

The Biblical Jewish Calendar

Preface

SBS Calendar Page

Every author will admit that no book, however small, is produced without the help of others. Stewarton Bible School's publications are no exception. Were it not for the dedicated support of the **SBS team**, not one booklet, Bible Lesson or Sermon Note would have been printed. So let me take this opportunity to thank the SBS team who have supported me these many years. My thanks to all of you, my family and my friends, who have faithfully contributed tithes and offerings to this great work. How else would SBS have despatched its literature **free of charge!** to the far corners of the earth? May **Yahweh, the LORD God of Israel**, bless every one of you as only He can bless. I never fail to thank Him for raising you up to support SBS, a very small group with a big message. My special thanks to **Frances Maloney**, SBS Treasurer and proof-reader, rich in wisdom and tact. My thanks also to her son **Alan Maloney** who set up the SBS Internet site in 1995: a massive task as anyone who has attempted such a project will know. May the Eternal reward you both bountifully for your work. I also thank you Internet readers all over the world, especially **Max Mader** of Toronto, for the enormous help your corrections, comments and advice have been. Last, but certainly not least, let me record my sincerest thanks to my dear wife **Inge**, without whose help I do not think the Stewarton Bible School would even have come into being. May the Almighty bless you **Inge** for your love and patient support since our marriage in 1956. With renewed thanks to you all.

Elder: *David B Loughran*

INTRODUCTORY NOTES:

1. **Sacred Names:** In the Authorised King James Version of the Bible the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel is called by several names and titles: **Jehovah, LORD, God, I AM, the Holy One of Israel** etc. In this booklet the name **Yahweh** is also used. When it is, I am referring to the same person, our **Heavenly Father**. He is the supreme Being in the universe, the ONE who sent His only begotten Son **Jesus** to save mankind. The Saviour's Hebrew name **Yeshua** (or **Yahshua**) is also used in this booklet. The reader should remember that when it is, we mean the only begotten Son of God, **Jesus Christ**, the central character of the New Testament. For further information see Sacred Names.

2. All Bible quotations in this booklet are taken from the authorised King James Version.

3. Unless otherwise stated I have used **Strong's Bible Dictionary** to further explain certain Hebrew and Aramaic words.

PART ONE

INTRODUCTION / AIM

The aim of this booklet is threefold:

1. To make the reader aware that **Jehovah (Yahweh) the Almighty God of Israel** uses *His own calendar* as the basis of His '*diary*' to organise His work on earth; and that He has already appointed certain *days, seasons* and *years* in it during which He will perform His mightiest deeds in the *Programme of Salvation*.

2. That the Almighty is about to draw universal attention to those *appointed times* by displaying *signs in the sun, moon and stars*.

3. That the nation of Israel is still the chosen people of God; and that believing Gentiles, by virtue of their faith in Jesus Christ (**Yeshua the Messiah**) are grafted into the '*Olive of Israel*' and are, thereafter, expected to express their faith in the LORD God of Israel by keeping His commandments.

The reader is advised to carefully preserve this booklet, for it contains rare information concerning the *appointed days* on which divinely predicted signs in the sun, moon and stars are expected; signs which will not only confirm the Holy Bible as the Word of God, but will cause all humanity to prepare for the Day of Judgement. With these opening thoughts in mind let us proceed.

The Need for a Calendar Pause a while and consider the **civil calendar** hanging on your living room or office wall and ask yourself these questions. Why is it there? What is its true purpose? Where and how did the calendar originate? Is a calendar essential? Your response would probably go something like this. The calendar is there to help me, my family and my fellow-workers keep track of time. Its purpose is to keep us in touch with appointments and events at home, in the office and abroad. No, I have little knowledge of where and how it originated.

Before answering the next question, **Is it essential?** try to imagine a world without a calendar; a world without pre-numbered days, months and years. Could society operate in a world without a calendar? I suppose it could - after a fashion; but it would be a crippled society at best. Why? Because planning further than a few days ahead would not be possible. All official, social, religious and sporting appointments would be extremely difficult to make; for no one would know on which day to meet. The entire legal profession, with its millions of carefully dated documents, would also be thrown into a state of total chaos. The activities of travel agents, airlines, hospital/dental surgeries and countless business organisations and clubs would slow to a snail's pace; for no one would be able to organise events more than a few days ahead. Without a calendar there would be no diaries, no long-term business, social or personal planning. Without question, a world without a calendar would be a world of frustrating confusion. Yes, you may be sure that a calendar of some sort is absolutely essential.

Currently there are several calendars in use throughout the world. Most are religious calendars used mainly to identify the dates of religious festivals celebrated by the faithful of the world's many religions. Amongst these is the **sacred calendar of the God of Israel**, the calendar this booklet is about. The sacred calendar is based on the movements of the sun and the moon. It is also linked directly to many Bible prophecies which describe world-encompassing events shortly to take place. Bible prophecy clearly tells us that there is coming a '*great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*' After the tribulation there will be '*signs in the heavens.*'

Matt.24:29 *Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.*

Knowledge of the sacred calendar will stand you in good stead when those *signs in the heavens* appear. But more of this later.

The Gregorian Calendar

Besides the various religious calendars being used by mankind, there is the popular civil or **Gregorian calendar**. This is the calendar that hangs on the wall of almost every office in the civilised world. The Gregorian calendar takes its name from **Pope Gregory XI11**, who reformed the Roman calendar in the year 1582. Before that time the civil calendar was called the **Julian calendar**, after the Roman Emperor **Julius Caesar** who had also made some alterations to the calendar in the year 46 BC. One of Caesar's amendments was to pattern the civil calendar on the calendar of ancient Egypt, which was at that time the only calendar in which the lengths of the months and years were fixed by definite rules. In other words, the **civil calendar** which hangs upon your office wall is similar in structure to the calendar that was used in ancient Egypt. Like its Egyptian ancestor, the civil calendar is governed by the sun alone, and its months (January to December) are in no way influenced by the moon. In the civil calendar a new moon can occur on any day in the month; days begin in the middle of the night (0.00 hour) and years (in the northern hemisphere) begin in the middle of winter on the 1st January.

The Sacred Calendar

By comparison the sacred calendar is strikingly different. In it the days begin and end at sunset, months begin at the sighting of a new moon and the years begin in Israel's spring, when nature awakens from its winter sleep. Not surprisingly, therefore, many creatures from tiny birds keeping to their 14, 21 or 28 day cycles, right through to the complex human body, are designed to keep in step with the weekly and monthly periods of the **Creator's calendar**.

Interesting though these points may be, they are, nevertheless, of small account when compared with these two all-encompassing facts:

- That Yahweh's main objective in designing the sacred calendar was **to enable His worshippers to identify and keep their spiritual appointments with Him - on the sacred days of His choosing.**
- That the Almighty would never do anything which concerns the human race without first telling His servants the prophets. ***Surely the LORD GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.*** (Amos 3:7)

The Most High not only reveals His plans to His servants the prophets, but, like every good managing director, His plans are carried out on schedule - **at appointed times**. And those **appointed times** are all linked to the **sacred calendar**, which has been in existence since the creation of the world. We read of the **sacred calendar's** use in the account of Noah's flood which was over 800 years before Israel came out of Egypt.

Gen. 7:11 *In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.*

Gen. 8:4 *And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.*

Gen. 8:13 *And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry.*

Here we can see that the **sacred calendar** was in use many hundreds of years before the first Jew (Judah) was born. The sacred calendar is in fact the oldest calendar known to man; and, if we may put it thus, is the only one that is linked to the **diary of the LORD God of Israel**. Stewarton Bible School (SBS) therefore, considers it an inestimable privilege to tell you about it; to briefly explain its structure and above all to help you keep your weekly and annual appointments with the **Creator** of the mighty universe. With these thoughts in mind let us begin by defining some of the basic terms used in this booklet.

THE DAY

In the sacred calendar a 24 hour day is the period of time between one sunset and the next. According to the Scriptures, days begin and end at sunset and are divided into two parts, *evening* and *morning*.

Evening: when the sun is down.

MARK 1:32 *And at even, when the sun did set...* For further proof that days start and end at evening, **sunset**, at the going down of the sun, see Joshua 8:29, Joshua 10:26-27, 1 Kings 22:35-36, 2 Chron.18:34, 2 Samuel 3:35

Morning: when the sun is up.

Thus in Genesis chapter 1 we read *how "the evening and the morning were the first day," "the evening and the morning were the second day," "the evening and the morning were the third day"* and so on.

THE MONTH

A month in the sacred calendar is measured by the moon. A month is the period of time between one new moon and the next. A month begins when the new moon is sighted with the naked eye. The moon orbits the earth in about 29.5 days. Months in the sacred calendar may, therefore, be either 29 or 30 days in length: they cannot be 28 or 31 days in length. Note that the new moon mentioned here is not the **astronomical new moon (conjunction)**, which is invisible; but the **visible new moon as it is first sighted with the naked eye by an observer at Jerusalem**. This point is explained further in Part Two, **Question 1**.

Months in the sacred calendar are usually, though not always, referred to in Scripture by their numbers, not by their names: i.e. *1st month, 2nd month, 3rd month, 7th month* etc. Unlike most weekdays, however, months in the sacred calendar do have proper names, most of which are found in the Bible. The names of months are given below:

MONTHS IN THE SACRED CALENDAR			
No.	Name	Bible Reference	Comment
1	Abib / Nisan	Exo. 12:2, 13:4, Esther 3:7	Sprouting/Budding
2	Zif	1 Kings 6:1	Blossom month
3	Sivan	Esther 8:9	Third month
4	Tamuz	Jeremiah 39:2	Name not in Bible
5	Ab	Numbers 33:38, Zech.7:3	Name not in Bible
6	Elul	Nehemiah 6:15	The gleaning month
7	Ethanim / Tishri	1 Kings 8:2	Perennial/seventh
8	Bul	1 Kings 6:38	Rain/Eighth
9	Chisleu	Nehemiah 1:1, Zech.7:1	The Hunter/ninth
10	Tebeth	Esther 2:16	Winter/tenth
11	Sebat	Zech. 1:7	Eleventh
12	Adar	Esther 8:12	Fire/twelfth

Note:

When a 13th month is periodically added to keep the sacred Feasts *'in their seasons,'* (agricultural seasons) then the 12th month is called Adar 1 and the 13th month is called Veadar or Adar 2. In the literature published by Stewarton Bible School we usually refer to months by number. We do this for two reasons:

- Because Bible writers mostly do so.
- In order that believers will remember that the religious year starts with the month of Abib (Nisan) and not Ethanim (Tishri). Using numbers helps keep the position of a month in focus; and believers will know exactly how far into the year they have progressed. Using names alone does not guarantee this.

THE YEAR

A year in the sacred calendar begins in Israel's spring (March/April) and is the time between one spring season and the next. When the sacred calendar is printed in advance the **new moon nearest the spring equinox** is chosen to begin the year; that is, the new moon which normally coincides with the natural conditions in Israel which the ancient Sanhedrin looked for when they selected Abib's new moon. See the answer to **Question 2** at the back of this booklet concerning the choice of Abib's new moon.

Most years in the sacred calendar consist of 12 months, each of 29 or 30 days. Thus, assuming six months at 29 days and six months at 30 days, a normal year would contain about 354 days. This figure is about 11.25 days short of a 365.25 day solar year, which is the time the earth takes to complete one orbit of the sun. In order to ensure that the Feasts of the Most High occur at their *appointed seasons* (Passover in the Spring, First Fruits in the summer and Tabernacles in the Autumn) it is necessary for this 11 day annual loss to be made good every two or three years. This is done by intercalating (adding) an extra month after the twelfth month to make the calendar harmonise with the solar year and the agricultural seasons. This extra month (Adar 2) results in a leap year - which has 13 months. See **Part 2, Question 5** for further details about leap years.

To summarise the foregoing we may say that in the sacred calendar:

- A day begins and ends at sunset, at the going down of the sun.
- A month begins and ends when the new moon is sighted by an observer at Jerusalem. Months are either 29 or 30 days in length.
- A year begins in Israel's spring with the new moon nearest (before or after) the spring equinox. Ordinary years have 12 months and leap years have 13 months.

