

God's Everlasting Covenant

presents

Jacob's Trouble/Daniel's 70th Week - Has the Tribulation Begun?

Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place....He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the Temple, he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured on him. (Daniel 9:24; 27)

What is written here is a compilation of material from various sources, including information compiled by Bill Koenig (www.watch.org) and teachings by Pastor Mark Biltz of El Shaddai Ministries (www.elshaddaiministries.us).

Daniel 9:27 has been fulfilled before. In fact, the Jewish people have a history of making peace agreements with their enemies, something which the LORD forbade them to do (see Deuteronomy 7:1-2). Solomon made an agreement with King Hiram (1 Kings 5:12). Hezekiah made an agreement with Assyria, which the LORD called "a covenant with Sheol" in Isaiah 28:11. And it happened again in 168 BCE during the period known as the Maccabean revolt. The ruler of Syria, Antiochus IV (also known as Antiochus Epiphanes) hated the Jews and their culture, mostly because he couldn't control them. So, he made an agreement with the Jewish leadership that if they would forsake Torah and adopt the Hellenistic way of life, he would spare their lives and wouldn't destroy Jerusalem. He ended up sacrificing a pig on the altar and desecrating the Temple. There was a revolt led by the Maccabees, and they were successful in overcoming their enemies for a time. Then in 70 A.D. the Temple was desecrated and destroyed for the second time in history by the Romans. As has been proven true throughout history all agreements or covenants that Israel makes with her enemies end up being broken.

As is often true, patterns repeat themselves, and so does history. As my friend Pastor Mark Biltz says, "The thing we learn from history is that we don't learn from history!" And many believe there will be another covenant that will be made with Israel that will usher in Daniel's 70th week, or what Christians refer to as "the Tribulation."

It is more than interesting that there are many events that have transpired in the past several months that point to a very strong possibility that we have entered the last seven-year period of history. We have attempted to compile these to share with you in hopes you will go to prayer and seek the Lord on the matter. Many in the American church are asleep. It is our desire to wake people up so that they can discern the times and prepare for what we believe is soon to come upon the whole earth.

And there will be signs in the heavens...

March 19, 2008 – On the eve of Taanit Esther, which is the day that Haman was hanged and the Jews overcame their enemies (see the book of Esther), there was a gamma ray burst in the constellation of Bootes, which means “He comes” or “The coming one.”

The burst could be seen with the naked eye, which is very unusual. To give you an idea of the significance, a star of magnitude 6 is the dimmest that is visible to the human eye – magnitude 5 is almost three times brighter. This burst was between magnitude 5 and 6 on the visual magnitude scale used by astronomers.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/03/080321093110.htm>

August 1, 2008 (Tammuz 29) – On the eve of the month of Av, a full solar eclipse could be seen from China, where the Olympics took place one week later. Solar eclipses have been said to herald judgment for idolaters (nations who do not worship the God of Israel). Although no one can be certain there is any connection, it is interesting to note that one of the worst earthquakes of the century took place in May 2008 in China. The eclipse took place in the constellation of Cancer – an eclipse takes place when the moon passes in front of the sun. It is interesting to note that from the earth is the only place in the solar system that a full solar eclipse can be viewed. In biblical astronomy, the moon represents the Bride of Yeshua, the Sun represents the Bridegroom, Yeshua, the bright morning star. This eclipse taking place within Cancer declares that the Bride is secure in Yeshua and can certainly be seen as a message to those who know how to read the meaning of things that happen in the heavens. To learn more about the constellations and their meanings, see E.W. Bullinger’s *Witness of the Stars*. For more information on the constellation of cancer and the story it tells, see

