

2000-2016 Miscellaneous Bible Studies

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Asteroid Impact!



**An
Ancient
Mystery Solved**

• Today's Reality

On February 15, 2013 a small meteor (about 50 feet in diameter) exploded midair over central Russia. It released about 500,000 tons of explosive energy. The percussive sound wave radiating from the explosion damaged more than 4,000 buildings and injured more than 1,000 people. A low-frequency rumble far below the range of human hearing lasted for about 32 seconds and



was detected by sensors around the world. Sixteen hours later, Asteroid 2012 DA14 (about 150 feet in diameter) missed Earth by a mere 15 minutes (17,250 miles). Increasingly, nations are concerned that asteroids and comets, large enough to threaten the whole world, are lurking in space. In fact, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) currently tracks about 10,000 near Earth objects (NEOs) and estimates there could be as many as one million NEOs which have not yet been seen and identified.

The news of the meteor explosion and asteroid fly-by has already been buried by an endless stream of subsequent events, so you may wonder why a headline from yesterday's newspaper is worthy of further discussion. As it turns out, a 2,000 year old mystery has been solved, and events on February 15, 2013 contribute to the solution. Before we examine the mystery and its solution, a bit of scientific history is necessary.

• Scientific Views Have Changed

In 1978, Dr. Luis Alvarez, a geoscientist at the University of California, Berkeley, advanced a new idea that prompted much

ridicule. Dr. Alvarez postulated that Earth's dinosaurs became extinct because of a huge asteroid impact. Back then, few people had seriously considered the idea that giant asteroids,

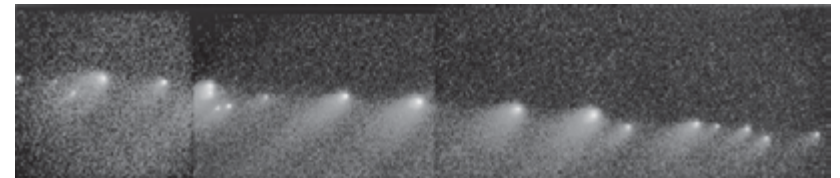


the size of mountains, had previously impacted Earth. But today, the ridicule is gone, literally displaced with mountains of evidence. With the assistance of satellite imaging and tell-tale iridium deposits, more than 150 impact sites have been

identified, and one of the largest impact craters found thus far is located in the Gulf of Mexico. It is about 175 miles wide and its rim lies close to the Mexican town of Chicxulub.

• Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9

Asteroid impacts can release amounts of energy that are impossible to fathom. For example, fragments of comet "Shoemaker-Levy 9" slammed into Jupiter in July 1994 with detonating forces that would dwarf all of the nuclear warheads on Earth combined. Even though the comet fragmented into 21 pieces



before crashing into the huge planet, one fragment was large enough to blast a crater large enough to place two planets the size of Earth side-by-side in it! This well-documented event did two things: First, human beings witnessed explosive power on a scale never seen before, and second, many scientists and world leaders suddenly realized that Earth could experience the same fate as Jupiter.

• Impact Power

The laws of physics demonstrate that when one object collides with another object, energy is released. The amount of energy released is related to the size, speed, density, and direction of the impact. When it comes to cosmic collisions (such as an asteroid impacting Earth), an additional factor is added into the equation because of Earth's atmosphere. When an meteor plunges toward Earth at speeds between 30,000 and 75,000 miles per hour, the leading surface of the asteroid experiences an increasing level of atmospheric pressure as it gets closer to Earth's surface because our atmosphere has higher density at ground level. This atmospheric pressure is much like the



pressure a person feels while riding a motorcycle at a high rate of speed without a wind-shield. As the meteor comes closer to Earth, the atmosphere increasingly

Tunguska Explosion - 45 Years Later
rubs against the surface of the meteor and intense friction is the result. Friction superheats the asteroid and the excessive temperature causes electrical forces that bond molecules together to "let go." So, a huge explosion can occur if a meteor brushes Earth's atmosphere.

If the composition of the meteor is not very dense, it can explode in mid-air. Evidently, this happened on June 30, 1908 in Siberia. An asteroid having an estimated diameter of 200 feet exploded above the tundra near Tunguska, Russia leveling every tree within a 50 mile radius! The destruction radiated outward from the explosion for more than 800 square miles. Since this event occurred in a remote part of the world before tele-

communication was possible, very few people learned of the impact. It is reported that one survivor, however, reported that he was instantly transported about a mile from where he was standing one morning by the wind coming from a great boom! He claimed the wind literally blew his clothes off, destroyed his house and blew his family and all his goats away. For decades, the event was dismissed as a mysterious explosion of "swamp gas" until scientists discovered that a "shooting star" could actually create this kind of damage.

• Oceanic Impact

Because Earth has been impacted by asteroids in the past, scientists have dedicated more resources to understanding the mechanics of asteroid impacts. In April 1997, scientists at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico created a 3-D model of a comet impacting the Atlantic Ocean on a super-computer. For this computer simulation, they created a ½ mile-wide comet that would impact the ocean at a 45 degree angle. (In cosmic terms, a ½ mile-wide asteroid or comet is very small.) The model indicated the impact would release the energy of fifteen million Hiroshima-strength bombs. Their study also produced some startling and unexpected information. For example, the oceanic impact of a ½ mile-wide comet would vaporize up to 1 trillion tons of water. This vapor would immediately rise into the atmosphere and form ice-crystals. The crystals would change or damage the ozone layer that protects Earth from the Sun's radiation and weather patterns all over the world would be affected for months or even years to come. The computer model also suggested the resulting tidal wave would be 300+ feet high. To put this in perspective, the tsunami that destroyed 230,000 lives in Indonesia in December 2004 rose to a height of 98 feet. The tsunami that hit Japan's coast in March 2011 killing 18,000+ people and leaving 500,000 people homeless rose to 132 feet in height. Obviously, a tsunami exceeding 300 feet in height would produce death and destruction on an apocalyptic scale. Every island and coastal city around the rim of any impacted ocean would be destroyed.

• Interest Peaks and Fades over Time

The National Broadcasting Company aired a dramatic mini-series in February 1997 about an asteroid impact. At the time, this mini-series received the highest ratings of any mini-series ever presented on television. Over 60 million Americans watched the drama. During the same month, the Public Broadcasting System aired two documentaries featuring prominent scientists around the world validating the idea that Earth will be impacted again. Their words, “It’s not a matter of if, but a matter of when . . .” were repeated several times during the broadcasts. After the spectacular sighting of the Hale-Bopp comet in 1997, people around the world have generally accepted the idea that Earth indeed is vulnerable to flying space debris. Since ordinary people can do nothing about an asteroid impact, this new threat has faded into a background of usual threats like earthquakes, wildfires, hurricanes, and tornados. Our helplessness explains, in part, why the meteor explosion and asteroid fly-by on February 15, 2013 quickly faded into “yesterday’s news.”

• Helpless or Helpful?

Most scientists believe an asteroid impact cannot be prevented. A few argue that an oncoming asteroid might be diverted and they have urged nations to join resources and technology to prepare a global defense. The latest rescue ideas include schemes to either blow apart an incoming asteroid or at least, “nudge” it away from Earth. Of course, such plans presume there will be enough warning time and it is questionable whether man-made equipment is powerful enough to push a huge mountain out of orbit as it travels toward Earth at a tremendous speed. Some scientists argue that breaking up an oncoming asteroid would make matters worse, causing millions of fiery fragments to impact Earth which would create thousands of wildfires over a huge geographic area. Needless to say, scientists are stumped and no solution has been widely accepted or acted upon thus far.



• The Book of Revelation Predicts

This background information on the science and discovery of asteroid impacts has been presented for two reasons. First, it is interesting to see how geoscience has changed since 1978. Today, there is no question within the scientific community that Earth (as well as the moon and Jupiter) has experienced impacts in the past, and furthermore, scientists agree that Earth will experience more impacts in the future. Second, even though there is nothing we can do to prevent an impact, there is a very good reason to thoughtfully consider the idea that civilization-threatening asteroid impacts will occur in the future and is the reason for this brochure.

About 2,000 years ago, the prophet John penned a chronological sequence of horrific events that will occur during the final days of Earth’s history. (Revelation 8 and 9) According to John, God has even set the very hour, day, month, and year for the sixth event! (Revelation 9:15) When this specific point in time arrives, everyone in the world will observe a flurry of supernatural signs. At first, there will be bolts of brilliant lightning and peals of intimidating thunder. People will hear voices speaking which seem to come up from out of Earth. Finally, the entire world will shake violently from a global earthquake.

(Revelation 8:5) Everyone will see, hear, and feel these frightening phenomena and the normal noise of civilization will turn into a frightening, unnatural silence. This pause will be “the lull before the storm.”

Shortly, another sequence of events will begin. These events will be so calamitous and overwhelming that everyone on Earth will think the end of the world has come! John predicts there will be a meteoric firestorm of burning hail. This firestorm will burn up a third of Earth. A few days later, there will be two asteroid impacts. The first impact will be on an ocean and the second asteroid will impact a continent. After the second impact, great darkness (possibly caused by the ejecta from hundreds of volcanic eruptions) will block out the sunlight and plague the world.

This scenario is no longer in the category of science fiction because science has discovered the sobering truth about asteroid impacts. The meteoric explosion and asteroid fly-by on February 15, 2013 again demonstrate that the events described in Revelation 8 are within the realm of reason. The book of

The Bible Predicts a Specific Order to God’s Judgments

Revelation also explains something that science cannot do. First, John tells us the chronological order of coming events. Scientists do believe asteroid impacts are possible, but the asteroid impacts described in Revelation 8 will not be random events. The asteroid impacts predicted in Revelation 8 will occur in the exact order John described proving that they are deliberate judgments sent from God! The book of Revelation also provides a second step which scientists cannot predict. God’s Word predicts the global response to His judgments!

Revelation also explains something that science cannot do. First, John tells us the chronological order of coming events. Scientists do believe asteroid impacts are possible, but the asteroid impacts described in Revelation 8 will not be random

• The Ancient Mystery

With a brief scenario from the book of Revelation, John describes how God’s coming wrath (which includes a meteoric firestorm, two asteroid impacts, and great darkness) resolves an ancient

mystery. Revelation 13:8 mysteriously predicts a time is coming when “all inhabitants of the Earth” will obey a worldwide government (represented



in Revelation as a beast). Given the diversity of mankind (ethnically, culturally, religiously, and politically), what would cause the whole world to obey one government? Even more, what could produce a one world government? This prediction has been a mystery for almost 2,000 years.

• The Solution

The book of Revelation indicates that 25 percent of Earth’s population will die during these global disasters. (Revelation 6:8) Assuming the population of Earth is seven billion people, can you imagine how 1.75 billion people could be annihilated? Can you imagine the destruction of thousands of cities all over the world by fire and water? Can you imagine millions of people slowly dying from poisoned water? Can you imagine a planet in chaos blanketed with dense darkness for a few weeks?

If the Bible is true, the prophecy in Revelation 8 will be fulfilled just as it reads. A day is coming when the world will experience God’s wrath. Jesus said “. . . there will be great

distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now – and never to be equaled again.” (Matthew 24:21) God’s judgments will traumatize the whole world. When the religious and the political leaders of the world come to their senses, no one will have to tell them that there is a living God and He is displeased with the behavior of mankind. Consequently, the world’s political leaders will meet and ask the world’s religious leaders, “What should we do now?”

The book of Revelation predicts world leaders will devise a simple solution. They will agree to create a worldwide organization whose mission will be to appease God’s wrath. The reasoning behind the formation of this crisis government will be simple. Religious leaders will tell political leaders that given the scope of the destruction, God is obviously angry with all nations. All nations are offensive in God’s sight. The human race is degenerate and decadent. Therefore, to appease God’s wrath, the behavior of the world must change. If the human race, acting in concert, changes its behavior, maybe God will relent and His wrath will subside. Political leaders, humbled by a display of God’s omnipotent power, will respond to the advice of religious leaders by offering to follow their recommendations. The result will be a series of laws (enacted and enforced within every nation) demanding that people worship God and drastically change their moral behavior.

Revelation 13:8 predicts that all the inhabitants of Earth (except those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life) will obey this religiopolitical organization (called Babylon in the book of Revelation). Think about the diversity of our world. There are Americans, Chinese, Russians, Africans, Australians, Japanese, Europeans, Jews, Christians, Hindus, Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, Atheists, Wiccans, and so many other groups of people. What could motivate all of these people to obey one worldwide government? After the world has experienced the destruction of thousands of cities and the death of 1.75 billion people, few of the survivors will be willing to antagonize God further. In this setting, it is easy to see

how God’s judgments will overcome man’s diversity, and cause the world’s religious and political leaders to organize in an attempt to stop God’s wrath. The only tool that man has to force change is through legislation.

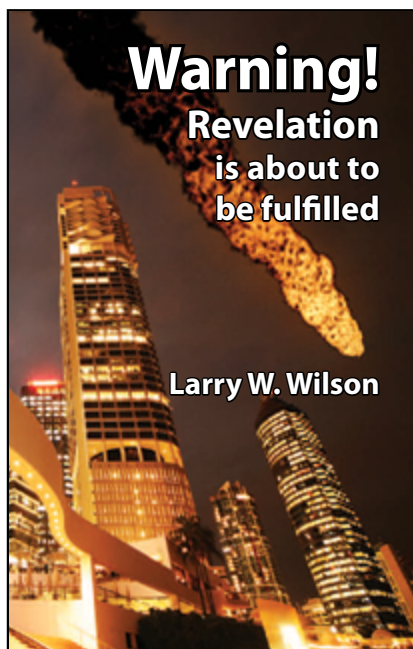
This is not a fairy tale. This is a dire prediction. You can read it in the Bible for yourself. (See Revelation 13:8.) Jesus told His disciples, “I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.” (John 14:29) For 2,000 years, Christians have wondered what could cause all inhabitants of Earth to obey a government (beast) that would exist at the end of time. Science has actually resolved the mystery. Scientists have convinced the world that asteroid impacts have happened and will occur again. Science has explained the mechanics of an impact. The book of Revelation takes the matter two steps beyond the reach of science. Revelation gives us the chronological sequence of coming events (including two asteroid impacts) and Revelation describes mankind’s response. Mystery solved!

God’s coming judgments are associated with the sounding of trumpets in Revelation 8 and 9 because God’s judgments will be “wake up calls.” In ancient times, trumpets were used to awaken a city that invaders were coming. Similarly, God’s trumpets will put the whole world on notice that the Creator of Heaven and Earth is returning to Earth and He will save those whose names are written in His Book of Life. Is your name written there? I hope so.

If you would like more information on this subject and God’s generous offer of salvation, please contact us. We will send you a free copy of my book, *Warning! Revelation is about to be fulfilled*. (See offer details on the back cover of this booklet.) There are no strings attached. There will be no requests for money, no invitation to join a new church, or a suggestion that you should leave your present church. Isn’t it better to be informed than to be overwhelmed?

Larry Wilson

Would you like to learn more?

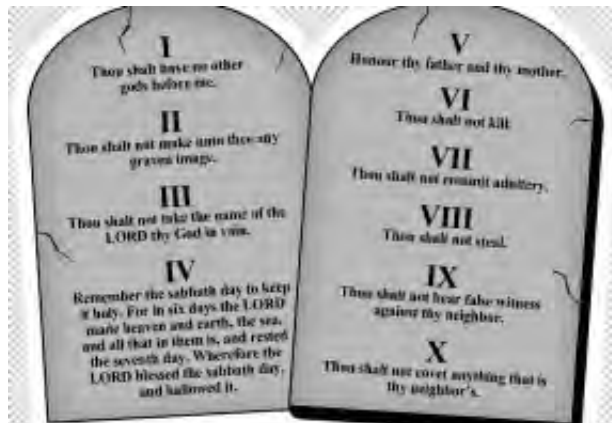


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Why Worship on Sunday? A Saturday vs Sunday Comparison

Author: Larry W. Wilson



I have been an advocate for “salvation through faith alone in Jesus Christ” for more than forty years. I also believe in the perpetual and obligatory nature of the Ten Commandments at a time when many Christians have been led to think that faith and obedience are mutually opposed.

It is a joy to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with others and to see attitudes and lives changed through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. It surprises some people to learn that God’s amazing grace is only necessary because God’s laws are eternal. King David wrote, “**All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.**” (Psalm 119:160)

The Bible says that where there is no law, there is no sin. (Romans 4:15) It also says that sin is the transgression of God’s law. (1 John 3:4) If love is the fulfilling of the law (Romans 13:10), we can say that the Ten Commandments are an expression of God’s two laws of love.

The first four commandments describe what love for God will produce and the last six commandments describe what love for our neighbors will produce. The Ten Commandments were declared in the Old Testament and all of them were reiterated in the New Testament because collectively, they constitute the law of God.

The Ten Commandments do not say anything about eternal life because the purpose of the Ten Commandments is not salvation. When it comes to salvation, there are two kinds of legalists. One legalist believes that eternal life comes through perfect obedience to God’s law (like the rich young ruler who thought he was without fault in God’s sight).

The other legalist is someone who has convinced himself that he is saved because he totally believes that he is saved. This person regards God’s grace as a legally binding, “Get out of jail (Hell) for free,” ticket and he rejects the idea there is any connection between behavior and

salvation.

Serious Bible students know that faith in God is the doorway to eternal life – not grace, not law. Grace does not save us, instead God's grace makes the doorway to salvation possible. Law does not save us instead, God's law transforms us into citizens of His kingdom. The Bible says a person is saved "through faith." (Romans 3:22; 5:1; Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 3:9)

The word "faith" has many common meanings, but the only kind of faith that produces salvation is what I call "salvific faith."* Salvific faith occurs when a person is prompted by the Holy Spirit to do something and the price for obedience is significant, yet the person is willing to obey the voice of the Spirit, leaving the consequences in God's hands.

Consider these examples given in Hebrews 11: By faith, Abraham left his homeland behind when he was called to go to another land. By faith, Noah sold all he had and built an ark. By faith, Abel killed a lamb, put it on the altar, and it cost him his life. Paul declares that everyone who lives by faith is given the righteousness necessary for salvation (Romans 1:17) and this explains how sinners become heirs of salvation.

(*Note: Salvific faith is not to be confused with intellectual assent, arrogance, religious persuasion, or a "faith based denomination." I define this faith narrowly because it pertains to the humble attitude and obedient behavior that leads to eternal life.)

The Ten Commandments are Ten Promises

When our Creator wrote the Ten Commandments on two stone tablets with His own finger, He wrote out ten promises. This may come as a surprise, but the Ten Commandments describe ten changes that will happen in a person's life when they love God with all their heart, mind and soul, and their neighbors as themselves. This explains why the Ten Commandments are called a covenant. (Exodus 34:28)

When our love for a neighbor keeps us from stealing his possessions, God's eighth promise has been fulfilled. When our love for God keeps us from using His name in vain, His third promise has been fulfilled. God has promised to put His ten laws within the hearts and minds of all who seek Him. (Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 10:16) Every Christian knows that a person can only walk with God for as long as his heart and mind aligns with God's heart and mind. Moses said to God, "If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you." (Exodus 33:13)

Obedying the Ten Commandments has many practical and pleasant benefits, but these benefits have nothing to do with salvation until they become a test of faith. For example, in Daniel 3, the faith of Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego was tested with being burned alive in a fiery furnace. Would they bow down and worship the golden image or would they put their faith in God and obey His second commandment which forbids worshiping images.

Of course, temptations are not always this drastic, but make no mistake about it. When we are

tempted with little things such as lying to avoid the consequences, our faith in God is being tested. Should we do what is right and trust God to help us work through the consequences or should we deceive and humanly resolve the situation?

The Ten Commandments are now located in a box called the Ark of His Covenant – or the Ark of His Promise. Unlike many Christian believers, I understand the Bible predicts a day is coming when God will test the whole world to see whether we love Him and our neighbors as His law requires. At the end of this testing time, He will reveal the Ark of His Covenant from Heaven because His covenant and the blood of Jesus are the basis for our redemption! (Revelation 11:19)

If the Ten Commandments were abolished at the cross as many Christians claim, why would God show an empty box to the world at the end of the Great Tribulation?

My Response to “Why Worship on Sunday?”

I do not wish to aggravate anyone even though the topic of Sabbath versus Sunday can quickly become argumentative. So please consider this: Even though I have concluded the Ten Commandments are obligatory, I can only speak for myself. I believe that until/unless a person becomes convicted by the Holy Spirit that he should observe God’s seventh day Sabbath, he should not.

Keeping the Sabbath holy (or for that matter, keeping Sunday holy) should be a matter of Holy Spirit conviction. I have many friends that do not see in Scripture what I see. I understand this. The Bible teaches that spiritual things are spiritually understood (1 Corinthians 2:13,14; 2 Corinthians 3:17). Because we are at different places in our spiritual understanding, there will be differences, but our differences must not lessen our love for one another – although we recognize that spiritual differences affect our interactions with one another.

The fourth commandment declares the seventh day of the week is a memorial to God’s creation (Exodus 20:11), a day which He made holy before sin began (Genesis 2:1-3), and a day of rest for all humanity (Exodus 20:8-10). However, this understanding is challenged by an article found in the Baptist Bulletin titled, “Why Worship on Sunday?” (I do not know if Norman Olson is the author of the document or the editor. For purposes of my response, I have assumed that Norman Olson wrote the article.) You can find the document here:

<http://baptistbulletin.org/the-baptist-bulletin-magazine/why-worship-on-sunday/>

Mr. Olson has done an excellent job of assembling seven essential arguments used by Christians over the past 2,000 years to justify the observance of Sunday. When collectively assembled, these arguments appear to make a strong case for the observance of Sunday as a holy day if the reader is not acquainted with the details of each argument. However, when we consider each argument and see what the Bible says, I believe the conclusions in the article are not valid.

However, each person has to look at the evidence and determine for himself whether the Bible supports the claim that God has transferred the sacredness of His Sabbath to Sunday.

May I also say that since the Sabbath versus Sunday question has behavioral consequences, I am reminded of this remarkable statement: "When a man who is honestly mistaken hears the truth, he will either quit being mistaken or cease being honest." -- Richard J. Humpal, JD

1. The Holy Spirit Came at Pentecost on Sunday

Justifying the importance of Sunday in the early church, Olson writes, "The coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost occurred, as well, on the first day [of the week] (Acts 2:1). This is known because, according to Old Testament law, Pentecost came on the first day of the week (Leviticus 23:15, 16)."

Olson insinuates that the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost made the seventh day obsolete and the first day holy. But does it? According to Leviticus 23, we know that Pentecost always fell on a Sunday. The question is how can the observance of Pentecost neutralize the fourth commandment AFTER the cross when it had absolutely no effect on the Sabbath commandment PRIOR to the cross?

Therefore, claiming that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at an obsolete feast that took place some fifty days AFTER the cross suddenly cancels the divine authority of the Ten Commandments is not logical.

