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BIBLE STUDENTS

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INSIDE:
The Bible
MILLENNIUM

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The New Millennium — What will it bring?
The 2nd coming of Jesus Christ? • Worldwide trouble or the world's end?
Will it be the year God's kingdom is established?

The answers to these questions are important. As Christians, we must consult the Bible to know the truth on this and all important matters. . .

MILLENNIUM, as defined in Webster's dictionary, is "a period of 1000 years." Only two scriptures in the New Testament mention a 1000-year period (a millennium). The first is 2 Peter 3:8. The last is Revelation 20:4. We will examine these scriptures after considering whether the year 2000 is the third millennium from the birth of Jesus Christ.

WHEN WAS JESUS BORN?

Many Bible commentators have placed Jesus' birth at 4 B.C. (B.C. means before Christ). Two thousand years after 4 B.C. brings us to 1996 A.D. (four years earlier than 2000 A.D.) The most accurate dating for Jesus' birth is 2 B.C. (See *The Time is at Hand*, pages 54-62, available at the end of this article.) Two thousand years after 2 B.C. brings us to 1998 A.D. (Still 2 years short of the year 2000) In reality, the B.C. and A.D. calendar division is a rather arbitrary time

measure used only for convenience and not for accurate Bible chronology.

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

The year 2000 A.D. has been a date of great concern and curiosity for the world but has no real Biblical significance. 2000 A.D. IS NOT the Bible Millennium! It's not even 2000 years from the birth of Christ. Furthermore, the Word of God does not tell us to watch for the 2000th year from Christ's birth.

WHICH 1000-YEAR PERIOD ARE WE TO LOOK FOR?

Careful study of the scriptures teach that the Bible Millennium is the seventh 1000-year period from the entrance of sin and death upon the human family through father Adam. That is to say, since Adam sinned, 6,000 years of suffering, dying and death have passed over his offspring, the

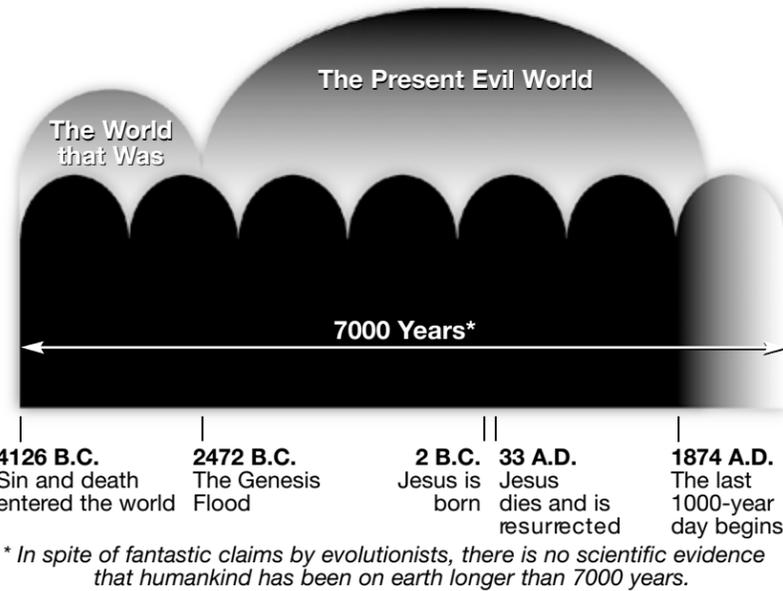
entire human race. When considering creation (*Genesis 1*), we notice that God worked for 6 days (six periods of time of equal length) and rested on the 7th. In like manner, the nation of Israel was required to work 6 days in the week and rest on the 7th. We will use this same pattern (6 days of toil followed by the 7th day of rest) to help us locate the Bible Millennium.

HOW LONG IS A DAY WITH THE LORD?