http://philologos.org/_eb-tws/chap33.htm

Events coinciding with the biblical calendar & feasts

Rosh Hashanah/Feast of Trumpets - This is the time of the civil Jewish New Year. The Feast of Trumpets is when it is taught that the books of God are opened, and Jews are called to a season of repentance. They are to evaluate their lives and turn away from mistakes. The Jews listen to the sounding of the shofar, a series of 99 blows. The shofar is a heavenly instrument that has been used throughout Jewish history for many important and solemn occasions in the Bible. It is a call to war. It is the shofar that was sounded when the walls of Jericho fell, and also when Gideon roused his 200 men in the battle with the Midianites. The sounding of the shofar caused confusion in the camp of the enemy. It is also used for the coronation of kings. The shofar was blown when Solomon was crowned King of Israel. During this important Jewish feast, the shofar is sounded to call the Jews to wake-up, to listen, and to turn toward the Lord, the God of Israel. It is the beginning of a period of judgment by God, which culminates on Yom Kippur, when the books are closed and the final judgment is pronounced.

On September 29, 2008, which was Erev Rosh Hashanah (eve of Rosh Hashanah), the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) fell 777.68 points. This represented 7% of the value of the Dow. Israel was already celebrating Rosh Hashanah/Feast of Trumpets. When watching the news and seeing the point drop, I know I heard the Lord say, “Don’t be afraid, I’m in the midst of this.” On the same day, the U.S. House of

Representatives rejected a \$700 billion bailout. Although a revised plan was passed later, it was initially rejected on September 29, 2008.

Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the year for the Jewish people and it is celebrated 10 days after Rosh Hashanah on the 10th day of the seventh month, which is Tishrei. The period between the two feasts are known as the Ten Days of Awe. It is a season of personal introspection and evaluation. In 2008, Yom Kippur began at sundown on October 8th and ended at sundown on October 9. On October 9, the DJIA closed down 678.910 points (6, 7, 8, 9, 10!) The odds of this happening are 1:99,999. Bill Koenig interprets this as: "God has judged the U.S. in accordance with Noahic law – these are the commandments on the 2nd tablet, specifically the 6th through the 10th. As the sun had already set in Jerusalem, God was telling us we have been weighed in the balance of the 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th commandments and found wanting...our nation is being judged for murder, adultery, stealing, lying and covetousness." The just judgment of God is pronounced on Yom Kippur – hopefully, there is atonement. This year, the verdict was pronounced, and during the Ten Days of Awe, the Dow went through one of the worst seven-day declines in Wall Street history.

“It will be as in the days of Noah”

Gay marriage – California voters’ decided on the ballot in 1994 that marriage is between a man and woman. It was overturned on May 15 by a Supreme Court decision, saying it was unconstitutional. San Francisco legalized gay marriage and hundreds of couples flocked to the courthouse. By June 15, there were over 1100 fires burning out of control in California. Is there a connection? Only God knows for sure. However, what should be noted is that there was only one other time in history when gay marriage was “legal” and accepted in the world. It was during the days of Noah. Beginning in Genesis 6:5, it says “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. The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.”

The word for “grieved” in Hebrew is *atsab*, and is the same word for carving, like etching into a stone. So the pain was so great, it was like someone was carving into God’s heart. Genesis 6 tells us that the day of the flood was the seventeenth day of the 2nd month (this was before the Biblical calendar). So Tishrei was the first month in Noah’s time, and Cheshvan was the 2nd month. This corresponded this year with November 15, 2008. That was the day that the top 20 global financial powers (G20) met in Washington D.C. to discuss the global financial crisis. November 15 fell on the Sabbath, and the Torah reading was Vayera, “And He Appeared,” which is about the destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah.

Although California voters recently upheld marriage as between a man and a woman with the passing of Proposition 8, the homosexual movement is vehemently opposing the voters’ decision and has taken it once again to the California courts for decision. They will not stop until they get what they want, evidence that we are living in the days of Noah.

And as in the days of Hitler...

This November was also the 70th anniversary of the world's reaction to Hitler beginning the attacks on the Jews -- Kristallnacht, the night of the broken glass. It is the official beginning of the Holocaust. President Roosevelt expressed outrage, but neither the U.S. nor the world did anything. They were silent.