2. Jesus was Resurrected on Sunday

Arguing that the resurrection of Jesus suddenly made Sunday holy, Olson writes, "Rather, it [the observance of Sunday] began with the resurrection of Christ, which occurred on the first day of the week (John 20:1). Also on that first day of the week, Jesus appeared to His disciples. Then Jesus appeared to them again on the first day of the next week (John 20:26)."

Even though Jesus arose from the dead on Sunday morning, there is no text in the Bible indicating that the sacredness of God's Sabbath was transferred to Sunday because due to Jesus' resurrection on Sunday. It seems strange and out of character for God to suddenly initiate Sunday observance on Resurrection Sunday and not say anything about it.

Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene on Sunday morning, He also appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and He appeared to the remainder of His disciples that evening. (John 20:19) Later, Jesus also "appeared" to His disciples by the Sea of Tiberias on a completely different day. (John 21:1) When it comes to abolishing the sacredness of God's Sabbath, what difference does it make if Jesus appeared to His disciples on Sunday or any other day of the week?

Luke 24:13 indicates the distance between Jerusalem and Emmaus was seven miles. According to the record, Jesus joined two of His disciples as they walked several miles to

Emmaus. After discovering it was Jesus who walked with them (and Jesus suddenly disappeared), they walked back to Jerusalem that evening to tell the other disciples that they had seen a risen Jesus.

Luke's account indicates that the disciples did not regard Sunday as a holy day for possibly three reasons. First, they traveled the seven miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus on Sunday. If Sunday was to be considered a holy day, they were unaware of it because walking seven miles is not in keeping with the commandment to rest on God's Sabbath. Second, when they discovered that Jesus was alive, they traveled seven miles again and probably arrived in Jerusalem on Monday evening. (Remember, in Bible times, when Sunday ended at sunset, Monday night began.)

Would the disciples have walked 14 miles if Sunday was considered a holy day? Acts 1:12 stated that a Sabbath day's walk was no more than two miles. Finally, the two disciples had been raised as Jews. As such, they had observed the seventh day Sabbath rest all of their lives. Again, it seems strange that there was no discussion; not a single word mentioned about the sacredness of Sunday as they walked with Jesus to Emmaus.

Think back for a moment. Just five days before walking with His disciples to Emmaus, Jesus and His disciples sat on the Mount of Olives. The disciples were anxious to know about the end of the world (Matthew 24:3) and responding to their concern, Jesus uttered two prophecies. The first prophecy pertained to the upcoming destruction of Jerusalem which was forty years away (A.D. 70) and the second pertains to the end of the world.

When speaking about the forthcoming destruction of Jerusalem, Jesus said, "Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath." (Matthew 24:20) If Jesus foreknew that the sacredness of His Sabbath would be transferred to Sunday just five days after uttering this prophecy, why did He encourage His disciples to pray that they would not have to travel on the Sabbath forty years later?

Given the profound impact and resistance that would have occurred if Jewish converts had been told to suddenly start resting and worshiping on Sunday and working on the Sabbath, the New Testament would have much to say about such an argument. There is an enormous amount of controversy over simple things such as circumcision and food offered to idols – but there is no mention of any controversy concerning the sudden arrival of a new holy day. Zero.

This silence indicates there was no controversy about the sacredness of Sunday between Jews and Christians in the New Testament because neither group considered Sunday to be a holy day during the first century A.D.

3. Paul Ate at the Lord's Table on Sunday

Using Paul's actions at Troas to support Sunday observance, Olson writes, "Later Paul preached to believers (Acts 20:7) and believers partook of the Lord's Table— both on the first day of the week."

If I were in Mr. Olson's shoes, advocating Sunday observance, I would not use Acts 20:7 because this argument always backfires when the facts are investigated. To begin, notice the timing of Acts 20:7. At Creation, God established a day as a period of time between two sunsets. (Genesis 1; Leviticus 23:32; John 19:31)

In other words, the evening is used to mark the beginning of the night and the morning is used to mark the beginning of the light. Given God's method for measuring time, Paul met with the believers in Troas as the first day of the week began, but in our world today, the first day of the week does not begin until midnight. Do you think Sunday keeping Christians should still observe Sunday from sunset to sunset?

"On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave [KJV: on the morrow] the next day, kept on talking until midnight. There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting." (Acts 20:7,8)

Three facts stand out about this meeting that need thoughtful consideration:

1. Olson asserts "the believers partook of the Lord's Table," but Acts 20:7 does not mention the believers partook of the Lord's Table. The text only says they "came together to break bread." Breaking bread does not necessarily mean partaking of the Lord's Table. "Breaking bread" is an biblical expression for sharing or eating a meal. (Luke 24:35; Acts 27:35)

Notice this passage, taken from Acts 2 because it predates Acts 20 by fifteen or more years: **"Every day they [the believers] continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."** (Acts 2:46,47, insertion mine)

Paul's preaching was interrupted by an accident at midnight. Eutychus went to sleep sitting in a window and he fell to the ground from the third story. The fall killed him, but the Holy Spirit brought Eutychus to life through Paul. After this miraculous event occurred, Paul went back upstairs, broke bread again and continued talking until daylight. At daybreak he left Troas with his traveling associates because Paul and his associates did not regard Sunday as a holy day! (Acts 20:9-13)

Before we proceed, consider this question: Let's assume Olson's assertion is valid for a moment. Does partaking of "the Lord's Table" on Sunday make Sunday a holy day? Before you answer do not forget that Jesus and His disciples ate the very first "Lord's Supper" on a Thursday night. (1 Corinthians 11:23-25) After comparing the timing of Jesus and His disciples with that of Paul and his associates, which example is more important? Does either example make either day holy?

2. Even though Olson wants to believe it, Acts 20:7 does not describe a regularly called church service. The Bible says that Paul regularly worshiped on the Sabbath. (Acts 16:13; 17:2; 18:4; 19:8) Acts 20:7 is a farewell meeting, not a church service on a holy day. The meeting was held

during Paul's final hours in Troas because many of the believers suspected it could be the last time they would see Paul.

3. Is it possible that two meals and a farewell seminar in Troas makes Sunday a holy day? Does any man have the authority to cancel the law of God, the Ten Commandments? The Bible says that Paul left Troas at daylight (verse 11). He continued his journey on the first day of the week because Sunday was not a holy day in his mind.

The evidence in Acts 20 adds up to a simple conclusion: Paul and his traveling associates did not consider the first day of the week to be a holy day over fifteen years after Christ's ascension.

4. Paul had Believers Bring Their Offerings on Sunday

Using Paul's comments about collecting donations, Olson writes, "In 1 Corinthians 16:2, Paul instructed the believers in Corinth to bring their offerings to the Lord on the first day of the week, obviously because they were assembling together on that very day."

Olson's assertion is not supported by the text. Here's the text: "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." (1 Corinthians 16:2)

Why did Paul make this request? Paul admonished the believers in Corinth to gather up whatever cash they could each week so that when he arrived, he could collect the cash and take it to the suffering saints in Jerusalem.

Paul made this request because barter was the nature and order of business in those days. Paul did not want two things to happen when he arrived. First, he could not sail to Jerusalem with donated animals and a few thousand pounds of material goods. Therefore, Paul wanted all donations to be converted into cash before he arrived.

Second, Paul did not want believers in Corinth to wait until he arrived and then rush out and foolishly convert their possessions into a lesser amount of cash because they were in a hurry to get cash. So, Paul wisely advised that believers start on Sunday of each week, which was regarded as a regular business day, to begin the process of converting their possessions into cash and at a good exchange rate.

Does Paul's request to the believers in Corinth support Sunday worship or the holiness of Sunday? Not at all. In fact, Paul advocated taking care of business on Sunday, a regular workday.

5. People were Baptized at Pentecost on Sunday

The Bible indicates that 3,000 people were baptized at Pentecost. To Olson, this somehow makes Sunday a sacred day. Olson writes, "On this same day [Pentecost] the first message in

the New Testament church was given (Acts 2:14), the first converts were added to the church, and the first believer's baptisms took place (Acts 2:37)."

Baptizing people on Sunday, Tuesday, or Wednesday does not make the day holy. A prayer meeting does not make any day holy. Even if Jesus was baptized on Sunday, this would not make Sunday holy. As far as we can tell, John the Baptist baptized people every day of the week! (Mark 1)

6. Early Christians Did Not Change the Day of Worship to Sunday

Olson also recognizes there is some political history that influenced the observance of Sunday. Olson writes, "But Bible-believing Christians accept that the change from the Sabbath (Saturday) to Sunday as the Lord's Day did not come by Constantine or through an edict from a group like the Council of Laodicea, which others attribute to the change."

Olson raises this argument because he knows that mere mortals cannot change what the Creator Himself has declared to be holy. Men may "think" they can change God's set times and laws, but no created being has the authority to override Almighty God.

Catholics and most Protestants observe Sunday as a holy day, which means most Christians accept the holiness of Sunday without ever investigating how and why it came to be. There is not one text in the New Testament associating "the Lord's Day" with Sunday. However, there is one text that associates the Lord's day with the seventh day Sabbath and it is found in Mark 2:27,28: "And he said unto them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath."

The Romans hated the Jews so much they finally destroyed Jerusalem in A.D. 70. The Romans also thought the followers of Christ were just another sect of Jews (Christ was a Jew), so early Christians sought to distance themselves from the Jews in various ways after the destruction of Jerusalem. One technique used was to call the seventh day "the Lord's day" rather than call it "the Sabbath."

The Romans called the seventh day "Saturday," so Roman Christians did not want to call Saturday "the Sabbath" because it sounded too Jewish. When Christians in Rome finally broke away from observing the seventh day of the week (around A.D. 150), they applied the term, "the Lord's day" to Sunday, because they said, "Jesus came from the tomb on that day."

However, a Bible believing Christian must ask, "Does the apostasy of early Christians in Rome affect the perpetuity of the Ten Commandments?" Did Israel's apostasy cancel the perpetuity of the fourth commandment? Not according to Jesus! (Mark 2:27,28)

7. Early Believers Met on Sunday

Olson writes, "In addition, the writings of early church fathers affirmed that believers were meeting on Sundays as the Lord's Day – Barnabas, Justin Martyr, Didache, Ignatius,

Dionysius, Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian.”

During the past two hundred years, Protestants have used this argument as a smoke screen to hide many essential historical facts from sight, but the historical facts tell a very different story than what is claimed.

During the first century A.D., Christianity spread throughout the Roman Empire because of relentless persecution. The Caesar's intent was to wipe the Jews off the face of the Earth. Therefore, certain compromises and transformations were made by Jewish converts in different places for the sake of survival. About 120 years after Jesus ascended and 70 years after Jerusalem had been destroyed, Judaism's influence over Christianity had faded. Meanwhile, a large number of Gentiles in Italy had become believers in Jesus.

As they “joined the church.” they brought with them their peculiar religious baggage. As a result, Christianity in Rome mutated into a Romanesque religion largely free of Jewish influence. By A.D. 150, Christians and believers in Mithra had found a number of areas where compromise and mutual respect were possible.

About this time, a well-educated man by the name of Justin Martyr became a Christian. As a Christian apologist, he tried to soften the hostility that existed between Romans and Christians and the followers of Mithra. One area of compromise concerned religious meetings. The followers of Mithra worshiped on Sunday (actually they partied on Sunday) because Sunday was the birthday of their god.

Christians in Rome, anxious to erase their Jewish identity, found a good reason to celebrate with the followers of Mithra on Sunday, since Jesus was resurrected on Sunday! Hence, Justin Martyr wrote:

“But Sunday is the day on which we all hold our common assembly because it is the first day on which God, having wrought a change in the darkness and matter, made the world; and Jesus Christ our Savior on the same day rose from the dead.” (Justin Martyr, First Apology of Justin Martyr, Ante-Nicean Christian Library, (Boston 1887) p, 187 Chap 67)

The justification Martyr used for holding a common assembly on Sunday is interesting. First, he cited the separation of darkness and light on the first day of Creation as grounds for holding a common assembly, and then the resurrection of Jesus. Martyr offered no Scriptural authority for holding a common assembly on Sunday, but his remarks did suggest how wary Christians divorced themselves from their Jewish roots.

In those days, Christianity had no “central office” or headquarters and each geographical location adjusted their beliefs and doctrines as they chose. During the last part of the second century A.D., Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, became alarmed at a number of heresies that had infiltrated the Christian movement. He was aware of how the Christians in Rome had begun to meet on Sunday and abandon the seventh day Sabbath and he spoke out against it. He wrote:

“For He [Christ] did not make void, but fulfilled the law [Ten Commandments].” (Irenaeus,

Against Heresies, Vol 1 Ante-Nicean Christian Library, (Boston, 1997) p, 471 insertions mine)

Tertullian, another early church father, wrote extensively concerning Christian doctrine. He, like Irenaeus, was alarmed at the practices of certain Christians, especially those who lived in Rome. In regard to the seventh day Sabbath he wrote:

“Thus Christ did not at all rescind the Sabbath. He kept the law [Ten Commandments] thereof. . . He restored to the Sabbath the works which were proper for it.” (Tertullian, Book IV, Chap 12, Vol 3 Ante-Nicean Christian Library, (Boston, 1997) p, 362 insertion mine)

Considerable discussion on Sunday observance took occurred in those early days. Archelaus, a bishop wrote in his disputation with Manes:

“Again as to the assertion that the [seventh day] Sabbath has been abolished we deny that He [Christ] has abolished it plainly. For He Himself was also Lord of the Sabbath.” (Archelaus, The Disputation with Manes, Vol 4 Ante-Nicean Christian Library, (Boston 1887), p, 217 insertions mine)

By A.D. 320, confusion and compromise had taken a heavy toll on early Christian doctrine. Christians had been scattered by persecution to every province throughout the Roman Empire. Christians in Alexandria, Egypt (the South) were beginning to defend views that were different from those in Rome (the North).

Church authority was discussed, debated, and argued. Most church leaders agreed that church doctrine needed to be more clearly defined and controlled, but who was going to be in control? Many questions and issues were raised for which there was little agreement.

Distance, culture, education, language, and social factors were beginning to define Christendom according to geography. Thoughtful men anticipated the result would be a highly fractured church. Christianity needed a strong leader and the emperor, Constantine, soon concluded he was it! He believed he had been divinely appointed to lead the universal Christian Church.

When Constantine ascended to the throne as sole ruler of the empire about A.D. 312, he had transformed himself into a Christian solely for political advantage. Constantine was cunning and he saw Christianity as a means of unifying the Roman Empire. When he endorsed the “Roman version” of Christianity, Constantine set a powerful sequence of events into motion that he could not begin to imagine. In future years, the church in Rome would eventually dominate Christianity.

I hope that this historical information will help you understand how Sunday observance began in Rome. The Romans were the first to merge Sunday observance into Christianity. Strange as it may seem, early advocates of Sunday observance never claimed or used divine authority for this action. In fact, the early Roman Christians did not consider Sunday labor as sinful or contrary to God’s will.

Of course, this attitude stands in stark contrast to the fourth commandment which forbids work

on the “Jewish” Sabbath. Sunday in Rome had been regarded as a holiday long before Christianity arrived in Rome and merging the worship of Mithra and the worship of God on Sunday became a matter of convenience. Therefore, Sunday was not a day of rest or deep spiritual reflection when Christians adopted it as their day of worship.

When Constantine became “a defender of the faith,” he had his army baptized into Christianity by marching them through a river. To promote the universal acceptance of a day of rest, Constantine implemented a Sunday law in March, A.D. 321. This law was a clever compromise. Constantine patronized Christians and pagans alike by declaring a national day of rest.

The political benefit of this law was well received by all Romans. Constantine endorsed the desire of the Christian church in Rome by setting Sunday aside as a day of rest and this law also favored a large population in Rome who worshiped the pagan god of Mithra on Sunday. So, the Sunday law meshed with customary Roman practice and it aligned the desires of the church at Rome and everyone in Rome was quite happy with a national day of rest. Notice that the decree issued by Constantine does not mandate worship on Sunday:

“Let all judges and all city people and all tradesmen, rest upon the venerable day of the Sun. But let those dwelling in the country freely and with full liberty attend to the culture of their fields; since it frequently happens, that no other day is so fit for the sowing of grain, or the planting of vines; hence the favorable time should not be allowed to pass, lest the provision of heaven be lost.” (Cod. Justin, III Tit 12, L.3., March 7, A.D. 321)

Although Christians in Rome were already meeting on Sunday when Constantine sent out his decree, other Christians in other locations were not. Most Christians were still observing the seventh day Sabbath. Socrates writes near the turn of the fourth century:

“Such is the difference in the churches on the subject of fasts. Nor is there less variation in regard to religious assemblies. For although almost all churches through the world celebrate the sacred mysteries on the Sabbath of every week, yet the Christians of Rome and Alexandria have ceased to do this.” (Socrates, Ecclesiastical History, Book V, chap 22, Ante-Nicean Christian Library, Vol II, (Boston, 1887) p, 132)

Even Constantine's decree did not shut out the importance of the seventh day Sabbath. Something else would have to occur before that could be accomplished. The leaders from the church in Rome needed an elaborate doctrine that dealt directly with the issue of the “Lord's Day” to present a strong case before a divided body of Christians. Eusebius, another apologist of the era, was a Christian confidant and advisor of Constantine. He masterminded a doctrine for Sunday observance that remains largely intact today. Carefully notice his anti-Semitic argument for the observance of Sunday:

“Wherefore as they [the Jews] rejected it [the Sabbath law], the Word [Christ] by the new covenant, translated and transferred the feast of the Sabbath to the morning light, and gave us the symbol of true rest, viz., the saving Lord's day, the first [day] of light, in which the Savior of the world, after all his labors among men, obtained the victory over death, and passed the portals of heaven, having achieved a work superior to the six-days creation.

On this day, which is the first [day] of light and of the true Sun, we assemble, after an interval of six days, and celebrate holy and spiritual Sabbaths, even all nations redeemed by him throughout the world, and do those things according to the spiritual law, which were decreed for the priests to do on the Sabbath. And all things whatsoever that it was the duty to do on the Sabbath, these we have transferred to the Lord's day, as more appropriately belong to it, because it has a precedence and is first in rank, and more honorable than the Jewish Sabbath.

All things whatsoever that it was duty to do on the Sabbath, these we have transferred to the Lord's Day." (Eusebius's Commentary on the Psalms 92, quoted in Coxe's Sabbath literature, Vol I, page 361 insertions mine)

Did you notice the last sentence in Eusebius' argument?

Eusebius is the first man to claim in writing that Christ changed the day of worship. However, Eusebius then testifies that he (and others, namely Constantine) had "transferred all things, whatsoever that it was duty to do on the Sabbath" to Sunday. Also notice that Eusebius offered no Scriptural authority for this change. Further, no church father or authority from that time period seconded the claims of Eusebius and notice that Eusebius did not quote from any other source.

As it turned out, Eusebius took the thorny problem of worship in hand and became the father of a false doctrine which favored the apostate practice of the church in Rome. If a mortal can declare on his own authority that the law of the eternal Almighty God is null and void, the mortal is both delusional and evil.

Who has higher authority – God or man; the Creator or the created? It is my observation that corporately speaking, Christians have repeated the failure of the Jews. As a body we have dismissed and altered "thus saith the Lord." If Jesus were on Earth today, He would say of Christians the same thing He said of the Jews, "They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men." (Matthew 15:9)

History and Logic Do Not Support Sunday Worship

We have examined seven arguments offered by Mr. Olson in the Baptist Bulletin. History and logic verify that none of the arguments are valid. When it comes to Sabbath versus Sunday, Christians face three general obstacles:

1. Christian Culture

Ever since the second century, apostate Christians have been advocating for Sunday worship. Today, 1.3 billion Catholics and Protestants worship on Sunday, carelessly regarding Sunday as "the Lord's day" when there is no support for the sacredness of Sunday in Scripture or early church history. Going against the flow, Christian culture, and the wisdom of "the experts" who hold advanced degrees from seminaries is difficult for an ordinary person to do.

2. Lack of Education

Since Catholics and a large majority of Protestants worship on Sunday, very few Christians have a good reason to examine the roots of Sunday worship. Moreover, many people worshipping on Sunday do not regard Sunday as a “sacred day.” For them, Sunday is a day for going to church, but other than that, it is a day for recreation, working, or doing whatever a person wants to do. This disconnect between the sacredness of Sunday and worshipping on Sunday has created the following thought: “It doesn’t really matter which day of the week we worship on as long as we maintain a close relationship with the Lord.”

I would agree that one can (and should) worship the Lord every day of the week, but the requirement stated in the fourth commandment is altogether another matter. The fourth commandment demands that we cease from our labors and rest on the seventh day. God also commands that we include those who are within our gates. The fourth commandment is not about a weekly holiday, it is about spending time with God. Is God’s Sabbath a day of denial? See for yourself: “If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the Lord’s holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the Lord, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob.” The mouth of the Lord has spoken.” (Isaiah 58:13,14)

Most of us who observe the seventh day as a holy day find it awkward and difficult to overcome Christian culture and heritage. When you add the pressure of social stigma and consequences that often come with being different (weird), some Christians think that it is best to leave the Sabbath question alone. It’s easier to go along with a world in rebellion than to be an outcast from your own family and/or church family.

3. Sinful nature

The biggest hurdle militating against obeying God’s law is our own sinful nature. We are naturally opposed to doing whatever God commands. Paul wrote, “Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so.” (Romans 8:5-7, italics mine)

When these three obstacles are combined and if we go along with the seven superficial arguments Olson presented in the Baptist Bulletin, it becomes easy to see why Sunday remains a holy day for most Christians. For 20 centuries this rebellion has been ongoing – even though God clearly declares otherwise in the Ten Commandments.

If you have read this far and would like a free book titled, “Warning! Revelation is about to be fulfilled,” please go to the link [Free Book on Revelation](https://www.wake-up.org/free-book-offer-from-wuas/). (<https://www.wake-up.org/free-book-offer-from-wuas/>)

A study on the 430 years of Exodus 12:40,41

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Evidently, God predetermined the existence of sin on planet Earth to be 7,000 years (or 70 centuries). This suggestion is made on the basis that when one adds up the genealogical records in Genesis, the chronological history of Israel and the prophetic time-periods found in Daniel and Revelation, the total amount of time mentioned in the Bible adds up to slightly more than 7,000 years. The overage beyond 7,000 years appears to exist because Adam and Eve may have lived in the Garden of Eden about 33 years *before* they sinned.

The Bible says a thousand years are like a day to the Lord. (Psalm 90:4; 2 Peter 3:8) We know that God established the weekly cycle as a template at Creation because this template is found in the week of seven months, the week of seven years and the week of seven weeks given to Israel. (Leviticus 23 and 25) Did God also establish a millennial week of seven days for the duration of sin? Is it merely coincidental that Revelation 20 contains a time-period of 1,000 years? Should we regard the seventh millennium as a Sabbath millennium? Does 70 centuries allotted for the duration of sin parallel the 70 weeks granted to Israel in Daniel 9? These are interesting questions that do not have simple proof text answers.

