

The Ten Days of Awe in Bible Prophecy!

How much time do we have left? How much longer until Armageddon strikes and the Messiah returns? Hidden in the Scriptures is a missing “key” to unlocking the mystery of the End of Days!

William F. Dankenbring

God says to His people: “Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!” (Amos 4:12).

Are we prepared, or preparing daily?

How much longer do we have to wait before the Messiah returns? What lies ahead for this straying, strange, weird planet where wickedness reigns and truth is ignored and righteousness is buried in the dust?

Almighty God is working out a plan here below, on planet Earth.

In Psalm 90:4, we read: “For a *thousand years* in thy sight are but as *yesterday* when it is past, and as a watch in the night.”

The apostle Peter seems to have this Scripture in mind when he writes, in the New Testament, “But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that ONE DAY *is with the Lord as a THOUSAND YEARS, and a thousand years as ONE DAY.* The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the *day of the Lord* will come as a thief in the night: in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (II Peter 3:8-10).

The *Jewish New Testament Commentary*, by Dr. David H. Stern, in a commentary on II Peter, chapter 3, dealing with the “day for a “thousand years” equation, explains that this idea “has deep roots in Judaism, specifically in connection with *dating the Messianic Era.*” He then quotes the Talmud, in tractate Sanhedrin, as follows:

“Rav Kattina said, 'The world will exist for six thousand years, then for one thousand it will be desolate, as it is said, "The Lord alone will be exalted in that day"' (Isaiah 2:11). Abaye said, 'It will be desolate

two thousand, as it is said, "After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, and we will live in his sight" (Hos.6:2).

"It has been taught in accordance with Rav Kattina, 'Just as every seventh year is a year of *sh'mittah* [letting the land lie fallow], so it is with the world: one thousand years out of seven are to be fallow -- as proved by the following three texts taken together [in which the key word is "day"]: 'The Lord alone will be exalted in that day' (Isaiah 2:11); 'A psalm and song for the day of *Shabbat*' (Psalm 92:1), meaning the day that is entirely *Shabbat*; and, "For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past" (Psalm 90:4).

"The school of Eliyahu teaches: 'THE WORLD EXISTS FOR SIX THOUSAND YEARS -- two thousand of them *tohu* ['void']; two thousand, *Torah*; and two thousand, the era of the MESSIAH. But because of our numerous iniquities many of these years have been lost'" (Sanhedrin 97a-97b).

Notice also that that the first 2000 years are characterized, by the school of Elijah the prophet, as years of "tohu" – that is, waste, emptiness, confusion and chaos – or "void." That would be the world prior to Abraham, including the Flood of Noah's time, from 4004 B.C. to 2004 B.C. The next 2,000 years is the time of the "Torah," or "Law" of God – from the time of Abraham, 2004 B.C. to the *birth of Jesus Christ in 4 B.C.!*

The "Messianic Era," then, runs from 4 B.C. to 1997-98 A.D. – our time, today!

Mystery of the Ten Sefirot

Jewish prayers, and traditions, going back thousands of years, ascribe a number of prophecies and statements to the prophet Elijah which are not found in the Bible itself. For example, the knowledge of the ten sefirot of God was revealed to the prophet Elijah. The word "sefirot" is a plural word and means "counting numbers." There are ten primal numbers and thus ten sefirot.

We read in *Siddur Tehillat Hashem*, the Jewish prayer book, the following:

"Elijah opened [his discourse] and said: Master of the worlds, You are One but not in the numerical sense. You are exalted above all the exalted ones, hidden from all the hidden ones; no thought can grasp You at all. You are He who has brought forth ten "garments", and we call them ten *sefirot*, through which to direct hidden worlds which are not revealed and revealed worlds; and through them You conceal Yourself from man. You are He who binds them together and unites them; and inasmuch as You are within them, whoever separates one from another of these ten *sefirot*, it is considered as if he had effected a separation in You.

"These ten *sefirot* proceed according to their order: one long, one short, and one intermediate. You are He who directs them, but there is no one who directs You – neither above, nor below, nor from any side. You have made garments for them, from which souls issue forth to man. You have made for them a number of bodies which are called

“bodies” in comparison with the garments which cover them; and they are described [anthropomorphically] in the following manner: *chesed* (kindness) – the right arm; *gevurah* (severity, power) – the left arm; *tiferet* (beauty) – the torso; *netzach* (eternity, victory) and *hod* (splendor) – the two thighs; *yesod* (foundation) – the end of the torso, the sign of the Holy Covenant; *malchut* (kingship) – the mouth, which we call the Oral Torah; *chochmah* (wisdom) – the brain, that is, the thought within; *binah* (understanding) – the heart, by means of which the heart understands; and concerning the latter two *sefirot* it is written, ‘The secrets belong to the Lord our God’; supernal *keter* (crown) is the crown of kingship, concerning which it is said, ‘He declares the end from the beginning’ . . .” (page 125).

This commentary is attributed by the Jews to Elijah.

