also a set of names bringing out aspects of His being and His place in our lives. (Either YHVH or Adonai could be used as appropriate)

Adonai Tzeva'ot

the Lord of Hosts (armies of angels)

Adonai Eloheinu

Lord our God

Adonai Eloheinu

Lord God

Adonai Nissi

The Lord is my Banner

Adonai Shalom

the Lord of Peace (is my peace)

Adonai Shamah

the Lord who is there

Adonai Tzidkenu

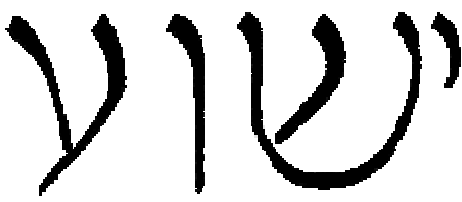
the Lord our righteousness

Adonai Yireh

the Lord will see (to it)

YHVH Rapha

The LORD your healer



Adonai Ro'ee

the Lord my Shepherd

**Ha Kadosh Baruch Hu** is a name which Jewish people like to use - It means "**The Holy One, blessed be He**"

**The names of Jesus**

The short form of *YaHVeH* is *YaH*, or even *Y*, and this is combined with the word *shua*, for Salvation or Saves, forms the proper, Hebrew name of the one we call Jesus.

When the angel of the LORD appeared to Joseph and told him the name he was to give the child it was *Yeshua* or *Y'shua*, (*YHVH* is salvation) "because he will save his people from their sins." ( Matthew 1 v21 )

The Rabbis who followed the High Priest and Pharisees in rejecting their Messiah corrupted his name to *Yeshu*, meaning "May his name be erased forever". This name is still in use.

The name Jesus Christ is derived from Greek. Iosus was a Greek approximation of Yeshua and Kristus is a translation of *Mashiach* (Messiah) which means "the Anointed One". (Like David was anointed some time before he took up his throne, Jesus always was anointed, but he is yet to take his royal throne in Jerusalem to rule this world in righteousness.)

Thus in Hebrew our Lord and saviour's name is "**Yeshua ha Mashiach**"

Jesus often referred to himself as the **Son of Man**. The messianic significance of this title was plain to his hearers who were familiar with the prophets. (See Matt 26 v64) In Daniel's vision, recorded in chapter 7 v13, he saw "a son of man" coming in the clouds and approaching the throne of The Ancient of Days and being given kingdom authority. The title Ancient of Days is similar to the meaning of GOD's memorial name which means "was, is and will be". The son of man title also points out the humanity of the figure in contrast to the creatures mentioned earlier in Daniel's vision, and the fact that Jesus shared our humanity, while still being God.

John, right at the start of his gospel, referred to Jesus as "**the Word**". This is an excellent title as it shows him to be GOD's ultimate communication to mankind. Whilst Islam boasts the purity of its Koran due to careful preservation of text, we have Jesus as GOD's living word or the image of GOD. How ever many times the gospels are translated, the character and image of GOD in Jesus shines through. The Jewish name for what we call the Old Testament is **Tanakh**, which is an acronym made up of the letters *tet, nun, and khet*. These letters stand for - *Torah* (the law), *Navaim* (the prophets) and *Khotazim* (the writings). On the mount of Transfiguration three persons were revealed to the selected disciples - Moses / *Moshe* (the Law), Elijah / *Eliyahu* (the prophets) and Jesus / *Yeshua* (the Word .. (the writings)). In his Sermon on the Mount *Yeshua* said he had not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to fulfill them.

**Shiloh** is a veiled title for the coming Messiah. Judah was given the blessing that Kings would come from his descendants "until *Shiloh* comes." *Shiloh* means "he to whom it rightfully belongs". (Genesis 49 v10) See also **Tribes and Nations**

**The Branch** is another messianic title referring to the prophecy of Isaiah 11 v1, "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit." See also Tu'bShvat, the New Year of the Trees for an interesting fulfillment.

**The Alpha and the Omega** is another title of Jesus Revelation 1 v8, 21 v6 and 22 v13, "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letter of the Greek alphabet, Greek being the language of oldest surviving manuscripts of Revelation. It is interesting to note that, in Hebrew, the last letter of the alefbet is **Tav** and the old form of **Tav** is a cross.

**Sar Shalom** means Prince of Peace.

Our failure to call our God by his name rather than a title fails to distinguish him for all the other Gods and allows other faiths to believe, or pretend, we all worship the same God. Would other faiths and sects still claim to worship the same God as us if we called him *YaHVeH*, the God of Israel?

Most names in the Bible are not the names which their owners would recognize. The letter "J" is a particular problem, being used where a "Y" sound should have been. The Nativity story should feature *Miryam* and *Yoseff* and the baby *Yeshua*.

**ha Satan - Satan** in Hebrew, means the accuser or the adversary - accuser or adversary.

**The Promised Land**

Carelessness in the use of names also applies to our use of "**Palestine**" when we mean Israel, the land *YHVH* promised to his people. Jesus did not live in Palestine and was never a Palestinian, as the PLO would have you believe in order to legitimize their claims upon the territory of Israel. The name Palestine was derived from the Philistines, who were not Arabs or Jews. It was applied to Israel by the Romans after they crushed the land and banished the Jews in AD (CE) 70. It kept that name through the centuries it remained desolate, until the modern state of Israel was born in 1948. Most of the "Palestinians" moved in after the Jews had started to restore the land to fruitfulness.

Even the term "**The Holy Land**" is a bit loose. The land is not holy; it is the land promised to Israel by "The Holy One of Israel". That land is larger than present day Israel. Britain gave away a slice of what had been designated for the new state of Israel. Now the government of Israel is under pressure to give away more land. The land was never owned by the children of Israel; they held it in trust. Therefore it is not their possession to give away. (See Jubilee in Leviticus) The trouble with "Holy

Land" is that it legitimizes the Muslim claim on the land since they maintain it is holy to them too, although Jerusalem is not mentioned once in the Qu'ran.

The name of the **Temple Mount** has been progressively altered in western media by Palestinian media manipulation, until it is now referred to as "the Al Aksa Mosque complex" - all part of their argument that the Jewish Temple never stood there. (see also Semantic Creep in [Middle East Politics](#).)

### The Old Testament

The term "Old Testament" tends to suggest that these scriptures were superceded by the New Testament and are therefore of secondary, or merely historical importance. Jesus did not come to do away with the scriptures, or replace them, but to fulfill and complete them. They tell us so much about Messiah that we should not undervalue them.

It is difficult to find a name which avoids this problem, but the Jews have a solution. They call these scriptures the *Tanakh*. This is an acronym made from the names of the sections of the scriptures. *The Torah* (Law), *The Nevi'im* (the prophets) and the *Khotavim* (the writings). (See above - the Word)

### Numbers, Colours & Materials in the Bible

Numbers, colours and materials all have significance in the Old Testament and Jewish culture. Thus the constructional details recorded and numbers in scripture convey spiritual messages.

Most of the following information may be found in "Seeing Christ in the Tabernacle" by Ervin N Hershberger. He points out that some are widely accepted while others are deduced from context. His interpretations concern mainly the way in which these things are pictures of Messiah. Some are obviously New Testament in application.

Gold	Deity and Glory
Silver	Atonement, redemption
Brass	Judgment
White	Purity, repentance and forgiveness (see Yom Kippur)
Blue	Heavenly, heaven (sky ) A reminder of the commandments (Num 15 v37-41)
Purple	Royal colour
Scarlet	Atonement - Atoning blood
Fine linen	the righteousness of the saints
Rams' skins died red	consecration
Shitim wood	Incorruptible
Water	Life from God, cleansing
Oil	the Holy Spirit
Sweet spices	Fragrant life

The book also looks at the symbolism used in numbers and measurements.

One	Unity
Two	Fellowship (Two witnesses required)
Three	the Trinity
Four	Earth ( four winds, four corners, four points of the compass )
Five	Grace
Six	Man, human weakness, short of perfection
Seven	Perfection, completeness
Eight	New beginning (new world after flood with 8 people, new week)
Nine	Fruit of Spirit (Gal 5), 9 beatitudes, self repeating ( multiply 9 by any number, add the digits in the answer and the result always ends in 9)
Ten	Responsibility on earth, completeness

Eleven	Human failure, confusion, judgment
Twelve	Earthly government (12 tribes, 12 apostles)
Forty	Testing
Fifty	Jubilee (follows seven times seven sabbath years. see Lev 25 v8-17)

The cardinal points of the compass also have significance

North	The direction from which invading armies came (and will come)
South	The direction of the Negev, desert, wilderness and scorching winds. ???
East	Facing away from the Holy of Holies. False religion.
West	The opposite extreme to the East (Psalm 103 v12)

The letters of the Hebrew *Alefbet* have numerical values. There is a Jewish discipline known as *Gematria* devoted to finding hidden meanings in the numerical values of words. For example 18 is the numerical value of *Chai* (meaning Life) so donations to Jewish charities are routinely made in denominations of 18. ([www.jewfaq.org/alephbet.htm](http://www.jewfaq.org/alephbet.htm))

It could be possible to take this too far.

### The Jewish Calendar and the Western calendar

The Jewish holidays appear to shift around relative to our calendar. Thus Tabernacles, for instance, may fall in September or October. This is because the Jewish calendar is Lunar while the western calendar is Solar.