Note: In the popular Jewish calendar the year begins in autumn with the month of **Ethanim** (Tishri). Strictly, this is the start of the **agricultural year**. The **religious year** begins in the spring with the Passover month of **Abib** (Nisan).

EXO 12:1 *And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.*

EXO 13:4 *This day came ye out in the month Abib.*

EXO 34:18 *The feast of unleavened bread shalt thou keep. Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, as I commanded thee, in the time of the month Abib: for in the month Abib thou camest out from Egypt.*

In ancient times, years were usually numbered from important events such as a ruler's birth, coronation or death. Examples are:

GEN 7: 11 *In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.*

ISA 6:1 *In the year that king Uzziah died...*

LUK 3:1 *Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee...*

THE WEEK

The week is another important cycle operating within the sacred calendar. It was designed by the Most High to regulate the physical, mental and spiritual welfare of the human race. Peoples of all religions have a seven day week; a fact which is strong proof that all nations came from a common ancestor who received the seven-day week from the Creator. At first glance the week appears to have no connection whatsoever with the movements of the earth, the moon and the sun. The week, however, forms the basis of an important **spiritual cycle of sevens**, which we refer to as the **Sabbatical cycle**. The sabbatical cycle figures extensively in Bible prophecy. The **Sabbatical/Jubilee** cycles mentioned in Leviticus chapter 25 are briefly described later in this booklet.

In the sacred calendar the days of the week are not named but numbered: *first day, second day, third day* etc. The main exception being the *seventh day of the week*, which is called the **Sabbath**. In the Roman civil calendar, the one currently used by virtually all the world, the days of the week are named after various pagan or planetary gods:

- 1st day **Sunday**: named after the Sun god.
- 2nd day **Monday**: named after the Moon god.
- 3rd day **Tuesday**: named after Tiu, an ancient Teutonic deity.
- 4th day **Wednesday**: named after Woden, a god in Norse mythology, associated with the Roman god (and planet) Mercury.
- 5th day **Thursday**: named after Thor, the supreme god in Norse mythology, associated with the Roman god (and planet) Jupiter.
- 6th day **Friday**: named after Friga, wife of the god Odin, or Wodin another god in Norse mythology.
- 7th day **Saturday**: named after the planet Saturn.

When conversing with the peoples of this world, it is necessary to use these popular names (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday etc.), else few would know what we were talking about if only the Biblical numbering system were used. But it should be remembered that these popular weekday names have pagan roots and are not found in the Bible.

THE SABBATH

In the Scriptures the seventh day of the week is called the Sabbath. The word Sabbath is synonymous with rest, repose, restoration, refreshment, calm, tranquillity, freedom, peace, harmony, holiness and sanctification. It is, therefore, a fitting sign of the Creator's character and aims. The divine record of the creation is brief; but it leaves one in no doubt that the **Creator rested** on, **blessed** and **sanctified** the seventh day of the week at the creation of the world. Notice what His Word says on this matter in:

GEN 2:1 *Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2: And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. 3: And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.*

Many people will be surprised to learn that the true Sabbath day is not Sunday but Saturday. Sunday is the first day of the week. Saturday is the seventh and in Scripture is called the **Sabbath of the LORD**. In other words Saturday is the true LORD'S Day. The Sabbath starts at sunset on Friday evening and ends 24 hours later at sunset on Saturday evening. Lev 23:32 *"From evening unto evening shall you celebrate your Sabbath."* The Sabbath commandment is part of the **Ten Commandments**, which were written with the **finger of God!**

EXO 24:12 *And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.*

EXO 31:18 *And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God. (See also Deut.9:10)*

The 4th Commandment

EXO 20:8 *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9: Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 11: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

You may read the Bible from cover to cover and you will not find a single verse which cancels or amends the Sabbath commandment. That is a fact. You will, instead, find many texts which call for the observance of Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, commonly called Saturday.

Yahweh's Sabbath Day

In view of the above facts, it is a mistake to refer to the Sabbath as the **Jewish Sabbath**; or that it is only to be observed by Jews. **The Sabbath is Yahweh's Sabbath**; or, as the Scriptures put it: **the Sabbath of the LORD thy God!** To be sure it is kept by Israel and the Jews; but it is not for Israel alone, any more than the Ten Commandments are for the Jews alone. According to the fourth commandment, even '**strangers**' (Gentiles) are expected to keep the Sabbath day. If they obey this royal command, Gentiles will also be greatly blessed. Notice the word '**stranger**' in the following texts:

EXO 20:8-10 *Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy...in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:*

ISA 56:6 *Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; 7: Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer...*

Yes, the Sabbath belongs to the LORD and, like all the other nine commandments, He made it to be remembered and kept holy by all nations. In obedience to this commandment the seventh day Sabbath was kept by all the great and holy personalities mentioned in the Bible:

- By all the Old Testament Prophets of the LORD God of Israel.
- By the early Christian Church long after the death and resurrection of the Saviour.
- By all the early Apostles, including the Apostle Paul.
- By **Yeshua the Messiah** (Jesus Christ)
- And by **Jehovah (YAHWEH)** Himself.

Neither is there any evidence in the New Testament to suggest that the Saviour or his Apostles changed the Ten Commandments and transferred the sanctity of the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day of the week. Instead, Jesus kept his Father's commandments (John 15:10). If he hadn't done so he would have been classified as '**a sinner.**' But we read that the Saviour kept the Sabbath day **as it was meant to be kept**, much to the annoyance of the Scribes and Pharisees who had burdened the day with many petty, man-made restrictions. These the Master brushed aside. Commenting on the eternal nature of his Father's law the Saviour said these words:

MAT 5:17 *Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 18: For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

Moreover the Master advised his followers, who were mostly Jews at that time, to pray to God that He might allow them to keep the Sabbath at the destruction of Jerusalem: which was to take place in AD70, some 40 years after the resurrection.

But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day. (Matt.24:20)

Pause and consider this text and see how pointless it would have been for the Saviour to have given this advice to his predominantly Jewish followers if the Sabbath commandment was going to be abolished at Calvary. The truth is, the Saviour had absolutely no intention whatsoever of doing away with or changing the Sabbath commandment. He had an extremely high regard for his Father's law; which he was instrumental in giving to Israel in the first place. (James 4:12) **In short, the true Sabbath day is still the seventh day of the week, the day commonly known as Saturday!**

This unequivocal fact means that those who break the Sabbath commandment are guilty of sin, whether they realise it or not; for '*...sin is the transgression of the law.*' (1 John 3:4) For further proof of this astonishing fact, see SBS article [Is Sunday the Christian Sabbath?](#)

THE FEAST DAYS

Hanging from the Sabbath commandment in the law of the Almighty are the seven annual Sabbaths of **Jehovah** the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. Unlike the popular holidays of Christmas, Easter, Hallowe'en etc., which have absolutely no scriptural backing whatsoever, the Feasts of the Almighty are the sacred memorials of the Creator's mightiest acts in the Plan of Salvation; each and every one of them being an **appointed anniversary** of a distinct, decisive achievement in His plan. Yahweh's Feasts are the **high days** in His Diary. He looks forward to them in much the same way as we would some special anniversary or event. At this moment in time, most of them point to realities that are still future. But all through eternity the redeemed host will look back at these days and will then - year by year - commemorate the mighty deeds the Most High and His Son performed on them for the salvation of the human race. "*What*" you may well ask, "*are the Almighty's Annual Sabbaths?*" There are six Feast days and one Fast day. I list them:

1. The **First Day of Unleavened Bread** which falls on 15th day of Abib, the first month in the sacred calendar.
2. The **Last Day of Unleavened Bread** which falls on 21st day of Abib.
3. The **Feast of First Fruits (Pentecost)** which occurs 50 days after the Passover Sabbath.
4. The **Feast of Trumpets** which falls on the 1st Ethanim (the 7th month)
5. The **Fast of Atonement** which falls on the 10th Ethanim.
6. The **Feast of Tabernacles** which falls on the 15th Ethanim.
7. The **Last Great Day** which falls on the 22nd Ethanim.

These are the seven annual **memorial Sabbaths** of the Almighty; which all peoples, Jew and Gentile alike, are commanded to observe. These days do not belong to any particular race or religion. They are not *Jewish festivals*. They are the Almighty's '**appointment times**' and all nations are required to keep them. The Most High refers to them as '**My Feasts, My Sabbaths.**'

LEV 23:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2: Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the **feasts of the LORD**, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even **these are my feasts.**

For further information about these divinely appointed memorial Sabbaths of the Most High see the SBS booklet entitled: [The Feast Days of the God of Israel.](#)

SIGNS IN THE SUN, MOON & STARS

The sun, moon and stars were originally created by the Almighty to draw universal attention to the spectacular deeds He planned to perform on the appointed Feast days, seasons and sabbatical years in the sacred calendar. This astonishing fact is mentioned in the very first chapter of the Bible. Genesis 1:14 which says:

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

According to Strong's Bible Dictionary

- The Hebrew word 'owth [oth] translated **sign** in this verse means: a *signal, distinguishing mark, banner, remembrance, miraculous sign, omen, warning.*
- And the Hebrew word 'mow`ed [mo-ade'] translated **seasons** in this verse means: **appointed place, appointed time, appointed meeting, sacred season, set feast, tent of meeting.**

In other words: the sun and moon were set in the heavens to signal the **appointed sacred seasons, the set feasts, when Israel was to gather in worship at the Creator's tent of meeting.** To be sure the sun and the moon determine the literal days, nights, seasons and years and they directly influence the climate. But the language of Genesis 1:14 goes far beyond these natural events. It tells of the **spiritual reasons** why the sun and moon were created. They were created I repeat:

- To serve as celestial *warning signs* and *omens* to signal the **sacred seasons, feast days** and **years** of the Almighty God!
- They were placed in the sky by the Most High to alert the universe to His **appointed meeting times**: when the human race is called to worship Him.

Several Bible prophecies confirm the message of Genesis 1:14 by telling us that just before Jesus Christ returns to earth there will be '**signs in the sun and the moon.**' Consider these verses:

Joel 2:10 *The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.*

Joel 2:30-31 *The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. 32: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered*

Amos 8:9 *And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day:*

Matt.24:29 *Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*

Rev.6:1 *And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became*

2 **black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; 13: And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind...**

Rev.8:1 *And the fourth angel sounded, and the **third part of the sun was smitten**, and the **third part of the moon**, and*
2 *the **third part of the stars**; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.*

These predicted signs in the heavens are scheduled to happen **shortly before** Yeshua the Messiah returns to earth; and happen they will. When they occur they will provide unmistakable evidence that one of the Almighty's **appointed seasons** has begun and that the **end of this age** has arrived. World shattering events will occur at that time and all mankind will then become aware of the LORD'S requirements and His anger at the refusal of many to obey His law.

Rev.6 *And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and*
:16: *from the wrath of the Lamb: 17: **For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?***

If you believe the message of Genesis 1:14 then at each sacred festival you should be on the watch for celestial signs in the sun, moon and stars. Failure to keep the Almighty's appointments could mean that when those signs occur - as they surely will - the **spiritual significance of the feasts** and the prophecies to which they relate will be lost to you. To be sure you will marvel at those celestial signs, all humanity will, but you will not realise their **spiritual significance** and will be completely oblivious to what they mean and, more importantly, what you are expected to do.

Note:

Astrology is the study of the supposed influence of the stars on human affairs. A **horoscope** is an astrologer's forecast of future events, based on the position of stars and peoples' birthdays. The study of astrology and the daily reading of horoscopes is strongly condemned in the Scriptures. (Deut.4:19, 2 Kings 23:5) The signs in the sun, moon and stars mentioned in this booklet **have nothing to do with the study of astrology** or the reading of horoscopes. The celestial signs prophesied in the Scriptures will occur at the Almighty's appointed time. When they appear, it will be too late to rush about improving your understanding of God's Word. That must be done now, before it is too late. If on the other hand you are a believer, then do not be terrified when those signs appear, because they spell out good news to the obedient.

Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. (Jer.10:2)

2. PROPHETIC TIME SPANS

Bible prophecy is the news in advance. It is the Almighty telling humanity and the angel host what He is about to do or allow Satan to do. Studying Bible prophecy is like taking a look at the **Diary of the Most High**. When studied in conjunction with the sacred calendar, Bible prophecy is the most reliable evidence the church has that the Almighty is working to a **divine timetable**; one that is infinitely more reliable than the diaries and wall charts business managers use. Bible prophecy is also the LORD'S way of warning all mankind of approaching danger.

2 *We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that*
Pet.1:19 *shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21: For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

Amos
3:7 *Surely the LORD GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.*

Eze.33 *Say unto them, As I live, saith the LORD GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked*
:11: *turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?*

The Almighty does not want anyone to die; or even be caught unawares by the calamities about to occur on earth. So, through His prophets, He warns mankind to repent and live. Consider this amazing prophecy about end-time calamities preceding Jesus Christ's return to earth. Here we are given a preview of our earth being turned upside down and shaken by mighty earthquakes.

ISA 24: 1 *Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. 2: And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him. 3: The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word. 4: **The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. 5: The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. 6: Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.***

*verse 19: The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. 20: **The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. 21: And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. 22: And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are***

gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited. 23: Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.

REV 16:19 ... and the cities of the nations fell...!

It is virtually impossible to imagine the devastation that will occur when these prophecies comes to pass. The very idea of the earth being '*utterly waste, 'turned upside down' and 'reeling to and fro like a drunkard'* is beyond human imagination! All the cities of the nations will then collapse in ruins and international trade will come to a shuddering halt. Yes, these are amazing prophecies and they are bound to happen at the '*appointed times*' in the Almighty's calendar. This fact about '*appointed times*' is repeatedly mentioned in the Scriptures. (i.e. Gen.18:14, Exo.9.5, 2 Samuel 24:15, Dan.8:19, 10:1, 11:35, Hab.2:3, Acts 17:31, Gal.4:2) Consequently when we study Bible prophecy in conjunction with the sacred calendar we are in fact looking at the '**Diary of the God of Israel.**' We are being given a preview of earth-shaking events before they actually take place! The Most High is revealing His plans to us simply because the events that are about to occur concern the whole human race. In the books of Daniel and Revelation there are several prophecies involving exact periods of time. In this booklet these are referred to as **Time Prophecies** or **Time Spans**. They are:

1. The **3.5 year period** of Daniel 7:25, Daniel 12:7 & Rev.12:14
2. The **42 month period** of Rev.11:2 & Rev.13:5
3. The **1260 day period** of Rev.11:3 & Rev.12:6
4. The **2300 day period** of Daniel 8:14
5. The **1290 day period** of Daniel 12:11
6. The **1335 day period** of Daniel 12:12
7. The **1000 year period** of Revelation 20:2-6

Millions of Christians know little or nothing about these prophecies. They have never heard a sermon about them or studied them. Of the believers who have read them, the majority think that these prophecies **have already been fulfilled** and, therefore, do not concern the Christians living in our day. This is a tragic mistake, because these **Time Prophecies** concern events scheduled to occur in the days **just prior** to the return of Jesus Christ. In other words, they concern all humanity - **today!** Proof of this fact is given below.

No student of Bible prophecy will fail to recognize that current world events perfectly match the Master's warnings recorded in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21. The Saviour predicted that just before his return to earth, there would be an increase in *wars, famines, disease epidemics, earthquakes, drought, floods, high winds, sexual immorality, violence and widespread unbelief*. These signs are now evident all over the world. They are proof that we have reached the **closing days** of this age, the '*time of the end.*' Also notice that the time prophecies listed above are not vague generalities, but exact periods of time. Important questions are : *What do they mean? When do they start? When do they end? How do they concern me?* You need to know the answers to these questions; because drifting in blissful ignorance towards disaster is certainly not for the sober minded.

A DAY FOR A YEAR

Before we attempt to answer these questions, let us first examine a popular theory which says that in Bible prophecy **one day represents one year**. Many Christian groups believe that these time spans in Daniel & Revelation (the 2300, 1260, 1290, 1335 days) **all represent years** and that they **have all been fulfilled**. For example the 2300 day prophecy of Daniel chapter 8, they believe, is telling of a period of 2300 years; and the 1260 day prophecy of Revelation 12:6 was 1260 literal years: all in the past! Is this the case? Does one day in Bible prophecy **always** represent one year? The answer is, not always. A prophetic day equals a year only when the prophetic language so implies, as **it does** in Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:1-6. If the language **does not** give this clear indication, as it does not in Dan.8:14, Dan.12:11-12, Matt.27:63, Rev.11:3 and Rev.20:4-5, then **a day is a normal day and a year is a normal year**.

How can we be sure that the time spans mentioned in Daniel 8 and Daniel 12 are literal days and not years? The answer is, we are plainly told by an angel messenger that this is the case; that the 2300, 1260, 1290 and 1335 day time prophecies will occur at the '*time of the end.*' Yes, we are told this fact. Here is proof.

The 2300 day Prophecy of Daniel 8

Dan: *So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, 8:17 Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision.*

Dan. *And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it 8:26 shall be for many days.*

Most Bible students know that the phrases '*the time of the end*' refers to the **last days**, that is, the time just prior to the Saviour's return. In other words this prophecy would find fulfilment '*many days*' after it was given and it would come to pass in the days just before the Saviour returned to earth, in the **appointed time of the end!** We have now reached that time!

The 1260,1290 & 1335 day Prophecies of Daniel 12

Dan.1 *And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? 9: And he said, 2:8 Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 10: Many shall be purified, and*

made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

Dan.1
2:13 *But go thou thy way **till the end be**: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at **the end of the days**.*

What are these texts saying? They are saying that the time prophecies of Daniel will be understood and then fulfilled '**at the time of the end**,' at the '**end of days**.' They would not be fulfilled in the distant past; but in the **last days!** The angel also told the prophet Daniel that he would '**rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days**.' In other words, Daniel would die and rise from his grave at the **end of that time**. We know from our study of **Lesson 6** that the resurrection does not take place till Jesus Christ returns to earth. This means that these prophecies will end at Christ's return when Daniel, along with millions of other believers, will rise from their graves. (1 Thess.4:16-17).

This means that these prophecies, the longest of which is **2300 days** (just under 6.5 years) will occur in about a seven year period just before the Saviour returns to earth. I repeat, the events predicted by these prophecies **did not start in the distant past thousands of years ago**. Instead, they will be understood and then fulfilled, as these texts clearly say, '**at the time of the end**;' and that time, dear reader, has now arrived. In short, the **day-for-a-year** principle does not apply to the end-time prophecies of Daniel 8 and 12; and placing them in the distant past is a serious error. Not only is it wrong, but it is dangerous, because few believers will trouble to study them if they think they have all been fulfilled - when they obviously haven't.

Why, then, have some Christians placed these time prophecies in the distant past and used the '**day for a year**' theory to explain them. The answer is because there is one prophecy in the book of Daniel where a prophetic day does represent one year and a prophetic week does equal seven years. That prophecy is found in Daniel chapter 9. It is the '**70 weeks of years**' prophecy concerning the return of the Jews from Babylon to the Promised Land, the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem and the death of the Messiah. In the prophecy recorded in Daniel 9 a day does equal one year. But not in the prophecies of Daniel 8 and 12. Remember this vital difference.

When comparing the prophecy of Daniel 8 with that of Daniel 9 we learn the following:

The 2300 day Prophecy of Daniel 8.

1. This prophecy was given in the third year of the Babylonian king Belshazzar, about 553 BC, which was some **15 years before** the 70 weeks prophecy of Daniel 9.
2. In this prophecy a day equals one day of 24 hours, not one ordinary year.
3. This prophecy concerns the 2300 day defilement of the heavenly sanctuary by the '**little horn**' (the Beast, the Antichrist) who will dare to challenge the angelic host above and cast some of them down to earth. The Antichrist even challenges the '**Prince of the heavenly host**' (Yeshua the Messiah). A more blasphemous move is hard to imagine.
4. As pointed out above, the 2300 day prophecy is scheduled for fulfilment **many years** after it was given. It would come to pass at '**the appointed time of the end**.' We are **not** told the starting year, but we are told that the central character is the **little horn power** (the Antichrist); and we know that he is scheduled to make his appearance just before Jesus Christ returns.
5. Like the prophecy recorded in Daniel 7, this prophecy tells of the death of the '**little horn**' power at the second coming of Jesus Christ. He is to be '**broken without hand**.' That is, he will be supernaturally destroyed by the word of the '**Prince of princes**' (Jesus Christ) at his return. These are vital clues, because they point to our immediate future.

The 490 year Prophecy of Daniel 9

This prophecy concerns a period of time lasting '**70 weeks of years**.' Seventy weeks of years equals 490 years. (70x7 = 490 years)

1. This 490 year prophecy was given to Daniel in the first year of Darius the Mede. This was about 538 BC, some **15+ years** after the vision of Daniel 8.
2. In this prophecy the angel Gabriel tells the prophet Daniel the starting date. It was to start '**from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem**.' This command was issued by the Persian king Artaxerxes. In this prophecy one day does equal one year. There is no doubt about this fact.
3. At the divinely appointed time the Jews returned from Babylon and rebuilt Jerusalem. The prophecy went on to tell of the life and sacrificial death of Yeshua the Messiah (the Anointed One - Jesus the Christ).
4. This prophecy drew to its close when the Saviour gave up his life on Calvary and the Jews stoned Stephen to death and, as a nation, rejected the Gospel.

As we can see the vision of Daniel 8 was given some 15 years before the prophecy of Daniel 9. More importantly, the starting dates of the two prophecies are over 24 centuries apart. The 490 year prophecy **started** when the '**commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem**' went forth and **ended** 490 years later in the days of the Apostles. At its **basic level** the prophecy of Daniel 9 has already been fulfilled. It is past. But the 2300 day prophecy of Daniel 8 is still future. It will start at the '**time of the end**' and end when the Messiah returns to earth and supernaturally destroys the Antichrist '**without hand**.' The 2300 day prophecy is a '**high-level**' forecast of the Antichrist's attack on the heavenly sanctuary and the throne of God! When that time comes, and it is very near, the '**little horn**,' the '**man of sin**' will rise from the Abyss and enter heaven itself. He will then defile the heavenly sanctuary and dare to take over the throne of the Almighty GOD! This blasphemous act, prefigured at its

lower level by Absalom's rape of his father's wives on the palace roof (2 Samuel 16:20-22) is scheduled to take place in the very near future. See article [Who/What is the Antichrist?](#)

Having incorrectly assumed that the **day-for-a-year** principle applied to all the time prophecies in Daniel and Revelation, some leaders have placed the 2300 day prophecy of Daniel 8 in the past. They believe it started in the 457 BC and ended 2300 years later in the mid nineteenth century. But that is an error. One could hardly call 457 BC or even the nineteenth century the **end of the world!**

The 1335 day Prophecy of Daniel 12 is also future. Daniel was told by the heavenly messenger that he would be raised from his grave at the **end** of this period (Dan.12:13); and we know that the resurrection takes place at the Saviour's return. (1 Thess.4:16-17) The next question is: If these prophecies have not already occurred, then when do they begin? The answer is: No one knows the exact year, but here is a vital clue to consider:

The last-day time prophecies of Daniel 8 and 12 all slot into periods of time between Feast days in the sacred calendar! Begin counting from a sacred Feast in one year and lo! 2300, 1260, 1290 or 1335 literal days later another sacred Feast occurs.

These exact counts of 2300, 1260, 1290 or 1335 etc. are not limited to a single decade or century. They occur over and over again throughout time, keeping step with the sun and the moon; which, as we have already pointed out, were initially created by God to highlight the mighty deeds He planned to perform on His Feasts. At this very moment in time these exact counts move within the sacred calendar like cogs within the wheels of a divine wrist watch; moving that is, towards the **appointed festivals** when the prophecies they are designed to measure begin to occur. A few examples of exact counts which occur between a Feast day in one year and another Feast some 2300, 1260, 1290 or 1335 days later are given at **Appendix C**.