Here's an interesting hypothesis: 1994 is an important year because it marks the end of seventy Jubilee cycles and the Jubilee calendar. I believe God's patience with sin on Earth ran out in that year and the seven angels who stand before God were given seven trumpets. (Revelation 8:2) As they "went out" from the throne to harm Earth, Jesus delayed them. (Revelation 7:1-4) Jesus is waiting for just the right "hour" to select and seal 144,000 people. The right hour might be defined as counting backwards 1,335 days (the length of the Great Tribulation) from the end of the sixth millennium. In other words, if the 6000th year of sin happens to terminate on April 15, 2018 (that is, the wicked are destroyed) and the righteous are lifted from Earth to meet the Lord in the air on the following day, e.g., New Year's Day, April 16, 2018 (this is Nisan 1 in God's calendar, God's year operates from Spring to Spring), the Great Tribulation could begin on or about August 21, 2014. The sealing of the 144,000 could occur a week or two before the August 21 date.

The larger idea behind this hypothesis is that if Jesus closes the "Friday" millennium by destroying the kingdoms of Earth (at the Second Coming), then the 1,000 years that follow would be a Sabbath of rest for the land. Planet Earth would rest from the works of sin during a Sabbath millennium. This hypothesis is interesting because the *first full day* for Adam and Eve was a Sabbath rest and the *first full year* for Israel in the Promised Land was a Sabbath year. Will the *first full millennium* for the saints be a Sabbath millennium? On the other hand, if we say that God is not following a millennial calendar, what is the point of knowing *in advance* about the duration of 1,000 years in Revelation 20? In other words, what contribution does 1,000 years bring to our overall prophetic understanding if not a definite span of time? We know that God is deliberate and purposeful in everything He does and says. On this basis we have to believe that God deliberately set the duration of 1,000 years in Revelation 20 because that length of time fits into His perfect plan somehow.

When does the 6,000th year of *sin* end? When does the 1,000 years of Revelation 20 begin? These are interesting questions that merit examination. For reasons that are forthcoming, this writer finds the year of Creation to be on or about 4014 B.C. Of course, this date is subject to dispute. This date was determined in the following manner: The Bible indicates there are 1,656 years (actually 1,646 years counting inclusively) between the creation of Adam (4014 B.C.) and the flood in Noah's day (2368 B.C.). The Bible also indicates there are 214 years between the flood and the birth of Terah (2154

B.C.), Abraham's father. (See the outline at the end of this study.) The number of years between the birth of Terah and the Exodus is disputed and this study hopes to reduce some of the controversy by addressing three or four complex issues.

For example, some people say Terah was 70 years old when Abraham was born. Notice this text: "After Terah had lived 70 years, he became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran." (Genesis 11:26) Were Abram, Nahor and Haran born on the same day? No! The Bible says Terah lived a total of 205 years and at the time of death, Abram was 75 years old. (Genesis 11:32, 12:4) Therefore, Abraham was born when Terah was 130 years old. Perhaps Terah was 70 years old when He began to have offspring. Nevertheless, there are a total of 343 years (counting inclusively) between the flood (2368 B.C.) and the birth of Abraham (2025 B.C.).

One more introductory point. This writer finds the date of the Exodus to be fixed at 1437 B.C. by God's Jubilee calendar. (For a comprehensive discussion on this topic, see my booklet "Great Clocks From God.") Because the date of 1437 B.C. appears to be mathematically, prophetically and historically secure, the count of years since Creation can be reasonably determined if (a) the Biblical record of time is complete and (b) we can determine the number of years between the birth of Abraham (~2025 B.C.) and the Exodus (1437 B.C.).

430 Years or 215 Years?

How long were the descendants of Abraham in Egypt before the Exodus? Most people say 215 years, others say 400 years, and a few say 430 years. Which answer is best? To get the best answer we have to first examine the writings of Moses. Moses grew up in Pharaoh's court and he was highly educated. The Bible says he lived in Egypt for 40 years (Acts 7:23) and he lived in the desert 40 years. The Bible says that Moses was 80 and Aaron was 83 years of age at the year of the Exodus. (Exodus 7:7) Therefore, as a contemporary of the Exodus, no one else in the Bible speaks on the dating of this matter more authoritatively than Moses. This is a crucial point because Moses wrote the following words, "**Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years.**" (Exodus 12:40, NIV, Italics mine) If the testimony of Moses is accurate, we have several tough questions to answer.

The Promise To Abraham

Before we proceed to examine the number of years in Egypt, we need to review the words spoken to Abraham (pay close attention to the words that are underlined): "Then the Lord said to [Abraham], "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. {15} You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. {16} In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure." (Genesis 15:13,15,16)

Two statements emphasized:

- A. The Lord said to Abraham... "your descendants will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years."
- B. The Lord said to Abraham... "In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here...."

Abraham's Family Data

1. Genesis 21:5 "Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born (~1927 B.C.) to him." (Abraham died at 175 years of age. Gen 25:7)
2. Genesis 25:26 "...Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them [Esau and Jacob in ~1867 B.C.]." (Isaac died at 180 years of age. Gen 35:28)
3. Jacob was 89 or 90 when his eleventh son, Joseph, was born (~1777 B.C.). (Jacob's age is

calculated from the fact that Jacob was 130 when he entered Egypt and Joseph was 39 or 40. See texts below.)

The Ages of Jacob and Joseph

Genesis 37:2 "This is the account of Jacob. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them."

Genesis 41:46 "Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh's presence and traveled throughout Egypt."

Genesis 41:48 Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it.

Genesis 45:4-6 "Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! {5} And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. {6} For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. "

So, Joseph, is sold as a slave at age 17, then at age 30 he rose to Pharaoh's throne, then he spent seven years gathering food plus he endured two years of famine before his father moved to Egypt – so Joseph's age is 39 or 40 when his 130 year old father joins him. (Genesis 47:9) Therefore, Jacob is 130 when Joseph is ~40.

Alignment of years thus far

	Date
Abraham born	2025 B.C.
Isaac born	+ 100
Jacob born	+ 100 + 60
Joseph born	+ 100 + 60 + 90
Joseph sold as a slave into Egypt	+ 100 + 60 + 90 + 17
Jacob enters Egypt with family	+ 100 + 60 + 90 + 17 + 23
Total	290 years later which is 1735 B.C.

Result: From Abraham's birth to Jacob's entrance into Egypt is 290 years. If Abraham was 75 years old when the Lord called Him to leave Haran, (Genesis 12:4) one can see that Jacob entered Canaan 215 years after the call of Abraham. (290 years - 75 years = 215 years)

Of course, 215 years is exactly half of 430 years. Notice this text: "At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the Lord's divisions left Egypt." (Exodus 12:41) So, the count of 430 years to the very day is a spectacular event to Moses (who wrote this passage), but what happened 430 years earlier on Nisan 15 (the day of the Exodus)? Was it the call of Abraham as many scholars claim?

215 Years Can't Be 430 Years

Many scholars correctly conclude there are 215 years between the call of Abraham and Jacob's entrance into Egypt, and they claim that the Israelites were in Egypt for a total of 215 years, so this makes a total of 430 years *to the very day from Abraham's call*. But, two texts frustrate this conclusion.

First, after Abraham's death God forbid Isaac from going down to Egypt to live. (Genesis 26:2) So, the length of time spent in Egypt cannot be counted from the call of Abraham. Remember, God told

Abraham his descendants would be mistreated for 400 years. Second, Moses says the Israelites were *in Egypt* for 430 years: "Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years." (Exodus 12:40) How can 215 years equal 400 years of slavery or 430 years in Egypt?

Entrance into Egypt

We know that Joseph's family arrived in Egypt when Joseph was about 40 years of age and Jacob is 130. "And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The years of my pilgrimage are a hundred and thirty. My years have been few and difficult, and they do not equal the years of the pilgrimage of my fathers." (Genesis 47:9)

When Jacob (age 130) entered Egypt, this author concludes that his son, Levi, was about 44 years of age and Levi's son, Kohath, was about 3 years of age. Levi's age needs to be known because the Bible traces the ancestry of the Israelites in Egypt through Levi's offspring.

Levi is the third born of Leah (Genesis 29:34) His age has to be 3 to 10 years older than Joseph (This writer assumes Levi is ~5 years older than Joseph). The age of Levi is deducted from the fact that Jacob served Laban for seven years before marrying Leah. Levi is Jacob's third born son, since three males (assuming no girls were born to Leah) take an absolute minimum of 27 months to gestate, Levi could have been born during Jacob's 10th year working for Laban. Since Jacob served Laban a total of 20 years (Gen 31:38) and Joseph was born the year Jacob departed Laban (Gen 30:25), Levi could have been a maximum of ten years older than Joseph. This writer assumes that Levi is about five years older than Joseph because (a) the Bible says Leah did not have children for some time after marriage. (Gen 29:31) and (b) having three sons within 27 months is possible, but not probable. The result of this calculation is that Levi is ~45 when Joseph is ~40.

Generations

Because God said Abraham's descendants would return to Canaan in the fourth generation, we have to take notice that Joseph and his eleven brothers were considered one generation. "Now Joseph and all his brothers [such as Levi, etc.] and all that generation died..." (Exodus 1:6) So, the offspring of Abraham looks like this in terms of generations:

1. Abraham - 1st generation
2. Isaac - 2nd generation
3. Jacob - 3rd generation – Lived in Egypt 17 years / died at 147
4. Levi - 4th generation – The Generation that enters Egypt
5. Kohath - 5th generation
6. Amram - 6th generation
7. Moses - 7th generation – The Generation that leaves Egypt

In order to fulfill the prophecy given in Genesis 15, the fourth generation has to leave Egypt. Therefore, we have to start counting with the generation that entered Egypt, the generation of Levi. Remember, the Lord said to Abraham... "In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here...." Since it has been asserted that Levi was 44 when he entered Egypt, notice his lineage:

Genesis 46:11 The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath and Merari.

Exodus 6:18 The sons of Kohath were Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel.

1 Chronicles 6:3 The children of Amram: Aaron, Miriam and Moses.

The Bible gives the ages of these four grandfathers at the time of death:

Exodus 6:16 Levi lived 137 years.
Exodus 6:18 Kohath lived 133 years.
Exodus 6:20 Amram lived 137 years.

Exodus 7:7 Moses was 80 years old at the time of the Exodus (he died at 120 years; Deut. 24:7)

Therefore:

1. Levi - lived to be 137 (Since he entered Egypt at age 44 or 45 he lived in Egypt for about 92 years)
2. Kohath - entered Egypt near age 3(?) and lived to be 133 years of age
3. Amram - lived for 137 years
4. Moses - age 80 at the Exodus (Moses died the year Israel entered Canaan at 120 years of age. Deut 24:7)

What maximum span of time does this data offer? If Kohath is 3(?) years of age upon entering Egypt, let us speculate that Amram is born near the end of Kohath's life. Let us also speculate that Moses is born near the end of Amram's life. This speculation produces a *maximum* of 347 years (130 + 137 + 80). Of course, for reproduction purposes 347 years is likely inconceivable (pun intended) but this exercise pushes the maximum number of years in Egypt to their absolute limit. The controversy here is that Moses says the Israelites lived in Egypt for 430 years. (Exodus 12:40: "Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years.") How does Moses count these years?

Before we address a more realistic figure in Egypt (347 years is not realistic and 430 years is out of the question), we have to consider some other issues.

430 years versus 400 years?

Carefully read these two texts and notice the conflict:

1. Exodus 12:40,41 says: "Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years. At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the Lord's divisions left Egypt."
2. Genesis 15:13,16 says, "Then the Lord said to him [Abraham], "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.""

We know that 430 years can't be 400 years unless the 400 years is to be understood as a general expression, rounded off to the nearest century or, they could be understood as four generations of "about" 100 years each. The length of a generation is averaged by subtracting the age when offspring appear from the age of death. Historians today regard a generation to be about 50 years (in general terms, we die around 73 and begin having offspring around 23 years of age) although a specific generation for a given family can be longer or shorter depending on the lineage of that particular family. So, it is possible that 430 years could be called 400 years (death at 135 minus 35 for starting to have offspring) if God was speaking of four generations in round numbers. But there is an even greater problem.

In Genesis 15:16 God said, "In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."

It has been said earlier that some people put 430 years between the Exodus and the call of Abraham.

The problem here is that Moses is not a member of the fourth generation from Abraham. Moses is a member of the seventh generation! So, God's comments have to start with Levi because Moses is in the fourth generation from Levi.

Seven generations: Abraham to Moses

1. Abraham
2. Isaac
3. Jacob
4. Levi
5. Kohath
6. Amram
7. Moses

The mystery deepens. Moses says the Israelites lived in Egypt for 430 years. We already know the last four generations cannot span 430 years. We have determined the longest possible span of time in Egypt to be 347 years. So, what did Moses intend for us to understand when he said, “four hundred and thirty years to the very day?” Evidently, the descendants of Israel were set free “on the anniversary” of some noteworthy event. (Exodus 12:40,41) If so, what could that event be?

The Anniversary Event?

For the sake of quickly solving this puzzle, let's suppose that Moses dated the 430 years from *the birthday* of Jacob. We know that Jacob was 130 years of age when he entered Egypt and it is possible that the patriarch's birthday was a special anniversary which all Hebrews honored each year. Moses was keenly aware that the Exodus occurred 430 years to the day of a well known event. What was it?

What could have been so special 430 years earlier – to the very day – if not the birthday of the father of their nation? Remember, the twelve tribes in Egypt are Israelites. That is, they were the family of Jacob (Israel), not Abraham (who also fathered Ishmael, Isaac and six other sons). In other words, the Hebrews in Egypt were not the exclusive descendants of Isaac (who fathered both Esau and Jacob).

The birth date of Israel (Jacob) might resolve “the 430 years *in Egypt*” problem because Jacob is 130 years old when he enters Egypt and 300 more years in Egypt could produce a total of 430 years to the very day. Wouldn't it be neat if God delivered the Israelites on the birthday of their father? We notice that 300 years is less than the *inconceivable* maximum of 347 years, so this solution might work *if* the Hebrew language in Exodus 12:40 is translated as follows: “Now the length of time the [nation of the] Israelites [existed], which were in Egypt, was 430 years [to the very day].” One literal translation of Exodus 12:40 reads like this: “And the [total] living time [of] sons [belonging to] Israel's which lived in Egypt [was] thirty years and four hundred years.” (*The Interlinear Hebrew-Greek English Bible*, 1984, Jay P. Green, insertions mine)

Does a literal translation of Exodus 12:40 support the idea that Israel lived in Egypt 430 years or does it better support the idea that the nation of Israel, which lived in Egypt, existed for a total of 430 years?

Canaan and gave their land to his people as their inheritance. "All this took about 450 years. "After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet."

From what point does Paul measure the beginning of the 450 years? Some people say the call of Abraham. If this is the case, the approximate number of years for these historical events would have to be about 480 years (430 years plus 40 years in the wilderness plus another 10(?) years in Canaan to overthrow seven cities). On the other hand, if Paul uses the "450 years" to mean 400 years as slaves (using Genesis 15:13 language), plus 40 years in the wilderness, plus 10 years in Canaan -- conquering seven nations, then a total of 450 years appears to fit properly.

Compare Paul's statements:

Paul's View of Time?				
Exodus 12:40,41 language				
- - - - - 430 - - - - -				
Jacob Born	Jacob to Egypt	Exodus Wilderness	Canaan	
130	300	40	10	>
- - - - - 400 - - - - - - - - 50 - - Judges				
Genesis 15:13 / Acts 13 language				

Notice in the chart above, that 400 years and 430 years cover the same period of time because the 400 years cover four generations of 100 years each, but the actual number of years is 430. It's Genesis and Acts language versus Exodus language. Evidently, Paul speaks of the 430 years using the "400 year language" (per Genesis 15:13) plus he adds 50 years to cover the 40 years in the wilderness and ten years of initial conquest of Canaan. The question though is where does Paul place the origin of the 450 years?

Back To The call of Abraham

Let's assume that Paul measures 430 years from the call of Abraham in Acts 13 and Galatians 3. If this is the case, and we know that Abraham was called around age 75, the time-frame looks like this:

Dates from Abraham's call

Abraham called: age	75
Isaac born	75 + 25 (25 years later)
Jacob born	75 + 25 + 60 = (85 years later)
Joseph born	75 + 25 + 60 + 90 = (175 years later)
Jacob enters Egypt	75 + 25 + 60 + 90 + 40 = (215 years later)

There are 215 years between Abraham's call and Jacob entering Egypt. Because 215 years is exactly half of 430, this model forces a very short stay **in Egypt** as slaves – far less than the 400 years indicated in Genesis 15 or the 430 years "in Egypt" stated in Exodus 12:40,41. These are textual problems which scholars haven't been able to fully resolve, but there is an even greater problem.

Earlier, we determined the absolute maximum number of years in Egypt (from Kohath entering Egypt at age 3 to the year of the Exodus and Moses is 80) to be 347 years. Because 215 years is significantly shorter than 347 years, the 215 year time-frame is an easy fit for four generations. Notice this possible arrangement below:

Kohath enters Egypt at age 3	Start
Kohath's age when Amram was born:	75
Amram's age when Moses was born:	60
Moses' age at the Exodus	<u>80</u>
	15 2

Oops! Too few Hebrews in 215 years?

Before the mystery of 430 years is adequately resolved, there's a major problem that must be addressed. It's the census problem. Is it possible within 215 years to produce the number of male Hebrews, 20 years old and older, that were counted in the census at Kadesh Barnea?

Numbers 1:8 provides the following census data for each tribe:

1. Reuben:	46,500	7. Ephraim:	40,500
2. Simeon:	59,300	8. Manasseh:	32,200
3. Gad:	45,650	9. Benjamin:	35,400
4. Judah:	74,600	10. Dan:	62,700
5. Issachar:	54,400	11. Asher:	41,500
6. Zebulun:	57,400	12. Naphtali:	53,400

Total: 603,550 males age 20+

Given this data, and assuming the total years in Egypt is 215 years, we need to compare Israel's population growth with data found in the Bible for that era. (You can skip over the following textual reference and come back later for deeper study if you desire)

Genesis 46 says:

7 He [Jacob] took with him to Egypt his sons and grandsons and his daughters and granddaughters--all his offspring.

8 These are the names of the sons of Israel (Jacob and his descendants) who went to Egypt: Reuben the firstborn of Jacob.

9 The sons of Reuben: Hanoah, Pallu, Hezron and Carmi.

10 The sons of Simeon: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jakin, Zohar and Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman.

11 The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath and Merari.

12 The sons of Judah: Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez and Zerah (but Er and Onan had died in the land of Canaan). The sons of Perez: Hezron and Hamul.

13 The sons of Issachar: Tola, Puah, Jashub and Shimron.

14 The sons of Zebulun: Sered, Elon and Jahleel.

15 These were the sons Leah bore to Jacob in Paddan Aram, besides his daughter Dinah. These sons and daughters of his were thirty-three in all.

16 The sons of Gad: Zephon, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi and Areli.

17 The sons of Asher: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi and Beriah. Their sister was Serah. The sons of Beriah: Heber and Malkiel.

18 These were the children born to Jacob by Zilpah, whom Laban had given to his daughter

Leah--sixteen in all.

19 The sons of Jacob's wife Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin.

20 In Egypt, Manasseh and Ephraim were born to Joseph by Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On.

21 The sons of Benjamin: Bela, Beker, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim and Ard.

22 These were the sons of Rachel who were born to Jacob--fourteen in all.

23 The son of Dan: Hushim.

24 The sons of Naphtali: Jahziel, Guni, Jezer and Shillem.

25 These were the sons born to Jacob by Bilhah, whom Laban had given to his daughter Rachel--seven in all.

26 All those who went to Egypt with Jacob--those who were his direct descendants, not counting his sons' wives--numbered sixty-six persons.

27 With the two sons who had been born to Joseph in Egypt, the members of Jacob's family, which went to Egypt, were seventy in all.

From this data the following is gleaned:

Jacob's offspring totals when he enters Egypt at age 130 in sons, grandsons and great-grandsons

1. Reuben:	4	7. Joseph:	2
2. Simeon:	6	8. Levi:	3
3. Gad:	7	9. Benjamin:	10
4. Judah:	3 / 2	10. Dan:	1
5. Issachar:	4	11. Asher:	4/ 2
6. Zebulun:	3	12. Naphtali:	4

Some Analysis

Jacob sired 12 sons through 4 women. These 12 sons sired 50 grandsons which sired 4 great-grandsons by the time Jacob was 130. **A total of 66 males entered Egypt.** Even though Jacob sired twelve sons – His sons averaged a more reasonable 4.16 sons each (Benjamin is an exception).

We know that Jacob's male offspring numbered 66 when he entered Egypt. (Genesis 46:27) So the question is whether 66 males can produce **603,550 males** in 197 years? (**Note:** This census was taken during the second year in the wilderness of males who were 20 years of age or older, so 215 years in Egypt plus 2 years in the wilderness minus 20 years of age equals 197 years allotted for reproduction.)

The Bible says the second census, taken 38 years later (just before entering Canaan), totaled: 601,730. (Numbers 26:4,51) In other words, 603,548 men died during the remaining 38 years in the wilderness. But, 38 years later, **601,730 men** were found to be between the ages of 20 and 57 (**Note:** A 19 year old living in the wilderness for 38 years would be about 57 upon entering Canaan). The point here is that there was very little population growth for 38 years in the wilderness.

Yes, The Israelites Were Fertile

We know the number of Israelites were a problem when a new Pharaoh came to power after Joseph died. "Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt. "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become much too numerous for us. Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country." (Exodus 1:8-10)

"But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites and worked them ruthlessly. They made their lives bitter with hard labor in

brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their hard labor the Egyptians used them ruthlessly. The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, "When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth and observe them on the delivery stool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live." The [two] midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live." (Exodus 1:12-17, insertions mine)

If two midwives can serve the entire Hebrew nation, how many Hebrews are there? To produce the largest population in the shortest period of time, we have to make some assumptions about the birth rate of the Israelites in Egypt. Remember, we are trying to produce 603,550 surviving males in 197 years. So, it is generously assumed that each male produced five surviving males during a period of 50 years.

(**Note:** Five surviving males also implies five surviving females. Did most families have ten children? Maybe, but who can say? We do know the average offspring of Jacob's sons was 4.1 males and from this, we assume 4.0 females. Infant mortality rates for this time-period are unknown. However, from Genesis 46:7-27 we have some idea about birth rate totals when a highly prolific Jacob (having four sons children via four women) entered Egypt at age 130.)