We are not left to guess. The Apostle Peter supplies us with the answer in 2 Peter 3:8: "*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.*"

Applying this knowledge to the divine pattern, we learn that the six 1000 year long days of mankind toiling under the burden of sin and death are to be followed by the seventh 1000 year long day for the

purpose of removing (or resting from) sin and death. We see then that 7000 years are required, from the entrance of sin and death, to its complete eradication. This same 1000-year day is spoken of as the time in which the saints will reign with Christ. (*Revelation 20:4*) Paul tells us that the purpose of this 1000-year reign is to put all enemies under his (Christ's) feet and the last enemy of mankind (as a result of sin) which he will destroy is death. (*1 Corinthians 15:25, 26*) This 1000-year period or millennium is



WHAT CAN WE EXPECT IN THIS 1000 YEAR DAY OF THE LORD?

Peter states in 2 Peter 3:10, 12, 13 that, "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... Looking for and hastening unto the coming of the DAY of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

These and many other scriptures reveal that this 1000-year day does not begin peaceably, but with trouble — terrible trouble. This Millennial Day arrives as "a thief in the night." That is, it comes quietly, unobserved by the "sleeping" world. We are in fact living in the beginning of this Day of the Lord. He has arrived

as a thief (*Matthew 24:43*) and the world is unaware of it because the Lord returns to the earth's atmosphere not as a man but as a glorious invisible spirit being. As Peter reveals, our Lord



was, "put to death flesh, quickened (resurrected) spirit." (*1 Peter 3:18*) Paul teaches us that our Lord is no longer in the flesh, because he says, "flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God." *1 Corinthians 15:50*

(restored) to their original condition — that is, made perfect. *Genesis 1:27, 31*

WHEN DOES THIS 1000-YEAR DAY (MILLENNIUM) BEGIN?

By carefully considering Bible chronology, we can pinpoint the very year Adam sinned to be 4126 B.C. To this date we add 6000 years and we arrive at 1874 A.D. — the time for the great 7th 1000-year day, the Bible Millennium, to commence. For this chronology study see *The Time is at Hand*, pages 33-63.

WHAT GREAT WORK DOES THE LORD ENGAGE IN UPON HIS RETURN?

His first work is to bind Satan (*Revelation 20:1-3*) who is "the god" (*2 Corinthians 4:4*) of this "present evil world." (*Galatians 1:4*) Satan must first be bound if his house (dominion — this present evil world) is to be spoiled (*destroyed* — *Mark 3:27*). This means the removal of false religions and oppressive governments (the heavens) and the present selfish social order (the earth) as described in 2 Peter 3:10-13 quoted above.

HOW IS SATAN BOUND?

Does our Lord use a literal chain and throw him in an actual pit? No, of course not. Satan is not a flesh and blood being, but a spirit being. Since he can't be physically restrained his great influence by which he rules over mankind will be bound. God has in his wisdom determined to restrict Satan's usual method of operating in a gradual manner.

The chain he is using to render Satan powerless is truth. Yes, the truth, which has shone forth from the time of our Lord's presence (at the beginning of the Millennium), is dispelling the darkness (ignorance, superstition, and errors of the dark ages). Light, (knowledge, understanding and truth) shining upon both spiritual and temporal matters, is exposing and weakening the leading ruler of darkness, Satan. *Ephesians 6:12*

HOW HAS THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS REACTED TO THE INCREASED LIGHT OF THE MILLENNIAL DAY?

Satan, like a wounded animal, caught in a trap, is fighting for his life! His weapons are the new errors of higher criticism, greed, evolution, immorality and gross violence. These weapons have been forged to fight off or offset the increasing light of this Millennial Day. This is the reason that unprecedented trouble is sweeping over the world. The wicked one (Satan) is being destroyed with the spirit of his (our Lord's) mouth (the truth). But Satan does not go down in defeat without a fight. He responds with all power, signs and lying wonders. *2 Thessalonians 2:8-12*

DANIEL SPOKE OF THIS MILLENNIAL DAY OVER 2500 YEARS AGO

Daniel called this day "the time of the end (when) many will run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." (*Daniel 12:1-4*) Have these signs had their fulfillment in our day? Is man running to and fro? Do we have evidences that knowledge (light, which is the chain used to bind Satan) has increased since 1874? Consider the condensed list headed *KNOWLEDGE INCREASED* and *MANY SHALL RUN TO AND FRO* and decide!