We now have three vital clues concerning the Time Prophecies in Daniel and Revelation. They are:

1. Genesis 1:14 tells us that there will be **signs in the sun, moon and stars** to signal the sacred feasts of the Almighty God.
2. Daniel 8:17,19,26 and Daniel 12:8-9 tells us that these prophecies will begin fulfilment at the **'time of the end'** in the **'last days:'** and will end at the resurrection when Jesus Christ returns to earth.
3. These Time Prophecies slot into periods between a feast day in one year and another feast day 2300, 1260, 1290 or 1335 days later.

Understanding these three clues will ensure that the obedient followers of the Most High, the ones keeping Yahweh's Feasts, will not be caught unawares by events at the crisis at the end of the world which will be signalled by **signs in the sun, moon and stars**. In other words, when a celestial display coincides with a Feast day in the sacred calendar, (as promised in Genesis 1:14) it will be a clear signal to the festival-keeping church that one of those Time Prophecies has begun. That is the point being made here. The reader is advised to study this section again and again to fully grasp its significance.

SABBATICAL & JUBILEE YEARS

In Leviticus chapter 25 we are told that every seventh year is a **Sabbatical year**, a year of rest for the land. We are also told that every fiftieth year is a **Jubilee**.

Lev. 25:1 *And the LORD spake unto Moses in mount Sinai, saying, 2: Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath unto the LORD. 3: Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof; 4: But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the LORD: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard.*

Verse 9: Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubile to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. 10: And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family. 11: A jubile shall that fiftieth year be unto you: ye shall not sow, neither reap that which groweth of itself in it, nor gather the grapes in it of thy vine undressed. 12: For it is the jubile; it shall be holy unto you: ye shall eat the increase thereof out of the field. 13: In the year of this jubile ye shall return every man unto his possession.

A Jubilee is the 50th year; the year after the seventh sabbatical year. A Jubilee is not the 1st year of the next fifty year cycle. The Jubilee is a year in its own right. The next seven year cycle begins on the 51st year. Put differently we may say that there are two Jubilees in every century and 70 Jubilee cycles total 3500 years not 3430 years. Any Jewish rabbi will confirm this fact.

The Jubilee year is heralded the autumn before, on the Day of Atonement, by the blowing of a Yobel (shophar): the ram's horn trumpet. Lev.25:8-13. See passage quoted above. Close study of Leviticus chapter 25 reveals the following:

1. **The Jubilee is a Sabbath Year** for mankind and the land. Israel was to live mainly off the crops produced in the 48th year; crops which would last for the 49th and 50th year, all the way through to the harvest of the 51st year.
2. **The Jubilee is a Year of Liberty!** All prisoners and slaves were to be released.
3. **The Jubilee is a year of Financial Redemption**, when all mortgages and debts were to be cancelled.
4. **The Jubilee is the Acceptable Year of the LORD**, when all forms of isolation would end and happy communion with one's family and the LORD will be restored.

Sad to say, ancient Israel failed to recognise the lessons from Yahweh's Jubilee blueprint. The nation seldom - if ever - kept it as instructed. Nevertheless the Most High is keeping to His appointed plan, and the spiritual realities to which a Jubilee points (*redemption, freedom, reconciliation and miraculous growth*) will be fulfilled when the **appointed time** arrives and the redeemed slaves of sin finally meet their heavenly Father and enter their eternal inheritance. The Jubilee Year will be announced on a soon-coming **Day of Atonement** with a trumpet blast from heaven, as foreshadowed in the blueprint instructions given to Moses.

A JUBILEE SERMON

Can we identify a Jubilee Year? I believe we can, but not with absolute accuracy - yet. This is how we in SBS see it. According to Luke 3:1-21 Jesus was baptised by John in the 15th year of the Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea. Depending on which historian you believe, that was between the years AD 26 and AD 30. For the purpose of this booklet we'll say that the 15th year of the Emperor Tiberius was AD 28.

LUK 3:1 *Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene, 2: Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. 3: And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.*

If you study Luke chapters 3 and 4 you will see that immediately after his baptism Jesus went into the wilderness to be tempted of the Devil (Luke 4:1-13). Then after 40 days he returned to Nazareth and entered the synagogue (verses 14-19). In the synagogue he was given the Scriptures to read and after finding the place he read from Isaiah chapter 61. That chapter tells of the spiritual realities to which a Jubilee points. It tells of how the Messiah would:

- *Preach the Gospel to the poor*
- *Heal the broken hearted*
- *Set free the spiritual captives of Satan*
- *Recover the sight of the spiritually blind*
- *Set at liberty those who are bruised*
- *And proclaim the Acceptable Year of the LORD.*

That sermon was preached in the 15th year of the Emperor **Tiberius**; when the Saviour began his earthly ministry in fulfilment of the prophecy.

A JUBILEE YEAR

Compare those spiritual realities with the directions listed in Leviticus 25 and you will see that the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar was in all probability a **Jubilee year** and the Saviour was, in fact, preaching a **Jubilee sermon!** That is why the Master stopped his normal work and invited his disciples to give up theirs in order to proclaim the **Gospel of Salvation**. He was, in fact, keeping the Jubilee command to rest from his ordinary labours. The year in question was, as recorded in Luke 3:1, the **15th year of Tiberius Caesar**; which, give or take a year or two, was AD 28. If AD 28 was a Jubilee, then the next Jubilee would occur 50 years later in AD 78 and the one after that in AD 128. In other words the 28th and 78th years in every century are Jubilee years. Counting 2 Jubilees to every century would bring us to the start of the 40th Jubilee in the year '**about**' 1978. Again I use the word '**about**' simply because historians differ as to which was the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar.

TIME CYCLES OF 40s

Bible students all know that many events recorded in the Scriptures occurred in cycles of 40: 40 days, 40 nights, 40 years in the wilderness etc. We also know that many, if not all, Old Testament experiences have high-level spiritual parallels.

1 *Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon Cor.10:11 whom the ends of the world are come.*

The word '*ensample*,' in this context, means to '*prefigure a future person or thing.*' In other words, Israel's bygone experiences, as recorded in the Old Testament, were *types, shadows, examples, living blueprints* and *real-life dramas* which prefigured realities scheduled to occur on a world scale in our day! One such reality is that Yahweh's people, like ancient Israel in the wilderness of Sinai, are also circling in the spiritual wilderness of human society; but this time it is for 40 Jubilees! The 40 Jubilee cycles are due to end in about AD 2028. Will time last that long? Will our wilderness wanderings last all of 40 Jubilees - till AD 2028? We think not, because the Master clearly told us that the **time will be cut short**.

Matt.2 4:22 *And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*

This means that the Saviour could return **before** the 40th Jubilee cycle has run out - before AD 2028. How many years before that date we do not know. Indeed no one knows the exact time of the Saviour's return; any more than a midwife knows the exact moment of a child's birth, especially if a premature birth is involved.

Matt.24 :36: *But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*

What we do know is that we are well into the 40th Jubilee since Yeshua preached his Jubilee sermon in the 15th year of Tiberius (AD 28). We also know that the *'time will be cut short.'* Moreover we know that when one or another of those Time Prophecies is about to begin, the Almighty will signal the day, the season or the year with *signs in the sun, moon and stars.*

How does Israel reckon a Jubilee?

The nation of Israel also reckons a Jubilee to be the 50th year; and that there are two Jubilees per century. But Israel considers that Jubilee years occur in the 15th and 65th year of every century. Jubilee years, according to their reckoning, began in the autumn of 1815, 1865, 1915, 1965 etc. Arthur Spier, a world-famous Jewish authority, in his book **The Comprehensive Hebrew Calendar** says this about the Jubilee cycle:

"The 50-year cycle, or the Yobel (Jubilee) years. They were counted according to Maimonides, only as long as the Temple was in existence. Every 15th and 65th year in each century of the World Era are Yobel years, and the intermediary years represent the seven cycles of the Shemittah (release) years. 2815, 2865, 3815, 3865, 4815, 4865 would be examples of the Yobel years." (para C on page 225)

Stewarton Bible School agrees with Israel that Jubilee cycles are 50 years in length and that two Jubilees equal 100 years. But we have reservations about the Jubilee years being the **15th** and **65th** year of each century. Much rather would we go by the Saviour's Jubilee sermon in AD 28 and say that the 28th and 78th year of each century are Jubilee years.

NOTE: Israel is currently (1998) celebrating a **civil Jubilee** to commemorate the 50 year-old State; which was officially proclaimed a State on Friday 14th May 1948. Do not confuse this **civil Jubilee** with the **sacred Jubilee** mentioned in Scripture.

THE SPIRITUAL JUBILEE CROP

All Yahweh's agricultural laws have spiritual applications. In other words, laws concerning animals and crops also concern us humans who are as *'sheep in the Almighty's flock'* and *'plants in His garden.'* Few believers realise that the last day, commandment-keeping church is in fact the *'spiritual Jubilee crop'* to which Leviticus 25 is pointing. A Jubilee crop according to that chapter is:

- verse 11 **Self-producing:** It grows without human assistance.
- verse 12 **Holy:** It is a sacred crop, which may only be eaten *'out of the field.'*
- verse 21 **Miraculously Abundant:** One which will provide a bountiful harvest which would *'bring forth fruit for three years.'*

Yahweh gave the Jubilee *illustration* or *model* to teach mankind a mighty spiritual lesson about His last-day church, the **real Jubilee crop!** If you carefully read Leviticus 25:18-24 you will see how that the spiritual Jubilee crop (the **end-time church**) would, with divine assistance alone, produce spiritual fruit for Yahweh's honour and glory. So I repeat:

Commandment-keeping believers of the last-days are the real Jubilee crop! With Yahweh's help we are about to proclaim the Truth that will bear the everlasting fruit of righteousness for His glory.

Publishing truth-filled literature is an initial step towards learning and reproducing Truth. Very shortly, however, the Holy Spirit, unaided by popular material or mechanical resources such as money, printing/copying equipment, TV, radio, the Internet etc., will multiply the spiritual harvest the Jubilee crop represents. The final work of proclaiming the **Everlasting Gospel** to earth's billions will be done in the last days by **preachers** who will themselves comprise the Jubilee crop! Like the agricultural Sabbatical and Jubilee crops of Leviticus 25 we will fulfil Yahweh's plan and finish His work on time - **aided by His Spirit alone!** Without the help of money, television, radio, video/cassette tapes, the printing press or the Internet, the Everlasting Gospel will be *'preached'* to all the world just as it was in the days of the Apostles. That will be the real Jubilee Crop. We will literally *'preach'* the Everlasting Gospel like it has never been preached in earth's entire history; and the work will be finished - on time!

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. (Matthew 24:14)

THE NATION OF ISRAEL

The tiny nation of Israel is of mighty significance in this troubled world. With a population of about six million, Israel has become the focus of attention to all peoples. Geographically and economically, Israel sits at the control centre of the world. Its capital, Jerusalem, has been revered by Jews, Christians and Muslims for millennia; and Israel's God has been worshipped by billions of believers of all nations since time began.

Why is this tiny nation so important? And how is it that Israel exerts so great an influence on mankind? The answer is: **Because the Almighty God is with Israel!** Without Him, Israel would be as unimportant as the weakest nation on earth - as nothing! Yes, the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is with Israel. In the Bible He refers to Himself as the **God of Israel** or the **holy One of Israel** over 230 times! The pages of His **diary** are filled with appointments with Israel. Over the centuries the Most High has shared His plans with Israel. Through Israel came His law, His prophets and finally Yeshua His only begotten Son - the Messiah! Yes, **Yahweh is with Israel!** To be sure other nations and individuals count; but only as they affect Israel and relate to Israel's Saviour - the Son of God! The Bible is, in fact, the record of Israel's history and Israel's future. Let us further consider why this nation is so important.