The Number TEN in Scripture

The number “ten” is very important, Biblically. There are ten patriarchs and ten generations of mankind before the Flood; there were ten plagues on ancient Egypt; God gave Israel the “Ten Commandments”; there were ten tribes in the northern kingdom of Israel; the fourth beast of Daniel has ten horns (Dan.7:7, 24); the beast of Revelation has ten horns also (Rev.13:1); ten kings will fight Christ when He returns (Rev.17:12-14); the Church of God is described as being composed of *ten virgins* (Matt.25:1); the tithe is *one tenth* of one’s income (Lev.27:30-32).

Ten is also a number of perfection or completion. But it signifies completion or perfection of God's divine order. The first ten numbers is the pattern for the whole numerical system, as “numerical DNA” as it were – and originates the system of numerical calculation called “decimals.” Completeness of order, then, is represented by the number “ten.”

How does this number relate to our age, today, and the end times?

The answer is revealed in the “ten days of Awe.” In end-time prophecy, when God begins to reveal Himself, the ten days represent ten years – a day is a year being fulfilled. Let’s study this, analyze it, and see what God wants us to understand.

All together, then, there are ten divine *sefirot* or “traits” of God which represent the connecting link or “chain of command” between God and our physical world in which we live. The *sefirot* are also revealed in the counting of the Omer in the spring of the year from Passover to Pentecost. God commands His people “sefirat ha Omer” – that is, “count the Omer,” for seven weeks, seven days a week, till the fiftieth day – Pentecost, also known as the Shavuot, “the feast of Weeks.” (see Lev.23:15-16).

After the Omer counting period, God met with Israel at Mount Sinai and gave them His Torah, His covenant, and they became His bride – His chosen people. Moses went up the mountain to receive the instructions of God and was gone for forty days. When he returned, he found the people wallowing in sin and debauchery, having made a

golden calf to worship. To repair the damage, Moses prayed for the people and returned up the mountain to commune with God further, begging His forgiveness for Israel. God hearkened to his prayers, and gave Israel another chance. The sin of the golden calf occurred forty days after the Mount Sinai and Pentecost meeting, on Tammuz 17 (the beginning of the “time between the straits”).

During this time all Israel “held their breath,” praying, and beseeching God to pardon their sin and to spare them. They spent the whole month of Elul repenting of their sins, and seeking forgiveness. They blew the shofar every day in anticipation of God’s coming judgment, preparing to meet with God again.

Elul – Month of Preparation to Meet God

If you had an important court date scheduled — one that would determine your financial future, or even your very life — you’d be sure to prepare for weeks beforehand. Right? You would do your best to be PREPARED!

So it is that Elul precedes the month of Tishri, the holiest month of the year with four annual Holy Days. On Rosh Hashana, or Yom Teruah, we begin a period of judgment before the throne of God. Yom Teruah pictures God as our Creator and Ruler, before whom we must appear. Each individual will be judged on the merit of his deeds and depth of his repentance from sinful deeds.

Elul — the month preceding Rosh Hashana — therefore begins a period of intensive introspection, of clarifying our life’s real goals, and of our drawing closer to God in heartfelt repentance and earnest Bible study, prayer, and meditation. It is a time for realizing our real purpose in life — rather than our just perfunctorily going through the “motions” of religious church attendance, making money and seeking pleasure and personal gratification. Elul should be a time when we step back and look at ourselves critically and honestly. As the apostle Paul put it, “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ (Yeshua Ha Moshiach) is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified [margin, “do not stand the test”]” (II Cor.13:5).

The Golden Calf Incident

God had freed His people from Egyptian bondage. He brought them to Mount Sinai, in freedom and liberty and gave them His Ten Commandments.

Following the revelation, Moses went up Mount Sinai to learn more details of the Torah directly from God. At the end of 40 days, God handed Moses two sapphire tablets of identical shape and size — upon which the Ten Commandments were engraved.

On the 16th of Tammuz, when Moses had not yet returned from the mountain, the Jewish people began to panic. They sought a new “leader” and built the Golden Calf. Immediately, the Clouds of Glory — the divine protection of God — departed. On the

17th of Tammuz, Moses came down from the mountain, smashed the Tablets, destroyed the Calf, and punished the transgressors.

On the 19th of Tammuz, Moses ascended Mount Sinai again to plead for the lives of the Jewish people. He prayed with great intensity, and after 40 days, God agreed to spare the Jewish people in the merit of their forefathers. On the last day of Av, Moses returned to the people. Their lives were spared, but the sin was not yet forgiven.

For a *third time*, Moses ascended Mount Sinai on Rosh Chodesh Elul and stayed in the heavenly camp for 40 days (bringing the total number of days spent there to 120). Henceforth, the month of Elul became a special time for drawing close to God. At the end of the 40 days — on the 10th of Tishrei — God agreed to mete out the punishment for the Golden Calf over many generations. He then gave Moses a new, second set of Tablets.

Moses came down from the mountain with good news for the people: The reunification was complete, and the relationship restored. Thereafter, the 10th of Tishrei was designated as a day of forgiveness for all future generations: Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

Why is the number 40 repeated three times? Forty is a number of cleansing and purification — of trial and testing. Noah's Flood rains lasted 40 days, and the mikveh — the ritual purification bath — contains 40 measures of water. Elijah fasted forty days without food or water. Christ also fasted for 40 days before He began His ministry. “Three,” is the number of God’s signature — and the number of “decision.” Paul prayed three times to have a “thorn in the flesh” removed.