OK, Now Look at the Numbers

We know that the largest tribe, Judah, had 74,600 men age 20+ when the first census was taken in the wilderness. According to Genesis 46, Judah entered Egypt with three sons and two grandsons – a total of 5 sons. Here's a reproductive model based on the premise that each of Judah's five offspring produced five surviving sons every fifty years in Egypt for 350 years:

How Long Does it take for Judah's Offspring to Equal 74,600 Testing 350 Years in Egypt

50	100	150	200	250	300	350 years
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Births per generation						
5	25	125	625	3,125	15,625	78,125
Deaths from previous generation						
0	5	25	125	625	3,125	15,625
Net increase in sons						
5	20	100	500	2,500	12,500	<u>62,500</u>

Questions

Looking at the chart above we observe that it would take about 350 years to produce a total of 62,500 surviving males. This is not terribly far above the actual count for Judah of 74,600. But, the question remains: Can 74,600 surviving males be produced in 197 years by Judah's offspring? According to our assumption that each generation recycles every 50 years, the answer is "No." Add to this the fact that a generation was counted as a hundred years, not fifty years, and the problem really gets worse. In this illustration 300 years are required to produce 12,500 surviving males (and this implies 12,500 surviving females for a total of 25,000 people total).

We also have to notice that Benjamin entered Egypt with 10 sons (twice the number of Judah) but at the time of the census his tribe was one of the smallest, with only 35,400 males. These two extremes can't be discarded in our mathematical solution to this problem because 74,600 surviving males have to come from five men during the time the Israelites were in Egypt!

If we use the data above and compare it with the smallest tribe, Manesseh, having 32,200 men in 197 years who were age 20+, this outline suggests that 300+ years would not satisfy their population count. *The data presented in this chart seems to thwart the idea that the Israelites lived in Egypt for a total of 215 years.*

Now comes a more difficult question. Is the ratio of one father to five surviving sons every 50 years for 350 years reasonable? What do genealogical records for this time-period suggest? Notice this sample which may or may not be representative of reproduction while in Egyptian bondage:

Amram	- 2 sons -- lived 137 years
Kohath	- 4 sons -- lived 133 years
Moses	- 2 sons -- lived 120 years

Average: 2.66 sons per father per 130 years

Smaller numbers

If we reset the reproduction rate to one father and three surviving sons per forty years (less time, less children), notice the result:

Number of Offspring Year in Egypt										
40	80	120	160	200	240	280	320	360	400	
---	----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	
Births										
3	9	27	81	243	729	2,187	6,561	19,683	59,049	
Deaths										
0	3	9	27	81	243	729	2,187	6,561	19,683	
Net Increase										
3	6	18	54	162	486	1,458	4,374	13,122	<u>39,366</u>	

Obviously, alterations produce alternate answers. However, our objective is to see if we can find a reasonable ratio of fathers to offspring and the number of years for a reproductive cycle for one generation to produce 603,550 males in 197 years. One can see by looking at this chart that 197 years is not enough time to produce the census totals for any tribe given in Numbers. When we factor in the population data between the first census and second census, and the reproduction cycles tested above, the number of years in Egypt favors a number greater than 215.

Long or Short Chronology?

Given the complex issues involved in this study, this writer prefers to date the 430 years in Egypt from the birth date of Jacob with these qualifications:

- The four hundred years mentioned in Genesis 15:13 are defined as an average span of 100 years per generation
- The four generations mentioned in Genesis 15 point to Levi, Kohath, Amram and Moses
- The precisely dated 430 years of Exodus 12:40,41 is an anniversary

for Jacob's date of birth. Therefore the words, "to the very day," correspond to the birthday of Israel, the father of this nation.

- The KJV and other translations indicate the total time in Egypt was 430 years. (Exodus 12:40,41) The words of Moses may be translated from the Hebrew to mean the total number of years since the birth of Israel, whose offspring was in Egypt, was 430 years.
- Population tables suggest a period of 197 years cannot produce the necessary numbers to meet the census in the wilderness – 603,550 males.
- The 430 years and 450 years mentioned by Paul are subject to some interpretation given that we can't precisely say if Paul wanted to define this time-period or if Paul wanted to identify a well known time-period.

Because any solution to this mystery faces textual conflict, one has to justify his conclusions with a certain amount of explanation. When all of the above is factored together, this writer finds the best solution to be 430 years in Exodus 12:41 begins with Jacob's birth date.

From Israel's birth to entering Egypt: 130 years

Years Israel's family is in Egypt: 300 years

Israel's offspring: From 66 males to 603,550 males in 300 years (Four generations)

Creation Dating

If the 430 years in Exodus 12 are measured from Jacob's birth to the Exodus in 1437 B.C., then we should be able to determine the date of Creation – within a margin for error – if the genealogical record in the Bible is complete. There are two ways of counting backwards from the Exodus in 1437 B.C. (According to the Jubilee Calendar, the date of the Exodus is beyond reasonable argument.) The counting can be done exclusively or inclusively. If we count exclusively (as we normally count today), we would count as follows:

Adam 130 when Seth was born
Seth 105 when Enosh was born
Enosh 90 when Kenan was born, etc.

So, the total number of years from Adam's creation to the birth of Kenan equals 325 years (plus a margin for error of +3 years). A margin of +3 years is necessary because Adam could have been 130.9 when Seth was born and Seth could have been 105.9 when Enosh was born and Enosh could have been 90.9 when Kenan was born. (In other words, it's probable that offspring were not born on the birthday of their fathers.) So:

Using **exclusive counting**, the maximum amount of time between Adam's creation and Kenan's birth could be:

130.9
105.9
90.9
327.7 calendar years

If Moses used exclusive counting for the genealogies down to the flood, the 1,656 years recorded in Genesis 5 should be understood to have an extreme margin of error of about +9 years. On the other hand, if Moses used inclusive counting (which is far more likely*), then the 1,656 years should be understood to have a margin of error of about -9 years.

For example, the total number of years from Adam's creation to the birth of Kenan equals 325 years according to Moses, but if Moses counted inclusively we have to subtract 3 years from each generation because Adam's 130th year and Seth's first year would be the same year. Similarly, Enosh's 90's year and Kenan's first year would be the same year.

So, using **inclusive counting**, the number of years from Adam's creation to Kenan's birth would be:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 130 \\
 + 105 (-1) \\
 + \underline{90 (-1)} \\
 325 \text{ years} \\
 \underline{- 2} \\
 323 \text{ calendar years}
 \end{array}$$

(***Note:** Two points must be presented here. First, I am unaware of exclusive counting in the Bible. All 18 prophetic time-periods in Daniel and Revelation appear to use inclusive counting. Luke 3 uses inclusive counting and Jesus used inclusive counting in Matthew 12:40. Further more, it appears that Moses used inclusive counting in Exodus 12. So, I favor inclusive counting when calculating the calendar years between the Exodus and Creation. Second, inclusive counting comes with a bonus. It doesn't produce cumulative error over long spans of time. It doesn't matter whether Adam as 130.4 or 130.9 years old when Seth was born because Adam's 130th year and Seth's first year are the same year and the same is true for each generation.)

The following list counts **backward** from the Exodus to Creation's date using inclusive counting. For example, the first date is calculated as follows: 1437 B.C. + 430 years back to Jacob's birth minus 1 year for inclusive counting = 1866 B.C.

1437 B.C. The Exodus (then 430 years earlier)

1. 1866 B.C. Jacob born (then 160 years earlier)
2. 2025 B.C. Abraham born (then 130 years earlier)
3. 2154 B.C. Terah born (then 29 years earlier)
4. 2182 B.C. Nahor born (then 30 years earlier)
5. 2211 B.C. Serug born (then 32 years earlier)
6. 2242 B.C. Reu born (then 30 years earlier)
7. 2271 B.C. Peleg born (then 34 years earlier)
8. 2304 B.C. Eber born (then 30 years earlier)
9. 2333 B.C. Selah born (then 35 years earlier)
10. 2367 B.C. Arphaxad born (then 2 years earlier)
11. **2368 B.C. Year of the Flood** to Arphaxad (then 600 years earlier)
12. 2967 B.C. Noah born (then 182 years earlier)
13. 3148 B.C. Lamech born (then 187 years earlier)
14. 3334 B.C. Methuselah (then 65 years earlier)
15. 3398 B.C. Enoch born (then 162 years earlier)
16. 3559 B.C. Jared born (then 65 years earlier)
17. 3623 B.C. Mahalalel born (then 70 years earlier)
18. 3692 B.C. Kenan born (then 90 years earlier)

19. 3781 B.C. Enosh born (then 105 years earlier)
20. 3885 B.C. Seth born (130 years earlier)
21. **4014 B.C.* Adam Created**

6,000 Years of Sin and 1,000 Years for Sabbatical Rest

Given the genealogical data above we can make some guesses about the termination of the 6,000th year of sin. Because Adam and Eve did not bear children in the Garden of Eden, because Adam and Eve were 130 years of age when Seth was born, and perhaps Cain and Abel were married men, (old enough to offer sacrifices for their own households), when Cain killed Abel, we are left with a window of time that ranges from a minimum of ~21 years to a maximum of about 70 years in the Garden before sin occurred. Of course, there is no way to know when Adam and Eve sinned. Nevertheless, the location of the 6,000th year numerically favors the first half of the 21st century. Note these figures using 4014 B.C. as the year of Creation:

If Adam and Eve lived in Eden 21 years before sin occurred: 3993 B.C. thru **A.D. 2007** = 6,000 years
 If Adam and Eve lived in Eden 25 years before sin occurred: 3990 B.C. thru **A.D. 2010** = 6,000 years
 If Adam and Eve lived in Eden 33 years before sin occurred: **3985 B.C. thru A.D. 2018*** = 6,000 years
 If Adam and Eve lived in Eden 40 years before sin occurred: 3974 B.C. thru **A.D. 2025** = 6,000 years
 If Adam and Eve lived in Eden 70 years before sin occurred: 3944 B.C. thru **A.D. 2055** = 6,000 years

*Note: Jesus, who came to Earth as the second Adam, was 33 when He died. Did Jesus have to live on Earth for the same number of years that Adam and Eve lived in Eden before the Father tested Him to see if He would die for sinners? If so, Adam and Jesus were tested in their 33rd year of life.

Given the synchrony of the 18 prophetic time periods discussed in my article "Great Clocks From God," if Adam and Eve were in the Garden for 33 years before sin began, the 2018 date could be a very interesting alignment on several levels. The angel told Daniel that the end time is an appointed time which is also a time of wrath! (Daniel 8:19) The Father has set dates by His own authority. (Acts 1:7) The 6th trumpet date is set down to the hour, day, month and year. (Revelation 9:15) The demons know the end time has already been appointed. (Matthew 8:29) Gabriel told Daniel: "Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time." (Daniel 11:35)

Let's suppose the 1,000 "years" of Revelation 20 will begin on Nisan 1 [New Year's Day] in God's calendar, which occurs at the first new moon, on or after the Spring Equinox. Let's also suppose the Second Coming will occur on the 1,335th day declared in Daniel 12:12 KJV "Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days."

If this is true, we could have the following alignment:

The 1,335th day = Nisan 1, Monday, April 16, 2018. (Note: New Moon at Greenwich, England is Saturday, 18:58 hours UT which equals Sunday, April 19 in God's Clocks due to a day starting at sundown.)

Why this date? On this particular day we have the following alignment in God's calendar:

New Day
 New Month [conjunction of a New Moon]
 New Year [Nisan 1, New Year's Day]



The beginning of the 1,000 years (the seventh millennium)?
If so, this alignment produces the following scenario:

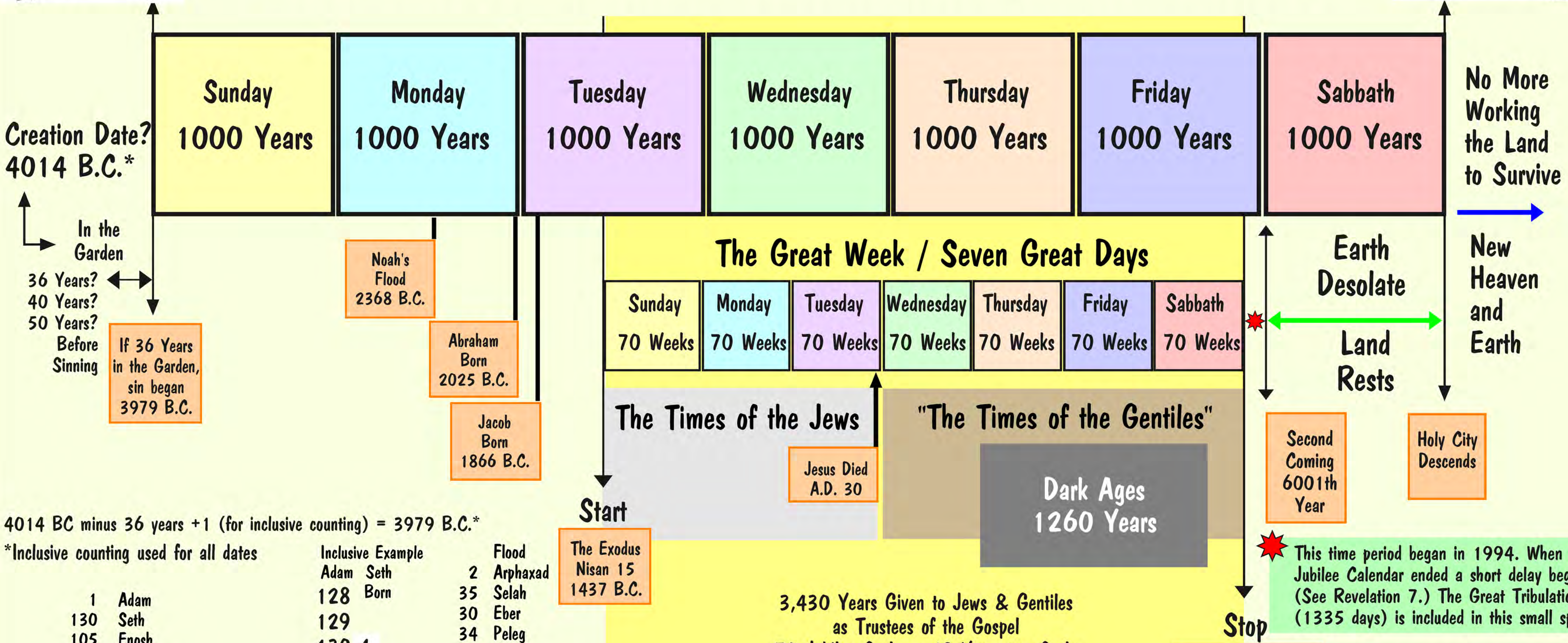
Thu	08/21/14	Global Earthquake / Trumpets begin
Fri	10/24/14	Persecution Begins - Babylon rises – new moon -- 42 moons of persecution
Thu	01/29/17	Devil appears -- fifth trumpet -- new moon -- five months torment begins
Sab	06/24/17	Sixth Trumpet / 5th seal martyrdom begins
Wed	01/31/18	1,260 days end of mercy (Two Witnesses are killed)
Sun	02/04/18	After 3.5 days, the 144,000 ascend / 7 Bowls begin, Firstfruits presented on Sunday
Fri	03/02/18	Universal Death Decree -- Adar 14 (Same date as Esther 9)
Sab	03/17/18	Persecution ends -- end of 42 months
Sun	04/16/18	Jesus gathers saints on the 1335th day

When the whole of Bible genealogy, history and prophecy are brought together, the end of 6,000 years of sin and the beginning of the Sabbath millennium appears to be very close. Since 1993, I have concluded the 6,000th year will end somewhere between 1998 and 2017/2018. We will soon see!

Not Drawn to Scale

The Grand Week / Seven Grand Days / 7,000 Years

 **Start** Six Grand Days the Land Is Cursed / Land Rests during the Seventh Grand Day **Stop** 



4014 BC minus 36 years +1 (for inclusive counting) = 3979 B.C.*

*Inclusive counting used for all dates

Inclusive Example		Flood	
Adam	Seth Born	2	Arphaxad
128		35	Selah
129		30	Eber
130 1		34	Peleg
131 2		30	Reu
132 3		32	Serug
133 4		30	Nahor
5		29	Terah
6		130	Abram
		100	Isaac
		60	Jacob born
		430	The Exodus
1,656	Total	942	Total

Adjusted to 1,646 years because of inclusive counting.

Adjusted to 931 years because of inclusive counting.

3,430 Years Given to Jews & Gentiles as Trustees of the Gospel
70 Jubilee Cycles x 49 Years per Cycle
Days of the Week Are Counted as Years

The Weekly Template

Grand Week = 7000 Years
Great Week = 3,430 Years
Week of Weeks = 49 Years
Week of Years = 7 Years
Week of Days = 7 Days

70 Jubilee Cycles Ended Nisan 1 (April), 1994

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Copies of both sides of this chart may be made as long as there are no alterations.

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December, 2013

Speaker: Larry Wilson

Seven Biblical Reasons
Showing Why The Mark of the Beast
Has Nothing to Do
With Sunday or Worship on Sunday
Part I

*** This video presentation has been created as a response to a Youtube presentation on the Mark of the Beast produced by Seventh Day Adventists. It has been divided into three parts so that viewers can download smaller files.

Hello: I'm Larry Wilson and I would like to present seven reasons from the Bible showing why the mark of the beast has nothing to do with Sunday or worship on Sunday.

This presentation is an open rebuttal to the Seventh Day Adventist Church which claims "the mark of the beast" is worshipping on Sunday.

Seventh Day Adventists have been promoting the idea that Sunday sacredness is the mark of the beast for more than a hundred years and I think a Bible based rebuttal is both appropriate and necessary. I wish to make clear that this is not a presentation denigrating Seventh Day Adventists or Roman Catholics or anyone for that matter. Christians should be fair minded and kind, even when there is disagreement.

As religious organizations go, I believe Adventists, Catholics, Baptists, the Salvation Army and many other Christian organizations have done and continue do a lot of good.

But doing good is one thing and the advancement of Bible truth is another. I believe Bible truth is ever unfolding. God's truth is infinite and our understanding of it should be advancing as the Holy Spirit leads.

Jesus told His disciples: "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. . . ." John 16:13 I do not have or know all truth. I am only a student of God's Word. Therefore, I realize that I could be wrong.

Nevertheless, when compelling evidence is found in the Bible pointing to greater truth, I think we should closely examine it, embrace it and share it. The word "truth" simply means "nothing missing."

Adventists have openly taught the Roman Catholic Church is the first beast in Revelation 13 and the Mother of Harlots in Revelation 17. Adventists teach that the Catholic Church will somehow impose Sunday sacredness on the whole world someday.

Because Adventists are open and frank about their views on the mark of the beast, it is not unfair to challenge their teaching. I know that many Catholics are offended by the teachings of Adventists and I have no doubts that Adventists will be offended with this presentation.

I am not a Seventh Day Adventist or a Roman Catholic. Nevertheless, I think Adventists need to stop associating the mark of the beast with the Catholic Church and reconsider their prophetic views on this matter.

The bottom line is simple.

You are the judge and jury and after you hear and consider the evidence (you may have to watch this presentation a time or two), you can decide for yourself whether or not I have presented a good case.

To begin, you should know that Adventists support their position on the mark of the beast with three basic steps:

First step:

Adventists believe the first beast in Revelation 13 is the Roman Catholic Church.

Second Step:

Seventh Day Adventists believe the Catholic Church transferred the holiness of the seventh day Sabbath to Sunday. To prove this point Adventists offer a number of historical quotes made by Catholic scholars who have said the Church did transfer the sacredness of the seventh day Sabbath to Sunday, the first day of the week and this transferr is "a sign" or "mark" of the authority which Jesus gave to His Church.

Third Step:

Seventh Day Adventists believe the pope has a title which adds up to 666 when converted into Roman numerals.

Vicarious Filii Dei = 666

I have no quarrel with the claim made by Catholics. They believe their Church transferred the sacredness of Sabbath to Sunday. However, I am persuaded the mark of the beast has nothing to do with the Catholic Church, worship on Sunday or, for that matter, worship on any other day of the week! So, let's get started:

Reason #1.

The Greek word for "mark" -- used in the phrase, "the mark of the beast" is "charagma."

Look it up in Strong's Concordance. G5480

Charagma means "a scratch or engraving."

For example, a charagma is an engraving on a tombstone. A charagma is a tattoo, a scratching or etching put on someone's body.

The Bible indicates a time is coming when a charagma will be engraved or etched on the right hand of everyone who wants to buy and sell.

This charagma will be visible to everyone. It will be the number 666 and it will be shown to the authorities whenever commerce (buying or selling) is conducted.

Rev 13:17 " . . . no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark (charagma). . . "

The Bible predicts a time is coming when people will knowingly and willfully scramble to receive a tattoo on their right hand showing the number 666.

Those refusing the charagma will be shut off from all of the necessities of life. (More about this in a moment.)

Summarizing Biblical Reason #1:

The Greek word for "mark" -- as in "the mark of the beast" is "charagma" and it means an engraving, an etching or scratching -- a tattoo.

The charagma has nothing to do with Sunday worship. The charagma on the right hand will be a tattoo showing "666."

Note: If charagma were a symbolic word, the Bible would clearly explain the meaning of the symbol because any symbol without relevant text providing definition is a disaster in the making.

When something is declared to be symbolic and the Bible does not state the meaning of the symbol, everyone on Earth becomes equally free to make that symbol whatever they want it to be.

And we all know that opposing definitions are merely self canceling.

Since there is no relevant text in the Bible defining the meaning of charagma, the word is not symbolic. It is literal. It will be a literal engraving. It will be visible. This charagma will be a literal tattoo engraved on a literal right hand showing the literal number, 666. Bible

Reason #2.

The Bible teaches the charagma (mark) of the beast will be two separate and distinct engravings, not one.

Everyone knows one charagma will be the number -- 666 tattooed on the right hand -- but few people know the second charagma will be a literal name tattooed on the literal foreheads of literal people. Yes!

The mark of the beast will be two different tattoos!

Rev 13:16-18 "He [the beast] also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark [charagma] on his right hand OR on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark (tattoo), which is the name of the beast OR the number of his name. This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is [a] man's number. His number is 666."

Charagma #1: 666 (right hand)

OR

Charagma #2: A name (forehead)

And both will be imposed on literal people

The three phrases, "the number of his name," "the number of the beast," and "it is [a] man's number" leads Seventh Day Adventists to believe that 666 must be extracted from the beast's name (or title) using Roman numerals.

Hence: Vicarious Filii Dei = 666

But . . .

These three phrases have another meaning. They mean possession. In other words, "the number [of people] belonging to the name of the beast" which is a man will be 666. (More about this in a moment.)

Summarizing Bible Reasons #1 and #2:

1. The mark of the beast will be a literal charagma (an engraving, a tattoo).
2. The charagma will be the number 666 and it will be tattooed on the right hand OR the charagma will be the name of the beast which will be tattooed on the foreheads of wicked people. Therefore:

Two different places: right hand / forehead

Two different charagmas: 666 / name.

Bible Reason #3.

Which beast in Rev 13 has the mark?