ISRAEL, YAHWEH'S CHOSEN PEOPLE

No matter what the majority of mankind think, no matter what the Christian church may believe or preach, the fact is the nation of **Israel is the chosen people of God!** Not chosen because she is intrinsically better than other nations; but because of

Yahweh's great love for Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and because He is keeping to an oath made to Abraham many centuries ago. This fact is plainly taught in the Bible:

Deut.7: *For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. 7: **The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:** 8: **But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers,** hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

Deut.10 :15: *Only the LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, even you **above all people**, as it is this day.*

Deut.14 :2 ***for thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.***

Isa.41: 8 *But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob **whom I have chosen**, the seed of Abraham my friend. 9: Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; **I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away***

Anti-Semitism

The people of Israel and the city of Jerusalem have been the focus of attention for centuries. Anti-Semitism began centuries before the days of Hitler's Germany and may be traced as far back as the 3rd millennium BC. Sad to say the Christian church is as guilty of Anti-Semitism as any other religious body. Consider these views as recorded by prominent writers:

- *"In the rivalry between religions, no other religion in the world makes the accusation that Christianity makes against the Jews, that they are literally murderers of God... to be a murderer of God means to be the opponent of anything decent, anything humane, anything moral, anything ethical." (Richard Rubenstein, Professor of Religion, Florida University)*

- *"A theology was developed claiming that Christians were the true Israel, God's chosen people. God had cast aside the Jews. He had sent them His only son and they had rejected him. God's chosen people had betrayed Him and had become the false Israel, the Devil's Israel. The Christians were now God's chosen people. The Jews had forfeited everything, including their own past, Abraham, Moses and all." (The Longest Hatred, A study guide to Thames Television Series on Anti-Semitism, page 5)*

- *"Their (the Jews') synagogues are pigsties, they ought to be burned... they live by evil and plunder, they are wicked beasts that ought to be driven out like mad dogs... May (we) all be free of this insufferable devilish burden - the Jews." (From a pamphlet by Martin Luther on The Jews and their lies, published in 1543)*

- *Ezra 4: 12: Be it known unto the king, that the Jews which came up from thee to us are come unto Jerusalem, building the rebellious and the bad city, and have set up the walls thereof, and joined the foundations. 13: Be it known now unto the king, that, if this city be builded, and the walls set up again, then will they not pay toll, tribute, and custom, and so thou shalt endamage the revenue of the kings.*

- *Esther 3: 8: And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; **and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws:** therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them. 9: If it please the king, let it be written **that they may be destroyed:** and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries. 10: And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy. 11: And the king said unto Haman, The silver is given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee.*

Yes, anti-Semitism has been around for thousands of years and every nation and religion - **including Christianity** - is guilty. Today the eyes of the world are again on the people of Israel; simply because an all-out war in the Middle East would drag the whole world into war; not to mention its catastrophic effect on the economies of all nations. The Jews, bear in mind, are major players in world economic affairs and control more of the world's money than most people remotely imagine. Surrounded as she is by her enemies, Israel is a nation living under constant threat. Never a week passes but Israel is in the news. Why is this? What makes Israel so important? How has this tiny nation become the centre of attention to the whole world? What hypnotic power does Israel possess with God and man? The answers are many and amazing to say the least. Let us consider a few.

ISRAEL'S REBELLION

Israel was the name given to Abraham's grandson Jacob when he successfully wrestled all night with God at a place called Peniel, which means **'I have seen God face to face.'**

Gen.3 2:27 *And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. 28: And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but **Israel**: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.*

The Most High chose the descendants of this man Israel (Jacob), gave them His law and placed them in the Promised Land with the intention of using Israel as a channel of instruction and blessing to all nations. Through Israel came the law, the prophets and eventually the Son of the Most High (**Yeshua the Messiah**, Jesus the Christ)

Rom .3:1 *What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? 2: **Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.** 3: For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?*

Alas! Israel, in the main, failed to live up to Yahweh's hopes. Israel rejected the Almighty's law and grievously sinned. Israel rejected the oracles of God, broke the everlasting covenant, murdered most of Yahweh's prophets and crowned her rebellion by crucifying His Son Yeshua. The story of Israel's rebellion against their God goes back a long way, long before New Testament times.

2 Kings 17:9 *And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the LORD their God ... verses 13: Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets. 14: **Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God.** 15: **And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them.** 16: **And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.***

Jer.6:16 *Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, **We will not walk therein.** 17: Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Harken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, **We will not hearken.** 18: Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. 19: Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.*

Matt.27: 22 *Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. 23: And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.*

The reader must not forget, however, **that ancient Israel's rebellion against Yahweh's law has been duplicated by the Christian church.** Modern Christians, in other words, are no better than the people of ancient Israel. They too are rejecting Yahweh's law and polluting His Sabbaths just as Israel did. All nations are guilty of lawlessness, of sin. All have come short of the glory of God. So do not secretly look down on the Jew as though he were a spiritually inferior person, because we Christians are no better than the Jews.

Rom. 3:10 *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12: They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; **there is none that doeth good, no, not one.***

THE SCATTERING OF ISRAEL

How then did the Almighty respond to ancient Israel's rebellion and rejection of His law and of His Son? The Almighty carried out the punishments given through His prophet Moses. One of those punishments was **banishment from the Promised Land.** This happened: Yahweh scattered Israel, scattered His chosen people to the four corners of the earth. The warning to scatter Israel, if she persisted in disobedience, was made centuries before the event took place. Texts about the scattering of Israel are legion. I quote a few:

Deut.4: 25 *When thou shalt beget children, and children's children, and ye shall have remained long in the land, and shall corrupt yourselves, and make a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, and shall do evil in the sight of the LORD thy God, to provoke him to anger: 26: I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon **utterly perish from off the land** whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong your days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed. 27: **And the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the LORD shall lead you.***

Deut.2 8:64 ***And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.** 65: And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind:*

Eze.20: 23 *I lifted up mine hand unto them also in the wilderness, that **I would scatter them among the heathen, and disperse them through the countries;** 24: Because they had not executed my judgments, but had despised my*

statutes, and had polluted my sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers' idols. For further study see: Lev.26:33, Psa.44:11, Jer.9:16, Jer.49:32-36, Eze.12: 14-15, 22:15-16, Neh.1:8.

ISRAEL NOT ABANDONED

Even though ancient Israel sinned grievously and was scattered to the four corners of the earth, the Almighty did not abandon His people. To be sure He punished Israel over and over again with **war, famine, and pestilence:** but the Holy ONE of Israel has not abandoned His people. Israel is still the chosen race! ***The LORD God is still with Israel!*** Pause awhile and consider these little-known divine promises.

Eze.1 1:16 *Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come. 17: Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.*

Jer.31: 35 *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: 36: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. 37: 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.*

The Apostle Paul continues this thought in the New Testament when he cautions Gentile believers not to imagine that God has abandoned or cast away Israel; because He hasn't.

Rom. 11:1 *I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. 2: God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,*

In other words, **the people of Israel are still the chosen race and will continue to be as long as the immeasurable universe exists!** Pause a while, dear reader, and dwell on that stunning fact! That is what the LORD God of Israel is saying in His Word.

THE RE-GATHERING OF ISRAEL

Even while the Most High was predicting the Diaspora (the scattering of Israel) He was also forecasting Israel's re-gathering. Over and over again He said that He would re-gather His scattered people; and bring them back from the four corners of the earth to the land He had promised to give them. That is why that land is called **The Promised Land!** The re-gathering of Israel is predicted over and over again in the Scriptures. Once more I quote and list a few of the many texts as proof:

Deut.3 0:1 *And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee, 2: And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul; 3: That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee. 4: If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee: 5: And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers.*

Eze.1 1:17 *Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel. (Also read: Jer.29:14, Jer.31:10, 32:34-41, Neh.1:9, Psa.107:3, Isa.43:5, Eze.34:12-31. 37:21, Mic.2:12)*

Is a re-gathering of Israel taking place? To be sure it is. Consider the statistics of Jews returning to Israel since the nation was reborn on 14/5/48.

1948 ... 657,000
1950 ... 1,203,000
1958 ... 1,810,000
1962 ... 2,069,000

Currently thousands of Jews, especially from the former Soviet Union, return to Israel every year and the population is heading towards **6,000,000** mark.

Isaiah 11:11 *And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. 12: And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.*

Isaiah 43:5 *Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; 6: I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;*

7 Eze.39:2 *When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; 28: **Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which cause them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there.***

Yes, Bible prophecies concerning Israel's return to the **Promised Land** are being fulfilled before our very eyes. The descendants of Jacob are returning in their millions to the land of their fathers; and the Christian church, in the main, stands bewildered at events it doesn't understand, simply because it believes that Israel was abandoned by God and replaced by a Gentile church. Oh what a tragic misconception that is!

ISRAEL REFINED AS SILVER

What does Yahweh plan to do **after** re-gathering Israel? What does His Holy Word the Bible tell us? It tells us that the **Most High is going to refine Israel as a silversmith refines silver**; with the sole intention of producing an obedient and holy nation, a nation that will reflect His perfect character. He is going to do this for His great Name's sake, which Israel has profaned among the nations by its sinful practices. Yahweh is about to act, not because the Jews are better in any way than Gentiles, because they are not, but **to clear His slandered Name and reputation throughout this rebellious planet.**

EZE 22:15 *And I will scatter thee among the heathen, and disperse thee in the countries, and will consume thy filthiness out of thee. 16: And thou shalt take thine inheritance in thyself in the sight of the heathen, and thou shalt know that I am the LORD. 17: And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 18: Son of man, the house of Israel is to me become **dross**: all they are brass, and tin, and iron, and lead, in the midst of the furnace; they are even the **dross of silver**. 19: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye are all become dross, behold, therefore I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem. 20: As they gather silver, and brass, and iron, and lead, and tin, into the midst of the furnace, to blow the fire upon it, to melt it; **so will I gather you in mine anger and in my fury, and I will leave you there, and melt you.** 21: Yea, I will gather you, and blow upon you in the fire of my wrath, and ye shall be melted in the midst thereof. 22: As silver is melted in the midst of the furnace, so shall ye be melted in the midst thereof; and ye shall know that I the LORD have poured out my fury upon you.*

EZE 36:21 *But I had pity for mine holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the heathen, whither they went. 22: Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but **for mine holy name's sake**, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went. 23: And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. 24: For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. 25: **Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.** 26: **A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.** 27: **And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.** 28: **And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.***

That refining work has already begun! Israel is being purified.

ISRAEL'S FUTURE

According to Bible prophecy Yahweh is going to gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle. The city is going to be captured and be under Gentile domination for a period of 42 months, 1260 days or 3.5 years. Texts concerning this last-day confrontation are numerous. Zech.12:3, Hos.10:10, Micah 4:11, Joel 3:1-14, Zech.14:1-2 and Rev.11. These predictions, though partially realised in days gone by, will all find fulfilment in the near future.

Points to note are:

1. **Israel is unwelcome in the Middle East.**
2. **Israel will lose most of her friends** as she clings to territory promised her by the Creator centuries ago. The world does not recognise the promises Yahweh made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, so is unimpressed with Israel's claim to the Promised Land. The world dismisses such claims as ridiculous. But mankind is about to learn two stunning truths:
 - o That the nation of Israel is still Yahweh's people. (Jer.31:35-37)
 - o And that the Almighty is still in charge of human affairs. (Daniel 4:32 & 5:21)
3. **Muslim hatred will increase towards Israel.** Israel's allies will desert her one by one; simply because religious and economic pressures will become too much for them. Israel will be shunned by hitherto friendly nations. She will even be looked upon as the cause of Middle Eastern turmoil; and her stubborn claim to territory and mishandling of Arabs will be abhorred. Soon world opinion will be galvanised against Israel. Anti-Semitism will sweep the globe and Jews will again be massacred in many lands. To be sure many noble efforts for peace will be put forth; but they will not produce peace. Peace in the Middle East will only come when **Yeshua the Prince of Peace** arrives. Till that time expect growing hatred, turmoil, violence and war.