Blowing the Shofar

Beginning the second day of Rosh Chodesh Elul, it is the Ashkenazi Jewish custom to blow the shofar every morning after prayers, in order to awaken us for the coming Day of Judgement. The shofar's wailing sound inspires us to use the opportunity of Elul to its fullest.

Also beginning in Elul, religious Jews say Psalm 27 in the morning and evening services. In this Psalm, King David exclaims: “One thing I ask . . . is to dwell in the house of God all the days of my life.” During this month we focus on our relationship with God, our Father, and the Messiah, and strive to increase our connection to Almighty God through prayer, Bible Study, meditation, and repentance.

Elul presents an enormous opportunity to draw close to God.

After Israel’s sin of the Golden Calf, during Moses’ first 40 days on top of Mount Sinai, Moses asked God to explain His system for relating with the world. God's answer, known as the “13 Attributes of Mercy,” forms the essence of special prayers. The “13 Attributes” speak of “God's patience” and “mercifulness” and “kindness.” The same God Who created us with a clean slate and a world of opportunity, gives us many

opportunities to “get it right,” if we screw up the first time, or even many times, due to weakness, influences of others, or plain old “attitude.” God is very patient, and one of the chief lessons we must learn in life is also “patience” – even “extreme patience.” Aren’t you thankful that God is patient and forgiving and is willing to forget our mistakes, if and when we come to Him in heartfelt repentance and sincere contrition and humility?

Repentance Is An Act of Divine Lovingkindness

From the beginning, God prepared a way by which men can rise up from the pitfall of their actions, to flee the trap of their iniquities, to save their souls from destruction; and to turn back God’s anger.

Says Eliyahu Kitov, in *The Book of Our Heritage*, “And even if they have been greatly iniquitous and have rebelled against God, He did not close the doors of repentance to them. Israel was therefore admonished to repent from however far they had turned away. And it was thus also affirmed that repentance is accepted even if the sinner repents because of great distress. As the verse (Devarim 4:30) says: ‘*In your distress when all these things will come upon you in the End of Days, you shall return to the Lord your God, and you shall hearken unto His voice!*’ All the more is this so, if one repents for fear and love of God.”

He continues: “There are many levels in repentance, and man draws near to God in accord with his repentance. There is indeed forgiveness for any degree of repentance, but the soul is regarded as totally purified only if its earlier transgressions are as wiped out by repentance as if they had never been committed. The matter may be compared to a heavily soiled garment. A light washing will not avail to remove all its stains and spots and it will become white only to the extent to which it is washed. Likewise is the soul cleansed of transgression to the extent to which the heart is purified” (vol.3, page 1044).

Real Repentance Needed

What is real, genuine repentance? “There are three fundamental components of repentance: forsaking the sin one has committed, regret and confession. What is meant by ‘forsaking sin’? The sinner has to desist from committing the sin, to remove the sin from his thoughts, and resolve not to repeat the action.

“What is meant by ‘regret’? One must understand wholeheartedly that the abandonment of God is bitter and evil. He must take to heart that sin’ brings punishment and retribution and he must therefore regret what he did.

“What is meant by ‘confession’? One must verbally admit what he has done, saying: ‘I have sinned by doing such-and-such. I regret what I have done and am ashamed and shall never do this again.’”

Says Rabbi Kitov, “We are taught that repentance is efficacious only for sins between man and God. Sins between man and his fellowman such as stealing, causing

injury, or cursing, are not forgiven until one makes restitution. And if one compensates his fellow, he must still placate him and ask for forgiveness.

“One is forbidden to be hardhearted and refuse to be reconciled with a person who has wronged him. Rather, one should be quick to forgive and slow to anger. When asked for forgiveness by one who has done him wrong, he should wholeheartedly and willingly forgive him. Even if that person has caused him much distress and greatly wronged him, he should not be vengeful or bear resentment” (page 1045).

Feast of Trumpets – God’s Call to Repent and Beginning of Judgment

For many decades multiple thousands have been taught, and have taken for granted, the teaching that the Feast of Trumpets – also known as Rosh Hashanah – pictures the second coming of Jesus Christ to this earth to set up the Kingdom of God.

Let's not just take this teaching for granted. For if we analyze it carefully, we should see immediately that there is something here that just doesn't add up right. First of all, the holy day itself is not called the “Feast of the Great Trumpet,” or “Feast of the LAST Trumpet.” Rather, it is named “The Feast of TRUMPETS” – *PLURAL!* This is the Feast of MANY trumpets – not just one trumpet or the last trumpet!

How many trumpets are going to be blown at the second coming of Jesus Christ? According to the Word of God, just ONE trumpet is mentioned! Notice it!

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the TRUMPET OF GOD: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (I Thess.4:16-17).

Notice! This verse does not say MANY trumpets are going to be blown when Christ returns – but just ONE trumpet, the trumpet of GOD!

The apostle Paul writes further about this colossal event, the return of Christ:

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, AT THE LAST TRUMPET: for the TRUMPET SHALL SOUND, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and WE SHALL BE CHANGED . . .” (I Cor.15:52).