It is interesting to note here that Daniel's 70th week (Daniel 9:24) could have begun right during the time of the 70th anniversary of the Holocaust. In Judaism, numbers have a meaning. This is known as Gematria. The number seventy (70) appears in the Bible several times with great significance. It is interesting that God divided the nations into seventy (Genesis 10) by the seventy souls that came out of Jacob's loins and 500 years later, went down into Egypt in Genesis 46:2. It is also the number of years of the Babylonian captivity. Each letter of the Hebrew alphabet corresponds to a number. The letter "ayin" which is the picture of an eye in the ancient pictorial Hebrew corresponds with the number 70, which could mean "to see." It also symbolizes the restoration of Israel. Could it be that the "times of the Gentiles" that Yeshua talked about are ended? For more information on Gematria, go to the link below.

<http://www.biblestudy.org/bibleref/meaning-of-numbers-in-bible/70.html>

Other Interesting Events (from Bill Koenig at www.watch.org)

November 4, 2008 – Barack Obama was selected as the President of the United States – a man who is not opposed to late term abortion or even infanticide, thinks homosexuality isn't a sin, has many questionable associations, may have been born in Kenya, and says that people can be saved by other faiths while referring to himself as a Christian.

November 6, 2008 – Harvard University sponsors a seminar on Islamic Finance 101 at the U.S. Treasury Department.

November 9, 2008 – The Quartet leaders (United States, United Nations, European Union and Russia) met with Secretary Rice in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt to discuss the Palestinian peace process. This is the day Kristallnacht began. **It is interesting to note that leaders met to discuss what to do with Israel and the peace process on the exact day that the Holocaust began 70 years earlier.**

November 10, 2008 – This is the 7th anniversary of President Bush declaring to the U.N. General Assembly that he favored a Palestinian state. This is the first time a U.S. president made that declaration.

November 26, 2008 – Terrorists attack Mumbai and some Jews are murdered.

December 1, 2008 – Body of Daniel Kliman discovered in bottom of an elevator in San Francisco.

December 5, 2008 – Jews from Hevron were evicted from their homes and from the Chabad “House of Peace.”

There are many other disturbing events that have transpired during the fall of 2008 since Israel celebrated the biblical feasts. There isn't enough time to go into the depth of it, but we are confident that the prophesied Rapture of those who believe in Yeshua will take place one year on the Feast of Trumpets/Rosh Hashanah. It is the only biblical feast that begins on the first day of the month (Tishrei) and the month does not begin until the New Moon is sighted. Since there are 29 or 30 days in the lunar month, it is the only feast which begins when “no one knows the day or hour.” That's because you don't know when the New Moon has arrived until you see it. By the time it was seen, the feast was half over, so the Jews celebrate it for two days. That's why Yeshua said, “No man knows the day or hour.” He was telling us that it will happen one year on the Feast of Trumpets/Rosh Hashanah! Isn't that an eye-opener? Pastor Mark Biltz of El Shaddai Ministries has some excellent teachings on the biblical feasts, and we highly recommend you visit his website. <http://elshaddaiministries.us/audio/feasts.html>

Future Signs in the Heavens

Yeshua's feet will land on the Mount of Olives one year in the future exactly on Yom Kippur. This is the time when Israel's atonement will be completed. This is the Second Coming. If that is accurate, and we believe the Bible teaches this is true, then Daniel's 70th week would have to begin on or around Yom Kippur seven years before. It is interesting to note that there are some interesting signs in the heavens scheduled for 2014/2015, namely four lunar eclipses and two solar eclipses. And the lunar eclipses all take place on Jewish feast days. Again, go to Mark Biltz' website for more interesting information on that. <http://elshaddaiministries.us/video/eclipsevideo.html>

You can also check out NASA's website on lunar and solar eclipses.