4. **All nations will unite in an attack on Jerusalem and the city will be taken.** For 42 months (3.5 years) Jerusalem, where our LORD was crucified, will be under the **'heel of the Gentiles.'**

○ Zech.14:1: *Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. 2: For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken. Rev.11:2 ... and the holy city shall they (the Gentiles) tread under foot forty and two months.*

5. **After Jerusalem's 42 month subjugation the Messiah (Jesus Christ) will return to earth and deliver the city.** He will descend upon the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and liberate the city.

○ Zech.14:3-9 3: *Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. 4: And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south... and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. 6: And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: 7: But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light. 8: And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. 9: **And the LORD shall be king over all the earth:** in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.*

When these final events occur, Israel will have reached a degree of purity and faithfulness never known before. **The decimated nation will be as 'pure silver.'**

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH & ISRAEL

Over the years the Christian church has made many serious mistakes; one of which was to suppose that because Israel, in the main, rejected the Son of God, Yahweh abandoned His chosen people and transferred His favours and work to the Gentile church. As mentioned previously, this is a colossal error; because the Most High promised never to abandon His chosen people Israel. All that happened when the leaders of Israel rejected Jesus Christ was that the Holy Spirit directed certain Apostles to take the Gospel to the Gentiles, who had previously been mostly excluded from Yahweh's Truth. When Paul and Barnabas answered that call, the **'Time of the Gentiles'** began and a **partial spiritual blindness** settled on Israel. But Israel was not abandoned. She was simply **blinded** to the Gospel which she had stubbornly refused to accept. That spiritual blindness is being removed at this very moment as thousands of Israelis around the world accept Yeshua and the Gospel of Salvation their forefathers rejected many centuries ago.

ABRAHAM'S SEED

Another fact that comparatively few Christians realise is that every believer in Jesus Christ is considered by the Almighty to be a **'child of Abraham.'** In other words Gentiles who believe in Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) are spiritual **Israelites - Jews!** Here is proof of this little-known fact:

Rom. 2:28 *For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*

Gal.3: 26 *For ye **are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.** 27: For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28: There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29: **And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.***

In the book of Romans Paul further figuratively explains how Yahweh **prunes away** unbelieving Israelites from the **Olive of Israel** and in their place grafts in believing Gentiles. In other words, believing Gentiles become **spiritual Israelites** and thereafter partake of the goodness of the **Olive of Israel.** Jews are not grafted into the Gentile church. It is the other way around; believing Gentiles are grafted onto the Olive of Israel; we become joint-heirs of the Kingdom of God with the Jews! Believing Gentiles, therefore, should not insult Israelis by assuming that Yahweh has abandoned them in favour of the Christian church. Because that is certainly not the case. To fix this little-known fact in your mind, let me again quote the Apostle Paul:

ROM 11:16 *For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. 17: And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; 18: Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. 19: Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. 20: Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. **Be not highminded, but fear: 21: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee...** 25: For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be **come in.** 26: And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:*

EPH 3:6 *That the Gentiles should be **fellowheirs,** and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:*

In view of these amazing facts, everyone, especially Christians, should treat the people of Israel - and their fellow Christians for that matter - with respect. To be sure, some Jews as in the days of old, are the '*children of the Devil*' (John 8:44); but the whole nation must not be condemned because of the few. The Jew is the '*Apple of God's eye*' and all who oppose them will find themselves fighting God! (Zech.2:7-8) How true were the words of the mercenary prophet Balaam, who, in spite of himself, pronounced this eternal truth as he lifted up his eyes and beheld the people of Israel:

... *Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee.* (Numbers 24:9)

CHRISTIAN BLINDNESS

It is also a dangerous thing for Gentile Christians to smugly gloat over Israel's **blindness** in rejecting Jesus and his Gospel. Gentile boasting is out of order, because the church, though paying lip service to Jesus Christ, has rejected the very commandments the Saviour came to magnify. The Bible tells us that Jesus came to save mankind from sin, that is from disobedience.

Matt.1: *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS:*
21 *for he shall save his people from their sins.*

Rom.8: *... God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: **That the***
3-4 *righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

In other words, the purpose for which Jesus came to earth was to *save believers from sin*, that is, from breaking God's law, from disobedience. His final objective is '*that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us.*' But what do we find in the Christian church? We find that millions, like ancient Israel, have abandoned the law of God and are sinning with impunity. Indeed the average person would be hard pressed to tell you even five of the **Ten Commandments**, let alone all ten. Why this almost incredible ignorance of so important a law? The answer is, because the Ten Commandments are not being taught in most churches and schools. The law of God is considered, by many, to be impossible to keep and is now obsolete. Some even go so far as to say that it is barbaric! As for the Sabbath commandment, it has become an embarrassment to most Christian ministers and priests. Few will ever preach about Sabbath-keeping. But the fact remains, that without the Ten Commandments it is impossible to define sin, let alone cope with sin's horrifying consequences.

The Bible says:

Rom.3
:20 *...for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

Rom.7 *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, **I had not known sin, but by the law:** for I had not*
:7 *known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.*

1 John
3:4 *Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: **for sin is the transgression of the law.***

In other words, God's law tells us what actions are right and acceptable and what actions are wrong and unacceptable - to Him. If the Ten Commandments are not taught in the schools and churches, then men, women and children will have absolutely no idea how to behave. Nor will they feel guilty when they sin. They will do as they please and the rule of the jungle will take over. Is it any wonder that there is so much evil in the world, so much violence and vice, so much sexual immorality and sin? It is because the **knowledge of righteousness, which God's law alone imparts, is fading from the earth.** Comparatively few people know anything about the Almighty's standard of morals. His commandments are not being taught any more; so evil is taking over. As for the weekly and annual Sabbaths of the LORD, they are despised and rejected. In their place we find an array of human traditions and pagan celebrations - all abhorrent to the Most High. Consider these staggering quotations about pagan holidays in the Christian calendar.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas is not a Bible festival. It is an ancient pagan festival masquerading as the birthday of the Son of God.

- "*Indeed it is admitted by the most learned and candid of writers of all parties that the day of our LORD's birth cannot be determined and that within the Christian church no festival as Christmas was ever heard of till the third century, and that not till the third century was far advanced did it gain much observance. How then did the Romanish church fix on December 25th as Christmas day? Why thus: Long before the fourth century and long before the Christian era itself, a festival was celebrated among the heathen at the precise time of the year, in honour of the birth of the Son of the Babylonian **Queen of Heaven:** and it may fairly be assumed that in order to conciliate the heathen and to swell the nominal adherents of Christianity, the same festival was adopted by the Roman Church giving it only the name Christ. This tendency on the part of the Christians to meet paganism half-way was very early adopted ... Upright men strove to stem the tide, but in spite of all their efforts the apostasy went on, till the church, with the exception of a small remnant, was submerged under pagan superstition. That Christmas was originally a pagan festival is beyond all doubt. The time of the year, and the ceremonies with which it is still celebrated proves its origin. In Egypt the Son of Isis, the Egyptian title for the Queen of Heaven, was born at this very time, about the time of the winter solstice."* (**The Two Babylons** by Alexander Hislop , page 93)

- "*Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the church... the first evidence of the feast is from Egypt.*" (Catholic Encyclopaedia 1911 edition)

- *"It is nevertheless almost certain that the 25th of December cannot be the nativity of the Saviour, for it is then the height of the rainy season in Judaea, and shepherds could hardly be watching their flocks by night in the plains. Not casually or arbitrarily was the festival of the Nativity celebrated on the 25th December. One of the principal causes that co-operated in fixing this period was that almost all the heathen nations regarded the winter solstice as the turning point of the year - the beginning of the powers of nature and of the gods who were originally merely symbolical personifications of these."* (**Chambers Encyclopaedia** 1908 edition article **Christmas**)

- *"There can be no doubt, then, that the Pagan festival at the winter solstice - in other words, Christmas - was held in honour of the birth of the Babylonian Messiah."* (**The Two Babylons** page 102)

EASTER

What about Easter? How did this pagan, fertility festival enter the Christian calendar? Most certainly there is no mention of Easter eggs in the Scriptures; no mention of bunny rabbits. Where did they come from? Is it wrong to celebrate Easter? The facts will surprise you; but here are a few quotations about Easter from Alexander Hislop's famous book **The Two Babylons**, published by S W Partridge & Co., 4 Soho Sq., London. (ISBN 0 7136 0470 0).

- *"Then look at Easter. What means the term Easter itself? It is not a Christian name. It bears its Chaldean origin on its forehead. **Easter** is nothing else than **Astarte**, one of the titles of Beltis, the **queen of heaven**, whose name, as pronounced by the people of Nineveh, was evidently identical with that now in common use in this country. That name, as found by Layard on the Assyrian monuments, is **Ishtar**. The worship of Bel and Astarte was very early introduced into Britain, along with the Druids, **'the priests of the groves.'**" (page 103)*

- *"To conciliate the Pagans to nominal Christianity, Rome, pursuing its usual policy, took measures to get the Christian and Pagan festivals amalgamated, and, by a complicated but skilful adjustment of the calendar, it was found no difficult matter, in general to get Paganism and Christianity, now far sunk in idolatry - in this as in so many other things, to shake hands."* (page 105)

- *"The hot cross buns of Good Friday and the dyed eggs of Easter Sunday, figured in the Chaldean rites just as they do now. The **'buns'** known too by the identical name, were used in the worship of the queen of heaven, the goddess Easter, as early as the days of Cecrops, the founder of Athens- that is, 1500 years before the Christian era... The prophet Jeremiah takes notice of this kind of offering when he says: 'The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women make cakes to the **queen of heaven'** - **Astarte!**" ((Jer.7:18) page 108))*

- *"In ancient times **eggs** were used in the religious rites of the Egyptians and the Greeks, and were hung up for mystic purposes in their temples. From Egypt these sacred eggs can be distinctly traced to the banks of the Euphrates. The classic poets are full of the fable of the **mystic egg** of the Babylonians; and thus it is told by Hyginus, the Egyptian, the learned keeper of the Palatine library at Rome, in the time of Augustus, who was skilled in all the wisdom of his native country: 'An egg of wondrous size is said to have fallen from heaven into the river Euphrates. The fishes rolled it to the bank, where the doves having settled upon it, and hatched it, out came **Venus**, who afterwards was called the Syrian Goddess" - that is **Astarte**. **Hence the egg became one of the symbols of Astarte or Easter.**" (page 108)*

- *"The guilt of idolatry is regarded by many as comparatively slight and insignificant guilt. But not so does the God of heaven regard it. Which is the commandment of all the ten that is fenced about with the most solemn and awful sanctions? It is the second: 'Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in the heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.' These words were spoken by God's own lips, they were written by God's own finger on the tables of stone: not for the instruction of the seed of Abraham only, but of all the tribes and generations of mankind. No other commandment has such a threatening attached to it as this. Now, if God has threatened to visit the sin of idolatry above all other sins, and if we find the heavy judgements of God pressing upon us as a nation, while this very sin is crying to heaven against us, ought it not to be a matter of earnest inquiry, if among all our other national sins, which are both many and great, this may not form the very head and front of our offending." (p 127)*

Similar quotations can be found in Hislop's 330 page book about other pagan traditions which over the centuries have crept into the Christian calendar, false teachings such as:

- **The Nativity of St John** (Held immediately after the summer solstice)
- **The Feast of the Assumption** (A nineteenth century human tradition)
- **Idol processions / Relic worship: the clothing and crowning of images** etc.

Not one of these practices is endorsed in the holy Scriptures. They are pagan through and through. They were adopted centuries ago by a spiritually blind ecclesiastical hierarchy which had absolutely no idea of the sinfulness of its actions. Celebrating these pagan festivals is nothing but **baptised idolatry**; and as such is abhorrent to the Almighty and His Son.