Jesus Christ Himself also described His second coming in these graphic words:

“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall SEE the Son of man coming IN THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN WITH POWER AND GREAT GLORY. And he shall send his angels with the GREAT SOUND OF A TRUMPET, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other” (Matt.24:30-31).

Isaiah wrote of this single, solitary trumpet peal. He declared:

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall beat off from the channel of the river unto the stream of Egypt, and ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the GREAT TRUMPET shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem” (Isa.27:12-13).

Clearly Christ will return at the sound of one final great trumpet blast! But the Feast of Trumpets is NOT the Feast of one great solitary trumpet blast – it is the Feast of TRUMPETS – *PLURAL!* What, therefore, does it really signify?

It signifies the call to Repentance. This is the major theme, beginning with Rosh Hashanah, the Day of Blowing. The blowing of the trumpets is a fantastic, incredible call to each individual to repentance, self-examination, *regret* for sins committed, and a firm *rejection* of the sins committed, and finally a firm *resolution* or resolve not to continue committing those sins any longer.

The “Crisis at the Close”

We are now living in the “crisis at the end” of this age of mankind (Dan.12:4, Moffatt translation). This is the time of the “crisis at the close” (verse 9). This is an age of awesome peril and frightening threats to the survival of mankind (II Tim.3:1).

In a detailed prophecy of the events which will occur on the earth, just prior to His Second Coming, Jesus Christ told His disciples, “For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the BEGINNING of sorrows” (Matt.24:7-8).

These things have already begun to happen, and this year seem to have reached “warp speed”! America and the world have begun a roller-coaster ride through Hell! The world is in flames, and ISIS is on the march globally. Russia and China are building up their nuclear forces, and threatening the United States. The world is writhing in great turmoil and horror fills the eyes of mankind. Where will it all end?

Jesus Christ foretold incredible upsets of the weather and the natural order. He declared: “And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth *distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring: Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth:* for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory” (Luke 21:25-27).

These things have already begun.

Following on the heels of these natural disasters, Jesus foretold widespread

religious deception, apostasy, and persecution upon the true followers of Christ (Matt.24:9-11). Many false prophets and religious leaders would rise up, deceiving the many – charismatic leaders, religious Neanderthals, and autocratic leaders impressed with their own vanity and ego. This has happened. Jesus added, “And because iniquity shall abound” – wickedness, lawlessness, pornography, obscenity, cursing, gang violence, immorality, humanism – “the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the END, the same shall be saved” (Matt.24:11-13).

The apostle Paul also spoke of this horrible, mind-bending, spine-twisting time of sheer terror coming upon the earth. He wrote, “This know also, that in the LAST DAYS *PERILOUS TIMES* shall come upon the earth. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, *proud*, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, *false accusers*, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, *traitors*, *heady*, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God: Having a FORM of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away [have nothing to do with them!]” (II Tim.3:1-5).

The Meaning of Trumpets

The Feast of Trumpets, in Hebrew, is *Yom Teruah*, and literally means “Day of Blowing,” or “Memorial of blowing of trumpets.” We read in the book of Numbers, “And in the seventh month [Tishri], ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work: it is a *day of blowing the trumpets* unto you” (Num.29:1). In the Septuagint, translated in the Greek language about 250 years before the time of Christ, the phrase used is *hemera semasias*, which literally means “a day of signaling.” Trumpets are blown to signal something.

The Feast of Trumpets begins the “Ten Days of Awe” which conclude with the Day of Atonement.

The Ten Days of Awe

What are the Ten Days of Awe?

Says *The Jewish Book of Why* concerning the Day of Atonement:

“The penitential period in the Jewish calendar actually starts at the beginning of Elul (one month before Rosh Hashanah). However, the ten days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur have special significance because in Jewish tradition, as the liturgy of the High Holidays states, *during this period God passes judgment over every individual, but RESERVES FINAL JUDGMENT UNTIL YOM KIPPUR.*

“*The Ten Days of Penitence are regarded as man's LAST CHANCE, through his actions, to influence God to reconsider an unfavorable decision* (Rosh Hashanah 16b). For this reason, the holiday greeting which until Yom Kippur was *leshana tova tikatevu*, 'May you be inscribed in the Book of Life for good,' is changed, as Yom Kippur approaches, to *g'mar chatima tova*, 'May you be sealed in the Book of Life for good'” (p. 238).

At the conclusion of the Days of Awe, following the Feast of Trumpets, which depicts the WARNING BLASTS that God sends to warn the nations to repent and confess their sins, and to change their ways, comes the Day of Atonement. Notice, now, what happens on this day!

Notice a remarkable prophecy in the 25th chapter of Leviticus. We read: “And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years. Then shalt thou cause the TRUMPET OF THE JUBILEE TO SOUND *on the TENTH DAY OF THE SEVENTH MONTH, in the DAY OF ATONEMENT shall ye MAKE THE TRUMPET SOUND THROUGHOUT ALL YOUR LAND. And ye shall HALLOW the fiftieth year, and PROCLAIM LIBERTY throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof*” (Lev.25:8-10).