<http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse.html>

If 2015 is the year of Yeshua's return, then that would mean Daniel's 70th week would start in the Fall of 2008. Can we know for certain? I believe in time, we will. Those who are watching closely for the signs will know. The Father will reveal it to His children. Noah knew when the flood began. God told him seven days in advance. I believe we will know.

Spirit of Elijah

The last prophet in the English Bible is Malachi, and in chapter 4, verse 5 it says the Lord will send the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful Day of the Lord. We all know that the spirit of Elijah came in the person of John the Baptist before Yeshua's first coming. But Elijah didn't come because it wasn't *the* great and dreadful Day of the Lord. That Day has not come yet. But the spirit of Elijah is here today. What do I mean by that? In Malachi 4:4 it says “Remember the law (Torah) of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.” The next verse is the promise that Elijah will come. May I suggest to you that as Israel was prepared by the spirit of Elijah for Yeshua's First Coming through the person of John the Baptist, believers today are being prepared by the spirit of Elijah before Yeshua's Second Coming. There is a

renewed hunger and thirst for Torah today by the followers of Yeshua in the Hebraic Roots movement -- just like there was a hunger and thirst before Yeshua came to the earth the first time! The Day is coming closer!

Is there a peace (piece) deal in the future, or has it already been made?

End-time prophecy buffs have long awaited a peace deal between Israel and the Anti-Messiah because of what is written in Daniel 9:27. "He will confirm a covenant with many for one seven (period of seven years)."

Israeli Prime Minister Olmert made another important announcement on the eve of Rosh Hashanah, September 29, 2008. He said that "Israel must withdraw from nearly all the West Bank and East Jerusalem to attain peace with the Palestinians and that any occupied land it held onto would have to be exchanged for the same quantity of Israeli territory." He made another very interesting statement: "What I am saying to you now has not been said by any Israeli leader before me," Mr. Olmert told the newspaper Yediot Aharonot in the interview on the occasion of the Jewish new year, observed from Monday evening till Wednesday evening. "The time has come to say these things." <http://www.fmep.org/analysis/analysis/olmert-says-israel-should-pull-out-of-west-bank> It would seem that Mr. Olmert wishes to go where no Israeli leader has gone before...he should read his Bible, for many of Israel's kings and leaders have indeed, gone this way before. And it has ended in great trouble for Israel, for every "peace" agreement has eventually been broken by her supposed peace partner.

Another important fact that is worth mentioning is that Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah pushed a peace deal in 2002. It was "shelved" because it involved giving up East Jerusalem and returning to pre-1967 borders, basically leaving Israel without defensible borders. The Saudi Peace Deal was endorsed by the 22 Arab nations last year. On October 22, 2008, it was announced that "the Saudi Peace Deal" is being reconsidered by Israel. <http://news.aol.com/article/israel-considering-saudi-peace-deal/217066>

Of note is that no time-frame is mentioned for either of these agreements. I was just speaking with Pastor Mark Biltz of El Shaddai Ministries, and he pointed out that there is nothing in Daniel 9:27 or anywhere else that says the "covenant confirmed for one seven" will be made public. Again, it is fascinating that just last week, an article appeared in *Arutz Sheva*, an Israeli news source that Olmert and Abbas had arrived at a "secret agreement." Could this be the agreement we've been waiting for? Only time will tell. <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/128744>

So, there you have it. This is not an exhaustive compilation of significant events that have transpired this year, or even in these past months since the feast days. However, we've tried to tell you about the most significant, at least in our view. Where do we go from here? We suggest you pray and seek the Lord. Don't put your head in the sand...ask Him what times we are in and what He wants you to do. If He is indeed your Lord, He won't want you to be in the dark...but we have a responsibility to seek Him with all our hearts, and He promises we will find Him. We who follow Him must

also be about His business. We must work the harvest fields and continue to bring His kingdom from heaven to the earth to the souls who don't yet know Him. His last words to us before He went to heaven were "Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations." We are to continue to work while it is yet day, for the night is falling quickly when no man can work.

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