Every four years the western calendar has to add a day ( 29th February ) to keep the calendar in step with the Earth's progress around the Sun.



The Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar, with twelve lunar months of 29 or thirty days, which is about ten days short of a solar year, so seven years in every nineteen have an extra month. This ensures that the seasonal feasts keep to their correct season. (Seasons = *moedim*)

**Rosh Chodesh** is the New Moon, which is the start of each month. Biblically, **Rosh Chodesh** was determined by witnesses observing the first thin crescent of the moon. In days before modern communication the new moon could not be notified to all dispersed communities so *Rosh Chodesh* is celebrated on two consecutive days outside Israel.

In Genesis Ch1 v14 GOD said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky .... to serve to mark the seasons and days of years."

See also **Rosh Chodesh** to understand the importance of observation of the New Moon, as opposed to calculation. The same is true of the start of the year - **The Month of the Aviv** - The biblical year begins when the first new moon after the barley in the land of Israel reaches the state in its development that the Bible calls *Aviv*. Only by checking the state of the barley crop can we fulfill the Biblical commandment to "Keep the Month of the *Aviv*" (Deut 16:1). This obviously determines when the other feasts should be celebrated, for example, the Feast of Unleavened Bread; ( "at the time of the month of the *Aviv*, because in the month of the *Aviv* you went out of Egypt." - Exodus 34:18) (The 19 year cycle is an un-Biblical substitute for this observational method)

In Leviticus 23, Moses instructed the people that *Nisan* ( or *Aviv* or *Abib* ) was to be the first month. This is the religious calendar, as opposed to the civil calendar which starts at *Rosh Hashanna*.

The seven seasonal feasts start with Passover (**Pessach**) (*14th Nisan*), which celebrated the creation of God's nation of Israel, and followed through to Tabernacles (**Sukot**) which celebrates Ingathering ( both as a harvest celebration and looking to God's ingathering of the righteous).

*Rosh Hashanna* ( New Year ) (**with Yom Kippur**) is now celebrated on the day of the feast of Trumpets. Thus the Jews start the year with a call to self examination and repentance before God.

Jewish calendar month	Corresponding western calendar months in 2000
Nisan	April May
Iyar	May June
Sivan	June July
Tamuz	July August
Av	August
Elul	September
Tishri	September October
Heshvan	October November
Kislev	November December
Tevet	December January
Shevat	January February
Adar	February March

**Feasts in the year 2002-2003 CE (western) (5763 and 5764 Jewish)**

		5763	5764
Feast	Hebrew date	Western date	Western date
Rosh Hashanna	1 Tishri		
Fast of Gedaliah	3 Tishri		
Yom Kippur	10 Tishri		
Sukot	15 Tishri	21 - 27 Sept	
Simchat Torah	22 Tishri	29 Sept	
Chanukah	25 Kislev-3 Tevet	29 Nov - Dec 7	
Tu B'Shvat	15 Shvat	18 Jan	
Esther / Purim	14 -15Adar	18 Mar	
Pessach	15-22 Nisan	17-23 Apr	
Yom Hashoah	2 Iyar	29 Apr	
Independence	3 Iyar		
Yom Yerushalayim	27 Iyar	29 May	
Sha Vu Ot	6 Sivan	6 Jun	
17th of Tammuz	17 Tamuz		
Tisha Be Av	9 Av	7 Aug	

[www.ou.org/calendar/5763/default.htm](http://www.ou.org/calendar/5763/default.htm) has the calendar, with extra detail, for several years.

Incidentally, the Jewish calendar is calculated from Creation and therefore needs no BC or AD. Jewish reference to the Western, Gregorian, calendar are CE or BCE; CE standing for Common Era.

**Christian Calendar Dates**

**Christmas - Palm Sunday - Good Friday - Easter Sunday - Whit Sunday**

**Problems with pagan elements (syncretism)**

As mentioned elsewhere, the events in Jesus' life and ministry are not generally celebrated on the days they actually happened. It is difficult to see how this could be done if you consider the different calendars involved and the way the days of the week shift every year. (See [Calendars](#))

Sadly, many features of celebration on the Church calendar have their roots in pre-Christian, pagan celebrations. (Syncretism is the mixing of two religions - mixing paganism into Christianity) See also [Michael Rood's discourse on this matter](#).

See **Gap** to chart the Church's progress over the centuries.

### **Easter**

Easter should be associated with Passover, but Passover is fixed at 14th Nisan in the Hebrew calendar while Easter was fixed by the increasingly anti-Semitic church to fall on the Sunday after the full moon following the spring equinox. (see "Jesus in the Feasts of Israel" by Richard Booker)

See **Holy Week** for a detailed calendar of events.

The day of Jesus resurrection is recorded as being the first day of the week, following the Passover. ( a Sunday)

This day was the Feast of Firstfruits, which is extremely appropriate since he became "the first fruits of them that sleep", proving that we too may have life beyond the grave.

The name, "Easter" is derived from a pagan spring / fertility deity who appears variously as *Eostre*, the Saxon goddess of dawn with a hare's head (the origin of Easter bunnies), *Ishtar* from Ninevah, introduced into Britain with the Druids, *Astarte* the queen of heaven from Babylon whose worship involved sexual depravity! (The egg figures prominently in the worship of Easter - Astarte was said to have sprung from an Egg which fell from Heaven into the Euphrates) Even the fast of Lent which was introduced in the sixth century was borrowed from Babylon. A similar fast was observed by the Egyptians in commemoration of *Osiris*. A similar fast is still observed by the Yezidi in Kurdistan, who worship *Malak Tawnus* (the "Peacock Angel" - Lucifer). (click for details)

In Exodus 23 v13 one of the commandments (*mitzvot*) of YHVH says, "**Pay attention to everything I have said to you; do not invoke the names of other gods or even let them be heard crossing your lips.**"

The day of Jesus' death was not Friday. He could hardly be said to have spent three days in the tomb if he died just before the end of the Friday. In the first century, the spirit of one who died was believed to stay near the body for three days (72 hours), and possibly re-enter the body (the equivalent of modern day occurrences of people pronounced dead waking up in the mortuary). This appears to be the reason for Jesus delaying going to Lazarus until he had been dead for three days. When Jesus said that the only sign that would be given to the people was the sign of Jonah, he meant the full seventy two hours; complete and authentic death and burial.

John's account of the death of Jesus records (chapter 19 v31) that "it was the day of preparation and the next day was to be a special Sabbath". This does not mean that this event took place on Friday since the Passover day (which started at sunset) was a "special Sabbath", not a Saturday. (see Num 28 v16-25) Study the timing of these events shows that Jesus died on the Wednesday, at the same time as the Passover lambs were being slaughtered. This is very profound but a little difficult, as it meant that Jesus must have celebrated the Passover meal a day early. Historical records show that there were two rival calendars in use at that time and the one used by the Essenes was a day ahead of the other, more widely accepted, one. The Essenes were a devout order of men, which meant that they had to collect their own water which was normally women's work. Therefore the man Jesus told his disciples to look for (Luke 22 v10) was an Essene, confirming that Jesus and his disciples celebrated a day earlier than most people.

Since Jesus died on the same day as the Passover lambs, the time of day becomes significant. Jesus was crucified at the third hour (nine in the morning) and he died at the ninth hour (three in the afternoon). On that same day, in the Temple, half a mile away, the slaughter of the Passover lambs started at the third hour and ceased at the ninth hour when the High Priest entered and with his arms outstretched said, "It is finished" At the same time Jesus, with his arms outstretched on his cross, cried out "**It is finished!**" and died. Thus the slaughter of Passover lambs was finished with the sacrifice of The Lamb of God! (from the ministry of Neil Cohen of Christ Church Jerusalem.)

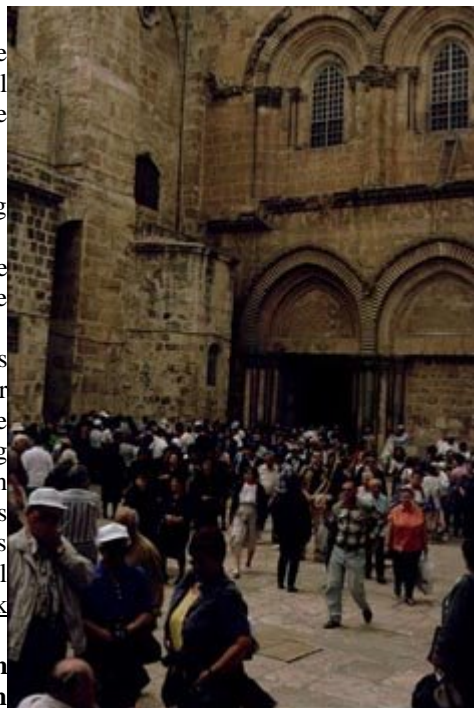
### **Palm Sunday**

This was not necessarily a Sunday on the year of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem, but the event occurred on 10th of Nisan. Jesus entered Jerusalem to be tested by the religious authorities on the day that the Passover lambs were taken into the homes to be inspected to ensure they were free from blemish and suitable to be sacrificed.