This is a very important question and the correct answer devastates the Adventist position on this topic. The beast that will create and impose his mark (charagma) on mankind is not the first beast (as Adventists claim), but the second beast in Revelation 13. If you not familiar with Revelation 13, this can be a bit confusing, so please bear with me for a moment. . . .

There are two beasts in Rev 13:

First beast

- 7 heads/10 horns

Resembles a leopard / bear feet / lion mouth

Second beast

2 horns like the Lamb / speaks like the dragon

Rev 13:1-10 concerns the first beast (a composite beast)

Rev 13:11-18 concerns the second beast (a lamblike beast) which imposes his mark on everyone.

Seventh Day Adventists teach the first beast in Rev 13 is the Roman Catholic Church and the second beast is the United States.

However, when Adventists get near the end of Revelation 13, instead of applying the mark of the beast to the second beast (which they say is the United States) they suddenly do a switchback from the second beast to the first beast so that they can associate the number "666" with a man, e.g., the pope.

This is their method:

Rev 13:1-10 concerns the first beast
Rev 13:11-15 concerns the second beast
Switchback
Rev 13:16-18 concerns the first beast

This switchback **is not supported** by Scripture.

The Bible indicates the second beast is the beast that imposes his charagma (mark) on mankind! Adventists cannot accept this because they insist the second beast in Rev 13 is the United States -- and the United States is not a religious system having a religious leader with a name that adds up to 666. Therefore, they distort the Bible to make their assertion work that 666 belongs to the pope.

Yes, the Bible says the number 666 belongs to "a man." And when the second beast in Revelation 13 appear, it will be a man, but the man is not a pope! The second beast in Rev 13 represents "the man of sin" (KJV), "the man of lawlessness" (NIV), a.k.a. Lucifer, Satan, that ancient serpent, the devil himself!

The Bible teaches a time is coming when Lucifer, that fallen angel, the devil himself, will be given a physical body and permitted to walk around on Earth just as Jesus did.

Two thousand years ago Jesus was given a body when He came from Heaven to save sinners.

1 Tim 3:16 "Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He [Jesus] appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory."

Did you know something similar will done for Lucifer? He will be given a body – but he will go to his destruction.

In the future, the devil will be released from the spirit realm where he is confined and he will be given a body so that he might deceive the world and gather together all of the wicked people of the world.

After the devil has deceived the wicked, he will set up a kingdom and his charagma (tattoo) will serve a very important role in the process. (More about this in a moment.)

When Lucifer is allowed to physically appear, the devil will masquerade around the world as Almighty God.

Billions of people will see him perform amazing miracles, signs and wonders.

Billions of people will fall down and worship him -- believing that he is Almighty God.

>>>This coming "superman," the man of lawlessness is the dreaded Antichrist. Lucifer will appear to be a glorious man, but he will be a demon wearing a garment of glorious light.<<<<
(2 Corinthians 11:14)

To make his deception secure, Lucifer will be attended by billions of fallen angels (demons).
(See Rev 9)

The world has never seen anything like this. . .

There is no historical precedent for something like this other than the incarnation of Jesus.

The greatest deception to ever occur on Earth will soon take place and Christians do not have a clue.

The world does not anticipate this coming event and the world will not be able to escape the devil's capture of the world. Lucifer will eventually rule over the inhabitants of Earth with absolute power.

Do you want to hear something ironic?

Seventh Day Adventists generally believe that Lucifer will physically appear on Earth before Christ returns, but they do not have a single Bible text from Daniel or Revelation for this belief. This is very very strange.

Because Seventh Day Adventists have focused on the pope and the Roman Catholic Church, they have totally missed the most profound point in Bible prophecy!

The man (the second beast) in Rev 13 is not a pope. The man in Rev 13 is a fallen angel who has been alive for thousands of years! He was once a covering cherub in Heaven! He was in Eden. He was at Noah's flood. He was in Jerusalem when Jesus was crucified. He is highly intelligent and unbelievably sophisticated and cunning.

He is also a great king. He has billions of demons (fallen angels) at his disposal and a day is coming when he and his demons will be released from the spirit realm to physically appear all over Earth. (See Rev 9.)

One of the first questions that many people ask when they hear that Lucifer and his angels will be permitted to physically appear is "why?"

Why will God permit this?

To appreciate the answer to this question, you have to first understand the situation on Earth when Lucifer and his demons are permitted to appear.

In a nutshell, the devil will be held back for 2/3 of the Great Tribulation. Then, he will be allowed to physically appear.

Prior to his appearing, the 144,000 will have faithfully and boldly proclaimed the gospel of Jesus, including the first two messages found in Revelation 14:6-8.

After 890 days of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus, the people of Earth will be divided into three groups:

The saints (opposing Babylon)

The religious wicked (supporting Babylon).

The non-religious wicked (opposing Babylon)

(I'll explain who Babylon is later on.)

By the 890th day, most everyone will have made their decision concerning the gospel of Jesus -- which will have been proclaimed in all the world. The gospel presented by the 144,000 will create a huge rebellion.

The rejection of the gospel by the religious wicked and the non-religious wicked and the physical appearing of the devil was predicted by Paul. Notice his words:

2 Thess 2:3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day [the Second Coming of Jesus] will not come until (1) the rebellion occurs and (2) the man of lawlessness is revealed, the [super] man doomed to destruction.

2 Thess 2:9 The coming of the lawless one will be [divinely glorious and awesome to behold, but] in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,

2 Thess 2:10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They [the wicked] perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

(More about hearing and then refusing to love the truth in a moment)

2 Thess 2:11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie

2 Thess 2:12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness."

The answer to why God permits the devil to physically appear is now clear.

"They [the wicked] perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason

God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie...."

As I said earlier, "In the future, the devil will be released from the spirit realm and he will be given a body so that he might deceive the world and gather together all of the wicked people of the world.

The devil will set up a worldwide kingdom and his charagma (tattoo) will serve a very important role in this process. "

Summarizing Reasons #3 and #2 and #1:

The second beast in Rev 13 will be a man. He will be "a superman." The devil will be given the body of a man so that he can appear on Earth. This is the second beast in Revelation 13, a fallen angel attended by billions of demons.

After five months of deceiving the people of Earth, the devil will set up his government and he will require everyone to worship him.

All of his subjects will wear a literal charagma on their right hand or on their forehead.

Evidence of this tattoo on the right hand will be necessary to receive rations.

Yes, the mark of the beast will be a literal charagma, a simple tattoo.

Yes, the mark of the second beast will be a number (666) or the name which Lucifer will use (unknown at this time).

Yes, the second beast in Rev 13 is a man, but the man is not a pope or anyone born of a woman.

There is no justification in Rev 13 for the switchback, shifting the last three verses in Revelation 13 to the first beast.

Please join me for Part II.

Part II will be better than Part I!

Intermission

Wake Up America Seminars
P O Box 273
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December, 2013

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Seven Biblical Reasons
Showing Why The Mark of the Beast
Has Nothing to Do
With Sunday or Worship on Sunday
Part II

***This presentation has been divided into three parts so that viewers can download smaller files.

Hello: I'm Larry Wilson and this is Part II of our study, "Seven biblical reasons showing why the mark of the beast has nothing to do with Sunday or worship on Sunday."

I hope you have viewed Part I once or twice. If not, please watch that video before proceeding.

Three biblical reasons have been presented thus far showing why the mark of the beast has nothing to do with worship on Sunday or any other day of the week:

1. The mark (chagrama) of the beast is an engraving, a tattoo.
2. The mark (tattoo) of the beast will be two engravings: The number 666 (tattooed on the right hand) or the name which the devil will use when he physically appears (tattooed on the forehead).
3. The mark of the beast is created and imposed on mankind by the second beast in Rev 13, not the first.

The second beast in Rev 13 is the man of lawlessness, a man "proclaiming himself to be God" and this leads us into Bible Reason #4:

Bible Reason #4.

Seventh Day Adventists admit a man is involved in the last half of Revelation 13 and the problem is that the man they have chosen is not the right man.

This faulty conclusion is due to a invalid rule which they have created.

Seventh Day Adventists say "a beast in Bible prophecy always represents a nation."

They deduct this idea from Daniel 7 because in that vision, four beasts do represent four kingdoms.

But, in Bible prophecy beasts are not always empires or kingdoms.

Here's why:

There is a Lamb having seven horns and seven eyes in Revelation 5:6 which John saw standing before God's throne.

This beast with seven horns and seven eyes represents deity in the form of a man, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

There is also a red dragon in Revelation 12 and this beast represents Lucifer, the devil.

Rev 12:7 "And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back."

Rev 12:9 "The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him."

Two beasts:

Lamb: Jesus

Dragon: Lucifer

Notice: *Neither* beast is a nation or empire in the book of Revelation.

Let's take this one step further:

Did you know that Lucifer is described as "a man" in the Bible three times?

1. Ezek 28:2 " . . . 'In the pride of your heart you say, "I am a god; I sit on the throne of a god in the heart of the seas." But **you are a man** and not a god, though you think you are as wise as a god."

2. Isa 14:14-17 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit. Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: "**Is this the man** who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble, the man who made the world a desert, who overthrew its cities and would not let his captives go home?"

3. 2 Thess 2:3,4 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and **the man of lawlessness** is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God."

There is no evidence that any pope has ever claimed to be God.

Catholics have claimed that popes are the vicar of Christ (e.g., filling in for Jesus until Christ sets up His kingdom), but this is not the same thing as claiming to be deity.

When Lucifer appears, he will immediately claim to be deity -- Almighty God! According to Revelation 9, he and his angels will descend from the sky and subdue the world!

The devil, the man of lawlessness, will be given a glorious body, like that of a man.

We know the second beast in Revelation 13 is a man because 666 is the number of a man.

Rev 13:18 "Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six." (KJV)

Digressing for a moment:

Look at this phrase:

"for it is man's number" (NIV)

"for it is the number of a man" (KJV)

The syntax in Greek for this phrase indicates possession.

In other words, the number 666 belongs to a man.

But the question we need to ask is this:

"What actually belongs to the man -- will it be a bad serial number or will there actually be 666 people that belong to a man?"

I believe the Bible indicates the beast will own 666 people. Wearing a tattoo on the right hand that simply says 666 doesn't necessarily mean anything until the tattoo determines whether or not a person can buy or sell.

Please consider this:

Lucifer will physically appear on Earth at an appointed time, masquerading as Almighty God and he will deceive the whole world through counterfeit signs and wonders. (2 Thess 2)

He will even call fire down out of Heaven "to prove" to the people of Earth that he really is Almighty God!

Rev 13:13 "And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men.

Rev 13:14 Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the Earth. . . . "

Lucifer will put on "a really big show" at first in order to deceive the people of Earth -- who will be -- at the time -- desperate for the necessities of life.

He will call fire down from Heaven to prove that his masquerade is genuine.

When Lucifer first appears, he will be gentle and benevolent. He will be gracious and speak wonderful words and perform amazing signs.

After five months of deception, billions of people will believe that he is God. Then, when he has the world eating out of his hand, he will suddenly change character. The man of lawlessness will suddenly become a "a real beast," a tyrant -- a cruel dictator, absolute, treacherous, unfair, unpredictable, mean, ruthless and stone cold.

He will oppose everything that is called God or is worshiped. He will set himself above man's laws, doing and commanding whatever he wants -- and no one shall be able to refuse him without incredible agony or death.

Lucifer will set up a government so that God might reign from Earth. He will impose a tattoo on everyone willing to be a part of his government and when they sign up for his tattoo, they will become his subjects -- his property!

The number of people belonging to the beast will be 666. (More about this in a moment.)

Summary Bible Reason #4:

Beasts in Revelation do not necessarily represent nations or empires.

No nation or pope can deceive the inhabitants of the Earth.

No nation or pope can call fire down out of Heaven at will.

No nation or pope can fulfill the specifications given to the second beast in Rev 13.

The second beast in Revelation 13 cannot be the United States as Seventh Day Adventists claim.

Consider this: After 10 years, thousands of deaths and billions of dollars, the United States has not been able to remove a few thousand Taliban out of Afghanistan and yet Seventh Day Adventists somehow believe that 5% of the world's population (the United States represents 5% of the world's population) will somehow force 83% of the world (non-Christians who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ to be deity) to receive the mark of the beast by worshiping on Sunday.

The second beast in Revelation 13 is not the United States. It is a man, a supernatural man, the man of lawlessness who will be "a strong delusion."

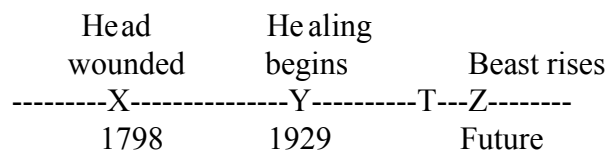
Bible Reason #5.

The mark of the beast does not yet exist. The first beast in Rev 13 and the second beast in Revelation 13 have not yet appeared on Earth.

Notice why these words are true:

The Bible says the first beast in Revelation 13 has seven heads. It also says that one of the seven heads had received a fatal wound, but when the first beast in Rev 13 rises from the sea, the fatal wound "had been healed." This wounded head and other specifications given in Daniel and Revelation identifies the Roman Catholic Church which, in 1798, did receive "a fatal wound" during the French Revolution. Napoleon ended the authority of the papacy over Europe. He had the pope captured and exiled to France near the end of the French Revolution.

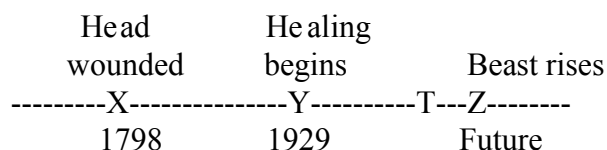
This historical fact is widely known and is prophetically important because the first beast in Rev 13 rises from the sea AFTER the deadly wound is healed. Therefore:



T=Today

Notice what the Bible says:

Rev 13:3 "One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound [1798], but the fatal wound had been healed [when the beast rose from the sea in verse 1]. [Then] The whole world [not only Catholics] was astonished and followed the beast."



As of December, 2013, the deadly wound has not been healed. The papacy does not wield authority over governments that it once did over the nations of Europe during the Dark Ages. Therefore, the deadly wound is NOT healed.

Moreover, according to the specifications given in Scripture, the first beast in Revelation 13 cannot possibly be the Roman Catholic Church.

The first beast will be something much larger and far more powerful!

ONE of the seven heads (Head #6) on the first beast represents the Roman Catholic Church.

Heads
1 2 3 4 5 **6** 7

The other six heads also represent religious systems on Earth and they too will add their power to the first beast when it rises to power.

So what does the first beast in Rev 13 represent?

The first beast represents a global coalition, a worldwide government, a crisis government which the nations of Earth will hastily create when the four angels in Revelation 7 release God's wrath on mankind.

You may not know this, you may not believe this, but God's wrath is coming upon the whole world prior to the Second Coming. Paul warned:

Col 3:5,6 "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming."

Here's a brief scenario:

A day is coming soon when God's wrath against this world will break out.

A God of love is fed up with our degenerate and decadent behavior. It makes Him angry to see children abused, to see innocent people killed, to see people full of greed and engaged in sexual immorality. God's heart is sick because He sees everything going on and there is no cure. People will not listen and repent.

Therefore, God is about to kill 1.75 billion people and burn up a third of the Earth. He will destroy thousands of cities, notably wicked places -- large cities which behave like Sodom and Gomorrah.

These forthcoming actions are described in the first four trumpets of Revelation 8.

When the religious and political leaders of the world behold the overwhelming scope of God's destruction and the awesome power of God's wrath, they will be very-very-very afraid of God -- as they should be.

The survivors will be so traumatized and overwhelmed they will not know what to think or say.

Everyone will be forced by the orderly evidence of global destruction (per Revelation 8) to acknowledge God's great anger with the world and all of mankind.

After consulting with the religious leaders of the world, the governments of Earth will humbly unite and together they will form a worldwide government (called Babylon in the Revelation) for the purpose of appeasing God's anger so that His wrath will end and that people might live!

And "the whole world" will humbly go along with Babylon's "repentance plan."

The Bible says: ". . . The whole world was astonished and followed the beast [Babylon]." Rev 13:3

Babylon will insist that God's wrath has fallen on mankind because of sinful behavior.

Therefore, it only makes sense that outlawing sinful behavior and enforcing such laws with severest penalties will please God.

The union of the religious (church) and political systems (state) of the world explains how the worship of God will become a hotly contested issue in days to come.

Religiously speaking, we are a diverse world and God's awesome display of wrath will bring about an ecumenical movement that is impossible to imagine at the present time.

But the world's religious gridlock will break down when "the fear of God" overtakes the survivors on Earth.

Summarizing Biblical Reasons #4 and #5:

When the first beast in Rev 13 rises from the sea, the deadly wound inflicted on the papacy in 1798 will have been healed. The healing has not happened. . . and the first beast has not appeared.

This is how the healing will happen:

After God's wrath befalls Earth, the religious leaders of the world will meet and unanimously agree that the pope should serve as the chairman of a worldwide government (called Babylon in Revelation) so that God's wrath can be appeased and His judgments will end.

The election of the pope will be natural because the Roman Catholic Church is the only church that already has diplomatic relations with most of the 219 countries in the world.

Do not misunderstand. When the pope is elected to lead out, the pope will not be put in a position of imposing Catholic beliefs on Muslims, Jews, Hindus or non-Catholics.

Instead, he and an executive committee of the world's religious leaders will work together with political leaders in every nation, arbitrating different ways within different religions, cultures and nations for appeasing God so that God's wrath toward all of Earth will cease.

This is how and when the deadly wound on the first beast will be healed. The first beast in Rev 13 represents a composite government of the world's religious and political leaders.

All seven religious systems on Earth will participate in this government, the first beast in Revelation 13 called Babylon. But, let me say again, this beast does not yet exist!

This ends Part II. Part III is even better!

Please watch Part III.

Intermission. . . .

Wake Up America Seminars
P O Box 273
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December, 2013

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Seven Biblical Reasons
Showing Why The Mark of the Beast
Has Nothing to Do
With Sunday or Worship on Sunday
Part III

***This presentation has been divided into three parts so that viewers can download smaller files.

Hello: I'm Larry Wilson and this is Part III on our study, "Seven biblical reasons showing why the mark of the beast has nothing to do with Sunday or worship on Sunday."

I hope you have viewed Parts I & II. If not, please stop and watch them before proceeding.

Seventh Day Adventists have been promoting the claim that Sunday sacredness is the mark of the beast (the mark of the Roman Catholic Church) for more than a hundred years.

So far, we have examine five reasons why the Seventh Day Adventist position on the mark of the beast is not Biblical.

1. The mark of the beast will be a charagma, an engraving -- a tattoo.
2. This visible tattoo will be the number 666 or the name which Lucifer will use.
3. The mark of the beast will be created and imposed by Lucifer who will appear on Earth in the form of a man. Lucifer, "the man of lawlessness" is the second beast in Rev 13. The devil will proclaim himself to be God (deity) and he will call fire down from Heaven to prove his assumed divinity.
4. Seventh Day Adventists admit that a man is involved in the last half of Revelation 13. However, they switch out the last three verses to identify the pope as that man, but the man they have chosen is a mere mortal.

Lucifer is a great angel, he will have power to work all kinds of miracles and he will deceive the

people of Earth with signs and wonders. The man of lawlessness will set himself as God and he will have the power (attending demons) and the ability to back up his words and commands.

5. The two beasts described in Revelation 13 have not yet appeared on Earth.

The first beast will be a worldwide crisis government which religious and political leaders will create after God's wrath begins.

This beast is called Babylon in Revelation and it will rise to power when mankind unitedly responds to God's awesome wrath.

The second beast in Rev 13 (Lucifer) will appear out of nowhere. We have discussed how the devil will be given a physical body so that he can appear at the fifth trumpet. (Rev 9)

Now that we have examined five biblical reasons why the mark of the beast has nothing to do with worshiping on Sunday or any other day of the week, we need to examine the final two reasons, the best two reasons!

Bible Reason #6.

Rev 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the [first] beast -- all whose names have not been written in the book of life . . . "

Did you notice the words "All inhabitants?"

This verse predicts a time is coming when 100% of Earth's population (minus the saints) will worship (obey) the laws created by the first beast....

Some perspective on this verse is needed:

The United States has less than 5% of the world's population.

Currently, world population is 7+ billion people and the Catholic church has ~1.2 billion members and Protestants total ~300 million.

Given these stats:

Catholics and Protestants combined are ~17% of the world's population, but 83% of the world is non-Christian. Question: How can 17% of the world force 83% of the world (non-Christians) to worship on Sunday? (Ratio: ~5 non-Christians for every 1 Christian)

We know the authority of the first beast will be global. "**All** inhabitants . . . "

We know Lucifer's tattoo (charagma) will be universal. "He forced *everyone* . . . to receive a charagma on his right hand or forehead."

Adventists cannot explain their prophetic belief. Ask them how can the United States and the Catholic Church force 83% of the world, people who are just as devout and faithful to their traditions and religions as Christians are -- how can 17% force "ALL inhabitants" of the Earth (Muslims, Jews, Hindus, etc.) to violate their religious conscience and worship Jesus every Sunday when they deny that He is deity?

Do you see the problem?

Earlier, it was said that after 10 years, thousands of deaths and billions of dollars, the United States can't get a few thousand Taliban out of Afghanistan and yet Seventh Day Adventists somehow believe that 17% of the world will somehow force 83% of the world to receive the mark of the beast (by worshiping on Sunday).

Problem is, the Bible doesn't teach this or support the idea.

The Bible does teach the mark of the beast will be implemented all over the world at the same time by one man.

That powerful man, a stern-faced king, will be the fallen angel Lucifer, the man of lawlessness.

Dan 8:24 "He will become very strong, but not by his own power [remember, God sends this strong delusion so that people who refused to love the truth and be saved will believe the lie]. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty men and the holy people [there will be many martyrs among the people of God].

Dan 8:25 He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy [1/3 of mankind] many and take his stand against the Prince of princes [when Jesus appears at the Second Coming]. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power."

Summarizing Reason #6:

"All inhabitants" will obey the laws of Babylon, but no one nation or religious body can make this happen in a world as politically and religiously diverse as Earth.

So, how does all of this relate to the number 666?

This brings us to Reason #7:

Bible Reason #7.

The mark (charagma) of the beast (Lucifer) will be implemented when Lucifer sets up his kingdom on Earth. (6th trumpet)

Masquerading as Almighty God, the devil will "invite" the wicked to join with him building the kingdom of God on Earth. The devil will promise 1,000 years of peace and prosperity for everyone.

But in order to set up the kingdom of God on Earth, the "wicked" must first be cleansed / purged from Earth.

And whom will the devil classify as "wicked?"

Everyone in opposition to his ambitions (the saints and non-religious people, all who defy his "divine authority").

When the devil moves to set up "the kingdom of God," he will promptly silence the opposition by killing a third of mankind!

Rev 9:15 "And the four angels [demons] who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind."How will this occur?

During the sixth trumpet, the devil will demand that the people of Earth be divided into groups of 1,000 -- "for logistical purposes."