WHY DOES THE MILLENNIAL AGE SPELL TROUBLE?

Because the beginning of this Age of blessing is a transition period, God is setting up his Kingdom "in the days of these kings." But to do that he must remove the present Kingdoms — and that spells trouble. (*See Daniel 2:44*) How does the world react to the setting up of God's glorious Kingdom? Do they rejoice and receive it with open arms? On the contrary; they are angry and fearful because they do not understand why their world is



crumbling around them. Their laws (governments) and creeds are being exposed as failures. See *Revelation 11:15-18*. Our Lord indicates how great the trouble will become during this transition period. He says that the trouble will be greater than any mankind has ever experienced. (*Matthew 24:21*) Paul likens it to a woman in birth pains: "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." (*1 Thessalonians 5:3*) Are there any indications that this time of trouble, which will bring about the destruction of the old order (present society), has begun? Consider the condensed list titled *THE TIME OF TROUBLE* and again decide for yourself if we are

living in the beginning or transition period of the Millennial Age.

ISRAEL, GOD'S TIME CLOCK

Our Lord indicates that at the time we begin to see the restoration of Israel, the Kingdom of God will be nigh at hand. (*Luke 21:29-32*) Prior to 1874, the nation of Israel had been scattered and persecuted throughout the world, for over 1800 years. Consider the list entitled *ISRAEL — GOD'S TIME CLOCK* and read in amazement how God is again working in Israel.

WHAT IS NEXT? READING OUR PROPHETIC TIME LINE

One prominent event that we expect in the near future is the coming cooperative effort between the churches and the state. This powerful alliance will resemble the Holy Roman Empire of old (a civil and religious government). We can expect that this government will have the power to persecute all (including true Christians) who do not cooperate with them — receive the mark of the beast. See *Revelation 13:16, 17*. The movement

toward the union of the various religious groups (as well as the cooperation between religion and government) has been very marked in this Day of the Lord. Consider this fact for yourself. See the list entitled *THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT*.

The climax of the great time of trouble (as indicated on the time line) is an event called "Jacob's trouble." (*Jeremiah 30:7*) At this time all nations will come against Israel. (*Zechariah 12:2, 3; 14:2*) God will then fight for Israel as he did in the days of old. (*Ezekiel 38 and 39; Zechariah 14:3*) After this great victory, God will establish his New Covenant with the nation of Israel. *Jeremiah 31:31*

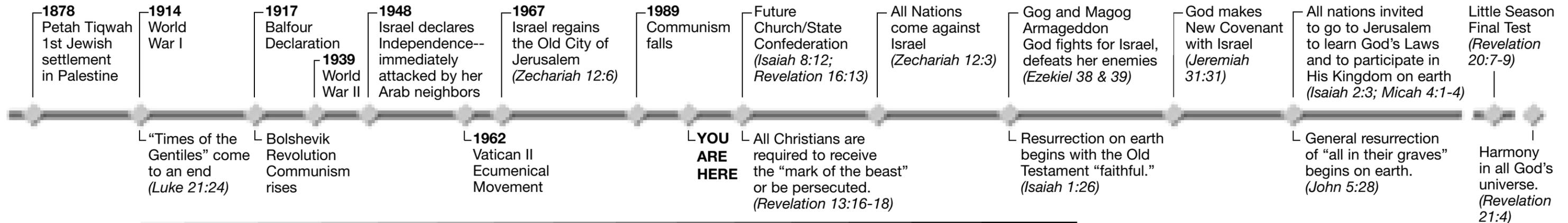
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...one Day is with the Lord as a thousand years...