The “Jubilee year” pictures the time of “restitution” of all things (Lev.25:10-17). This restitution will occur at the return of the Messiah! The apostle Peter proclaimed, at the beginning of the New Testament Church, to the Jewish nation gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the TIMES OF REFRESHING shall come from the presence of the Lord: and he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the *TIMES OF RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS*, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:19-21).

Now notice when the Jubilee year officially begins – it is not on Rosh Hashanah, or the Feast of Trumpets, as the normal new year begins in the fall. Rather, it is on the tenth day of the seventh month – or on YOM KIPPUR – THE DAY OF ATONEMENT!

Notice also – on that day a very special TRUMPET BLAST IS MADE THROUGHOUT THE LAND – ONE TRUMPET BLAST – THE TRUMPET SOUNDING THE JUBILEE YEAR OF RELEASE, FREEDOM, AND LIBERTY! (Lev.25:9-10).

This trumpet is the final culminating blast which sounds the return of Christ to JUDGE the nations. That judgment is pictured by none other than the DAY OF JUDGMENT – the DAY OF ATONEMENT – the day of YOM KIPPUR!

The day of judgment is NOT the “Feast of Trumpets” at all! The day of “Judgment” is YOM KIPPUR – which literally means “day of cleansing.” In other words, the Hebrew word *yom* means “day,” and *kippur* is the Hebrew word *kaphar* which means, “to cover,” or “to expiate or condone,” “to placate or cancel,” “make an atonement, cleanse, disannul, forgive, be merciful, pacify, pardon, purge away, make reconciliation” (see *Strong's Concordance*, #3722).

A Good Time for Repentance

The ten days from Yom Teruah and Yom Kippur are known as the “Days of Awe” and the “Days of Repentance.” The month of Elul is the beginning of the special preparation to come before God’s presence on those Holy Days – to appear before Him, and to be judged for our deeds and actions, sins of omission and commission, our words and unbridled tongue, and our degree of repentance – whether it is whole-hearted or not.

This is the time to rouse ourselves to greater repentance, to cry out to God for mercy and forgiveness, to spend quiet time in Bible Study and prayer. As Isaiah said, “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear” (Isa.59:1-2).

God declares, “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD, though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken” (Isa.1:18-20).

The apostle Paul exhorts, “And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly [decently], as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy, but put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts” (Rom.13:11-14).

And as Paul also admonished: “Wake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light. See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Eph.5:14-16).

Arouse Yourself to Repent of All Sins

We should be arousing ourselves to repent. The Day of Judgment is soon coming on this battered, wicked, deceitful world, and its governments, populations, and inhabitants. Soon all the world's inhabitants will, in effect, pass before God. One should be exceedingly careful not to sin against one's fellowman, and one should concentrate on thoughts of repentance.

As Eliyahu Kitov writes, “One should consider that if a person were to stand in judgment before a mortal king, he would be filled with great trepidation. It would not occur to him to be concerned with anything except pleading to the king for mercy and forgiveness. All the more is this true when one is about to be brought before the King of all kings, the Holy One blessed is He, who knows what is in man's heart.”

How close are we now to the day of Judgment?

Ezekiel's Prophecy

In the book of Ezekiel we read that the prophet was told to lie upon his side for 390 days as a sign to Israel. "And you, son of man, take a tile and lay it before you, and make upon it a drawing of a city, even Jerusalem.

"And put SIEGE works against it, build a siege wall against it, and cast up a mound against it; set camps also against it and set battering rams against it round about.

"Moreover, take a plate of iron and place it for an iron wall between you and the city; and set your face toward it and it shall be besieged, and you shall press the siege against it. This is a SIGN to the house of Israel!

"Then [bound as you are] lie upon your left [and north] side to bear symbolically the iniquity of the house of the TEN TRIBES of Israel upon that side. According to the number of days that you shall lie upon it you shall bear their iniquity.

"For I have laid upon you the *years of their iniquity, according to the number of days*, 390 days [representing 390 years]; so you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel" (Ezekiel 4:1-5). This is talking about the times of Israel's punishment!

In Leviticus 26, God says to Israel, if they disobey Him and break His covenant, reject His Torah, His laws and way of life: "I will chastise and discipline you *seven times more* for your sins" (Lev.26:18); "I will bring seven times more plagues upon you" (v.21); "I will smite you seven times for your sins" (v.24); "I also will chastise you seven times for your sins" (v.28).

Notice! So if you take 390 years of punishment God decreed on Israel, and multiply it by "7" times, you come to 2,730 years. $390 \times 7 = \underline{2,730}$ years.

2730	years
<u>-718</u>	B.C.
2012	B.C.
<u>+1</u>	(because no year zero)
2013	A.D.!

Israel was besieged by ancient Assyria beginning in 721-718 BC. If you subtract (that is, go forward) 2,730 years from that date inclusively, guess what? It brings you to 2012/13 A.D. – *the very year that coincides with the end of the Mayan long count calendar!*

It also coincides with the beginning of the second term of Barack Hussein Obama as president of the United States! Could this be significant?

