

God's Everlasting Covenant

presents

Has the Tribulation Begun? Part 3 Connecting Current Events to God's Calendar

This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'"

Jeremiah 6:16

In keeping with the purpose of our ministry, which is to teach Hebraic roots (the ancient paths) to Christians, we continue to emphasize the importance of the biblical calendar. This is the calendar God uses. He not only meets with us at His appointed times (the *moedim* or Feasts of the LORD), but He also speaks to us through events that happen on certain dates throughout Jewish history. God really likes anniversaries! Unfortunately, so does the enemy. As God's people and students of the Bible, we need to be aware of how current events correlate to the biblical calendar. This is part of the "watching" that Yeshua told His followers to do until He comes again. Not only were we to keep His commandments (*mitzvot*) and perform them, but we were to understand how God speaks to us about the end of days. In Genesis, God declares that the sun, moon and stars were placed in the heavens to speak to us and tell us what He is about to do. They were to be for signs or signals (*owth*) and seasons (*mow'ed*). This document is the third in our series on the Tribulation and an update to some of events that have transpired since the fall of 2008. We know it is long, but may we suggest it is important and worth your time! We present it in order to help those who read our teachings to be aware of the times in which we are living, to pray and seek the LORD, asking Him for wisdom about what we should be doing. These teachings also are meant to direct students toward the focus of God's heart: Israel and the Jewish people, in hopes you will join us in prayer for the peace of Jerusalem and the salvation of Israel! We pray that all Israel will cry out *Baruch haba b'Shem Adonai!* (*Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the LORD!*)

December 21, 2008 – Kislev 24 (first night of Chanukah)

Rare first century half-shekel coins that were used during the Second Temple period were found in dirt that was removed from the Temple Mount on Chanukah! During the same time, another coin that was minted during the time of Antiochus IV was found. "An additional important archaeological discovery in the sifting project was another well preserved coin, minted between 175 and 163 B.C.E. by Antiochus IV Epiphanes, against whom the Hasmoneans revolted. This revolt brought about the re-dedication of the Temple after Antiochus seized the Temple's treasures and conducted idol worship in it. The coin depicts a portrait of Antiochus the Seleucid King."

It is rather ironic that the coin which depicts a portrait of the "type" of the Anti-Messiah was found on the eve of the eight-day feast that commemorates the successful victory against Hellenism and the assimilation that Antiochus demanded of the Jewish people. The nation of Israel and the Jewish people are alive and well and he is most certainly quite dead! However, it may also pose as a reminder and a sober warning that the pressure for all of God's people to abandon His ways (Torah) in order to be like the rest of the world still exists...the threat was

to assimilate or be annihilated. Things haven't changed very much in the last 2,000 years, have they? See link to article below.

<http://www.archaeologynews.org/story.asp?ID=365302&Title=Rare+1rst+century+half+shekel+coin+fou+d+in+Temple+Mount+dirt>

January 6, 2009 (Tevet 10) – Obama's warning to Israel

On the Fast of Tevet, President-elect Obama warned of a policy change toward Israel

Obama made it clear that starting on January 20 the rules of American involvement in the region will change, and his administration will be a lot more active in pushing the diplomatic process between Israel and the Arabs forward.

Obama's timing, after the strike on the school [in Gaza], signals the direction the U.S. will turn in its attitude to the region: It will support Israel, but will oppose any harming of Palestinian civilians. This means that Israel will find it difficult to close the crossings into the Gaza Strip at will. <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1053404.html>

A similar article also appears on the Obama Administration's blog called "Stump"
http://blogs.tnr.com/tnr/blogs/the_stump/archive/2009/01/07/obama-s-quot-warning-quot-to-israel.aspx

January 24, 2009 (Tevet 28) - The first thing we read about the Torah portion Shemot (Exodus) is that a new leader arose in Egypt, and the first thing he did was to issue a decree to kill all the newborn sons of the Israelites.