The traditional greeting to pilgrims coming up to Jerusalem (*Yerushalayim*) for Passover was "*Baruch haba bashem Adonai*" (Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" (Psalm 118 v 26). This took on a special significance when Jesus entered Jerusalem. (His name *Yeshua* means "The Lord is Salvation")

### **Whitsun - Pentecost**

The Feast of Weeks, or ShaVu'Ot falls fifty days after Passover; not necessarily on a Sunday. Obviously if Easter does not fall at Passover, Pentecost will not fall on Sha vu Ot. Pentecost / Whitsun appears to have attracted less corrupting influence from the world, and has almost been forgotten in Britain since the Spring Bank Holiday has taken its place as a public holiday. This seems to leave the Church more free to celebrate the GOD's gift of His Holy Spirit to his people. However, a look at **The Feast of Sha vu Ot** shows that there is more depth of meaning to this holy day in its Hebrew roots.

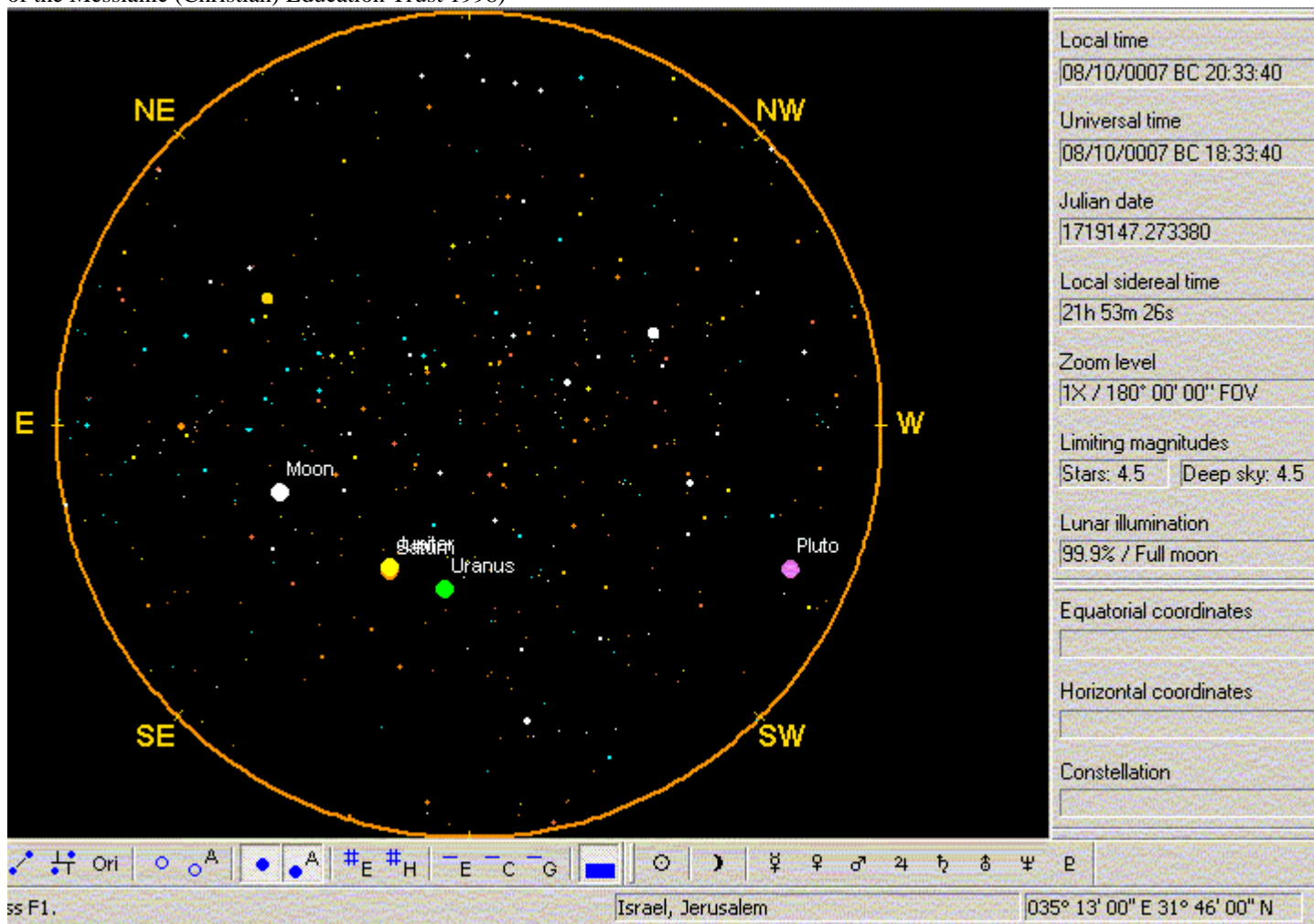


## Christmas

Christmas was not celebrated until the fourth century. The date of 25th December was fixed by the Council of Nicea to take over the pagan midwinter solstice festival of *sol invictus* (unconquered sun). It also conveniently took over the Roman winter festival of Saturnalia; December 17-21st. There were pragmatic reasons for this but it taints the celebration of our Saviour's birth with pagan symbols and customs. Just consider the importance of winter, snow, fires, candles, fir trees, holly, mistletoe and feasting in the images on your Christmas cards.

Our Bible gives no record of the date of Jesus' birth, which suggests that of all the things our GOD wants to keep in mind, this date is not one. There are good grounds to believe that Jesus was actually born at Tabernacles. \* This would fit in with the prophetic significance of so much of his life and ministry, as it was this time that he left his home in Heaven and came to live in the frail shelter of human flesh. ( See [Sukot](#) )

\* Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist was of the priestly division of Abijah. Each division was responsible for serving in the Temple for two weeks in the year. As a member of the eighth division he would have served around June. When Mary visited Elizabeth, who was in her sixth month (Luke 1 v34-39), this would have been December. This means that *Yeshua* (Jesus) was probably born at the time of the Feast of Tabernacles in September or October. (Thanks to Rufus Barnes writing in the newsletter of the Messianic (Christian) Education Trust 1998)



If you look for the likely date of *Sukkot* in 7BCE, using a computer simulation ([www.cybersky.com](http://www.cybersky.com)) you will get a picture like this. It shows the necessary full moon and the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, which would have been very bright (being full moon). We know this conjunction would have been deemed significant by the magi. You will also notice that it is slightly east of south (at this time of night), seen from Jerusalem. Remember the magi went to Jerusalem and enquired for the newborn king of the Jews and followed the star from there to Bethlehem (to the South). Just thought you might find this interesting.

Sidney Brichto has a delightful picture of the Jews in the Diaspora who join in with Christmas festivities, "This does not mean they have given up their Jewish roots; only that the branches of their neighbour's tree are hanging over their garden." (Funny . . . you don't look Jewish" by Sidney Brichto see [Books](#) )

## Harvest Festival

Harvest festival in the Autumn/Fall is an excellent response to the LORD's abundant goodness to us and a chance for us to reflect that the source of our food is the land and God's maintenance of seedtime and harvest. As long as pagan symbols are not allowed

to creep in (corn dollies?) there appears to be no problem - but why not celebrate it next year as **Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles or Ingathering** , and see all the added richness in the pictures of Jesus' first and second comings?

**Sunday**

**Shabbat, The Saturday Sabbath** was observed by the early church and was kept in Britain until around the twelfth century. The celebration of a Sunday Sabbath (even as "resurrection day" ) was never commanded in scripture. The Sabbath of the fourth commandment was another victim of the state controlled church's desire to cut away from Jewish roots. *Shabbat* was the sign of the LORD's chosen and faithful people, the one which marked out the Jews for persecution down through the ages.

**Does all this matter ? - Syncretism and all that**

Just before Israel entered the Promised Land, Moses gave them commandments ( *mitzvot* ) from the LORD including the following from Deuteronomy 12 v1-3, These are the decrees and laws you must be careful to follow in the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess as long as you live in the land. Destroy completely all the places on the high mountains and on the hills and under every spreading tree where the nations you are dispossessing worship their gods. Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and burn their Asherah poles in the fire; cut down the idols of their gods and **wipe out their names** from those places. Subsequent scriptures contain examples of the consequences of neglecting this command. Why did the church expect to escape the consequences of accommodating pagan customs? (See particularly 2 Kings chapter 17 v 29-41. This is also the root of the enmity between the Jews (Judeans) and the Samaritans.)

It is sad to note that, on 5th August 2002, Dr Rowan Williams Archbishop of Wales and next Archbishop of Canterbury (Head of the whole Anglican Church) was inducted as an honorary **white druid** (Druids are reconstructing the pre-Christian pagan religion of Britain, but are also involved in celebrations of celtic art) Dr Williams was inducted at a ceremony in St David's Pembrokeshire, in the middle of a standing stone circle, clad in white druid robes and standing before ivy clad microphones. Dr Williams dismissed suggestions he was dabbling with paganism, but Christians must make up their own minds. Anglicans in Africa who are battling pagan religion may find his stance difficult to accept.

If we are not willing to accept that some of our Church dates are inaccurate we miss some amazing truths that are involved in the significant dates and times. It may not be terribly wrong to celebrate an event on the wrong day, but perhaps it is unwise to assert that it is the "Right" day. We claim to preach "The Truth" to a world which is short on truth, but if we are found to be clinging to wrong doctrines it seriously undermines what we say. This will be especially true if we attempt to share our beliefs with Jews, who will see if our story does not fit with scripture. Much of the nonsense talked about the Millenium might have been avoided if we acknowledged that Jesus was not born at zero on the Gregorian calendar.