Yamin Noraim – The “Ten Days of Awe”

The final ten days of Awe picture the final ten years of this earth’s concluding age before the Messiah returns to cut short the madness and fury that drives the nations. These years in an amazing way correspond with the “ten sefirot” of God. Notice this fascinating revelation!

From the evidence of the fall Holy Days, the day of Yom Teruah (“Day of Shouting,” “Blowing,”), pictures God’s call to the nations to repent of their sins before final judgment. It is ten days before Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. These are known as the “10 Days of Awe.” A “day” is a “year” in being fulfilled, so 10 days = 10 years in the final countdown of prophecy.

These final “ten years” picture ten years of DIVINE WARNING AND CALL TO REPENTANCE! Perhaps these ten years represent the final ten years of this age, before the Messiah returns! If so, then add ten years to 2012-13 and we come to 2022/23 A.D.!

The Ten “Sefirot” of Years

These final 10 years could also correspond to the “ten sefirot” of God – His ten characteristics revealed to mankind. The first three are “hidden” from view. The visible “sefirot” are seven in number, depicting the final SEVEN years of the age. The ten sefirot picture the final 10 years – but the first three are “hidden” or “obscure” and not easily recognized.

The first three of the divine sefirot are *chochma* (Wisdom), *binah* (Understanding), and *dat* (Knowledge). These are invisible attributes.

But what is most interesting is to look at the seven sefirot as corresponding to the last seven years of this age, before Messiah comes. If 2022/23 is the correct date for the return of the Messiah, then we have the following spiritual blueprint for God’s people, to work on developing the characteristics of God in their lives:

1. Chochmah	2013	Wisdom
2. Dat	2014	Knowledge
3. Binah	2015	Understanding

These three traits are *hidden from view*, *invisible*, only visible to those gifted with wisdom, divine revelation, knowledge and understanding. As the prophet Daniel declared, “None of the wicked shall understand; but the *wise* shall understand” (Dan.12:10). These three years the vast worldwide conspiracy grows and metastasizes underground, in a stealth mode. Then the plot becomes visible, in the last seven of the sefirot.

In other words, could the first three “invisible” years begin from 2012, and

end in 2015? The first three years of the ten are “invisible” – hidden from view – yet they are years of trial, testing, and the beginning of divine judgment!

Consider! In 2012 Obama was re-elected as President, and really began his campaign to “change the world.” But it was a stealth, secretive campaign. It was “UNDERCOVER” – virtually “invisible.”

But in 2015 the facts have become more obvious, visible, undeniable! Many people now are waking up and SEEING what has been happening, right under their noses! It could well be that 2016 is going to be the first year of the final “seven” sefirot! – the final seven years of this age! These years we should strive to build the holy, righteous character of God into our lives. For example, work on these character traits:

4. Chesed	2016	Loving kindness
5. Gevurah	2017	Containing strength, self control
6. Tifret	2018	Beauty, compassion, peace
7. Netzach	2019	Overcoming, enduring, eternity
8. Hod	2020	Glory, majesty, splendor, humility
9. Yesod	2021	Foundation, faith, bonding
10. Malchut	2022	Rulership, leadership, kingship

This provides a pattern for overcoming faults and poor character traits by adding these divine components to your character through the help of the Holy Spirit of God.

In other words, during 2016 we should strive to inculcate the quality of “lovingkindness” into our basic, fundamental character and show love and concern for other people. In 2017, we should concentrate on developing holy, righteous self control and strength of character – forceful containing strength and dynamic controlled power.

In 2018 we should focus on adding perfection of character, manifested as compassion, harmony, peace, and mercy to our character – primary attributes of God’s own perfect character. In 2019 we should energize ourselves to be overcomers, to endure to the end, to add patience and persistence, perseverance and the qualities of triumph and victory, to our well-rounded character, even as God Himself portrays these traits.

In 2020, the quality of majesty, splendor, glory, should be manifested and built into our character, with humility, for glory and majesty without humility and meekness is nothing but pride, arrogance, and shining vain-glory.

In 2021 the noble characteristic of foundational strength, based on strong faith and dedicated obedience to God’s Law and Word, should be focused on, so the entire edifice is built on the Rock, which is Christ Himself (I Cor.10:4).

And in 2022, the trait of kingship, rulership, and manifestation will come into play, as we prepare for entering into the glorious KINGDOM OF GOD!

This timetable, however, is not set in concrete. Christ said, “Watch therefore; for you know not what hour your Lord doth come” (Matt.24:42).

The Final Countdown

It is possible that we have only four to seven years left until the END of this age! Regardless of the exact timing, we are living in the END TIMES foretold by the prophets and Yeshua the Messiah Himself!

During this time, we should focus on developing these divine qualities:

These final seven sefirot also tie in with the final “week” of years – seven years – of God’s judgment on the earth – and directly relate to Daniel’s seventieth week (Dan.9:24-27). Notice!

Daniel’s Amazing Seventy Year Prophecy

In the book of Daniel, chapter 9, we read:

“SEVENTY WEEKS are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish [margin, to restrain] the transgression, and to make an end [margin, to seal up] of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem [margin, to build again Jerusalem] unto Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall [margin, breach, or ditch], in troublous times.