In the U.S., we have a new president, a new leader, and the first thing he did was to have Congress pass a pro-choice act to take all the limitations off abortion. The Torah portion on January 24 was all about the plagues in Egypt, and in *Arutz Sheva*, there was an article, that forty (40) Al Qaeda terrorists died of the plague. What they don't know is if they were somehow playing with it to unleash it on innocent people, or if it happened by natural means. What continues to be interesting is that the Torah portion is being played out in real life.



AQLIM

Black Death Plague Kills 40 Al Qaeda Terrorists

by Hillel Fendel

(IsraelNN.com) At least 40 Al Qaeda terrorists were killed earlier this week by a plague called the Black Death.



The same disease that devastated Europe in the Middle Ages claimed terrorists training this week in a camp in Algeria. The dead were members of a group called AQLIM (Al Qaeda in the Land of the Islamic Maghreb), the largest and most powerful Al-Qaeda group outside the Middle East. The disease is accompanied by horrific symptoms, causing terrible suffering to its victims.



The people of Gush Katif are Under Fire from Gaza

March 19, 2009 (Adar 23) – Chief of Staff Ashkenazi cuts short visit to Obama – cool reception at the White House. A preview of things to come?

http://www.worldtribune.com/worldtribune/WTARC/2009/ss_israel0219_03_16.asp

March 26, 2009 (Nisan 1) – Netanyahu says peace talks will continue

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/25/AR2009032500469.html>

Nisan 1 is the day that the Tabernacle was erected in the wilderness and the worship and sacrificial system as God prescribed to Moses began. There was a 7-day inauguration of the priests and on the 8th day, the glory of the LORD appeared to the children of Israel. No one is certain if the priest's inauguration process began on Adar 23 so that the work of the priests and the sacrifices began actually began on Nisan 1 or if it was Nisan 8. The Bible is not specifically clear. What is clear is that the Tabernacle was completed on Nisan 1. There is an interesting correlation we should contemplate. On the very anniversary of the erection of the Tabernacle, which was God's way of bringing peace between Himself and man, Israel's current Prime Minister is endorsing man's way of peace (holding peace talks with the enemy).

April 1, 2009 (Nisan 7) – Netanyahu was sworn in as PM of Israel. On this date in 1920, the Nazi Party was formed.

April 4, 2009 (Nisan 10) – “Jerusalem should be the capital for the Palestinians and Israel”

On the day that an unblemished lamb was historically selected by the Jewish people to be their slaughtered Passover lamb, it seems Jerusalem is to be the “sacrificial lamb” for Israel to offer up to the Palestinian people. Not on the LORD's watch!

<http://haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1077438.html>

Also on this date in history in 1920, Arabs killed and wounded many Jews in Jerusalem.

April 4, 2009 (Nisan 10) – Obama breaks political protocol and bows to Saudi King.

"Such an act is a traditional obeisance befitting a king's subjects, not his peer. There is no precedent for U.S. presidents bowing to Saudi or any other royals," the conservative Washington Times wrote in an editorial.

Obama's overtures toward the Muslim world show either his naivete or reveals more of his cunning manipulation. Only time will tell which it is.

<http://haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1077463.html>

April 5, 2009 (Nisan 11) – Obama met with EU heads in Prague; "New World Order" rhetoric soars to new heights.

"All nations must come together to build a stronger, global regime," Obama said.

<http://www.wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pagelid=94301>

April 5, 2009 (Nisan 11) – Netanyahu holds first Cabinet Meeting and urges unity in the face of numerous crises that Israel is facing. He also promised a comprehensive policy dealing with the Israeli-Palestinian peace process would be set within weeks. (see Israel Today News)

April 7, 2009 (Nisan 13) – Israel pledges to work with U.S. on peace; Obama reiterates from Turkey his intention for U.S. backed Palestinian state

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1076835.html>

On Monday in Turkey, Obama said his administration would seek the creation of Palestinian state, underlining that Israel and the Palestinians agreed on that goal under the U.S.-backed road map peace plan and during a 2007 conference in Annapolis, Maryland, that were supposed to revive the plan.