2 Peter 3:8

Time line not to scale

The Increase of Knowledge (“many shall run to and fro”) Daniel 12:4



The “Time of Trouble” or “Great Tribulation” (Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21, 22)

Note: The “time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation” has begun in a small way, but the worst part, as described in Matthew 24:22, is still ahead of us: “And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved...”

KNOWLEDGE INCREASED

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1874 Light bulb | 1948 Transistor invented |
| 1876 Telephone, Gas engine | 1953 Polio vaccine |
| 1877 Phonograph | DNA discovered |
| 1884 Motor car | 1957 Space satellite |
| 1887 Celluloid film | 1959 Computer chip patented |
| 1888 Kodak camera | 1960 Laser |
| 1889 First Skyscraper in USA | 1961 Man in space |
| 1890 Data processing cards | 1965 Super computer |
| 1893 Cinematography | 1967 Heart transplant |
| 1894 Steam turbine ship | 1971 First microprocessor |
| 1895 Wireless radio, x-ray | 1972 Pocket calculators |
| 1896 Radioactivity | 1974 Test-tube baby |
| 1900 Quantum theory | 1975 Floppy disks |
| 1902 First Gramophone record | 1977 Apple II first mass-market PC |
| 1920 Radio broadcasting | 1980 Videodisk |
| 1926 Television invented | 1981 IBM PC |
| 1927 Talking pictures | 1982 Compact discs |
| 1928 Penicillin | 1986 Pocket Telephone |
| 1938 Nylon invented | 1989 Worldwide web invented |
| 1939 Calculator | Silicon chip |
| 1942 Nuclear reactor | 1997 Photos from Mars |
| 1944 Digital computer | Sheep cloned |
| 1945 Microwave oven | 1999 Chemical reaction computer |
| 1946 Electronic digital computer | |



“MANY SHALL RUN TO AND FRO”

- | |
|---|
| 1884 Automobile |
| 1886 Motorcycle |
| 1900 Airship (Von Zeppelin) |
| 1903 Wright Bros. Flight |
| 1907 Helicopter flight |
| 1912 First Submarine to cross Atlantic |
| 1913 Ford creates assembly line |
| 1919 Atlantic air crossing |
| 1939 Jet plane |
| 1947 Supersonic flight |
| 1954 USS Nautilus — first atomic -powered sub |
| 1958 Nautilus makes a submerged transit under the Arctic ice cap and the North Pole |
| 1961 Man in space |
| 1969 Man walks on Moon |
| 1970 Jumbo jet, 747 |
| 1981 Space shuttle |
| 1999 International Space Station |

A TIME OF TROUBLE

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1914 World War I | 1970 Pol-pot will kill 2 million |
| 1917 Communist revolution in Russia | 1973 Major famine in Ethiopia |
| 1918 Flu epidemic kills 20 million | 1979 Invasion of Afghanistan by USSR |
| 1920 Soviet Modernization will kill millions | 1980 Major famine in East Africa |
| 1929 US stock market crash Great Depression | Iran-Iraq War |
| 1936 Spanish Civil War | 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power disaster |
| 1939 World War II and Holocaust to kill over 6 million | 1989 Berlin Wall falls and so does Communism in USSR and Eastern Europe. |
| 1941 Japanese attack Pearl Harbor | 1990 Persian Gulf War |
| 1945 US drops two atomic bombs | Civil war in Yugoslavia begins |
| 1947 Greek Civil War | |
| 1949 Communists take over China | |
| 1950 Korean War | |
| 1958 Chinese revolution to kill 20 million | |
| 1961 Berlin Wall built | |
| 1962 Cuban Missile crisis | |
| 1965 Vietnam War | |
| 1969 India and Pakistani War | |
| Outbreak of trouble in Northern Ireland | |