(Note: The division of people into groups of 1,000 has been practiced since Bible times for logistical purposes: See Exodus 18:21; Numbers 31:14; 1 Samuel 22:7; 1 Chronicles 13:1; 2 Chronicles 25:5)

After the groups have been established, the devil will choose one person from each group of a thousand to be its captain. 1,000 minus 1 = 999.

This will leave 999 people in each group and 1/3 of each group will be killed.

The first 666 people willing to receive a charagma (tattoo) on their right hand showing the number 666 will be permitted to live. The remaining 333 will be executed.

And the devil, the first sociopath, will be delighted with the killing of men, women and children!

During WWII, Hitler tattooed his captives because tattoos are effective and cheap. Logistically, they are simple to administer and extremely secure. (No counterfeiting, never lost and nontransferable).

Many people do not realize this, but when the time comes for the mark of the beast there will be almost no electricity. God's wrath will devastate the Earth, He will break up the many infrastructures which man has built -- the power grid, transportation, highways, bridges, dams, the postal and banking system, etc.

Microchips will be worthless. Bar codes will be useless. Computers will be scrap metal.

If you want to buy food. You will have to show your tattoo. If you want to sell food. You will have to show your tattoo. Simple. Everyone without the tattoo will be identified as a enemy of the "so-called" kingdom of God!

Coming circumstances during the Great Tribulation will be very hard and primitive.

The necessities of life will be tightly rationed and only those having the mark of the beast (the tattoo showing 666 on their right hand) will be able to buy and sell.

The saints will have no choice other than living by faith.

The Greek phrase, "the number belonging to his name" should make sense now.

Each group of one thousand, when reduced to 666 people, will belong to the man, Lucifer. Lucifer's captains, those who were appointed over each group of 1,000, will have Lucifer's name tattooed on their foreheads.

The tattoo on the forehead will immediately identify those having very high rank in Lucifer's government -- in much the same way that gold embroidery currently identifies the high rank of military officials.

Incidentally, you may not know this, but when the 144,000 are taken to Heaven, God will write His name on their foreheads!

Rev 14:1 Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

Rev 22:4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

The devil puts his name on his captains to counterfeit a beautiful thing which God will do for His captains!

Now you know why the mark of the beast is both a number and a name.

The mark of the beast will be a tool used for logistical purposes. The charagma (tattoo) has nothing to do with worship on Sunday, the Catholic Church, the pope or worship on any other day of the week.

Summary: Here are seven reasons showing why the mark of the beast has nothing to do with Sunday or worship on Sunday.

1. The mark will be an engraving (a tattoo).
2. The tattoo will show "666" on the right hand or Lucifer's name on the forehead.
3. The tattoo will be created and imposed by a man, a fallen angel, the man of lawlessness.
4. The second beast in Rev 13 is Lucifer, he will deceive the world by his miracles, even calling fire down from Heaven at will.
5. The two beasts in Revelation 13 have not yet appeared. They will appear during the Great Tribulation. Deadly wound not yet healed.
6. All inhabitants of the Earth (except the saints) will worship (obey) the laws of Babylon. This union and unity will only be possible after the world has seen and experienced an overpowering display of God's wrath.
7. After the devil kills a third of mankind to set up his theocracy (the kingdom of God on Earth), the number 666 identifies those who scrambled to be among the first to serve Lucifer. They rushed forward to get the tattoo thinking they could save themselves from death.

These seven reasons, taken from the Bible, should silence the teachings of Seventh Day Adventists on the mark of the beast. The mark of the beast cannot possibly be Sunday or worshiping on Sunday or any other day of the week.

If you would like to study more into Revelation's story, please go to my website.

I have many articles freely available for download. You can also order a free copy or download a free copy of my book titled, "Warning! Revelation is about to be fulfilled." www.wake-up.org

Please share this information with your friends! Watch it on Youtube!

Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IfKtm48D7FM>

Part 2: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBiFdQ_0V_c

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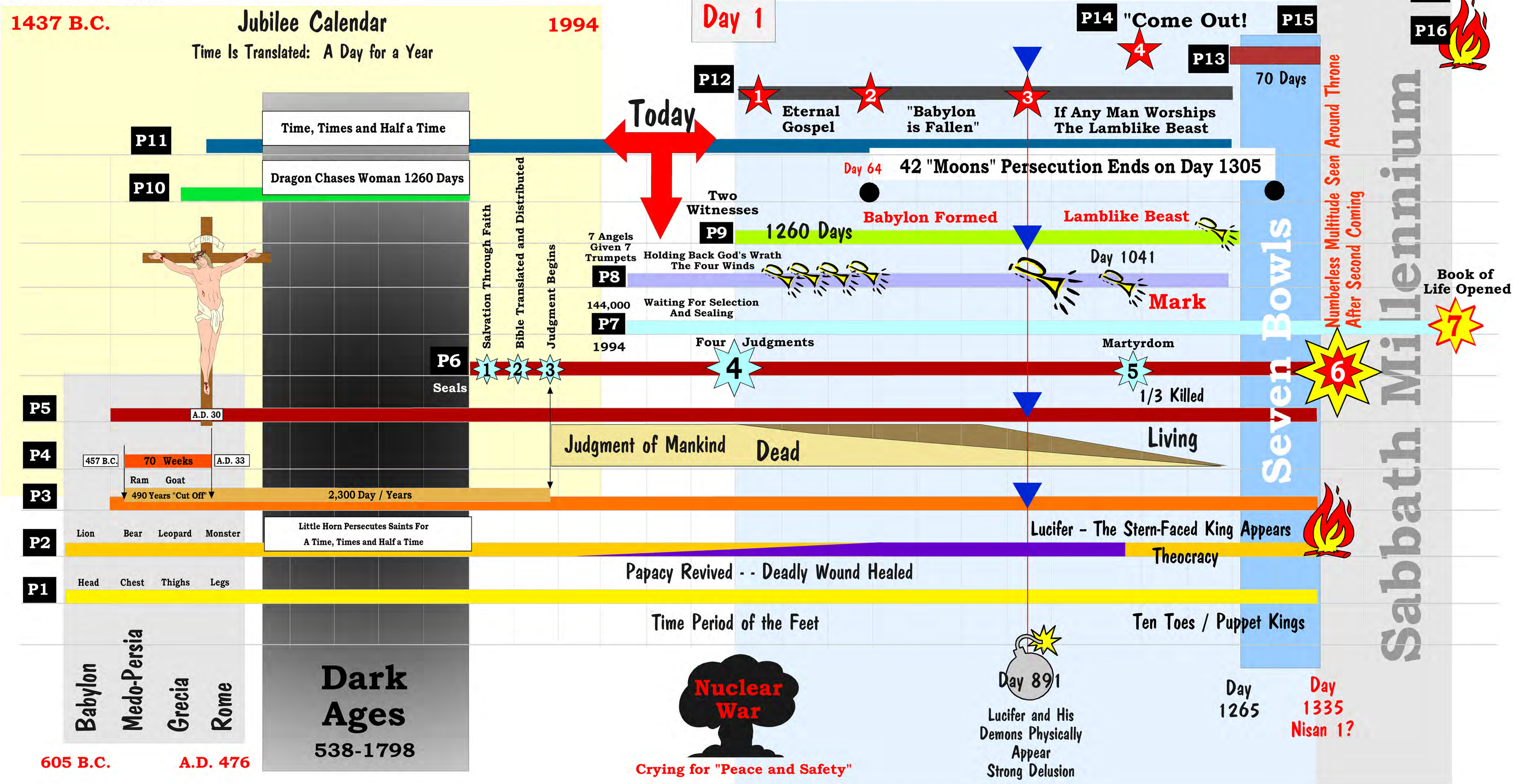
This PDF Script:

www.wake-up.com/Videos/mob/Sevenreasons.pdf

Prophetic Matrix

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Not Drawn to Scale



P1 The Metal Man (Daniel 2:29-45)
P2 The Little Horn Power (Daniel 7:1-12)
P3 The Antichrist (Daniel 8:1-12)
P4 The Seventy Weeks (Daniel 9:20-27)
P5 North and South & Epilog (Daniel 10:1-12:13)

P6 - Six Seals (Revelation 4:1-6:17)
P7 - The 144,000 (Revelation 7:1-8:1)
P8 - Six Trumpets (Revelation 8:2-9:21)
P9 - The Two Witnesses (Revelation 10:1-11:19)
P10 - Baby Jesus (Revelation 12:1-6)

P11 - Babylon (Revelation 12:7-14:5)
P12 - The Eternal Gospel (Revelation 14:6-15:6)
P13 - Seven Bowls (Revelation 15:7-16:21)
The Angel Explains - Part I (Revelation 17)
P14 - Second Coming (Revelation 18:1-19:10)

P15 - The Day of the Lord (Revelation 19:11-20:10)
P16 - Earth Purified (Revelation 20:11-21:1)
P17 - New Heaven and New Earth (Revelation 21:2- 21:8)
The Angel Explains - Part II (Revelation 21:9-22:21)

The Intended Meaning of Apocalyptic Prophecy is Determined by Valid Rules of Interpretation

Larry Wilson
Wake Up America Seminars
December 2007
Updated 2009

Why The Experts Disagree

When it comes to interpreting Bible prophecy, it is true that one expert says one thing and another expert says something else. Prophetic expositors arrive at different conclusions because there are as many different methods of interpretation as there are people. *Methods of interpretation* is a phrase that defines a controlling set of ideas or views (baggage) that a person has in mind *before* he or she actually begins to interpret prophecy. Doctrinal beliefs, presuppositions, assumptions, concepts about the role and authority of Scripture, the use of external authority, and church traditions produce controlling ideas. Notice how methods of interpretation work: A Catholic scholar will interpret Bible prophecy so that his Catholic doctrines and his prophetic conclusions harmoniously align, and a Baptist scholar will do the same thing. In other words, two scholars can study the *same* passages of prophecy and arrive at widely different conclusions because they approach Bible prophecy with some kind of baggage. This baggage is called “methods of interpretation,” “presuppositions,” “rules of interpretation,” or hermeneutics. Perhaps the following parable will illustrate the controlling power that comes with this baggage.

The Parable of the Math Teacher

Once upon a time, there was a math teacher who surrendered his life to the Lord. Later, he felt called to serve as a missionary in a foreign land. Eventually, he was invited to teach math in a parochial college in a distant city called Overspent.

During the first week of college algebra, the teacher discovered a puzzling situation. His students could not solve a single math problem correctly. In fact, all of the students gave identical answers for each math problem that he gave them. He asked the students to explain how they entered college – given the fact they did not have the skills necessary to resolve basic math problems. The students said their high school teachers did not require them to work through math problems because highly educated and spiritually guided math teachers long ago had solved all math problems and all that they needed to do was to memorize the answers.

The teacher was shocked.

The next day, the teacher set out to remedy the problem. He put this equation on the board: $3c + 5 = 20$. He asked the students to solve for c . All of the students reported that c was equal to 3.

When the teacher asked how they arrived at 3, they said they had always been taught that c *always* equals 3. The teacher could not believe his ears. He demonstrated on the chalkboard how c was solved, and he proved that $c = 5$ using simple *rules* of substitution. The students became angry. They were insulted by this “outsider” because he showed no respect for their high school elders and their traditional way of solving math problems.

The students told the teacher that if he had written $3e + 5 = 20$, their answer would have been 5 because “ e ” always equals 5. They had been taught that “ a ” always = 1, “ b ” always = 2, “ c ” always = 3, etc. The teacher responded by saying that when it comes to math, a variable’s name does not determine its value. It does not matter whether a variable is called “ e ” or “ c ” or “ x .” When it comes to resolving a math problem, the *process* must conform to valid rules of substitution or the answer will be erroneous. The students could not bear to hear any more of this heresy, so they rose up as one man and stormed out of class. The math teacher was stunned. He wondered how he could help these students. They knew nothing about working through math problems or that math is controlled by *four self-evident rules* of addition, multiplication, subtraction, and division. He thought to himself, “They think they have been properly informed, and they are afraid to consider answers that are contrary to traditions of their elders.” Perplexed by their hostility, he wondered what he could do to get the students to put aside their traditions so that they could consider the truth.

The next day, the teacher plainly said to his students: “Please hear me out. You have been misled. Your knowledge of math is worthless. Memorizing the answer to a math problems is not to be confused with properly working through a legitimate process to find the correct answer. If you follow the four rules that govern basic math, you can test and validate your answers in many different ways. More importantly, others who know nothing about you or your elders can also test the validity of your answers because accurate math solutions are not a matter of opinion, they are a matter of fact. Accurate solutions are true because they can be proven true by self-evident rules!” Immediately, the students became hostile. The teacher had condemned their traditions and their beloved elders. He had insulted them and their exalted high school teachers. They threw desks and chairs at the teacher and in a riotous frenzy, they beat him to death.

When the bell rang, the students went away happy. They were relieved that the offending teacher had been silenced. They petitioned the dean of the college to provide a math teacher who would teach according to their elders and their wish was granted. Years later, many of these students graduated from Overspent City College and some of them went to work for the elders of the city. Later, the city faced an enormous financial crisis and all of the elders and college graduates could not stop the city from going bankrupt. When the auditors showed up, no one in the accounting department could figure out what went wrong – literally.

There are four lessons to be learned from this silly parable. First, for most of us, traditions are more important than truth. Traditions are familiar and predictable, whereas the truth can be disruptive, humiliating and socially divisive. Second, it is impossible to be “a defender of the faith” and at the same time, be “a seeker of truth.” These two mindsets stand in opposition to

each other. Third, if someone exposes the folly of a tradition, he or she will surely suffer for it. Last, if we reject or ignore the truth, failure cannot be avoided. We may arrogantly defend our ignorance, but ignorance will not save us from the results that truth demands.

Can the Bible Tell Us Things We Don't Want to Believe?

Experts widely disagree on Bible prophecy because knowingly or unknowingly, every expert uses **a set of rules** to support his prophetic conclusions. Of course, every expert believes his conclusions are true because they are in harmony with his baggage (or rules). The problem, of course, is that false rules cannot produce valid conclusions. A rule is a statement that is always true. For example, $2 + 2$ equals 4 because the law of subtraction says that $4 - 2 = 2$. When it comes to Bible prophecy, a rule cannot have an exception, for if it does, no one has the authority to speak for God and tell humanity when the rule should be applied or ignored. To illustrate this matter, consider the following rule: "A day in Bible prophecy *always* equals a year." If we accept this rule to be true (that is, having no exception), the 1,000 years in Revelation 20 have to be translated as 365,242 years. (365.242 days per solar year \times 1,000 years = 365,242 years)

For reasons that will be presented later, the day/year rule described above is faulty. There are time periods in Daniel and Revelation where a day should be translated as a year (for example, the seventy weeks of Daniel 9 are translated into 490 years), but there are other time periods where translation is not permitted. For example, the 42 months in Revelation 13 and the 1,335 days in Daniel 12 are literal time periods. Because some time periods in prophecy are translated a day for a year and others are not, a valid rule is required to tell us when time periods should be translated and when they should not. Here's the critical point: If we use a rule that requires us to translate *every* time period in Daniel and Revelation into a day for a year, the Bible will be put in a position of internal conflict. The Bible will not be able to speak for itself because the chronological order given in Daniel and Revelation will be broken!

Today, millions of Christians have embraced prophetic concepts that have no truth in them. A prophetic concept can *appear* to be true – if flawed rules, that is, certain presuppositions are used. For example, many Christians believe that the role of modern-day Israel is prophetically important during the end of the world. They also believe that a pre-tribulation rapture is imminent, but the underlying presuppositions that hold these ideas together are faulty. The New Covenant teaches that the Israel of God is not biological! Everyone in Christ is now the heir of Abraham. (Galatians 3:28,29)

Logic and reasonableness do not alone ensure validity. For thousands of years, people believed Earth stood still and the Sun traveled in its orbit around Earth. In fact, everyone could plainly see that the Sun traveled across the sky! Then, along came an obscure mathematician who said the Sun stood still. Even worse, Copernicus *proved* that the Sun was not moving and he was severely punished for speaking out against the traditions of the elders and telling the truth. History demonstrates that advocates of truth are frequently punished. (Wasn't Jesus crucified for speaking the truth?) Nevertheless, for the honest in heart, great joy occurs when greater truth is

found! An ongoing discovery of greater truth is the process that enables the Bible to tell us things that we do not want to believe, but unfortunately, many people do not want or have a working knowledge of Scripture. Most people are content with their traditions (the familiar) and they are quick to discredit the truth (which is divisive). Perhaps the greatest problem for human beings is that we can't know what our response to truth will be until greater truth arrives and it challenges our sacred traditions.

Faulty Interpretations until Daniel Is Unsealed

The book of Daniel contains 533 sentences. It was written about twenty-six centuries ago, but unlike the other sixty-five books in the Bible, the book of Daniel was sealed up “until the time of the end.” The angel, Gabriel, said to Daniel, “. . . **Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end.**” (Daniel 12:9) What does “closed up and sealed until the time of the end” mean? It means that God hid something in the book of Daniel that would remain “top secret” until the time of the end arrived. I am convinced that the book of Daniel has been unsealed and the time of the end has arrived for the following reasons:

The secret information that God encoded into the book of Daniel is something like the “Rosetta Stone.” The Rosetta Stone was accidentally discovered and unearthed in 1799 near Rosetta, Egypt, by French soldiers. The marvelous thing about this buried rock is that it bears a message written during the second century B.C. in two forms of Egyptian script – demotic and hieroglyphics. When archeologists examined the rock, they were thrilled because the inscriptions would help solve a very perplexing mystery. Prior to 1799, archeologists could not read the clay tablets bearing Egyptian hieroglyphics because no one could decipher the language. When the Rosetta Stone was discovered and translated, the demotic inscriptions on the stone enabled Thomas Young (1773-1829) and J.F. Champollion (1790-1832) to decipher the hieroglyphics of the ancient Egyptians.

In a similar way, God buried a set of four self-evident rules in the book of Daniel 2,600 years ago. By God's grace, I accidentally stumbled into this buried treasure. (Of course, the passage of time will prove or disprove the validity of my claim.) Four rules of interpretation have shattered centuries of prophetic exposition and tradition, because by definition, all prophetic interpretations are faulty and incomplete until the book of Daniel is *unsealed*. These four rules cover chronology, fulfillment, language and God's use of time. God put these things in the book of Daniel to dethrone our traditions because *greater truth is God's gift to the honest in heart*. Notice how this works: God separates people who hold to traditions from people who love truth by sending greater truth on the Earth. When greater truth comes along, the honest in heart rejoice to see it while those defending the traditions of the elders will rise up and punish those who embrace it. Yes, the parable of the math teacher is silly, but the moral of the story is painfully true.

Three Levels of Information

As a person might expect, God buried His secrets in the book of Daniel very well. However, when God wants something known, He enables ordinary men and women to discover extraordinary things He has hidden. Through the ages we find this discovery process at work: *On or about the time of fulfillment, elements of prophecy are understood.* For example, when it came time to understand the timing of Christ's birth, the wise men from the East figured it out. (Matthew 2:2) The apostle Paul also noticed this phenomenon. Consider his words: **"Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus."** (Ephesians 3:2-6)

What did God hide in the book of Daniel? The answer to this question requires a little explanation. The book of Daniel offers three levels of knowledge. They are:

1. Dramatic stories of faith
2. Visions revealing God's plans
3. Apocalyptic architecture

The first (and easiest) level of knowledge in Daniel contains dramatic stories of faith in God. These stories of faith and loyalty to God were recorded for the benefit of all generations. However, Earth's final generation will benefit the most from these stories of courage since the fiery trials in the first chapters of the book of Daniel are mini-parallels of coming events. For example, in Daniel 3 we read about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego facing the mandatory worship of a golden *image which the king of Babylon constructed*. In Revelation 13:15, we read about the inhabitants of the world facing the mandatory worship of an *image which the king of modern Babylon will construct*. These parallels and their outcomes were put in the book of Daniel for our encouragement. (Note: I hope you will read my book, *Bible Stories with End Time Parallels*, which reveals end-time issues through the lives of certain Bible characters.) The second (and more difficult) level of knowledge in Daniel concerns the meaning of the visions in the book of Daniel. The visions God gave to King Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel faithfully predict the passage of time and the fulfillment of all that God predestined to occur. Even more, these visions reveal what God planned to do long before He told Nebuchadnezzar or Daniel of His plans. Because students of prophecy have understood something of Daniel's visions for hundreds of years, we cannot say the visions were entirely sealed up until "the time of the end." However, something in the book of Daniel was sealed up, and that something uniquely applies to the people who *live at the end* of the world. What is it?

The Book Unsealed

The third (and deepest) level of knowledge found in Daniel is *the architecture of apocalyptic prophecy*. The prophecies in Daniel conform to a structure or pattern that controls their meaning. The exciting thing about this structure is that it is also present in Revelation! In other words, when you understand how the architecture of Daniel behaves, you will understand the architecture in Revelation because it is the same architecture! This architecture produces four rules (methods of interpretation) that govern the interpretation of Daniel and Revelation. These four rules are like combinations to a safe. When the four rules are used to interpret prophecies in Daniel and Revelation, a marvelous result occurs. The prophecies make perfect sense *just as they read!* This point is extremely important. Portions of Daniel and Revelation have been a mystery for 2,600 years and then suddenly, the words make sense *just as they read!* What causes this change to occur? When the architecture of Daniel is understood, the contents of Daniel and Revelation can be understood.

When the four rules found in Daniel are applied to each line of prophecy in Daniel and Revelation, a comprehensive story unfolds that is completely harmonious with everything the Bible has to say about the ways of God. Furthermore, all of the details God gave in the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation are in perfect harmony and synchrony with each other. The four rules force all of the prophecies in Daniel and Revelation into a chronological matrix of layers that are orderly in nature. To visualize this matrix, think of the seventeen prophecies in Daniel and Revelation as a wedding cake of seventeen layers! The larger pieces are at the bottom of the stack and the smaller pieces are on top. The “toothpicks” that hold the seventeen layers together are events that unite and align the seventeen layers in Daniel and Revelation into one grand story. The toothpicks are necessary because two or more layers can describe the same prophetic event! Because the same event is described in two different ways – in two different layers – a precise alignment of the prophecies is not only possible, but essential to understanding the big picture.

Private Interpretation

Any interpretation of prophecy which does not conform to a stated set of valid rules is classified as a “private interpretation.” The word “private” in this context does not mean obscure. Millions of people can believe and endorse a private interpretation (and they do). A private interpretation is an interpretation which does not have an external means of validation. In other words, a private interpretation cannot be tested and validated by an impartial jury given a set of stated rules. This emphasizes our need to understand the apocalyptic architecture in Daniel. *There is one architecture in Daniel and Revelation and there is one truth.* Looking for that truth is the joy of every Bible student. Even if we have the right rules of interpretation, the likelihood of reaching the intended meaning is not guaranteed, but it is greatly improved! (It is one thing to know the laws of algebra, but it is another to correctly solve the problem.)