In the Torah our GOD instituted the feasts HE wanted His people to observe - Leviticus (*Vayikra*) 23 begins, "YHVH said to *Moshe* (Moses), **"Tell the people of Isra'el: The designated times of YHVH which you are to proclaim as holy convocations are my designated times."**

In Deuteronomy ( *D'varim* ) 12 v32 YHVH said, **"Everything I am commanding you, you are to take care to do. Do not add to it or subtract from it."** Our GOD gave his people seven feasts and the seventh day Shabbat (Leviticus 23). If we are redeemed and grafted into Israel (Romans 11) surely these feasts are there for us to celebrate. Where did our saviour or his apostles say that these holy days had done away with or needed replacing? If you look at them you will find that they point to our saviour, *Yeshua* the Messiah and provide a most excellent way to celebrate what he has done for us. (see **Feasts of the Lord** )

**To summarize, there are seven feasts grouped into three pilgrimages**

Feast	known as	Prophetic of
<i>Pessach</i> Passover <i>Passover</i> , Seder Night Unleavened Bread Firstfruits	Redemption	Seder Night - The Last Supper and <b>Crucifixion of Yeshua, Lamb of God</b> Unleavened Bread - <b>The burial of Yeshua</b> Firstfruits - The <b>ressurrection of Yeshua</b> (The firstfruits of them that sleep)
<i>Shavuot</i> (Pentecost or Weeks ) Firstfruits <i>Mantan Torah</i> - The giving of the Law	Revelation	The <b>sending of the Holy Spirit</b>
<i>Sukkot</i> Tabernacles <i>Yom Teurah</i> Trumpets <i>Yom Kippur</i> Day of Atonement <i>Sukkot</i> Tabernacles - and Ingathering - fruit harvest	Rejoicing	Trumpets A call to self examination and repentance - <b>The last Trumpet</b> Day of Atonement Restoring oneness with God - <b>Judgement Day</b> Tabernacles, Rejoicing for God's keeping - <b>Ingathering</b> (Heaven at the end of the age)

There is certainly plenty to celebrate in these **Feasts of The LORD** and *Shabbat* .

Could we get our heads around the possibility of God calling us to celebrate HIS feasts and let go of our traditional church feasts?

I believe our God wants us to be aware of the truth of history and that he plans to restore to us blessings from our roots in Israel.

We may be wise to loosen our grasp on some of our traditions in case we find ourselves at fault like the religious people of Jesus'

day, to whom he quoted Isaiah 29 v13. He said, "You have let go of the commands of GOD and are holding on to the traditions of men." (Mark 7 v8)

### **The Temple and the Tabernacle & David's Tabernacle**

An understanding of Temple and Tabernacle is most worthwhile.  
(There is another Tabernacle or Tent; **David's Tabernacle** .)  
Two books are particularly helpful and provide useful reference material.  
**Seeing Christ in the Tabernacle - Ervin N Hershberger**

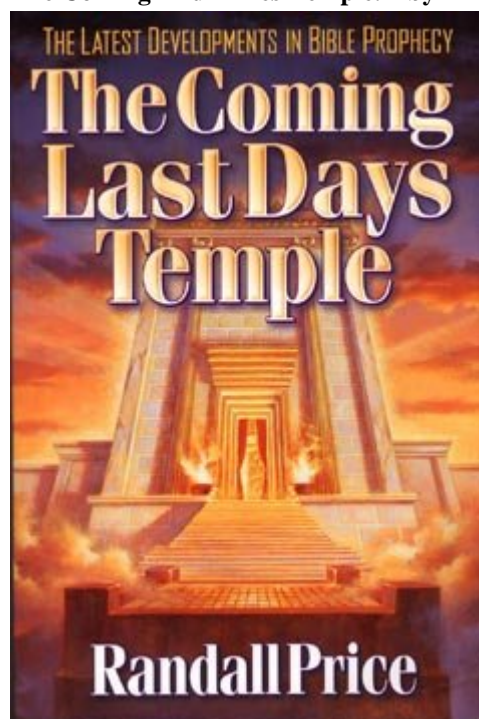
This book seeks to examine the details of all the components of the Tabernacle and to draw the pictures of Messiah contained in them.  
In order to achieve this he explains the symbolism of numbers, materials and colours in Jewish tradition.

In Hebrew the Tabernacle is the *Mishkan*. Once Israel entered the promised land, the Tabernacle was erected at Shiloh; ( see The significance of Names in the Bible )

A replica of the Tabernacle, complete with furnishings, has been built in Israel. It may be visited between Jericho and the Dead Sea. Alternatively you can visit its website at [www.wildernesstabernacle.com](http://www.wildernesstabernacle.com)



### **The Coming End Times Temple. by Dr Randall Price**



This comprehensive book examines, apparently, everything that is known about past Temples and prophecy about future Temple(s). In addition to studying the Temples from Solomon's time until 70 AD (CE) he looks back beyond the Tabernacle to the Garden of Eden. From there he looks forwards to Revelation and reveals a remarkable, continuing pattern. The parallel existence of the earthly and heavenly Temples is also discussed.

The history of the Temple area and the ongoing political / religious arguments centred around Temple Mount are studied with inputs from parties on all sides.

The book also studies the words of Jesus, John and Paul concerning the Temple and refutes Replacement Theology conclusions that the Temple is a thing of the past, rejected by God. It then goes on to discuss the problems of finding the proper location of the Temple, Purity and the Red Heifer, and Preparing a Priesthood. It then considers what must yet come to pass. (see also End Times Prophecy page)

Many further reference sources are listed in this book, including models of the Temples and a "virtual Temple" on a CD ROM. (Solomon's Temple is the known as the First Temple, and the term "Second Temple", refers to the one built in the time of Zerubabel which was subsequently rebuilt by Herod, and destroyed in 70AD (CE).) ( The Temple in Hebrew is *Biet HaMikdash*.)

Studying the Tabernacle and Temple appears to be essential if we hope to understand current events in the light of God's unfolding plan.

### **Temple and Tabernacle Sacrifices**

Have you ever read the book of Leviticus and wondered why God gave so many instructions about killing animals, applying blood and burning flesh? Have you wondered what relevance all this death has for us in the second covenant?

Obviously it is concerned with reconciling sinful man with a holy God, but sacrifice is still a difficult and little covered subject. Tommy Tenney throws some valuable light on the matter in chapter 3 of *The God Chasers*, entitled, "Dead men see His Face". In this chapter he discusses the importance of death.

Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 20But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live." (Exodus 33 v18,20) Moses wanted to see God's glory, but God had to tell him that it would kill him. While we are alive in our flesh God dare not come too close or His glory will destroy us. "Only dead men can see God. There is a connection between His Glory and our death." The thrust of *God Chasers* is that there is a way to God's face, but it involves our death. The substituted animal was not just taking the punishment due to us, it was providing the death and the destruction of fallen flesh that man needs if he wants to draw closer to a holy God. This explains how what we would find an unpleasant odour of burning flesh could be "an offering made by fire, a **fragrant aroma for Adonai.**" (Leviticus 1 v13 and others) The more our flesh is burned up, the closer we can come to God's face. In New Covenant terms we are talking true and deep repentance of the corrupt ways of the flesh. In Romans 8 v13 Paul said, "For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live." And Peter said in 1Peter 2 v24, "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness." ; Does this add something to your understanding of Jesus words in Matthew 1 v38-39? "and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Jesus not only provided life for us but death for our old selves: Romans 6 v3, "Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?". We may share in his death which we celebrate in the Lord's Supper.

In this light we can see that the procedure for *Yom Kippur* make a lot of sense. (see **The Day of Atonement**) The blood which the High priest applied to himself before going through the veil was all about death, going in as a dead man and not taking sinful life into the presence of the glory of God.

#### **The Shekiah - Glory of God** (See the above books.)

The God and creator of the Universe did not require a house to live in, and could not be contained in such a way. However he chose to have a place where his Glory could dwell and people could approach him. Due to his holiness the people had to be protected by the surrounding cloud. The *Shekiah* dwelt in the Tabernacle and the first Temple, and Ezekiel records a vision of its departure due to the sin of the nation. It seems that it returned to the Promised Land briefly, living in Jesus and veiled in his mortal flesh. It was allowed to shine through just once, on the Mount of Transfiguration. (Matt 17 V2)

It is also interesting to ponder on the fact that the priests were ministering in Herod's Temple, in front of a veil which had no Ark and no *Shekiah* behind it, whilst the one in whom the *Shekiah* dwelt was riding down from the Mount of Olives on an asses colt. Could a similar situation prevail in our churches?

#### **Current events**

The Israel and Temple Mount Faithful group is pressing hard towards rebuilding the Temple and re-establishing Temple worship. Other Jews have different beliefs about rebuilding, and secular Jews fear disturbing the status quo and provoking political conflict. Opposition from the Muslims is strong, as is to be expected. While denying that Temple Mount is actually the site of the Temple they are carrying out building work which is destroying archaeological evidence of the Temple. Important finds are turning up where the contractors are dumping the spoil. The spoil is now mixed with other rubbish to make this work more difficult and unpleasant. A large stone saw was installed on site to cut up the ancient stones. These works have now caused a worrying bulge to appear in the southern wall. The agencies that should prevent such acts appear unwilling to risk confrontation. If you are willing to register your opposition, please go to [www.thegalileeexperience.com/DECLARATION/background.html](http://www.thegalileeexperience.com/DECLARATION/background.html)

Ariel Sharon has been blamed for starting the October 2000 conflict by visiting Temple Mount, but this is hardly fair. The conflict had already started with the murder of two Israelis and Palestinian radio had been inciting violence for several days. Temple Mount belongs to Israel but the government handed control to the Wakf ( Muslim authorities). While Israel's constitution protects freedom of religion and access to holy sites, the Muslim authorities deny Jews access to their most holy place. Why does Yasser Arafat seek control of all Jewish and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem ? It can hardly be to improve freedom of access or worship !