THE TRADITIONS OF MEN

To be sure, there is nothing wrong with a human tradition - **if it does not clash with a command of the Almighty God**. But if a tradition conflicts with a divine commandment, as most of the popular Christian festivals do, then once they are recognised for what they are, their continued acceptance will neutralise one's worship, making it vain, pointless and futile. Their continued use can even jeopardise one's salvation. This frightening fact is clearly taught by the Master himself:

Mark 7:6 *He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. 7: Howbeit in vain do they worship me, **teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.***

Matt. 15:8 *This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. 9: **But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.***

The Christian church is guilty of placing the traditions of men above the commandments of God. The celebrating of Christmas, Easter, Ash-Wednesday, the Nativity of St John, the Feast of the Assumption, Hallowe'en and Sunday etc. are all human traditions. Not one of these festivals was authorised by the LORD God. They are all spiritual weeds in the Garden of Salvation. Celebrating them in preference to Yahweh's Sabbaths is no more than self-deluding idolatry. These facts may stun or even anger some who read them. But they must be told. Because replacing a divine commandment with a human tradition is a very serious sin. At the coming Judgement would you forgive me for not telling you the Truth?

*Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? But he answered and said, **Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.*** (Matt.15:12-14)

THE ALMIGHTY'S SEAL

At its basic level a seal is a legal device used to stamp a name, coat of arms or logo on some impressionable material like wax, clay or paper. **On the spiritual level Yahweh seals the impressionable minds of His people with His Law, His Name and His Character.** In the covenant made at Sinai the Almighty wrote His law on tablets of stone. But the majority in Israel were unwilling to obey it. In fact they despised the holy commandments and broke them with impunity. In the new covenant, which is also made with the people of Israel, the Almighty plans to write His law in His true followers' **minds and hearts.** It will become part of our nature. Obedience will then be as instinctive as breathing.

THE SEALING WORK

The sealing work is detailed in Revelation chapter 7. It will not take place till the events of Rev. 6:12-17 (the 6th Seal) have occurred. Only then will the 144,000 Israelites be sealed. Who are these people? Where are they sealed? Who seals them? With what are they sealed?

The answer is:

The 144,000 are true Israelites who are sealed, in their foreheads (minds) by the Holy Spirit, with God's Law. In some mysterious way the Holy Spirit is going to impress Yahweh's law on every true believer's mind; overwrite with perfect obedience our natural tendency to sin. We will then instinctively obey the divine commandments and will obey them to perfection. By doing so we will reflect Yahweh's name, His character and His holiness in our every thought, word and deed. We will be perfectly holy people - through and through! That's what knowing the Almighty's Name means. And how do we know that we are to be **sealed with obedience?**

The answer is: the Bible tells us:

Isa.8:1 ***Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.***

Heb.8:7 *For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. 8: For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a **new covenant with the house of Israel** and with the house of Judah: 9: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. 10: For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; **I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts:** and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: 11: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, : for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.*

Heb.10:15 *Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, 16:**This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;** 17: **And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.***

THE ALMIGHTY'S SIGN (SIGNATURE)

At its basic level a signature is a **sign or inscription of a person's name.** If you were asked to **sign** a cheque or document, you would inscribe your name on it. Your sign is your signature, your name. On the spiritual level the God of Israel refers to His Sabbath days as His Sign or signature; and like His law He inscribes His signature on the obedient believer's mind.

Exo.31:12 *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 13: Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, **Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you...** 16: Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. 17: **It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever:***

Eze.20 *Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them. 20: And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God.*

Yahweh's Sabbaths (note the word Sabbaths is in the plural, meaning the weekly and annual Sabbaths) constitute His signature. They are the **SIGN** of the everlasting covenant. Throughout eternity they will be remembered (kept in mind) and celebrated as the memorials of salvation; the days on which Yahweh accomplished His mightiest deeds in the redemption of mankind. Yahweh's Sabbath days will be kept throughout eternity because they are the sacred seeds of His planting, eternal memorials of His mightiest deeds in the Plan of Salvation. Unlike pagan traditions, they will never be uprooted or forgotten.

THE ANTICHRIST & HIS MARK

Bible prophecy tells us that in the last days, just before the return of Jesus Christ, the Antichrist will come. He will pose as Christ himself. He will do **mighty miracles** and deceive millions into accepting the claim that he is the real Jesus Christ, God in human flesh! The Antichrist is known by various names and descriptions. They are:

- **The Wicked One**
- **The Man of Sin**
- **The Son of Perdition**
- **The BEAST**
- **The Little Horn**
- **The Mystery of Lawlessness etc.**

The Bible gives us many clues concerning the identity of the Antichrist. Six clues are briefly considered below:

CLUE No.1 ... The Antichrist is the 'Lawless One'

2 *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and*
Thess.2:3 *that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

He is called the **man of sin** (another word for lawlessness) because he vainly thinks that he can change the law of the Almighty God. According to the prophet Daniel the particular commandments the Antichrist vainly imagines he can change are the ones which deal with the **element of time**. In other words the Sabbath commandments; for they alone deal with the **element of time**.

Daniel *And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and*
7:25 *think to change times and laws:*

The Aramaic word **sh@na'** {shen-aw'} means to *change, transform, frustrate*. And the Aramaic word **z@man** {zem-awn'} means a **set time** or **season**. In other words the Antichrist would attempt to *change, transform and frustrate the Almighty's set or appointed times in God's law*. And that is exactly what the Lawless One has tried to do by introducing all these pagan festivals.

CLUE No.2: ... The Antichrist lived before the year AD 96. When the prophecy of the Revelation was being given (about AD 96) the Antichrist, the Beast was, to all intents and purposes - **dead!**

Rev. *The beast that thou sawest was, and is*
17:8 *not...*

CLUE No.3: The Antichrist will rise to life from out of the Bottomless Pit.

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

Rev. *The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition...*
17:8

What is the Bottomless Pit? Where is the Bottomless Pit?

According to Strong's Bible Dictionary the Greek word **abussos** {ab'-us-sos} translated 'Bottomless Pit' is the *bottomless, unbounded abyss: a pit of immeasurable depth: a very deep gulf or chasm in the lowest parts of the earth used as the common receptacle of the dead and especially as the abode of demons*

In the Gospel of Luke we read how evil angels in times past begged Jesus not to order them to the '*deep*,' the **abussos**, the Bottomless Pit, the Abyss, the angel penitentiary where the Beast is being held captive.

Luke *And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.*
8:31

2 Peter *For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of*
2:4 *darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.*

Jude 6 *And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.*

In other words, many evil angels are currently being held captive in the Abyss (the Bottomless Pit, a place in the lowest parts of the earth) where they await their **Day of Judgement**. Free-roaming demons are terrified of being sent there. This clue tells us that the Antichrist comes from that place - the **Abyss!**

CLUE NO.4 ... When the Antichrist rises from the Abyss he will reveal himself to mankind and claim to be God!

8 Rev.17: *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.***

2 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and
Thess.2:3 **that man of sin be revealed**, the son of perdition; 4: Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he **as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.**

CLUE No.5: .. The Antichrist will reign for three and a half years (42 months). After being released from the Abyss the Antichrist will begin a world-wide reign of terror which is scheduled to last **three and a half years** or **42 months**. During this period virtually every person on earth will worship the Antichrist as God!

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

- **Time** = 1 year.
- **Times** = 2 years.
- **Dividing of Times** = half a year.

This makes a total of three and a half years or **42 months**.

13:5 Rev. *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.** 6: And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. 7: And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. 8: And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

CLUE No.6: Antichrist will attack the armies of heaven and challenge Jesus Christ at his coming. According to the prophecy of Daniel 8 the Little Horn will attack the army of heaven, enter the **heavenly Temple** and cast many of God's holy angels to the earth. He will even dare to challenge Jesus Christ, the Prince of the heavenly host and will marshal the armies of earth to fight the Saviour at his second coming.

10 Dan.8: *And it waxed great, even to the **host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them.** 11: Yea, he magnified himself even to the **prince of the host**, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down.*

9:19 Rev.1 *And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. 20: And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, 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.*

POPULAR OPINIONS ABOUT ANTICHRIST

Incredible as it may seem, not one of the popular opinions about the Antichrist which are circulating Christendom today fits these six scriptural clues. Let us now list some of the popular opinions concerning the Antichrist:

- United Nations Organisation (UN)
- European Economic Community (EEC)
- Fascism
- International Communism
- The Papacy
- Apostate Protestantism
- Islamic Fundamentalism
- China
- The New World Order
- Satan the Devil etc.

If you compare each of these entities with those **six clues** you'll soon see that not one of them can possibly be the Antichrist. Most do not fit even two clues, let alone all six. To find out the answers, see: [Who/What is the Antichrist?](#) [What is his Mark?](#)

THE MILLENNIAL REIGN

The Oxford Dictionary defines the word '**millennium**' as the *1000 year reign of Jesus Christ on earth... a period of great happiness and prosperity for everyone.*

No one will doubt, but that the world desperately needs peace, happiness and prosperity. For six thousand years man has tried to govern himself and has miserably failed. Every style of government has been tried, not to mention the countless human laws that have been formulated in the process. All have proved incapable of bringing peace, prosperity and happiness to the human race. Look about you and take note of the misery in the world. Man's problems are totally out of control. We are all well able to recognise the world's problems, but no leader, group of leaders or government is able to cure them. Anarchy now faces many nations. Scores of political systems and thousands of laws have come and gone. All are impotent. All have miserably failed. But this will all change when the millennium starts. For the first time in human history the world will see a successful world government.

Bible prophecy tells us that the Messiah's millennial reign is near. It is about to begin. We have seen Israel regathered to the Promised Land. We now see world hostility against Israel rising by the week. Zechariah tells us in chapter 14 of his book that all nations will gather against Jerusalem to battle and the city will be captured. The Gentiles will then brutally dominate Jerusalem for three and a half years. We are nearing that time. Zechariah's prophecy goes on to say that Israel's Messiah, the Son of God, will then come and liberate Jerusalem from Gentile rule. He will then begin his world-wide reign from that city. Jerusalem's liberation will mark the start of the millennium - the Messiah's 1000 year **Reign of Peace**.

The first fact we need to know about the millennium is that it is a '**reign**.' A reign involves a King, territory, peoples, laws, judges, administrators and officials of all kinds. Think for a moment of the sophisticated machinery of government in the tiny United Kingdom of about 55 million people. Then try to imagine what a 1000 year world government involving billions of people will be like. That will need some organisation! The prophet Daniel tells us (Daniel 2:44) that when the Messiah comes, every earthly government will be swept away; because all have proved themselves totally inadequate. Like the metal and clay empires in Nebuchadnezzar's dream they will all be swept away like **worthless chaff from a summer threshing floor!**

Dan.2: 35 *Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.*

Rev.1 1:15 *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*

Who will Reign with Christ?

The Bible tells us that the martyrs who died for Jesus Christ and Yahweh's law during the rule of the Antichrist will rise from their graves to reign with Christ for a thousand years. Along with prominent saints of ages past, these martyrs will form the new world government of the **King of Kings**. His government will not be elected by the people, but by God Himself. The Greek model of **democracy** will then be a thing of the past.

Rev. 20:4 *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and **they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years...** 6: Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

Where will the millennium be spent?

The Bible teaches that the millennium will be spent on earth.

Rev. 5:10 *And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and **we shall reign on the earth.***

Many Bible prophecies tell of the Messiah's reign over all nations. Read these Psalms to get the picture. Psalm 2, Psalm 47, Psalm 93, Psalm 95, Psalm 96, Psalm 97, Psalm 98, Psalm 99, Psalm 110, Psalm 126.

MESSIAH'S POWER OVER THE NATIONS

When he returns to earth the Saviour will exercise absolute authority over all nations. He will administer the very law he gave through Moses many years ago; the law the nations of the world have rejected for generations. His absolute authority and power is figuratively described as a '**rod of iron**.' No enemy will dare defy the Son of God and his government at that time; and it will not be long before the peoples of the world realise that he is indeed the **Prince of Peace!** These facts are clearly taught in the following Scriptures:

Rev.2: 26 *And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.*

Rev.1 2:5 *And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations **with a rod of iron...***

Rev.1 9:15 *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: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16: And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.***

Yeshua the Messiah's rule over all nations is prophesied in scores of Bible passages. Indeed that is what the Disciples and most of Israel expected when Jesus came to earth the first time. They expected him to overthrow their Roman rulers and establish the Kingdom in their life time. Little did they realise that his first task was to pay the price of sin by dying on the stake. But those kingdom-prophecies have still to be fulfilled; and they will be at the soon-coming millennium.