The Value and Importance of Rules

A beginning student of Bible prophecy may not appreciate the necessity of a valid set of rules of interpretation (or hermeneutics) at first, so hopefully the following parallel will help you understand why rules of interpretation are essential to prophetic study: Scientists achieve advances in the study of genetics at the cellular level. By studying various cells within the human body, they have been able to determine how certain cells operate. In more and more cases, they have been able to predict the behavior of cells under controlled circumstances, because they now know some of the *secrets* of proteins and the DNA structure. Scientists are constantly testing for “consistent behavior” within their studies of cells. Once the behavior of a specific cell is understood, cell behavior can be changed or influenced through drugs compounded to produce the desired results. Pharmaceutical companies spend billions of dollars on this type of painstaking research because they know that a genuine cure for most diseases must occur at the cellular level.

Consistent Behavior

In a similar way, the architecture in Daniel is distilled through a careful study of Daniel’s prophecies. Because the visions within Daniel behave in a predictable way, this behavior allows us to decipher things about the meaning of prophecy that we could not otherwise know. For example, here is one consistent behavior that occurs throughout the book of Daniel: Each of Daniel’s prophecies have a beginning point and an ending point in time, and the events in each prophecy occur in the order in which they are given. This behavior may sound simple, but it has profound ramifications. Consider the results of violating this *self-evident* rule. If the events given within each prophecy of Daniel do not occur in their given order, *how*, then, will the order of events determined? Who but God has the authority to tell mankind the order of events?

This question brings up an even greater question: Does the Bible speak for itself or must it have an interpreter? After many years of study on this question, I conclude the Bible speaks for itself and the Bible is its own interpreter. I do not accept the idea that external authority is permitted or necessary. The constant and predictable architecture within Daniel’s prophecies is the basis for Rule One. This rule is: *Each apocalyptic prophecy has a beginning point and an ending point in time and the events within each prophecy must occur in the order they are given.* Keep in mind, I am not inventing this rule. Instead, I am expressing a consistent behavior that recurs without exception throughout the book of Daniel (as well as Revelation).

When the fulfilled elements of each prophecy in Daniel are aligned with widely published historical records, the validity of Rule One proves true *every time*! The prophecies in the book of Daniel cover more than 2,600 years so far. This great span of time contains everything necessary to validate the four rules that spring from the architecture of Daniel. As a bonus, the book of Daniel provides a historical foundation for certain prophecies in Revelation. Because some of the prophecies in Revelation run parallel to the prophecies in Daniel, we can link them together and establish the timing of events mentioned in both books. So, the discovery of Daniel’s

architecture, like the discovery of the Rosetta Stone, enables the Bible student to resolve many prophetic mysteries that would otherwise be impossible to solve.

Rule One

I have arbitrarily made the rule governing chronology “Rule One” because determining the order of events within the seventeen prophecies is “Job One!” Try this: Draw a time line and as you put all of the events specified in Daniel and Revelation on the time line, you will be confronted with the question of chronological order. This is why the first rule concerns chronology. This rule is stated as follows: “Each apocalyptic prophecy has a beginning point in time, an ending point in time and the events within each prophecy occur in the order given.”

This rule is deceptively simple and it demolishes two thousand years of prophetic speculation and tradition. Please give the following sentence a full five seconds of serious thought because the ramifications are huge: *God has declared the order of events within each apocalyptic prophecy – if this is not the case, there is no way to determine chronological order within apocalyptic prophecy.* If God has declared the order of events within each apocalyptic prophecy, the Bible will say the same thing to everyone – *just as it reads.* If God has declared chronological order, there is prophetic certainty instead of endless chaos and cancelling views. On the other hand, if God has not declared chronological order, everyone is permitted to define and create a prophetic order that accommodates his or her religious baggage. In fact, we see this process throughout Christianity today and the result is that there is no general agreement among Christians on the next prophetic event!

To resolve this problem, some church groups turn to external authority. This authority can be a founding father, a prophet or even church tradition. There is a simple test that determines if a person uses external authority. Present the Word of God and notice the result. Jesus did this and He was considered a blasphemer because the Jews exalted religious traditions above the Word of God! (See Mark 7:8,9.)

Bottom line: If God has not declared chronological order in the books of Daniel and Revelation, it becomes impossible to factually determine the next prophetic event. On the other hand, if there is chronological order we can determine what comes next. We have had twenty six centuries of prophetic sequence since the book of Daniel was written. Looking backwards from our day, the book of Daniel proves *there is chronological order* and the result is truly astonishing. This is good news because the final generation can know and understand a number of prophetic truths that previous generations could not discover! Remember, God’s greatest gift to the honest in heart is greater truth. During the Great Tribulation God will separate the honest in heart (His sheep) from those who worship tradition (the goats) through greater truth!

Avoiding Internal Conflict

On page 3 it was said, “There are time periods in Daniel and Revelation where a day should be

translated as a year (for example, the seventy weeks of Daniel 9 are translated into 490 years), but there are other time periods where translation is not permitted. For example, the 42 months in Revelation 13 and the 1,335 days in Daniel 12 are literal time periods. Because some time periods in prophecy are translated a day for a year and others are not, a valid rule is required to tell us when time periods should be translated and when they should not.”

If we use a faulty rule that requires *every* time period in Daniel and Revelation to be literal or a faulty rule that requires every time period to be translated as a day for a year, *the Bible will be put in a position of internal conflict (inconsistency)*. In other words, the Bible will not be able to speak for itself because Rule One, which governs chronological order, will be found in conflict with Rule Four which governs timing!

A valid rule of interpretation cannot have an exception, for if it did, who would tell the world when the exception is permitted? *Moreover, a valid rule will not force the Bible into a position of internal conflict.* This point is emphasized because valid rules and valid conclusions are always in perfect harmony with God’s Word! Please consider a short demonstration. Look at the chronological order in the following prophecy. Rule One forces this prophecy to begin with Revelation 12:7 and it continues through Revelation 14:5. Remember, an apocalyptic prophecy is defined as having a beginning point and an ending point in time and the events within the prophecy must occur in the order given.

1. Rev 12:7-12 (A.D. 30)

There was war in Heaven on Resurrection Sunday. Lucifer and his angels were cast out of Heaven a second time

2. Rev 12:13-14 (538-1798)

Then, the dragon chased woman to the desert for 1,260 years (a time, times and half a time) According to Rule Four, this time period must be translated using a day for year because the Jubilee Calendar is in operation.

3. Rev 12:15,16 (1776 to the present)

Then, the Earth helped the woman. God provided a place (the United States of America) where she could escape religious persecution.

4. Rev 12:17 (1798 to the present)

When the 1,260 years ended and the woman had not been destroyed, the devil became furious. Knowing that he will be given one last chance, he is preparing for a massive assault on the *remnant of the woman* during the Great Tribulation.

5. Rev 13:1 (Future)

When the world is reduced to ruins by God’s wrath (the first four trumpets), a beast with seven heads and ten horns will suddenly appear. This beast will be a *crisis* government. This government will be created by the religious and political leaders of Earth for the purpose of appeasing God so that His wrath will cease. The seven heads represent the seven religious systems of the world. The head that was wounded in 1798 is the Roman Catholic Church. When this beast (also called Babylon) forms, the pope will be selected as its leader. This is how the head that received the deadly wound in 1798 will be healed.

6. Rev 13:2-6 (Future)

Babylon (the crisis government) will be a hand-puppet of the devil. The devil will use Babylon to persecute *the remnant of the woman* for 42 months. Rule Four says this time period is not translated because the Jubilee Calendar is not in operation. Therefore, the 42 months in Revelation 13:5 will be 42 literal months.

7. Rev 13:7-10 (Future)

The saints will be conquered and defeated. Most of them will be killed or put in prison and *all* inhabitants of the Earth will obey the laws of Babylon – *all* that is, except the saints.

8. Rev 13:11-18 (Future)

About two years after Babylon is created, the devil and his angels will be released from the Abyss to physically appear before the people of Earth during the fifth trumpet. (See Revelation 9:1-11.) During the sixth trumpet, the devil's forces will kill a third of mankind (most, if not all of the 144,000 will be killed), set up a world-wide theocracy and implement the mark of the beast.

9. Rev 14:1-5 (Future)

Then, the 144,000 will be resurrected at the seventh trumpet and taken to Heaven on the 1,265th day of the Great Tribulation. They will be presented to God as the first fruits of the coming harvest.

The Four Rules

When valid rules of interpretation are used, the prophecies in Daniel and Revelation will make sense *just as they read*, because the Bible is its own interpreter. On the other hand, a private interpretation requires an interpreter. An interpreter stands between the Bible and you whereas, valid rules produce the same meaning for everyone without a go-between. Consider the difference. A private interpretation prevents people from independently arriving at the same conclusion without the coaxing of an interpreter, but a valid set of rules enables people to arrive at a similar conclusion *without* knowing one another. Many Christians believe whatever their leaders say about prophecy without actually studying the conclusions for themselves. Lay people usually “go along” because their church endorses a particular view. Because the average Christian does not study prophecy and the subject of Bible prophecy is complex and complicated, it is easier to follow the leader. Of course, the mysteries of Bible prophecy will vanish during the Great Tribulation because everyone will see the evidence of what is predicted in Bible prophecy. However, until the Great Tribulation begins, we need a set of valid rules to guide our prophetic faith. If our rules of interpretation are valid, the books of Daniel and Revelation will form a unified story. A comprehensive explanation of God's ways will unfold in a drama that is in perfect harmony with all Scripture!

After several years of study and discovery, I am excited to present the four rules that have unlocked the books of Daniel and Revelation. These four rules cover four primary aspects of apocalyptic interpretation: Chronology, Fulfillment, Language and Timing. The four rules are:

- 1.** Each apocalyptic prophecy has a beginning and ending point in time and the

events within each prophecy must occur in the order they are given.

2. A fulfillment of apocalyptic prophecy occurs when all of the specifications within that prophecy are met. This includes the order of events outlined in the prophecy.
3. Apocalyptic language can be literal, symbolic, or analogous. To reach the intended meaning of a prophecy, the student must consider: (a) the context, (b) the use of parallel language in the Bible, and (c) relevant statements in the Bible that define that symbol if an element is thought to be symbolic.
4. God measures apocalyptic time in two ways: (a) a day for a year, and (b) as literal time. The presence or absence of the Jubilee calendar (1437 B.C. - 1994) determines how prophetic timing is determined.

Note: For further study on Rule Four, please see:

<http://www.wake-up.org/daystar/ds2000/Great%20Clocks.htm>

If you would like to watch a series of video presentations on the Jubilee Calendar, please go to this link and scroll down about half way: <http://www.wake-up.org/Videos/DanielVideos.htm>

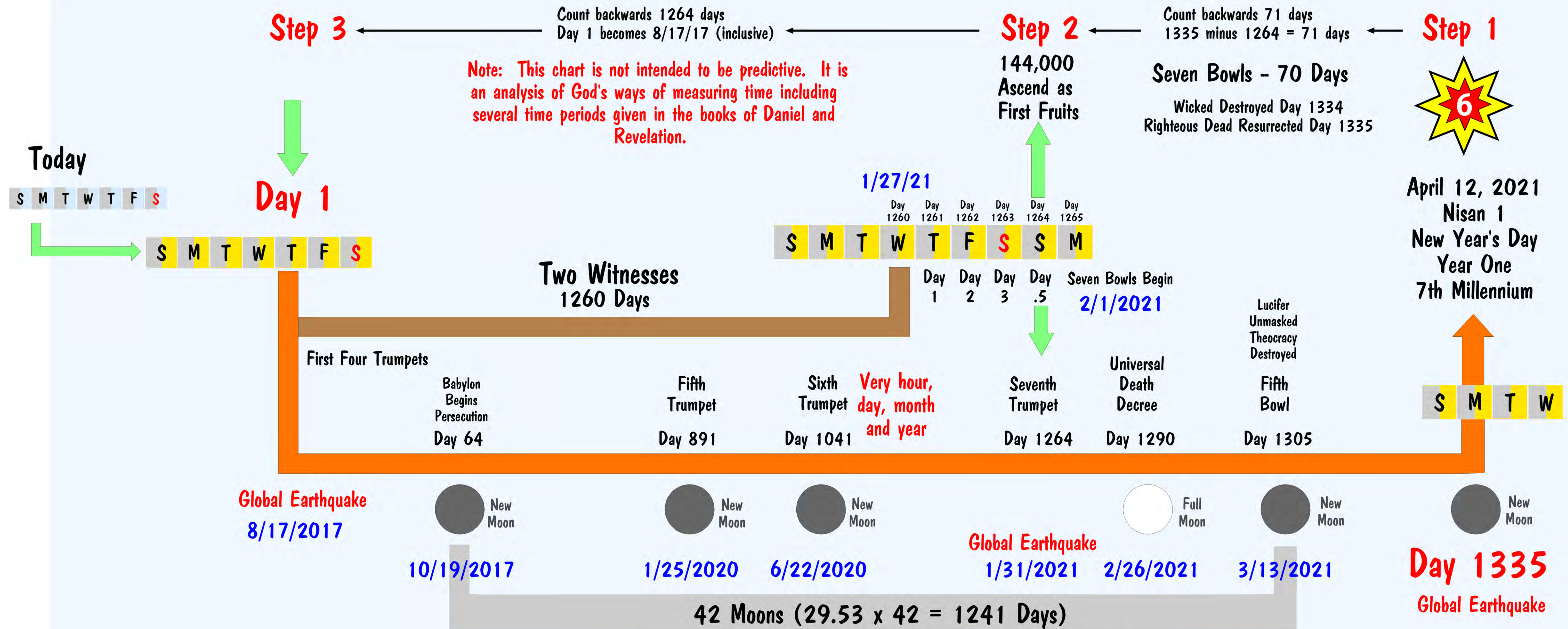
I hope you will test these four rules and observe their results. To help you get started, please view the seventeen prophecies in Daniel and Revelation which have been outlined in chart form according to Rule One at <http://www.wake-up.org/Charts/TheChartBook.htm>.

I also hope that as you examine the story that three things will happen to you. First, you need to get the bones (the prophetic events) in their proper place as the rules demand. Second, you need to see *why* God has chosen to go through the process as outlined because He predetermined it from the beginning. Finally, you need to see how Jesus will be revealed to the whole world (the revealing of all that Jesus is) without denominational attachment. When you see these three things synchronized, you will be changed as I have been changed!

Timing Considerations

Not Drawn to Scale

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Persecution by The Composite Beast (Babylon)

Eight Presuppositions

1. A future Nisan 1 (New Year's Day - God's Calendar) marks the beginning of the first year of the seventh millennium.
2. Nisan 1 becomes Day 1335, the gathering up of all the saints to meet the Lord in the air .
3. Day 1264 must fall on a Sunday, the resurrection and presentation of the 144,000 as first fruits of the harvest.
4. The month before the Second Coming must be Adar II. This 13th month makes the 1290th day align with Esther 9.
5. The 42 months of persecution begins on Day 64, during or shortly after fourth trumpet, on a new moon.
6. After 890 days pass (2/3 of 1335), Lucifer appears on Day 891 and Lucifer's five months of torture begins on Day 892, a new moon.
7. The commencement of the 5th bowl marks the end of the 42 months of persecution. Lucifer's empire destroyed.
8. The seven bowls require 70 days, each bowl is 10 days in length.

- Rev 13:5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.
- Rev 13:6 He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.
- Rev 13:7 He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.
- Rev 13:8 All inhabitants of the Earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.
- Rev 13:9 He who has an ear, let him hear.
- Rev 13:10 If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.

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February, 2010

Topic: [What...Why...When](#)

Speaker: Larry Wilson

Hello, I'm Larry Wilson and welcome to this seminar on Bible prophecy.

This seminar will consist of three segments. Each segment will focus on an important question:

1. "[What](#) is coming?"
2. "[Why](#) is it coming?"
3. "[When](#) is it coming?"

Because this presentation will be brief, I do not have time to prove each point from the Bible as we proceed. So, please consider this seminar a "bird's eye view." My objective is to encourage you to restudy your Bible and rethink your understanding of God's love and His plans.

If you feel there is substance to what you hear during this seminar, please visit our website because Bible support for the things that you are about to hear is located there.

Please write down our website address: www.wake-up.org

When you visit our website, you will notice a free book offer.

I have written a little book called, "Warning! Revelation is about to be fulfilled" and it is offered to people within the United States for free.

I wish we could send it to other countries for free, but we cannot afford to pay the postage. But, you can download the book for free. And, you can also download the audio version for free if you want.

So, please watch all three segments on this DVD and visit our website. If you do not have access to the internet, look for contact information on the DVD case.

OK, let's get down to business.

"[What](#) is coming?"

What does the Bible predict?

The first thing you should know is that apocalyptic prophecy has been steadily unfolding over the past 2,615 years.

| --x--x--x--x--x---x---x---X-?->
26 Centuries

In other words, the fulfillment of apocalyptic prophecy has been ongoing for a very long time.

There are 17 apocalyptic prophecies in the books of Daniel and Revelation and they "stack" on top of each other something like layers on a wedding cake.

5----- | -----@----- |
4----- | ----- |
3-- | --- | ----- |
2--- | ----- | ----- |
1----- | -----@-- |
----- Time -----X----->

Because each prophecy is chronological in nature, we can align the 17 prophecies in Daniel and Revelation.

The end result is that we can identify the most recent fulfillment and we can determine what the next prophetic event will be!

-----Time-----@--X--@----->

So, what is coming next?

In general terms, Bible Prophecy predicts....

The commencement of God's wrath is next.
Moreover, God's wrath will come in two phases.

1. The seven trumpets 1,265 days
2. The seven bowls 70 days

The seven trumpets are seven specific judgments from God.

These judgments are associated with seven trumpets in the book of Revelation because a trumpet will sound in Heaven's temple as each judgment falls on Earth.

In other words, seven trumpet blasts in Heaven's temple and seven specific judgment falling on Earth will signal the coming end of the world.

The first four judgments will occur over a period of approximately 64 days and 1.75 billion people, that's 25% of Earth's population will perish. (Revelation 6:8)

The destruction of 1.75 billion people within two months is unthinkable, but God's wrath is as overwhelming as it is awesome.

The first four trumpets will fall upon **notoriously wicked places** and the last three trumpets will fall upon **defiant, wicked people**.

1-4: wicked places

5-7: wicked people

During the sixth trumpet, another 1.75 billion people will be killed.

At the end of the seven trumpets, the population of Earth will be **less than half** of what it now is.

This is sad.

50% of Earth's population is about to perish and most people are totally unaware. Why?

Indifference? Ignorance?

Carelessness? Unbelief?

No time to study God's Word?

Remember this:

Human beings are **free** to believe whatever they want to believe.

We are **free** to deny whatever we want to deny.

However, our beliefs and denials have no effect on God.

Zero.

Most everyone in Noah's day did not believe a flood was coming. What effect did their thinking have on God?

Zero.

God has several purposes for the seven trumpets. Here are **seven**:

1. They will signal the end of life on planet Earth.
2. They will signal the arrival of **judgment day**. God will test and judge the living during the seven trumpets.
3. The seven trumpets will signal God's disgust with man's degenerate behavior.
4. The seven trumpets will do something most unusual: They will cause Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Atheists, Pagans, Catholics and Protestants to consider the reality and authority of Jesus Christ.
5. The seven trumpets will **shatter religious paradigms**. As a result, many Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Pagans, Atheists, Catholics and Protestants will **thoughtfully**

consider a gospel which is contrary to what each religious group currently believes!

6. God will use the seven trumpets to separate "the sheep from the goats."

7. The seven trumpets will reveal the love of God and the truth about God as nothing else can do!

God has deliberately and thoughtfully designed the seven trumpets to accomplish these and other objectives and one glorious result will be the salvation of millions of people!

According to Daniel 12, the total length of the Great Tribulation will be 1,335 days.

$$\begin{array}{rcccl} & 7 & & 7 & \\ \text{--X--} & | & \text{-----} & | & \text{-----} \text{Second Coming} \\ & \text{Trumpets} & & \text{Bowls} & \\ & 1,265 & + & 70 & \\ & \text{=1,335 days} & & & \end{array}$$

The commencement of the seven trumpets will be sudden and overwhelming.

For reasons beyond the scope of this short study, I believe nuclear war will soon break out.

A day will come when tensions and hostilities between certain nations will boil over and there will be a nuclear exchange.

Tens of thousands will die.

Immediately, world leaders will spring into action, doing everything possible to restore "peace and safety."

The Bible says:

"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief." (KJV, 1 Thessalonians 5:3,4)

What is Paul talking about?

A casual Bible student will not appreciate Paul's words, but they are loaded with meaning.

Look again:

"When people are saying "Peace and Safety" sudden destruction will come upon them -- as labor pains on a pregnant woman."

When a pregnant woman is near delivery, labor pains can begin suddenly -- at any time.

Parallel:

World conditions are deteriorating to the point that nuclear war can occur **suddenly -- at any time**.

To understand Paul's prediction a little explanation is in order.

The Jews believed that **sudden destruction** was a sign from God. It was proof of God's wrath.

Sudden destruction was not considered a natural event. Examples:

The rain **suddenly began** to fall in Noah's day.

". . . the springs of the great deep **burst** forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened." (Gen 7:11)

Fire **suddenly** fell from Heaven on Sodom and Gommorah and burned them up. (Genesis 19:23,24)

Sudden calamity came upon Job. He lost his sheep, camels, servants and ten children on the **same** day! (Job 1:13-22)

Jericho **suddenly** fell to the ground. (Joshua 6:20)

The Earth **suddenly** opened up and swallowed Korah, Dathan and Abiram. (Numbers 26:9,10) God's wrath comes suddenly.

God warned Israel of sudden destruction:

"Disaster will come upon you. . . **a catastrophe you cannot foresee** will **suddenly** come upon you." (Isaiah 47:11)

But wait! There's more.

God promised **sudden destruction** if Israel violated His covenant:

Lev 26:14 "But if you will not listen to me and carry out all these commands . . .

Lev 26:16 then I will do this to you: **I will bring upon you sudden terror . . .** "The point here is that Paul uses the phrase, "**sudden destruction**" in 1 Thessalonians 5:3 to indicate "**the wrath of God**."

Paul predicted a day would come when **the world** will cry out for "**peace and safety**."

And while the world is doing everything possible to restore peace and safety, **sudden destruction** (**God's wrath**) will break out. The Bible says the **appointed time of the end** will be a time of wrath.

Dan 8:19 "He [the angel] said [to Daniel]: "I am going to tell you what will happen later in **the time of wrath**, because the vision concerns **the appointed time of the end**. God's wrath will be completed during the seven bowls:

Rev 15:1 "I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues--**last**, because with them God's **wrath is completed**."God's wrath **begins** with the seven trumpets.

God's wrath is **completed** with the seven bowls.

7	7
--Trumpets--	--Bowls--
Wrath	Wrath
Begins	Completed

When God's wrath begins, there will be a global upheaval and a **staggering** amount of death and destruction.