#### **A Visit to a Synagogue**

Synagogues vary enormously in architectural style and religious practice.

The following photographs show some of the common features of a synagogue.



This synagogue resembles a free church chapel as it was once a Methodist church. At the front there is no altar, but there is an *Ark* where *Torah* scrolls are kept.



The decorations do not have representations of living creatures, only objects representing the Holy Days.

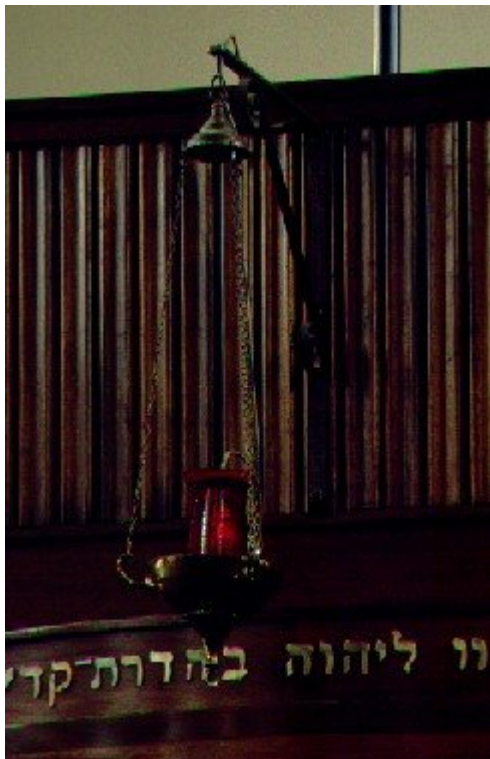
Notice the two tablets of the ten commandments.





The lessons are read from the *Bimah*.

The *Torah* scrolls are kept behind a curtain which is decorated with the banners of the tribes of Israel.



Above the *Ark* is a light which always burns.

Behind the curtain are the *Torah* scrolls in their cases, or soft covers. The scrolls are said to be "dressed".





The scrolls are decorated with items which recall the role of the priests in the Temple.

The Breast piece.

The **Rimmonim**. (*Rimmonim* means pomegranates. The high Priest's robe was trimmed with pomegranates and bells)



With thanks to our friends at the Reform Synagogue in Cardiff, for their warm welcome and informative tour.

### Musical Instruments of the Bible

Musical instruments were an important part of worship in Bible times and their use has spiritual significance.

#### The *Shofar* (Ramshorn Trumpet) and the Silver Trumpet



The *shofar* was (is) blown in different ways for different purposes.

The *Shofar* is usually made from a rams horn, but longer spiral instruments are made from ibex horns.

The *shofar* is the world's oldest wind instrument and an instrument of spiritual warfare. It is often translated in the Bible as trumpet.

The word *yovel* is translated as "Jubilee" in Leviticus 25, but as "*Shofar*", or trumpet, in Joshua 6. The *shofar* is the sound of freedom or release from bondage!

The Encyclopedia Judaica says, "The ramshorn calls upon sinners to repent, awakens thoughts of God's sovereignty, Justice and redeeming power, expresses the Jew's hope that God will before long sound the great *shofar* to herald deliverance and the ingathering of the exiles to the land of Israel."

The *shofar* was (is) to be blown in God's presence (2 Samuel 6 v15), to crown kings (1 Kings 1 v15), to call people to consecrate themselves (Joel 2 v1), to announce the coming of God's judgment (Joel 2 v1), and to herald the coming of the Lord (Revelation 11 v15). It is also a call to the resurrection of the dead (1 Thesalonians 4 v16-18 and 1 Corinthians 15 v52)

Had you thought of using this mighty sound as a weapon in your spiritual warfare? You can click on the buttons below to hear the different sounds. You may be able to save the audio files from your player, and place one on your PC desktop for use at any time. Or you could use as your Windows startup sound. If you can't save a file, [contact us by E-mail](#) so we can E-mail one to you.

The *Tekieh* is a single blast, rising at the end.

It is a call to worship and praise. (Psalm 150 v3)



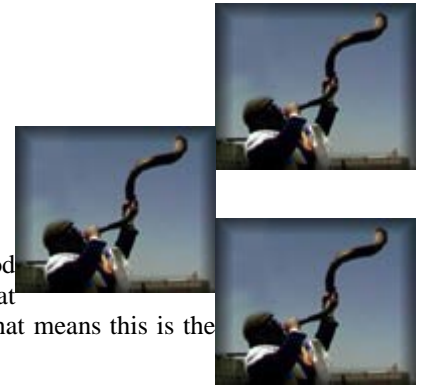
The *Shavarim* is (are - words ending *im* are plural) three rising blasts.  
 The *Shavarim* calls for repentance and humility. (Isaiah 58 v1)  
 See also **The Feast of Trumpets and The Day of Atonement**

The *Teruah* is a series of nine short blasts.  
 It is a call to warfare, a celebration of victory or other celebration. (Psalm 47 v5)

The *Tekieh Gadol* (*Gadol* means great, big or high) is a very long held and loud *Tekieh*.  
 This is the sound like that which the Lord sounded on Sinai. Jewish tradition says that God took the two horns of the ram that was sacrificed instead of Isaac on Mount Moriah and that he blew one on Sinai, but He will blow the other to announce the coming of Messiah) That means this is the sound of the "Last Trumpet".

Richard Booker covers the Shofar in more detail in his book. See **Internet**.  
 In Numbers 10, it says, "The LORD said to Moses: 2"Make two trumpets of hammered silver, and use them for calling the community together and for having the camps set out. 3When both are sounded, the whole community is to assemble before you at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. 4If only one is sounded, the leaders--the heads of the clans of Israel--are to assemble before you. 5When a trumpet blast is sounded, the tribes camping on the east are to set out. 6At the sounding of a second blast, the camps on the south are to set out. The blast will be the signal for setting out. 7To gather the assembly, blow the trumpets, but not with the same signal. 8"The sons of Aaron, the priests, are to blow the trumpets. This is to be a lasting ordinance for you and the generations to come. 9When you go into battle in your own land against an enemy who is oppressing you, sound a blast on the trumpets. Then you will be remembered by the LORD your God and rescued from your enemies."

In this picture, a member of our party is blowing the silver trumpet near Jaffa Gate, Jerusalem, on the march of Christian friends of Israel during the I.C.E.J. Feast of Tabernacles in October 2001.



**The Harp**

It is well known that David played the harp and used it while he composed many of the psalms. He was called to play to Saul to comfort him when his spirit was troubled. The harp (*nevel* in Hebrew) had a part in worship, prophecy and healing. The lyre (*Kinnor* in Hebrew) is smaller and a more portable, personal instrument. The biblical harp was not heard in Israel for 2000 years, but has recently returned. Micah and Shoshanna Harrari made aliyah to Israel taking their harp making trade with them. When they researched harps, they discovered that the ten stringed harp of King David was considered a symbol of Israel. (Psalm 144 v9).



They tell how a rabbi heard one of these instruments tuned to the ancient Hebrew mode and exclaimed that it was a fulfillment of prophecy. The Talmud said that when the harp was sounded again in Jerusalem, Messiah would come.

More detail of both types of harp and recordings can be found on their website.

Visit the website **www.harrariharps.com** for more information, details about purchasing your own harp, CDs of their harps and more. Click on the pictures.