“And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be CUT OFF, but not for himself [margin, and shall have nothing]: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined [margin, it shall be cut off by desolations].

“And he shall confirm the covenant with many for ONE WEEK: and in the midst of the WEEK he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations [margin, and upon the battlements shall be the idols of the desolater], he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate [margin, desolater]” (Dan.9:24-27).

This final “week” is the final seven years of this age, leading to the second coming of the Messiah! It refers to the final seven years of the countdown till the Messiah comes.

What a strange prophecy! It outlines strange events to occur in and around Jerusalem, till the coming of the Messiah and the end of the age. What are these mysterious “seventy weeks”?

The historical fulfillment of this tantalizing prophecy is explained in our article “Daniel’s 70 Weeks Prophecy.” It reveals how the original fulfillment points to the very year Jesus Christ began His ministry and proves He is the anointed Saviour and Messiah of Israel. But there is also a latter days, “end time” fulfillment of this prophecy as well!

Notice! The Hebrew word for “weeks” in the prophecy of the 70 weeks, is the word *shavuot*. It also designates the “Feast of Shavuot,” or “Feast of Weeks,” which follows Passover, fifty days later. We are told to “count seven weeks,” till the 50th day, from the day after Passover, counting beginning Nisan 16, and the fiftieth day is “Shavuot,” the Feast of Weeks. Its name is derived from the counting of seven weeks from Passover, thus, “Feast of Weeks.”

The Hebrew word Shavuot, therefore, also refers to an ANNUAL HOLY DAY, which is counted, and looked forward to with great expectancy and joy. Anciently, it represented the day of the covenant God made with Israel on that day at Mount Sinai.

The Hebrew word “Shavuot” literally means #7620, *shavua*, (plural *Shavuot*), and means “literally *sevened*, *i.e. a week*.” It also means, #7621, “something sworn, an oath.” It was at Mount Sinai, after a period of seven sevens, that the Feast of Shavuot was arrived at, and it was the day God and Israel swore an “Oath” – a Covenant of Marriage.

So literally, the prophecy of Daniel is the prophecy of “seventy sevens” or even “seventy Shavuot” – that is, Festivals of Shavuot. If we look at it that way, then seventy such Festivals would equal 70 years, as the Feast occurs once a year!

Now, let’s take a fresh look at this intriguing prophecy.

“Seventy weeks [Shavuot] are determined.” Seventy Feasts of Shavuot would be 70 years!

“. . . for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression . . . to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.” (Dan.9:24).

So this prophecy says (also) that there will be seventy years to the end point – the coming of the Messiah and the Kingdom of God, ending the period of man’s transgression on the earth.

“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince . . . (v.25). The United Nations voted to partition Palestine in November 1947, and Israel became a state May 14, 1948. Both of these occurred during the Hebrew year 5708. This could be the date for the restoration of Israel and Jerusalem.

“There shall be seven weeks and sixty two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall [of protection], even in troublesome times” (v.25b). Seven “weeks” also

means “seven Shavuot,” or Feasts of Weeks – meaning “seven years.” Sixty two “weeks” likewise can mean 62 years. So we have a period of seven years, and a period of 62 years. From Israel’s inception in 1948, there was war. The nation was born in a bloodbath as surrounding Arab nations immediately attacked.

In May, 1948, Israel had to fight the surrounding Arab nations which invaded her territory, and the following years were “troublesome times.” War again broke out in 1956, and in 1967 the “Six Day War” was fought, and the “Yom Kippur War” in 1973, then the invasion of Lebanon in 1982, and the subsequent Palestinian intifada in 1987, lasting to the present time.

“And after the sixty two weeks Messiah [anointed one] shall be cut off . . .”

This prophecy is dual. Historically, in 457 B.C. Ezra journeyed to Jerusalem to repair and beautify the Temple of God and restore Jerusalem and the laws of God, creating a new Sanhedrin in Israel. Counting 69 “weeks” to Messiah ($69 \times 7 = 483$ years, a day for a year) bring us to 27 A.D. when Christ began His ministry.

However, the prophecy has an end-time application, as well. The 62 “weeks” Daniel spoke of is also 62 Shavuot = 62 Shavuot or “years.” From 1948, counting 62 years, brings us to 2010 A.D. But that season there was a tetrad of four blood red moons occurring on the holy days of God, in 1949 and 1950 – on Passover and Sukkot. If we count from the blood red moon of Passover and Sukkot in 1950, it brings us to 2012 A.D. – the year of the ending of the Mayan long count calendar, and the year Barack Obama was reelected as president of the United States!

After these “62” Shavuot, ending in 2012, the “anointed one” – a designation for the *anointed people of God, Israel* – were to be “cut off” – that is, begin to be “cut off” as a nation, as a people, and destroyed.

What happened in 2012? The “Muslim” pretending to be a “Christian,” namely Barack Hussein Obama, became president of the world’s last remaining superpower in 2009 – the United States – and by 2010 he began compromising Israel’s security, independence, and forcefully turning against America’s only true ally in the Middle East. Currying favor with the Arab oil producing nations, he has begun cutting Israel off at the knees. Attempting to force Israel to exchange land for “peace” with the Palestinians. Threatening and vowing to no longer support Israel in the United Nations. Treating their diplomats and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with contempt, hostility, scorn and derision. Interfering in the Israeli elections.