The whole world tremble with fear.

In Numbers 14, God's wrath broke out and He killed 14,700.

In Isaiah 37:36, God's wrath broke out and He killed 185,000 soldiers.

In Genesis 7, God's wrath broke out and He killed 99.9% of the world -- all but Noah and seven other people!

I know it sounds strange at this point to say that God is love, but God **IS** love.

In the next segment I will show you why God's love and His wrath are not in conflict with each other!

For now, we're dealing with the question of "**What** is coming."

In a sentence, **God's wrath** is coming.

How will it happen?

God will arrest the whole world with a **sudden** display of four supernatural signs:

1. Peals of deafening thunder that have no known source.
2. Rumbles [voices will be heard speaking out of the Earth], again, no known source
3. Flashes of lightning [Earth will be engulfed in a huge electrical storm. The heavens will be lighted up with dazzling fire and brilliant glory.]
4. Then, a **global earthquake** will rip the whole world apart.

This earthquake will destroy key bridges, thousands of highway overpasses and hydroelectric dams.

It will pull electrical grids apart, it will break up highways, runways and railroad tracks -- **all over the world!**

This earthquake will topple skyscrapers and bring the whole world to a screeching halt.

Infrastructures such as communication, banking, manufacturing, shipping and food supplies will be broken.

I am talking about the onset of **sudden destruction** from God when people are crying out for **peace and safety**.

Where you are is where you will stay.

Travel and transportation will be severely limited.

A few days **after** the global earthquake, the first trumpet will sound and a corresponding judgment will fall.

The **first four trumpets** will occur in rapid succession -- over a period of about **64 days**.

Life for everyone on Earth will dramatically change once the seven trumpets begin.

Thousands of cities will be **suddenly** destroyed.

Twenty-five percent of the world's population will die during the first four trumpets.

God's judgments will impose great tribulation on the whole world and -- **no one shall escape**.

The first trumpet-judgment will be a fiery hailstorm of burning meteors that will **suddenly** fall from Heaven.

Thousands of notoriously wicked cities **will be burned up**. A third of the land, a third of the trees and **all** of the green grass will be burned up! (Revelation 8:2-7)

Millions of people will be **burned alive**.

God will burn up the notably wicked places on Earth -- in **the same way** and for **the same reasons** that He burned up the ancient cities of Sodom and Gomorrah!

Gen 19:24 "Then the Lord rained down **burning sulfur** on Sodom and Gomorrah-- from the Lord out of the heavens.

Gen 19:25 Thus he **overthrew** those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities--and **also the vegetation** in the land."

Peter wrote, ". . . . He [God] condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them **an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly**." (2 Peter 2:6)

A couple weeks later, the second trumpet-judgment will fall.

This will be an asteroid impact on an ocean.

It will suddenly impact Earth at 75,000 mph.

A huge tsunami, perhaps a mile high will radiate outward 360 degrees. This wall of water will destroy thousands of coastal cities around that ocean. Millions of people will drown.

(Just like the tsunami that hit the island of Sumatra in December, 2004.)

Consider this: God will use fire and water to destroy notably wicked places.

". . . . On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea." (Luke 21:25)

Hundreds of millions of godless and wicked people will suddenly be gone.

Once the survivors behold how God targeted notably wicked places, the Bible predicts there will be a knee-jerk response.

I don't have time to discuss man's response to God's wrath right now, but I will say that all of the religions of the world will quickly unite in a solemn effort to appease God's wrath so that He will stop the destruction.

This union is called Babylon in the book of Revelation.

And Babylon will attempt to appease God's wrath by forcing everyone to worship God.

This explains how the topic of worship will become a huge controversy during the Great Tribulation.

A third trumpet will sound in Heaven-- and a third judgment will fall on Earth.

Revelation 8:10 says, "a great star, blazing like a torch" fell upon the Earth. A wicked continent will be partially destroyed by this impact.

This asteroid impact will release the energy of millions of atomic bombs. The resulting shock wave will destroy cities and homes and even worse, it will compromise the geologic strata for thousands of square miles.

Underground aquifers will become contaminated with human waste and toxic garbage that is buried underground.

Wells and springs will flow with poisoned water and millions of thirsty people will drink the poisonous water and die.

The fourth trumpet judgment will be a period of dense darkness.

The Bible does not explain the cause of the darkness, but it could easily be the result of hundreds of volcano eruptions.

The Pacific "ring of fire" could easily belch enough ejecta into the atmosphere to darken the [middle third](#) of Earth.

If so, the jet stream could easily carry the soot and debris from volcano eruptions around the world and this would darken the Sun, moon and stars for 90% of the world's populations.

Without sunshine, crops will wither and die. Global winter and famine will follow.

Survival will become questionable for everyone.

At this point in time, everyone will be terrified of God and facing great tribulation.

Everyone will be searching for a way to appease God's wrath so that His judgments will end.

There's so much more to this story, but I don't have time to tell it. (Be sure to visit our website.)

However, there is one more thing about the Great Tribulation that you must consider.

About two and a half years after the Great Tribulation begins, God will release [the devil](#) from the [spirit realm](#) where he is presently confined.

Lucifer and his angels will be permitted to exit the spirit realm and [physically appear](#) before the people of Earth.

According to Revelation 9:3, Lucifer and his angels will [come down](#) out of the sky -- imitating the Second Coming!

Lucifer will [masquerade](#) as Almighty God.

Lucifer and [200 million](#) demonic angels will perform amazing miracles, deceiving if possible, [the very elect](#)!

Lucifer is the dreaded [Antichrist](#).

Lucifer [is not](#) a human being although he will physically appear as a glorious man.

Lucifer is a fallen angel who once lived in Heaven.

Lucifer and his angels will eventually take control of Earth and for a short time, [the devil](#) will rule over the world as [King of kings](#) and [Lord of lords](#).

The devil will [abolish](#) all of the religions of the world and set up a theocracy -- a global church-state.

All who refuse to join his new religion and live under his authority will be killed.

What will Muslims, Jews, Catholics, Hindus, Atheists, and Protestants do when forced to convert?

Those who resist the devil's authority will be killed.

In fact, the Bible says that the devil and his forces will kill 1/3 of mankind. (Revelation 9:15)

God will test and judge mankind to see who will stand up for what is right and true and who will not.

Testing... This is how faith in God is determined.

I know this is frightening. But, Jesus said:

Matthew 28:20 ". . . And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Rev 3:10 ". . . . I will also keep you from [during] the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth."

Faith in God means doing what is right in God's sight and leaving the results with Him!

Now, you know why salvation comes through faith!

Luke 18:8 ". . . . When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

May God help us to learn how to live by faith! Galatians 3:11 ". . . Because, The righteous will live by faith."

In our next segment, we will examine the question:

"Why is it coming?" Why is the wrath of God coming?

Part II:
Why is God's wrath coming?

Speaker:
Larry Wilson

February, 2010

We don't hear much today about God's wrath because many people refuse to hear things that are frightening.

They say, "Don't tell me. I'll just deal with it when I have to deal with it."

Much darkness has been heaped upon the topic of God's wrath.

And I would agree that it is better to hear nothing than to hear a distortion of God's character.

The Bible speaks the truth. God **IS** love and God **HAS** wrath. These components within God's character are not in conflict.

God is **changeless**.

Mal 3:6 "I the Lord do not change. . . "

God has several dimensions in His character. I think of God's character as though it were a pie, divided into seven slices.

All of these slices are in perfect harmony with each other. When properly aligned and synthesized together, we discover how the principles of love operate.

Divine love is a set of high and holy **principles** that God upholds and sustains by His mighty power.

The Bible says clearly that God is love. (1 John 4:8, 16)

This means that God's character and actions are in perfect compliance with eternal principles of love! If you want to know what love really is, study God -- for God is love in action!

Here are the seven slices of God's character:

1. Righteous
2. Patient
3. Forgiving
4. Merciful
5. Just / Fair / Equitable
6. Wrath / Protection
7. Changeless

Consider this: If any one of these elements in God's character is excluded or improperly magnified, God is not accurately represented.

This is a big problem today.

Millions of people have been led into worshipping a caricature of God that denies or ignores all that God really is.

For example, I am often asked how a God of love could demand that Israel kill every man, woman and child when overtaking the tribes of Canaan.

1 Sam 15:1 "Samuel said to Saul, "I am the one the Lord sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the Lord.

1 Sam 15:2 This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt.

1 Sam 15:3 Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys."

To the surface reader, this seems horrible!

What kind of a God demands the death of children and infants?

Even more, why would God tell King Saul to destroy the Amalekites for something that was done to Israel 400 years earlier!

These are good questions because there's more to God's ways than people imagine!

Here's the story:

Lineage: Abraham, Isaac, Esau, Eliphaz, Amalek.

Amalek became a powerful warlord in his day and his offspring followed in his ways.

For 300 years, the Amalekites terrorized Canaan. They became a ruthless tribe of roaming bandits.

Soon after the Exodus, while Israel was in the wilderness, the Amalekites ambushed Israel in an effort to steal anything of value.

Israel did nothing to provoke this battle. Israel was in the desert, living in a "no man's land."

But, the Amalekites were predators. They were too lazy to earn a living through toil and labor. It was much easier to steal the food and possessions of others.

They were "pirates on camels," a gang of outlaws.

The Lord gave Israel victory over the Amalekites, but the Lord was grieved with the ongoing degenerate behavior of the Amalekites.

After the battle with Israel was over...

Exo 17:14 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because **I will** completely blot out the memory of **Amalek** from under heaven."

About 400 years after the Amalekites attacked Israel in the desert, the Lord commanded King Saul to rise up and destroy the Amalekites and everything they owned.

Why?

For the **same reason** that the Lord destroyed the world and everyone in it -- men, women, children, infants and animals -- in Noah's day.

Gen 6:5 The Lord saw how great man's **wickedness** on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil **all the time**.

Gen 6:6 The Lord was **grieved** that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with **pain**.

Gen 6:7 So the Lord said,
"I **will** wipe mankind, whom **I have created**, from the face of the earth--men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air-- for **I am grieved** that **I have made them**." Noah's flood was NOT a freak accident of nature.

Noah's flood was NOT a natural event.

Noah's flood was an expression of **God's love**.

(Remember, "wrath" is one of the seven elements in God's character of love.)

Why did the Lord destroy the world in Noah's day?

Why did the Lord command King Saul to wipe out the Amalekites?

Answer: When people become so degenerate and so wicked in God's sight that newborn children will not have a chance to live a decent and upright life, **a God of love** destroys everyone so that the adults cannot damage or harm their offspring any longer.

God's wrath protects the oncoming generation.

Mercy and **justice** are not in conflict with each other.

In fact, divine love contains a perfect balance of mercy and justice.

These properties coexist within human beings because we are created in God's image.
(Genesis 1:27)

Every well trained child knows that a **loving** parent can **exercise** wrath!

In fact, nothing causes a loving parent's wrath to break out faster than seeing his child mistreated or abused.

If you saw a child suffer physical abuse or sexual abuse or psychological abuse, what would be your response? If it was in your power, would you use your wrath to "protect" children from predators?

Of course!

If destroying a world full of predators was the only way to stop their abuse, would you destroy the predators or would you allow them to destroy tens of thousands of children?

So it was in Noah's day. God's love for the oncoming generation moved Him to stop the predators.

God's mercy and wrath are not in conflict. Nothing arouses God's wrath like rampant injustice and predatory violence and He has the power and will to do something about it.

God was patient with the antediluvians. He waited 120 years.

God was patient with the Amalekites. He waited 700 years.

God was patient with Israel. He waited 1,470 years.

In each of these cases, divine patience did not bring about any change for the better.

Each succeeding generation only became worse than the previous.

Nothing offends the righteousness of God more than the downward spiral of wicked people.

This is why God's wrath breaks out from time to time. He tears down nations and civilizations to protect oncoming generations.

When God sees wicked parents and a wicked society ruining the oncoming generation -- robbing innocent children of the values and morals needed for a healthy and happy life, God is moved by His love for oncoming children to destroy everything contaminated by sin -- including children and infants.

At first, you may think: How horrible!!!

But, consider this: Even though children and infants perish when God's wrath breaks out, this is not a problem because all children and infants will be given eternal life.

God does not hold children accountable for their sins.

James 4:17 "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."

All children and infants will be saved because (a) God is more than merciful and (b) Jesus paid the price for all sinners, including those who are too young or incompetent to be held accountable for their actions.

(Good news: Jesus also paid the price for those of us who have sinned and are accountable for our sins -- if we willing to repent and reform.)

God's wrath is not evil. In fact, when God exercises His wrath, He accomplishes good things which could not be accomplished otherwise.

The world became a better place for children after Noah's flood.

The land of Canaan became a better place to live after the Amalekites were destroyed.

Look at the good that God has brought to all mankind through the death of Jesus!

Through His death, we have been reconciled to God!

God always brings good things out of His wrath because He is a God of love!

History proves that sin is a slippery slope.

Over time, each generation becomes increasingly bold and shameless in their wicked ways.

Money and sexual immorality leads to violence.

And violence only breeds suffering and greater violence. When law and order break down, there is no quality of life.

Man's descent into chaos arouses God's wrath because the oncoming generation will be ruined or destroyed by the ways of their parents and society in general.

When God's wrath breaks out, yes, there much is death, but out of this death, God brings about a new beginning. He cauterizes the malignancy of sin for the benefit of oncoming generations!

The world today is like the world in Noah's day.

Mat 24:37 "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

Mat 24:38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;

Mat 24:39 and they knew nothing about what would [suddenly] happen until the flood came and took them all away. . . "

The coming wrath of God will be horrible, it will come suddenly, but there is nothing to fear if we abide in Christ.

God has something to say to the human race and He will get our attention so that everyone can hear, but many will not heed.

During the Great Tribulation, God's servants, the 144,000, will proclaim a gospel that is contrary to what mankind has thought about God.

The gospel of Jesus Christ will separate the people of Earth into two groups.

The wicked will hate it and the honest in heart will embrace it. So, **What** is coming? The **wrath** of God. **Why** is it coming? Because a majority of people on Earth have become **hopelessly wicked**. Remember, when extended mercy has no redemptive effect, God's patience ends and His wrath breaks out.

It's the **only way** a God of love can **stop** endless cycles of violence and degenerate behavior.

OK, now we know **what** is coming. And now that we know **why** God's wrath is coming.

We will consider "**When** is it coming?" in the next segment.

Part III:
When is God's wrath coming?

Speaker:
Larry Wilson

February 2010

Thus far, we have considered what is coming and why God's wrath will breakout.

In this segment, we will examine the question: "When is God's wrath coming?"

To my knowledge, God has not given a specific date for the commencement of the seven trumpets.

If this is true, no one knows or can know the day or the hour that the seven trumpets will begin. Does this mean that we are left in the dark?

The Apostle Paul wrote,

1 Thessalonians 5:4 "But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief."

OK, this is puzzling.

What does Paul mean?

What light has God shed on the timing of His coming wrath?

Here's one clue: KJV 1 Thessalonians 5:3 "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction [God's wrath] cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."

OK, Paul knew that God's wrath would begin when the world is seeking peace and safety.

Paul also knew that God's wrath is coming upon the world:

Colossians 3:5 "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

Col 3:6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming."

Has God provided any other clues on the timing of the seven trumpets?

Please consider four things:

First: God did not declare a date for the birth of Christ in the Old Testament.

But, the wise men assembled all of the clues that God had given and they figured out a window of time for Christ's birth.

When they saw the star, they recognized the sign for what it was.

The wise men **did not** chase a shooting star.

No! They were waiting and watching for a divine sign and when they saw the unusual star in the east, they connected the dots.

They undertook a long and difficult journey to see and worship baby Jesus and notice the evidence of their faith when they stood before King Herod:

Matthew 2:2 "Where is the one who **has been born** king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

Summarizing Point #1: Even though God may not declare the date of a prophetic event, God does provide clues which are understood **on or about** the time of fulfillment.

When the clues are properly assembled a "window of time" is discovered and "expectation" begins.

A.D. 27

Luke 3:1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar--when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea. . .

Luke 3:15 The people were waiting **expectantly** and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be **the Christ**. "But you, brothers, **are not in darkness** so that this day should **surprise** you like a thief."

The second point we need to consider is that Daniel 8:19 says **"the appointed time of the end" is a time of wrath**.

Where does the Bible describe the outpouring of God's wrath during the time of the end?

The book of Revelation describes fourteen judgments -- 7 trumpets and 7 bowls.

And Revelation 15:1 says that the 7 bowls are called the seven **last** plagues because with them, God's wrath is **completed**! The seven trumpets are the seven **first** plagues and the seven bowls are the seven **last** plagues.

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Summarizing Point #2: Bible prophecy predicts the time of the end will be a time of wrath and God's wrath will be **completed** during the 7th bowl.

Third, the Bible declares that **God is love**. The Bible also declares that **God is changeless**. Therefore, His destruction of the Earth in Noah's day has to be an expression of love.

From age to age, God has used His wrath to cauterize the malignant growth of sin so

that oncoming generations can be set free from the degenerate, corrupting and violent behaviors of the current generation.

The Amalekites were destroyed because God loved oncoming generations who would inherit the land of Canaan.

The world was destroyed in Noah's day because God loved oncoming generations who would inhabit the Earth.

Summarizing Point #3: When people become hopelessly degenerate and violent, God's love for oncoming generations moves Him to destroy those who destroy others.

The fourth issue we need to consider is that with God, timing is everything.

God knows no haste or delay.

He is the Master of time and timing.

I could give you many examples from the Bible, but I don't have time. Here's four:

1. The flood came on time.
2. Israel was delivered out of Egypt on time.
3. The ministry of Jesus began on time.
4. The death of Jesus occurred on time.

Look at this: God **has set a date** for the sixth trumpet down to the very hour!

Rev 9:13 The sixth angel sounded his trumpet . . .

Rev 9:15 And the four angels who had been kept ready for **this very hour and day and month and year** were released **to kill a third** of mankind."

We see that God has the power to predetermine the timing of events.

The date for the sixth trumpet has been scheduled for thousands of years, down to the **very hour/ day/ month/ year**.

Summarizing Point #4: God is the Master of time and timing. He sets dates and carries out His decrees. He has set a date for the sixth trumpet and it will happen on time.

Look at this:

God has put 18 prophetic time periods in Daniel and Revelation.

Why?

They serve as clues!

When properly assembled, all 18 prophetic time periods will fit together like a jigsaw puzzle.

When properly aligned, they produce information that is otherwise unknown.

The 18 prophetic time periods reveal the timing of God's plans -- they narrow down the commencement of the seven trumpets to a small window of time.

Again, I **do not know** the date for the sixth trumpet, and I **do not know** the date for the commencement of the seven trumpets.

I do not know when nuclear war will break out.

But, there are clues suggesting the end of the world could happen on or before 2017!

Before we look these clues, consider three things that point to the end of life on Earth as we presently know it -- even if the end of the world does not occur before 2017.

Three issues threaten the survival of mankind:

1. Nuclear proliferation will lead to nuclear war
2. Population of 7 billion is straining Earth's resources -- One billion people hungry
3. Global epidemic of decadence, terrorism, dishonesty, violence and sexual immorality

Look at Paul's words to Timothy:

2 Tim 3:1 "But mark this: There will be terrible times in **the last days**.

2 Tim 3:2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,

2 Tim 3:3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,

2 Tim 3:4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God--

2 Tim 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them."

Does this describe the world you live in?

Do you think these kind of people could bring on nuclear war?

Do you think these kind of people will use predatory violence in order to survive? Do you think these kind of people will arouse the wrath of God?

Yes! Yes! Yes!

The point here is that mankind has become decadent and as a result, Earth is sliding into chaos. The **current** economic crisis in the world was caused by **greed and dishonesty** and the nations of Earth **will not** recover.

There is no way for the United States to repay its national debt and our situation is

dire, but not as dire as other bankrupt nations.

The sword of "payday" hangs over the nations by a thread. Every person acquainted with research knows that digging the truth out of God's hand is hard work.

Thomas Edison spent four years working on the light bulb.

He was interviewed one day by a young reporter who asked the inventor if he felt like a failure.

Edison replied, "Young man, why would I feel like a failure? And why would I ever give up? I now know definitively over 9,000 ways that an electric light bulb will not work. Success is almost in my grasp."

And shortly after that, Edison invented the light bulb. It took more than 10,000 tries, but he didn't quit!

I have used Edison's story to help you understand that my understanding of God's clues remains a work in progress.

So, here are three clues showing why I believe the Lord will come prior on or before 2017:

1. Book of Daniel unsealed
2. Bible History / Prophecy
3. The Great / Grand Week

1. Book of Daniel unsealed.

Chart of 17 prophecies discussed....

Dan 12:9 He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until [the time of the end](#).

I believe the book of Daniel has been unsealed. In other words, the keys that govern the interpretation of prophecy have been discovered.

2. Bible history / Prophecy 7,000 years

When all of the genealogical records and all of the historical events recorded in the Bible are combined with the 18 prophetic time periods defined in Daniel and Revelation, it appears to me the end of the [Friday Millennium](#) could occur on or before [2017](#).

For a number of reasons beyond our study today, [August, 2011](#) may be "a date of interest" for the nuclear war and the commencement of the seven trumpets, but I am not sure.

(If August, 2011 proves significant, the end of the world would occur 1,335 days later, in April 2015 . . or it might be the August 2014 / April 2018 time frame.)

3. God's Great Clocks

Finally, there is perfect harmony between the Great Week and the Grand Week.

Truth is proven true by the harmony that comes from the **sum** of all its parts.

The Bible tells us **what** is coming in considerable detail.

The Bible tells us **why** God's wrath is coming. It tells us why a God of love has to do what He doesn't want to do.

We can see the world is on collision course. Nuclear proliferation is a clear and present danger.

The population of the world is a far greater problem than global warming.

One billion people are starving already.

There is an global epidemic of lawless and immoral behavior.

The H1N1 virus is nothing compared to the evil virus of greed, dishonesty and sexual immorality that has overtaken the hearts of millions of people.

Finally, the prophetic time periods indicate that the commencement of the Great Tribulation is very near.

I am watching and waiting. I am filled with anticipation that the end of all things is near and I hope you are, too! I hope you will watch this DVD a couple times and pray about the things you have heard.

I hope you will search the Scriptures with renewed interest.

I hope you will visit our website: www.wake-up.org

May the Lord help us to wake up and be ready for His appearing.

Remember this. It's not the day of the Second Coming that will catch the world by surprise, rather, it is the commencement of God's wrath.

The commencement of the Great Tribulation will **happen suddenly** with people are crying out for peace and safety. Many will be caught with an overwhelming surprise.

Mat 24:37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

Mat 24:38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to **the day** Noah **entered** the ark;

Mat 24:39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until **[the rain fell]** the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

If my understanding of God's clues are valid, we don't have to wait much longer!

Come, Lord Jesus!