"Let me be clear: The United States strongly supports the goal of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security," said Obama.

April 7, 2009 (Nisan 13) – Israel conducts successful test of its anti-ballistic missile defense system downing simulated Iranian missile; prepares home front for war (see Israel Today News)

A couple of other interesting things to note: Nisan 13 is the day that Haman's decree to kill all the Jews throughout Persia was issued. It is also the day that Esther called for her three-day fast. The date for their destruction was set for Adar 13 (11 months later). April 7, 1933 is also the date that the first two Nazi anti-Jewish decrees were issued in Germany, barring Jews from public service and law.

April 8, 2009 (Nisan 14) – Birkat HaChama (the Blessing of the Sun) takes place once every 28 years. It is the return of the sun to its position when it was created. It is very special, and this year, it is even more so because it happens on Passover Eve (Erev Pesach). The sages say that this has only taken place three or four times in history – the first would have been the very first Passover when the children of Israel were redeemed out of slavery in Egypt. Another time is during the story of the first Purim, when Esther began her fast.

In speaking of a time in the future, a rabbi who lived during the 19th century said that one day when the Birkat HaChamah arrives, it will mean that the Messiah's coming will not be far away. Could this be that future Birkat HaChamah to which he referred? Again, as with all things, only

time will tell. For now, you can view the video link below to learn more about this wonderful event!

http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/865886/jewish/The-Blessing-for-the-Sun.htm

April 8, 2009 (Nisan 14) – Obama’s G20 Plan repeals the U.S. Declaration of Independence

On the anniversary of Taanit Bechorot, the Fast of the Firstborn, when Egyptian firstborn sons, cattle, etc. were slain by the angel of death on the night of Passover, an article appears describing what Obama said at the G20 Summit on April 2 (Nisan 8). Obama basically thumbs his nose at the U.S. constitution when it comes to businesses. This man’s audacity reminds me so much of the Pharaoh of Egypt!

<http://www.worldnetdaily.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=94331>

April 8, 2009 (Nisan 14) - Ahmadinejad: Iran open to talks if they're based on 'respect'

On the day which marks Israel’s redemption by the outstretched arm of the LORD of Hosts, the Iranian madman, like Haman, commands respect from the leadership of the United States, while all along, he weaves his evil plans to destroy the Jewish nation. Is the United States being duped like King Ahashuerus of the ancient Persian Empire when on Nisan 13 some 2,300 years ago, Haman convinced the king that the Jews were a threat to his authority? Is it not amazing how history repeats itself?

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1238562946291&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

April 9, 2009 (Nisan 15) – Obama invites closest friends to Passover Seder at the White House on April 9.

President Barack Obama plans to have close friends and staff to a private White House meal to mark Passover, a very public sign the new president plans to fulfill his promise that Jewish voters would have an ally...White House aides say they believe this is the first president-hosted seder at the White House. President Bill Clinton's aides planned seders, but Clinton isn't known to have attended. Obama's move won quick praise from the National Jewish Democratic Council as the nation's first White House seder.

"By hosting the first presidential seder in America's history," President Barack Obama shows the personal and deep relationship he has with the Jewish community, said Alexis C. Rice, the group's deputy executive director. "There is no question, Obama is a true friend of the Jewish community."

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1077430.html>

This is a bit of a mockery. In our opinion, the supposed “friend” of Israel and the Jewish people hosts their most important historical event marking liberation and redemption for the Jewish people and then makes a mockery of it with his policy that would sell the Jewish people & Israel back into slavery to the Muslim world. It appears this man will stop at nothing to deceive, manipulate and lie in order to have power. It is also interesting to note that Obama’s seder will not be held on the day designated by the God of Israel (Nisan 14, which is sundown of April 8) but on the eve of April 9 which is actually Nisan 15.