Jerusalem - Zion - Ariel



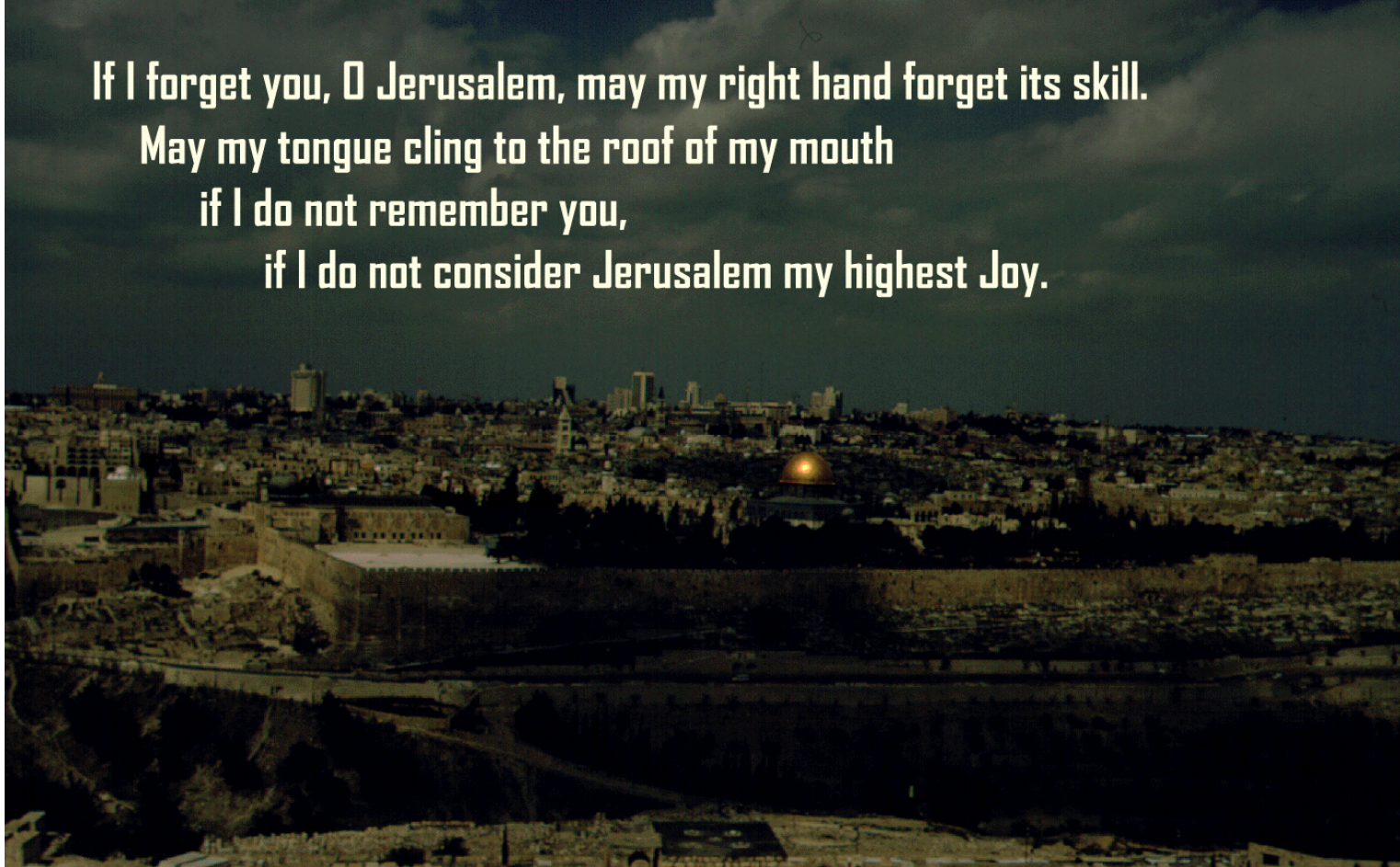
ירושלים

What is so special about Jerusalem (*Yerushalyim*) ?

In Genesis 14 v18 there is reference to the King of Salem, Melchizedek, who is a priest of The Most High, who blessed Abraham. In Genesis 22 v2 Abraham was prepared to sacrifice Isaac in the land of Moriah, which is believed to be the site of the Temple. When Israel entered the Promised Land the city (Jebus) was occupied by the Jebusites. Joshua and the people defeated the Jebusites but were not able to capture the city. David captured the city (2 Samuel 5 v6) and made it the capital of his kingdom. The city was on Mount Zion, which is outside the present day walls of the old city. Solomon extended the city and built the Temple on Mount Moriah (1 Kings 6). God was pleased to have his Glory dwell with his people in the Temple in Jerusalem, and his Shekinah filled the Temple. (1 Kings 8)

The history of Jerusalem, looking both backwards and forwards, is linked with the Temple. (see **The Temple**) Revelation 21 talks of a new Heaven and a new Earth and a new Jerusalem ... "now the dwelling of God is with men". Jerusalem is all about God's desire to dwell with men, which will one day be fulfilled.

If I forget you, O Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill.  
 May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth  
 if I do not remember you,  
 if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest Joy.



What is the significance of the names given to this city ?

### **Jerusalem**

The meaning and origin of the name are obscured in history, but the name of Jerusalem (*Yerushalayim*) is essential to every Jew. Jerusalem is often said to mean "City of Peace".

It is remembered three times a day in the prayers of a Jew. Synagogues are built facing towards Jerusalem as it is the centre of Jewish faith.

It is remembered at weddings, the glass crushed under the groom's foot recalling the destruction of the Temple.

The Passover seder ends with the wish "next year in Jerusalem".

The Israeli national anthem is called *Hatikvah*, (the hope). That hope concerns Jerusalem.

The three feast seasons in the Jewish religious calendar were pilgrimage feasts. (See **Feasts of the Lord** and New Testament references to attendance of feasts in Jerusalem). Some of the Psalms are "Songs of Ascents", since one always talks of going up to Jerusalem. They were sung by the pilgrims approaching Jerusalem. The best known is Psalm 118, which includes "*Baruch haba bashem Adonai* " (blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.) (v26) This was traditionally sung to pilgrims coming for Passover, but was taken up with special significance as *Yeshua* (Jesus) entered the city. (John 12) (remember *Yeshua* means "God is Salvation", or "God's salvation")

In Hebrew, the city is known as *ir haq-quades* (City of Holiness) because it is synonymous with the Temple/Sanctuary. In Arabic it is called *al-quads* (the sanctuary)

Interestingly, the medieval map of the world (the Mappa Mundi) in Hereford, England places Jerusalem in the centre)

**Zion** (*tzion*)

The name of the mount where David's city stood became synonymous with Jerusalem and the names tend to be used interchangeably in scripture. "Mount Zion, where you dwelt"; ( Psalm 74 ) "His tent is in Salem, his dwelling place in Zion". ( Psalm 76.)

Zion provided the focus for aspirations of Jews seeking a homeland after the Holocaust, giving the movement the name "Zionist". Thus Zion indicates the city, the Promised Land and the Children of Israel, even while they are in exile.

### **Ariel**

The city is also referred to as Ariel, which means Hearth of God (a name for the altar of burnt offering. (see Ezekiel 43 v15-16 and Isaiah 29 v1-2 & 7) It tends to be a cryptic name for Jerusalem, the principle stronghold of God's people and centre of worship.

Jesus and Jerusalem

Jesus was presented at the Temple for circumcision on his eighth day (Luke 2 v21)

He went up to Jerusalem for Passover when he was twelve (his Bar Mitzvah) and stayed in the Temple discussing Torah with the teachers. ( Luke 2 v41) He remarked to his anxious parents, "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?."

Jesus was resolute about going to Jerusalem, "...for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem! O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord". (Luke 13 v33-34). ( "*baruch haba b'shem adonai*" Psalm 118 v26 )

As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace ..." and described what would befall the city " .. because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you." (Luke 19 v41-44)

Jesus told what was to happen in his Olivet Discourse, recorded in Luke 21 v5-36, " ... Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled .....".

Jesus knowingly entered the city as the Passover lambs were brought into the homes to be examined, and died as they were being slaughtered. He knew his sacrificial death had to take place in Jerusalem; the place of God' dealings with mankind. ( see

**Passover** )

### **What is Jerusalem's place in prophecy and events yet to unfold ?**

It is absolutely central. ( see **End Times Prophecies** , **Babylon** and **The Temple** )

The future of Jerusalem is in the hands of the God of Israel, not the present World leaders and politicians. The word of the Lord concerning Israel (Zechariah 12) says, " .. I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try and move it will injure themselves . . . . . On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem." Jerusalem will be the seat of Messiah's Millenium kingdom.

Jerusalem is said to be the Holy Place for three religions. (the third most holy place for Muslims) Yet, Jerusalem is mentioned 1022 times in the Bible but not once in the Koran ! To whom is it most important, who loves it most and who does God want to govern it ?

### **Babylon - One World Government**

( a tale of two cities - see also **Jerusalem** )

While Jerusalem appears in the Bible over 600 times and is clearly God's delight and his earthly HQ, Babylon appears 281 times, Babylonia 10 times , Babylonian 13 times and Babylonians 54 times. It is clearly of great significance. We will explore that significance.

**Babel** (*bavel* in Hebrew) appears in Genesis 11 v 1-9

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth." But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel -- because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.



Babel is a version of Babylon and Shinar is the land of Babylonia - Babel sounds like the Hebrew for "confused". You will notice that, when man was expelled from the Garden of Eden it was to the East, and also that Abraham was called from the East to

inherit the land that God promised him (Canaan / Israel). Babylon, Ur and the land of the Chaldeans all approximate to the location of present day Iraq.

The significance of Babylon for Israel (and Judah) was as the enemy - the city and people in opposition to Jerusalem and God's chosen people. It also appears to be as synonymous with worldliness and humanism as Jerusalem is with Faith and God centred thinking.

The references to Babylon tell a tale ----

Babylon was a pagan nation, used by God to punish his rebellious people when they had refused to heed all his warnings ( Habakuk 1 v6-10, " I am raising up Babylon, guilty men who's strength is their god"), but Babylon was later punished for the brutality with which it had carried out its conquest. Exiles were taken to Babylon and Temple treasures were taken to Babylon, also Psalm 137 concerns the misery of the exiles "by the rivers of Babylon". Babylon was the kingdom to which Daniel and the other Hebrews were taken and where they upheld their faith in the God of Israel rather than bow down to statues of worldly leaders

In Revelation 17 v3 we read, "Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus." But her end is certain; "Babylon has fallen", Isaiah 21 v9 and "Fallen is Babylon", Revelation 14 v8 and 18 v2.