INDIVIDUAL AUTHORITY

In the millennium certain believers will be promoted to positions of high rank. Those who have made good use of their time and talents during this age, will be given great authority. Their power will extend over entire cities to a degree not seen in this present age.

1 Rev.3:2 *To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*

47:2 Psa. *For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth. 3: He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet.*

19:17 Luke *And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, **have thou authority over ten cities.** 18: And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. 19: And he said likewise to him, **Be thou also over five cities.***

6 Rev.2:2 *And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give **power over the nations:** 27: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.*

YAHWEH'S LAW WILL BE TAUGHT TO THE WHOLE WORLD

During the millennium, Yahweh's law will be obeyed by all nations. As mentioned previously, that is the Messiah's ultimate objective; **to save mankind from sin** and to re-establish Yahweh's law in the minds of men.

4:1 Micah *But in the **last days** it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. 2: And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and **he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.** 3: And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more...7: And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: **and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever.***

42:4 Isa. *He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law... 21: The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable*

4 Isa.51: *Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people.*

Zechariah chapter 14 introduces the millennial age. The chapter tells of the liberation of Jerusalem and how the **Messiah will be king over the whole earth.** The chapter ends with all nations keeping the laws of the Most High. The **Feast of Tabernacles** - that great feast which symbolises the very presence of Yeshua the Messiah (He is the very '**Tabernacle of God**'), will be kept by all the nations of the world. The prophet tells us that fearsome punishments and plagues will be meted out on nations that refuse to send delegates to Jerusalem for the **Feast of Tabernacles.**

14:9 Zec. *And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one...11: And men shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited. 12: And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth...16: And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem **shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.** 17: And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. 18: And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the **feast of tabernacles.** 19: This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the **feast of tabernacles.***

In view of these prophecies concerning the end time, it is utter folly to dismiss the Feasts of the Most High, especially the **Feast of Tabernacles**, as being inapplicable to Gentile nations.

PEACE AT LAST

Implementation of Yahweh's law throughout the world will have unprecedented results. Indeed, trying to imagine that utopia is difficult enough, how much less can we describe it. Very briefly I list just four of the many improvements the

millennial reign of the Messiah will bring. With Satan's evil influence out of the way and every governmental post filled by a believer of absolute integrity and great ability:

1. **World-wide peace** will be experienced for the first time ever.
2. **The crime rate** of all nations will collapse virtually to zero as the penal code recorded in the Bible is implemented by an all-knowing king and his trusted officials. The results will astound all nations.
3. **Unemployment** will be a thing of the past as millions of people will be required to restore our shattered and polluted planet.
4. **Proper housing and health care** for all peoples will then become a reality; and the gift of healing will be widely used. We could write at length on this subject, but the Bible tells us that the reality will go far beyond anything we can imagine.

PREPARATION FOR THE MILLENNIUM

Preparation for the millennium should begin right away. It is dangerous to neglect salvation and to put off for tomorrow something that can be done today. A new government is about to take over the earth. Are you preparing for that event? We realise that the very idea may appear farcical to many; but the Scriptures abound with proof of it.

- The **first step** in preparing for the millennium is to **have Faith in Yahweh** and to accept His offer of salvation through His Son **Yeshua**. This is the most well known part of the Everlasting Gospel; and is taught by virtually every Christian denomination. Billions of Gospel tracts and books have been published about this vital step. It is also taught in the SBS [Bible Course](#) and at [The Everlasting Gospel Page](#).

- The **second step** is also important: **begin to obey Yahweh's law**. Those who profess faith but refuse to obey the commandments of the Most High are on extremely dangerous ground. They could find in the coming judgement that they have lost everything - all because they refused to forsake sin. Keeping the Festivals of the Most High, especially the Feast of Tabernacles is an extremely powerful declaration of faith in the Holy One of Israel. Zechariah 14 spells out this fact in the most dramatic way. Study that chapter. Also study Revelation chapters 1 to 3. These passages identify **overcomers** as the ones who will rule the nations of the world during the soon-coming millennium. Aim to overcome sin, selfishness, pride, greed, hatred, bitterness, jealousy, slander, doubt, ingratitude, impatience, deception etc. How successful you are in overcoming these traits and in using your time and talents to further the Everlasting Gospel in this age will determine your position under Christ during his millennial reign. Is that not a sobering and challenging prospect?

When our earth was created it was perfect in every way. There was no sorrow, no sickness, no war and no death. All was perfect happiness, health, harmony and peace.

Gen.1: 31: *And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good...*

But, alas! that state of perfection soon vanished. Satan and his brain-child (sin) arrived on the scene and, as Yahweh had correctly predicted, there followed doubt, sin, separation, sickness, hatred, violence and death. Man was given six thousand years to go his own way, to find out for himself if what God had said was true or false. After all, God did not want to be accused by man or angel of wiping out opponents without allowing them a chance to prove themselves. But the six thousand years of man's self-rule have been an unprecedented disaster and are almost over. Nothing worked as man had expected: no ideology, no ism, no political system, no law (and thousands have been tried) has been able to bring peace and prosperity to earth's millions. Man has miserably failed in every important department of life.

The coming millennial rule of Yeshua the King will change all that. It will be a reign of peace for all mankind. During the millennium (the Sabbatical, seventh thousandth year) Jesus Christ will demonstrate how Yahweh's government and His laws really do work for the benefit of mankind. God's sacred commandments, despised for nearly six thousand years by multiplied billions of people, will at last be honoured by all the nations of the world. Then every tongue in the vast universe will confess that Yahweh was right all along; that He is holy, just and good; that His commandments are not a barbaric code at all, but a **'law of liberty'**, a transcript of His own holy character, a perfect constitution designed to protect life for all time.

James 1:25 *But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

In short, to **'Fear God and keep His commandments'** (Ecc.12:13) is the only way to prepare for the millennium. Any other course of action, however appealing it may appear to be, is courting disaster.

THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT

After the millennium the second general resurrection will take place and then will come the appointed **Day of Judgement!** (Rev.20:7-15) In the diary of the Almighty the Great Day of Judgement has already been appointed. The dictionary describes an **'appointment'** as an arrangement to meet or visit at a particular date and time. And that is exactly how the Almighty makes His appointments. They all relate to particular dates and times in His calendar - the sacred calendar. Of course we do not know the exact year of the Judgement, but God knows. Not only has He appointed the date, He has also appointed the Judge.

The Appointed Day of Judgement & the Appointed Judge

Acts 17:30 *And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.*

Rev.20 *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and*

:11 *there was found no place for them. 12: And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13: And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14: And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15: And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

THE NEW EARTH

After the Great Day of Judgement, the next event in the Diary of the Almighty is the Creation of the new universe.

Rev. *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2: And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3: And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4: And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5: And he that sat upon the throne said, **Behold, I make all things new.** And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 6: And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7: He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 8: But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

It is not possible to imagine, far less describe, the glory and bliss of the earth made new. The finest scenes on this planet and our happiest moments are as nothing when compared to the paradise to come. The new earth will be a wonder to behold and a glory to live on. No one can afford to miss it. You must make sure you and your loved ones are there. Your invitation to that eternal paradise has all the guarantees of the Word of God! Yahweh sent His only begotten Son to die for your sins, so that you might accept His offer of everlasting life in that new universe. Accept His offer before it is eternally too late! The apostle Paul summarises in 1 Cor.2:9 the prospect of living in paradise for all time with these wonderful words:

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

The Bible begins with the record of a perfect creation which went tragically wrong when man chose to believe Satan rather than God. Then followed the story of salvation; of how Yahweh the Almighty God of Israel, the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob set about rescuing mankind from the consequences of sin.

- **First:** He had to define sin and demonstrate how terrible a thing it was. He did this by means of His law which is recorded in the first five books of the Bible. If you study that law you will find that it is a **User Guide** on how to live.
- **Second:** follows chapter after chapter of **history**; real-life examples of how the Almighty dealt with His chosen people Israel as they reacted to His law.
- **Third:** comes the many promises and prophecies concerning **salvation** through His only begotten Son, the Saviour of the world!

The story of salvation is the greatest drama of all time; a love story of unparalleled appeal. The Bible then tells of how the Almighty sent His only begotten son Yeshua to die for the sins of the world; and how that anyone - Jew or Gentile - may live for all time if they simply accept His free gift of salvation. Sad to say millions treat this astonishing offer of mercy and everlasting life with unbelief and even a measure of contempt. Oh what appalling ignorance has sin spawned in the human heart! What greed! what hatred! what pride! that man should foolishly fight his Maker and choose eternal death instead of eternal life. This is one of the greatest mysteries of all time. The Bible ends with a final invitation to accept the **Water of Life, freely!** It is a touching appeal by Yeshua himself to accept life before it is eternally too late. Dear friend, you can not afford to ignore so great an offer! Here it is in Rev.22:17:

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!

SUMMARY

Millions of genuine believers know little or nothing about the Sacred Calendar. But you are not amongst them; because now you know! This booklet has introduced you to spiritual specifications and truths of awesome significance. You now know the following facts:

1. That the sacred calendar forms the basis of the Almighty's Diary; the diary in which He has **appointed certain days, seasons and years** to perform His mightiest acts in the Programme of Salvation. He calls these appointed days **His Sabbaths, His Feast days.** (Lev.23:2)
2. That Bible prophecy tells us that at the '**time of the end,**' the time just prior to the return of Jesus Christ, there would be **signs in the sun, moon and stars;** and that these signs will coincide with the Feast Days in the sacred calendar. (Joel 2:31, Joel 3:15, Amos 8:9, Matt.24:29, Rev.6:12, Gen.1:14)

3. **That the Time Prophecies of Daniel & Revelation are directly linked to the Feast Days in the sacred calendar:** and that these prophecies would be fulfilled at the *time of the end*, which is now upon us. (See Appendix C for examples of these counts.)

4. **That the nation of Israel is still Yahweh's chosen people;** a people which has been brought back to the land of Israel to be purified as silver and that believers in Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) are grafted into the Olive of Israel.

5. **That Yahweh's Law constitutes His Seal; and His weekly and annual Sabbaths constitute His Signature - His Sign.** In other words, Yahweh seals and signs His people with obedience - with holiness.

6. **That the soon-coming Antichrist will govern the whole world for a period of 3.5 years** during which time he will compel all nations to receive his Mark, the mark of disobedience - the signature of sin.

7. **That the Saviour's millennial reign is also an appointed part of the sacred calendar;** a sabbatical thousand years of world-wide peace and righteousness, when all the nations of the world will learn to obey the Law of the Almighty God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel.

8. **That the millennium will be followed by the creation of a New Universe** where the redeemed will dwell for eternity.

These facts you now know. Most importantly, this booklet has presented you with a challenge you will never forget and must not ignore. That challenge is to put your faith into action; to demonstrate that you trust and love the Almighty enough to keep His commandments. To be sure, the **first step** towards salvation is to put your faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God and accept him as your personal Saviour from sin. Your **second step** is also vitally important. It is to obey the Almighty's commandments. **Your obedience will prove that your faith is alive;** that you have truly repented of past sins and now want to obey your heavenly Father. That is the challenge you now face; and there is no way you can lightly dismiss it, or even forget it. It is, perhaps, the greatest challenge you have ever faced in your life. If you meet it with living faith in the Saviour and begin to keep Yahweh's sacred appointments, His weekly and annual Sabbaths, you will be greatly blessed, in this world, during the millennium and throughout the endless ages of eternity. We will not even contemplate the results of wilful disobedience, because that course is certainly not for you. Instead, we will pray, that Yahweh, the Holy One of Israel, will grant you His Spirit to trust and obey Him.