April 9, 2009 (Nisan 15) - Obama team readying for confrontation with Netanyahu

On the very day he is holding a Passover Seder, Obama’s administration announces that he will confront Netanyahu over Israel’s sovereign right to refuse to make an agreement that will put Israel’s sworn enemy within its sovereign borders!

<http://haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1077222.html>

April 13, 2009 (Nisan 19) – Dovish Peres threatens Israeli strike on Iran

Peres said he hopes Obama is able to work the matter out diplomatically, but that if all else fails, Israel will strike at the regime of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

<http://www.israeltoday.co.il/default.aspx?tabid=79>

April 18, 2009 (Nisan 24) - It is interesting to note that April 18 is when the prophet Daniel had his vision of Yeshua (see Daniel 10:4-7 and 15-19 and compare to Revelation 1:12-15). In this vision, Yeshua tells him (Daniel 10:11-20) that He came immediately in answer to Daniel's prayer (see Daniel 9), but that He was delayed for twenty-one days because He had to fight the prince of the kingdom of Persia (10:13). Yeshua then explains that He came to help Daniel understand what was going to take place in the last days, and that He must go again to fight the prince of Persia. The prince of Persia is alive and well in the person of Ahmadinejad. ***It will be interesting to see what happens this Shabbat on April 18.*** (We penned these words a week before April 18, on April 11...we leave them in, even though as of today, it is April 30. We leave them in for effect in order to give validity to what we are saying based on the following article, which appeared in *Ha'aretz* on April 18.

Obama's Stance Worries Israel by Jason Koutsoukis - Washington sources added that the Obama Administration would not be continuing the tradition that had developed during the Bush years of hosting Israeli prime ministers whenever they showed up in town, sometimes with just a phone call's notice. It might have been no more than coincidence, but yesterday Israeli defence officials told the liberal daily *Haaretz* that Israel's \$US15 billion (\$A21 billion) purchase of 75 US-made F-35 Joint Strike Fighter jets was now under review due to "the unexpected high cost and disagreements with the manufacturer". Contrary to initial expectations, President Obama has wasted no time becoming fully engaged in the Middle East peace process, despite the magnitude of his domestic political agenda. While Mr Netanyahu has refused to endorse a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict agreed to by his predecessor, President Obama has made it abundantly clear that the US will accept nothing less than Israel living side by side with a sovereign Palestinian state.

Mr Obama is also demanding a freeze on Jewish settlement expansion in the West Bank, and has dropped the Bush administration's opposition to Hamas being part of a future Palestinian Authority government. According to prominent Israeli political commentator Maya Bengal, who writes for the country's second-largest selling newspaper *Maariv*, the holiday is over. "As Passover comes to an end, so comes to an end, it seems, the days of grace granted to the Netanyahu Government by the American Administration," says the commentator. Tel Aviv barman Meir Avraham, 30, says he can feel on the street the tensions being played out between the US and Israel. "This is one of the the main things that the people are talking about at the moment," says Mr Avraham, who recently returned to Israel after several months in Townsville.

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1031943.html>

April 19, 2009 (Nisan 25) – Obama snubs Prime Minister Netanyahu. Says he won't meet with him during his trip to AIPAC Conference this year, another slap in the face by our nation's leader toward Israel's leadership. This is a real break with previous protocol. Whenever the Prime Minister of Israel has come to this nation, the President has always made time for him, even on very short notice.