Since Babylon was the place of suffering for God's nation of Israel/Judah in their time of Exile, and in the light of the above quote from Revelation 17, this topic merits some consideration by the Christian. In the writings of so many of the prophets we have God's warning words to a nation that has fallen away from godliness. These prophecies end up with the glorious vision of restoration. We, in the western church, gladly read the restoration promises and rejoice in their end times significance but we skip over the warning words which applied to Israel. Is this, perhaps, a hangover of Replacement Theology? Might the warnings apply just as much as the end-times visions. These disasters were to befall a nation that had fallen so far from the faith and righteousness it once had, but which dwelt secure, comfortable and complacent in material wealth. God condemned them for having abandoned His way, for Idolatry and for shedding innocent blood. Consider the moral and religious decline of our nations, the Idolatry (the "Pop Idol" phenomenon in UK) and the number of abortions carried out. Shouldn't we be anticipating judgment and tribulation? And isn't the new Babylon the place for it to take place?

See **Tribulation**

At the time John received this revelation the name appeared to apply to Rome, the current centre of One World Government, the centre of human pride, wealth and confidence. Interestingly, Rome is seen as being an empire that fell long ago but Israel is still in the process of returning from the Roman dispersion / exile. What is the significance of that?

Since Babylon and her fall is mentioned twice in Revelation, its significance as the seat of world, human pride and power remains. These forces seem set to play out the end-times events of the confrontation between the people and forces of God and the people and forces of Satan. The spirit of Babel in **One World Government** may well be discerned in world events, either already or in the near future. Certainly, the coming Antichrist is likely to be the highly esteemed leader of a one world government body who will achieve the seemingly humanly impossible in solving world problems, particularly the Middle East. See the table in **End Times**. This will be the time of the Tribulation ( Daniel 9 v27 - Isaiah 28 v18 - 1 Thessalonians 5 v3 ).

In December 2001, the major conflict in the world appears to be between Islam and Israel (and those who support her ) but, real spiritual war zone though this is, it does not explain the whole "one world government" / Babel / Antichrist scenario.

**One World Government - New World Order**

A measure of world unity is discernible since the end of the Cold War between USSR and USA. Although we see wars continuing to rage around the world, they tend to be local, with the major powers agreeing to seek a resolution, or at least not to take opposite sides. The USA led war on terror, focussed on Afghanistan has been remarkable in the amount of co-operation among the nations; even Islamic nations.

The **Gulf War** was similarly contained by political agreement. However, this conflict raised some concerns about a "One World Government" system. President George Bush (the father) used the phrase, "New World Order" several times, and it has been suggested that American politicians allowed Saddam Hussein to believe USA would not interfere if he invaded Kuwait in order to be able to then defeat him. As remarked in **911**, the Gulf War appears to have been about oil not human rights and there are suggestions that it was part of a strategy based on the works of Hagel which assert that, "there is no change without conflict." and that all the suffering was necessary in the establishment of a new world order.

There is a pattern in world politics which suggests that the one objective of world government is maintaining the status quo regarding oil and the petro-dollar. Certainly, the quest for harmony between the West and the oil producing Islamic nations has caused many horrors to be denied in order to maintain the oil supply / economic balance of power. Islamic genocide in Sudan and Indonesia is being overlooked by western governments and media as both countries are on the verge of becoming major oil suppliers. The government and media in USA are eager to find reasons for terrorist attacks which do not cause confrontation with Arab, oil producing nations.

It is asserted that Timothy McVeigh acted alone in the Oklahoma bombing, in spite of evidence of support leading back to Iraq and a second man whose conviction is now being sought.

Evidence that TWA flight 800 was bought down by an Iraqi missile (August 1996) has been suppressed even though two military pilots witnessed a missile, probably a Soviet SAM, go up and hit the airliner, an Air France plane which was following had to take violent avoiding action, Saddam Hussein had promised the night before, "a big surprise" on Iraq's national day, and expert witnesses were convinced the plane had been destroyed by a missile. So why the reluctance to blame Iraq when Saddam was eager to take credit for the attack? Why did the plane manufacturer not contest theories that the cause was a fuel vapour explosion caused by design faults?

Why was the TV programme in which Islamic groups were seen planning the destruction of the twin towers of the World Trade Center never screened on any network, even after the first, unsuccessful, attempt in February 1993? (it is interesting to note that the Islamic terrorists saw New York's **twin towers** as the symbol of evil world commercial power.)

(See "Is Fundamental Islam a Global Threat by Victor Mordechai)

The World system is seeking to maintain the present balance of power and trade with oil producing countries even though they are holding everybody to ransom. This is clearly bad for Israel, which is not currently an oil producer and is the focus of the hatred of the majority of oil producing nations.

### **The European Union**

The aspirations of the E.U. to become a powerful nation of Europe should also cause us to ponder its role in the future rise of "One World Government" and "One World Religion" See **Europe**.

### **Freemasonry and the Illuminati**

When considering forces concerned with international power and manipulation, the Freemasons should not be forgotten. Although seen primarily as a social organisation it places on its members obligations to fellow members which precede those to nation or God. Members of this secret Brotherhood control high levels of politics, government, the military, the judiciary, the church and finance. The deeper levels of the brotherhood also involve religious devotions to what appear to be ancient pagan deities.

Those inclined to carry out their own research could carry out Internet searches or visit the library. Searching the Internet for "Illuminati" will produce links to diverse sites, which should be weighed up very carefully. (Fantasy gaming sites can be ignored) A secret society will obviously not publish a full and frank description of itself and its aims, and misinformation can be expected, as can smokescreens depicting incredible conspiracy theories. There appears to be general agreement that a relatively open branch of the Illuminati was responsible for the French and Russian Revolutions and manipulates world events to advance its progress towards "One World Government". (see also comments above on the Gulf War)

Christian should remember that Satan's offer of world power for those who will worship him was no idle boast. (Temptations of Jesus) It is reasonable to assume that those who have taken up the offer are numerous and move in upper levels of government, finance, international business and the media.

### **Conclusion**

While Christians should not be sidetracked by politics and conspiracy theories, we should be looking deeper than the TV News interpretation of events to see the signs of the times pointing towards the coming of Jesus the Messiah. Obsession with One World Government and the Antichrist is probably unhealthy, but we should be awake. Through all these things we can see Babylon representing global Human ambition and the pursuit of wealth and power, while Jerusalem represents the body of believers who trust in God. The Revelation significance of this is clear when one considers the spiritual forces arrayed behind both cities. Remember there is no neutral territory in this confrontation!

### **The End-times and Prophecy -**

(*acharit-hayamim* in Hebrew - literally the end of the days)

(When the *olam hazeh* (this world / this age) is coming to an end and *olam haba* (the world to come) is about to begin. (Complete Jewish Bible) (according to Webster's New World Hebrew dictionary, *olam haba* also means Heaven or Paradise)

The Apocalypse - The book of Revelation - Judgment Day - The Last Trumpet - The Second Coming

"End-times" are talked about quite a bit at the moment, referring to prophecies concerning the second coming of Jesus and the end of the world as we know it. The phrase occurs in the prophecy of Daniel and was picked up by Jesus in his discourse on the Mount of Olives (Matt 24) in answer to his disciples' question, "When will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age?". These themes are developed in the book of Revelation, also known as the Apocalypse. The pictorial language concerning Judgment Day and the Last Trumpet can be "difficult" but it is consistent with themes in the Old Testament prophecy and tradition.

The first thing to establish is that anyone who claims to know the date is mislead or lying. In Luke 21 v7-32 Jesus warns about this and gives some clues of events that will indicate the time is drawing closer. Obviously we should not be too specific in our interpretation of these signs but we should know to be ready. See the parable of the bridesmaids in Matthew 25. ( and also the page on **weddings**) Five were alert enough to be prepared and five were not.



The Golden Gate in Jerusalem is blocked up, but Ezekiel chapters 43 and 44 speak of the Eastern gate and the coming Glory of the Lord. The Jews believe that Messiah will enter through this gate when he comes from the Mount of Olives.

"The times of the gentiles" is mentioned in Luke 21 v24 and in Romans 11. Israel's recapture of Jerusalem in 1967 suggests that the times of the gentiles are already coming to a close, and that Jesus will return in the lifetime of "this generation". (Mark 13 v30 )

The Temple stood on the Temple Mount area that is behind this gate. Much of what must yet happen centres around the building of the Third Temple, and this is obviously a hot issue in Israel.

Dr Randall Price, in his recent book, "The Coming Last Days Temple", gives a very thorough explanation of the pattern of prophecy concerning the Temple, and therefore Israel. He shows that the words of Daniel, Jesus and John (in his Revelation) form a clear, consistent and progressive account of what God will bring to fruition. He shows how the prophecy of 70 weeks in Daniel works out. (*Very briefly, the weeks are each weeks of years (7 years) and the first 69 worked out as prophesied when Messiah first came; the clock then stopped, starting the Church Age. The last week (7years) will commence when the clock re-starts with the Rapture of the Church, and it will end with Messiah's second coming*). The books of Daniel and Revelation are more literal than we imagined.

The Israel and Temple Mount Faithful group is pressing hard towards rebuilding the Temple and re-establishing Temple worship. Other Jews have different beliefs about rebuilding, and secular Jews fear disturbing the status quo and provoking political conflict. Opposition from the Muslims is strong, as is to be expected, and they are working on Temple Mount to destroy archaeological evidence of the Temple in support of their claims that it never existed there. The agencies that should prevent such acts appear unwilling to risk confrontation.