Jerusalem — Capitol of Israel, now and forever



Pope John Paul II at recent ecumenical prayer service

ISRAEL — GOD'S TIME CLOCK

- 1878 Berlin Congress of Nations decreed Jews could own land in Palestine.
First Jewish settlement, Petah Tiqwah, established
- 1882-1903 25,000 Jews entered Palestine
- 1897 First Zionist Congress
Concept of a Jewish State developed
- 1917 General Allenby frees Jerusalem from the Muslim Turks
Balfour Declaration asserted that the British Government looked favorably upon a Jewish homeland in Palestine
- 1939 The British issue "white paper" prohibiting Jewish immigration to Palestine, trapping Jews in Nazi Europe and Stalinist Russia
- 1940-1945 Holocaust kills 6 million Jews
- 1948 Israel declares statehood
6 Arab countries attack it
- 1956 Jewish - Arab War
- 1967 Six-Day War ends with Israel gaining control of the Old City of Jerusalem
- 1973 Yom Kippur War
Israel gains more territory
- 1989 With the fall of Communism, numerous countries establish diplomatic relations with Israel
- 1990 Jewish immigration soars to over 100,000 a year, the most in over 40 years
- 1991 Scud missile attacks from Iraq

ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT

- 1893 World Parliament of Religion
- 1948 World Council of Churches
- 1962 2nd Vatican Council
- 1992 2nd World Parliament of Religion

The following headlines — all from the 1980s and 1990s — speak for themselves;

- A more perfect union, can Rome and Canterbury reconcile?
- New Australia council of churches set up by 13 denominations
- Southern Baptists embrace Catholics
- Catholics and Evangelicals in the Trenches, new ways to share a foxhole in the culture wars
- Pontiff invites dialogue on role of Pope
- Pope urges unity in Christian sects
- Leaders ending 1500 years of official schism
- Pope praises Protestant reformers
- Pope urges new look at Luther
- Catholic-Anglican talks take a step toward reconciliation
- Episcopal and Lutheran Churches propose a union just short of merger
- The road to Christian Unity
- Two Altars, one Mass
- Pope, top US Lutheran pledge efforts at unity
- Ecumenical Baptism
- Archbishop of Canterbury calls for Allegiance to Pope
- Pope Praises Christian role in collapse of Communism
- Papal visit reflects change in the church
- Nine US denominations one step closer to Rome
- Theologians recommend fellowship of 4 mainline American denominations
- Queen Elizabeth II attends Catholic Mass
- Russian Church and Vatican are seeking better relations
- Strangers no longer, past church opponents join hands as partners

THE DEAD WILL LIVE AGAIN!

Sometime after the establishment of the New Covenant with Israel, the resurrection of mankind will begin. This is a time when the dead must return to life — when all in their tombs will hear the voice of the son of God and come forth. (1 Corinthians 15:22; John 5:28, 29) The risen dead must then be educated. They must overcome their old habits and improper character which they have developed during the present life. Developing along this line, they will also be learning the benefits of keeping God's perfect law. (Isaiah 26:9) Isaiah describes this educational process as a highway leading to holiness. (Isaiah 35:8-10) In that

Peace:

"...they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." *Isaiah 2:4*

Life:

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." *Revelation 22:17*

day (during the peaceable phase of the Millennial Kingdom) the educational program will be so complete that all will hear its message. *Jeremiah 31:34; Isaiah 11:9*

A FINAL TEST

At the end of the 1000-year Millennial day, mankind will have been perfected by this process of education and discipline. (Revelation 2:27) Then a final test will be supplied to prove all mankind, to see whether their obedience is of their own free will. (Revelation 20:7-9) The vast majority will accept the Kingdom arrangements and go on to live forever. The disobedient of mankind will die the second death (oblivion, extinction) from

FUTURE PROMISES



Happiness:

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." *Revelation 21:4*

Security:

"...they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it." *Micah 4:4*

Health:
"And the inhabitant shall not say, 'I am sick': the People that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity." *Isaiah 33:24*

ORDERS



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