April 20, 2009 (Nisan 26) – Beginning of *Durban II Conference on Racism* in Geneva, Switzerland. April 20 is Hitler's birthday. It is ironic that a conference that is supposedly against racism picked the birth date of one of the most evil racists to ever live to begin Part 2 of this farc. Last year's (Durbin I) did nothing but rant and rave against Israel being a Zionist, and therefore racist state. What is more ironic still is that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is the keynote

speaker this year and on the eve of Yom Hashoa (Holocaust Remembrance Day), he called once again for the destruction of Israel and denied that the Holocaust ever existed, speaking about it as if it were a figment of Jewish imagination. Our friend Kerry Teplinsky said it this way. "If the Bible is true (which we of course believe it is), to call Israel racist, as was done at Durban I and has been done again at Durban II, is to call God Himself racist. It is He who created the Jewish people, set them apart to be a light to the nations, and promised them a land. In fulfillment of His word, Israel was born in a day (Isaiah 66:8) sixty one years ago. Because God fulfills His promises, the nations rage and the rulers of the earth counsel together against Him. But He sits in the heavens and laughs; He will speak to them of His wrath and distress them in His deep displeasure." It is sad, but true. Soon, Ahmadinejad, along with the nations of the world will experience God's fiery breath because of their hatred and bigotry against His people and His Land. Oh that they would repent and be saved!

April 21, 2009 (Nisan 27, Yom Hashoa) – On Holocaust Remembrance Day, a warning that a new Hitler has arrived on the scene in the person of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad appeared in Israel News Today:

Israel Marks Holocaust, Warns New 'Hitler' Has Arrived - Israel marked Holocaust Remembrance Day with a two-minute siren blast Tuesday morning that brought the entire nation to a standstill. A malfunction in Tel Aviv caused the sirens there to last an additional four minutes. The sirens were followed by a day of solemn memorial ceremonies for the six million who perished in Nazi Germany's effort to exterminate the Jewish people. This year's Holocaust Remembrance Day focused on the 1.5 million Jewish children who died in Nazi death camps. In a letter to lawmakers around the world, Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin cautioned that with the rise of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad the world was again being subjected to the kind of rhetoric, propaganda and beliefs that led to the Nazi Holocaust. "Yesterday the world witnessed the return of Adolf Hitler," read Rivlin's letter, referring to Ahmadinejad's keynote address to the UN Human Rights Council anti-racism conference in Geneva, where he labeled Israel the source of all racism and violence in the world. Rivlin went on to warn that Ahmadinejad, who is seeking nuclear weapons, may be directing most of his threats at Israel presently, but eventually, like Hitler, he will threaten the entire world. <http://www.israeltoday.co.il/default.aspx?tabid=178&nid=18630>

April 21, 2009 (Nisan 27) – Is there a deadline for negotiations with Iran? The following appeared on INSS's website:

Things are heating up in the Middle-East nuclear/political arena. Iran is resisting any possibility of honestly negotiating the nuclear issue with the west/US alliance, the US is hinting at possible concessions to Iran, Israeli sources are talking possible offensive action against Iranian nuclear installations, and US officials are against such action. Egypt is confronting Iran and instability is in the air. Perhaps more than the recent US elections, the timetable is now dictated by the closing deadline of Iran's nuclear progress. <http://www.inss.org.il/research.php?cat=3&incat=&read=2832>

This sounds all too familiar and it is clearly a repetition of history. Because no one could agree and many wanted to placate him, the world stood by and did nothing about Hitler while he slaughtered 6 million Jews over the course of 7 years. Sound familiar? We have already experienced a pre-cursor to the final period of seven years known as Jacob's Trouble. It came in the form of what we now call the Holocaust, designed and perpetuated by Hitler and the Nazi's? Can't the world see what is happening??? What about us as God's people? Once again, the sad truth rears its ugly head: what we learn from history is that we don't learn from history!

April 25, 2009 (Iyyar 1) – This date is when the sages believed the first plague was brought upon Egypt. It signaled the beginning of the judgment on Egypt for her pride and cruel treatment of the Jewish people. It is interesting to note that on April 26, it was reported that at least 103 people have died in Mexico as a result of an outbreak of swine flu.