Reports from Jerusalem say that the works on Temple Mount have caused water to start flowing and in spite of their efforts and use of special pumps it can not be stopped. (See the references to the river in the table below)

( see [Temple / Tabernacle, Books](#), and [Internet](#) )

The Dispersion of the Jews which occurred in 70CE can be looked at in the same way as the exiles which happened to Israel ( Israel and Judah after the division of the nation). When the exile period was completed, a remnant returned home. In most cases this was a new generation. This is what has been happening, most strongly since 1948, as Jews are making *Aliyah*, (going up) from many nations.

In Genesis 2 v 1-3 we read that God created the heavens and the earth in six days and rested on the seventh. He declared the seventh day as a Sabbath for his people. In 2 Peter 3 v8, we read that " with the LORD a thousand years is as a day", and some believe that the earth will have a thousand year sabbath rest ( see Rev 20 ) after six thousand years of history, in keeping with this principle.

In the Jewish calendar the year 1999/2000 was 5760. This date is calculated from the creation of the earth. This was done using all the available information, but omitting any period for which data was not available. The period of Israel's stay in Egypt contained such a gap, but Archaeologist and Egyptologist David Rohl, working at Pi-Ramases where Israel stayed, has found data in hieroglyphics. Using this data he calculates that 240 years can be added to the 5760 of the Jewish calendar. ("Pharos and Prophets" - reported in "israel today" June '99 issue)

The interpretation of these things is up to you, but I would suggest being ready.

Interesting post from Israel found on the Internet.

BULLETIN: Orthodox and Hassidic Rabbonim Declare "Time of Jacob's Trouble"  
 - Reported by ben Yosef - March 22, 2001.

At the Western Wall today and in yeshivas and synagogues and religious schools throughout Israel the sound of shofar blasts, the singing of Hebrew Psalms and cries and tears and wails of repentance were heard in response to a declaration by the Gedolei Yisrael (Great Ones of Israel) formally recognizing the beginning of the "*time of Jacob's trouble*."

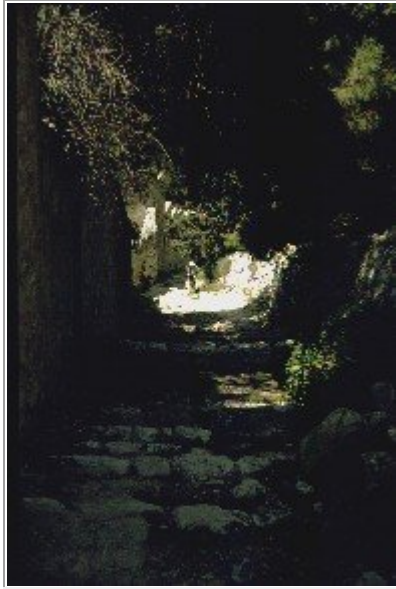
What is unusual about this year's Yom Kippur Katan is that in light of the 6-month-old Palestinian uprising which has claimed the

lives of many Israelis, the rabbis have added the designation as "*a time of Jacob's trouble.*"

Further it is signed by ALL 27 of the leading Orthodox and Chassidic sages, both the "*maranan verabonon*" (masters and teachers) and the "*gedolei ha-Torah vechaChassidus*" (Torah sages among the *Chassidut*)."

Could this be a revelation to these Jewish religious leaders that we are indeed in that time prophesied by Jeremiah: "Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even *the time of Jacob's trouble*; but he shall be saved out of it" (30:7)?

Most prophecy scholars believe that "*the time of Jacob's trouble*" is synonymous with either the 70th week of Daniel and/or the tribulation. Time to put our house in order. Time to break up the fallow ground. Time to seek the Lord while He may yet be found.



This is the pathway from the Mount of Olives down to the Kidron Valley, joining the road by the Church of All Nations. It runs straight up the Mount, in line with the Golden Gate. A geological fault line runs up this path.

Zechariah 14 v3 - Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. 4On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. 5You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

#### Some scriptures worth studying

The coming of the Son of Man	Daniel 7 ( Luke 21 v27)
Signs of the End of the Age	Luke 21 v 5-32
The end of the Age (Olivet discourse)	Matthew 24 & Mark 13
The return of the children of Israel	Jeremiah 31 Isaiah 49 v22
The last war	Ezekiel 38, ch 31 v1-4, ch 39 v12 <u><a href="#">Zechariah 5 &amp; 6 - click for Zechariah's Nuclear War</a></u>
The Antichrist	2 Thessalonians 2 v3 -7
Dry bones (restoration of Israel)	Ezekiel 37
Fishers and hunters collecting people for return	Jeremiah 16 v15-16
God's glory returns	Ezekiel 43
Revival in Israel + Jerusalem besieged	Zechariah ch 12 to 14
Valley of Decision & restoration of Zion	Joel 3
The Last Trumpet and Resurrection	1 Corinthians 15 v51-54
Judgment	Revelation 16
Messiah's thousand year reign	Revelation 20

See outline of **Tribulation** and **Rapture**

See also **Tribes and Nations**



**Meggido** - the site of many battles in the past, and Armageddon for the final battle.

**Battles of Israel**

1896	Hertzl wrote "The Jewish State"	
1917	UK Government made Balfour Declaration. League of Nations agreed	
1939-45	World War II - Holocaust	
1947	UN voted to establish state of Israel - partitioned into Jewish and Arab states	
1948	<b>May 14th</b> Independence Day - Israel	
1948	<b>May 15</b> - Invaded by Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt & Iraq. Israel numbered 650,000 - Arabs up to 150,000,000 - territory 200 times larger. Arabs defeated.	
1950	Sinai conflict	
1967	Six Day War	
1973	Yom Kippur War	
1970	PLO attempted to topple King of Jordan. Driven out -- fled to Lebanon	
1975	PLO cause civil war in Lebanon - massacre 100,000 Christian Lebanese - Syria move in as "peacekeepers" and attack Israel	
1982	Israel move into Southern Lebanon - capture huge amount of Russian armament.	
1999	Israel pull out of Lebanon	
????	Russia invades Israel - (Gog is Russia - Moscow is directly North of Israel) - God counter attacks - 85% destroyed, 7 months to bury dead - weapons for fuel	Ezekiel 38 & 39 (note coincidence with Revelation 20 - below)

????	<b>The Tribulation</b> - some Jews accept Yeshua as Messiah - Judgment on Gentile enemies.	Revelation 6 - 19
7 years long	Tribulation comes when Israel signs peace treaty with the <b>Antichrist</b> - (comes as counterfeit Messiah, to solve World problems and bring Middle East Peace.) Leader of <b>One World Government</b> centered on 10 nation confederacy.	Daniel 9 v27 - Isaiah 28 v18 1 Thessalonians 5 v3
	Israel builds <b>Third Temple</b> - Antichrist becomes drunk with power. - <b>False Prophet</b> working with Antichrist ( <b>One World Religion</b> )	Revelation 16 v3, 19 v20 & 20 v10
3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> years in	False Prophet gets Antichrist acknowledged as divine - worshippers take his mark on hand or forehead.	Revelation 14 v9-11, 16 v2, 19 v20 13 v4, Thessalonians 2 v9-12 Daniel 9 v24-27
	Image of Antichrist in Temple	Daniel 9 v27, 12 v11, Matthew 24 v18 2Thessalonians 2 v4, Revelation 13 v14-15
	Hundreds of thousands of Jews accept Yeshua - Antichrist seeks to kill Jews.	Deuteronomy 4 v30, Matthew 24
	Antichrist occupies Jerusalem	Zechariah 14 v2, Luke 21 v24, Revelation 11 v8
	All nations support Antichrist - will persecute Jews	Zechariah 12 v2-3, 9, 14 v2, Joel 3 v2 Isaiah 66 v18, Zechariah 13 v8 & 14 v2, Matthew 24 v15-21, Luke 21 v21
3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> years	God will protect them	Revelation 12
	Antichrist will kill many messianic believers - and Christians	Daniel 7 v25, 12 v3, Revelation 12 v11, 17 - and Revelation 7 v9-17
3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> days	God raises <b>two Jewish Prophets</b> - many signs and wonders - Antichrist kills them and displays bodies to world - raised to life again - earthquake; 7000 dead - Judgment against nations - in valley of Jehosophat	Revelation 11 v3-13 Revelation 6, 8, 9, 16 Matthew 16 v14 - Joel 3

		v2, Zechariah 14 v2, Isaiah 66 v18
	<b>Armageddon</b> (Megido)	Revelation 16 v11, Joel 3 v9-17, Zechariah 12 v2-4, 8, 9 14
	<b>Messiah</b> comes in Judgment	Revelation 19 v11-16, 19-21
1000 years	Messiah's <b>1000 year reign</b>	Revelation 20 v1-6
?	Gog and Magog attack - fire from Heaven devours them	Revelation 20 v7-10

Revelation can be studied in conjunction with the feast of Tabernacles (click [Yom Kippur](#) and [Sukot](#) )

### **The return from Exile**

God's **fishermen** are doing a good job for those living in hard circumstances, like those who have returned from Russia, but there are still more Jews in the USA than there are in Israel. What is there to encourage them to make *aliyah* - to go home to Israel? It appears to take the **hunters** to persuade those in affluent lands to go home. Is the rise in Anti-Semitism that we are witnessing working towards God's end-times purposes to gather His people.

**Jeremiah 16 v14-16** "However, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when men will no longer say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,' but they will say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.' For I will restore them to the land I gave their forefathers. "But now I will send for many **fishermen**," declares the LORD, "and they will catch them. After that I will send for many **hunters**, and they will hunt them down on every mountain and hill and from the crevices of the rocks"