And the greatest insult of all – signing a nuclear arms treaty with Iran in July 2015, giving them a pathway to develop nuclear weapons which they promise to use to annihilate Israel!

Israel has begun to be “cut off” – the anointed people are now being persecuted by their supposedly sole remaining “friend” and ally in all the world. According to

terms of the treaty, Secretary of State John Kerry says America may have to come to Iran's aid if Israel decides to attack or bomb Iran's nuclear sites!

How squalid can you get!

If we subtract the 62 years, from 1950 to 2012, that leaves 8 years remaining of the 70 years to bring about the entrance of the true Messiah and to establish the Kingdom of God on the earth. This scenario would suggest the return of the Messiah in the year 2020-2021. The final year is the year of Christ's return, pictured by the number "8," which signifies "new beginnings." Till then, a final "seven years" must be fulfilled which are the *countdown to the Messiah!*

Daniel continues: "And the people [army] of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. . ." (verse 26).

Before the Messiah comes, the prince of the world and the New World Order will invade Israel and attack Jerusalem. Armies are already marshalling in the Middle East and preparing for the Final Conflict.

Israel will be invaded! Jerusalem destroyed! Jihad will reign! God declares, "And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it" (Zech.12:3).

God further thunders, "For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city" (Zech.14:2). "Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle" (verse 3).

Desolations and destruction will rage and follow till the end of the period of conflict and warfare.

Daniel declares of the final prince over the earth, "Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering" (Dan.9:27).

The final "week" – THE FINAL SEVEN YEARS – could very likely be from 2013 to 2019, or 2015/16 to 2021/22.

Sometime in the next few years, the Jews will rebuild the Temple of God on the Temple Mount. They are getting ready. They have built an altar for sacrificing. They have trained a priesthood and practiced sacrificing. They have the temple implements ready to go. They are drawing up the architectural plans.

But in the middle of this final period of seven years, Temple sacrifices and prayers will cease. The dark prince will force them to stop. “And on the wing of ABOMINATIONS shall be *one who makes desolate*, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate [or, desolator, marginal reading]” (verse 27b).

What Do All These Things Mean?

Jesus Christ declared, “Immediately after the distress of those days, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken” (Matt.24:29, NIV).

Mark has it, “But in those days following that distress, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken” (Mark 13:24-25, NIV).

Luke declares, “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the sign of the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. *When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near*” (Luke 21:25-28).

The *Amplified Parallel Bible* has this passage: “And there will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; and upon the earth [there will be] distress([trouble and anguish) of nations in bewilderment and perplexity [without resources, left wanting, embarrassed, in doubt, not knowing which way to turn] at the roaring (the echo) of the tossing of the sea. Men swooning away or expiring with fear and dread and apprehension and expectation of the things that are coming on the world; for the [very] powers of the heavens will be shaken and caused to totter. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with great (transcendent and overwhelming) power and [all His kingly] glory (majesty and splendor). Now when these things begin to occur, *look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption (deliverance) is drawing near.*”

Surely, when we look at the accumulation and totality of prophetic evidence, in the light of current world affairs, there can be no doubt whatsoever that we are living on the cusp of the end times – in fact, teetering on the brink of the “Day of the Lord” – poised precariously on the edge of the cataclysm known as the Great Tribulation. The inescapable conclusion is that we are definitely now in the “end time” generation and on the cusp of momentous events.

Ezekiel's Warning

Says the prophet Ezekiel, “The word of the LORD came to me: ‘Son of man, this is what the Sovereign LORD says to the land of Israel: “The end! The end has come upon the four corners of the land! The end is now upon you, and I will unleash my anger against you. I will judge you according to your conduct and repay you for all your detestable practices. I will not look on you with pity; I will not spare you. I will surely

repay you for your conduct and for the detestable practices among you. Then you will know that I am the LORD.”

“This is what the Sovereign LORD says: ‘Disaster! Unheard-of-disaster! See, it comes! The end has come! The end has come! It has roused itself against you. See, it comes! Doom has come upon you, upon you who dwell in the land.

“ ‘The time has come! The day is near! There is panic, not joy, on the mountains. I am about to pour out my wrath on you and spend my anger against you. I will judge you according to your conduct and repay you for all your detestable practices. I will not look on you with pity; I will not spare you. I will repay you for your conduct and for the detestable practices among you. Then you will know that it is I the LORD who strikes you.

“ ‘See, the day! See, it comes! Doom has burst forth, the rod has budded, arrogance has blossomed! Violence has arisen, a rod to punish the wicked. None of the people will be left, none of that crowd—none of their wealth, nothing of value.

“ ‘The time has come! The day has arrived! Let not the buyer rejoice nor the seller grieve, for my wrath is on the whole crowd. The seller will not recover the property that was sold—as long as both buyer and seller live. For the vision concerning the whole crowd will not be reversed. Because of their sins, not one of them will preserve their life.’” (Ezek.7:1-13, NIV).

The time HAS come! “Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!” (Amos 4:12).