We may or may not be in the final seven year period of history. We need more time to evaluate. After having a conversation with Pastor Mark Biltz of El Shaddai Ministries, he reminded me of the divine order of God's judgments in Leviticus 26. We in this ministry are convinced that one thing is certain: we are in a period of judgment. In the timeless words of Leviticus 26, the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, Blessed is He, tells His people how to live in His land (Eretz Yisrael). The key is to obey Torah, the law of Moses, which Christianity has repeatedly taught as obsolete. A careful study of the Bible will reveal that the law of Moses, better translated as teachings and instructions, has never been abolished. God's people have been clearly warned about what will happen when they, or any nation or people become lawless. And lest any of us who identify ourselves as followers of Yeshua think we are exempt, Shimon (Peter) reminds us that judgment always begins with the household of God (1 Peter 4:17).

But if you will not listen to me and obey all these mitzvot [commandments], if you loathe my regulations and reject my rulings, in order not to obey all my mitzvot but cancel my covenant, then I, for my part, will do this to you: I will bring terror upon you...If these things don't make you listen to me, then I will discipline you seven times over for your sins. I will break the pride you have in your own power...Yes, if you go against me and don't listen to me, I will increase your calamities ...If in spite of all this, you refuse my correction and still go against me; then I too will go against you; and I, yes I, will strike you seven times over for your sins. I will bring a sword against you...I will send sickness among you and you will be handed over to the power of the enemy. I will cut off your supply of bread so that ten women will bake your bread in one oven and dole out your bread by weight, and you will eat and not be satisfied...

Leviticus 26:16-26

Here's one way to possibly look at this. On September 11, 2001, we experienced our first terror attack. Seven years went by and although there were some, in general God's people did not return to Torah, nor did they repent. On September 29 and October 9, 2008, Feast of Trumpets and Day of Atonement on the biblical calendar, we experienced two of the largest drops ever in the Dow (see [Has the Tribulation Begun Part I](#)). This was judgment upon the pride of our power. What is the pride of our power but our economic stability? We did not repent. And next comes calamities. The word here is *makkah*, which means plagues. What is interesting is that currently, we have an outbreak of swine flu – as of this writing, there are some possible 30 cases in California. One death has occurred, and each day, the number of cases is growing. As of this writing, it has spread from the epicenter in Mexico to six other countries. There is great concern that soon, we could have a pandemic on our hands. What's next? Sword and pestilence, which would most certainly cause famine. The pattern is concerning when we look at recent events in light of Leviticus 26.

As another important reminder, a series of three solar eclipses began in 2008 – the first took place on August 1, 2008. The second will take place on July 22, 2009. And the third will be on July 11, 2010. According to our calendar, these dates don't look like anything significant. However, on the biblical calendar, they fall on the the eve of or first day of the month of Av. Historically, the month of Av has been terrible for the Jewish people. Both temples were

destroyed in the month of Av, along with many other terrible events. What is particularly noteworthy is that solar eclipses are thought to be a bad omen for the nations. Could it be that God is beginning the great reversal of things? And that the season of final judgment began with the solar eclipse of August 2008? We believe it could very well be true. What is certain is that the Scriptures teach that what the nations have done to Israel during the month of Av will be turned back on them. And their seasons of fasting and sorrow will be turned into seasons of great joy. (See Zechariah 8:18-19).

What's the answer? It is the same as always. God brings judgment so that His people will repent and return to Torah (God's ways). Oh that we would listen this time! We, His people, must be a bright beacon of light in the raging storm, pointing the way to safe harbor to those who have been caught by surprise so they will not be lost to the darkness forever.

- For more on the correlation with current events, signs in the heavens, you can watch a series by a local Fox affiliate which interviewed several Messianic pastors, including Mark Biltz on April 28, 2009. The series is called *Signs in the Heavens: What's Next?* You can view [Part 1 and Part 2](#). Select the two items with the video icons. The information may also be on Biltz' website.
- For more information on the solar eclipses: <http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/solar.html>
- For an exciting teaching by Pastor Mark Biltz on both solar and lunar eclipses and the biblical calendar: <http://elshaddaiministries.us/video/eclipsevideo.html>