

The Purpose of the Sabbatical Cycles

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What is the purpose of the “time” in which we find ourselves?

Is the purpose or goal of the time in which we live for the “Resurrection/Rapture” of the saints/church? Is it for the judgment of God upon the world? Or is the purpose for the establishment of the kingdom of God here on earth?

For years I have been teaching (along with others) that the latter is true. The “time” has come for the Lord Jesus Christ to establish His Kingdom here on earth! You can find the majority of what we have been teaching on the 2nd Advent of Christ and His Kingdom at www.godstimeline.net/

It is because it is the time for the establishing of the kingdom of God, the Millennial Kingdom, and the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ that the other two aspects are to be fulfilled. So many people think that it is the other way around! That the kingdom of God can only come as a result of the “resurrection/rapture” followed by the ensuing judgments of God being meted out to the world!

In a sense this is true because God has stated in His Word that these will happen before the 2nd Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ! But even these events are given or meted out to the world for the purpose of showing that the kingdom of God is at hand! What then is the scriptural reasoning for the 2nd Coming of Christ and the subsequent establishing of His Kingdom?

Matthew 24: 21-22-“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened”.

If it wasn't for the 2nd Coming of Christ and the establishing of His kingdom, there would be NO FLESH saved! This includes all animal life (flesh)! The world is and has been capable of destroying ALL life on this planet by nuclear weapons for some time now. But there will be the great use of nuclear weapons that God will use as a means of fulfilling His judgments upon the world. Why hasn't man already begun to destroy the world by these means? It is because it wasn't time for the Kingdom to be established yet.

Now let me get down to the “timing” of the Lord’s Coming (to the earth) and His Kingdom. I believe that the Lord is very clear in His Word as to the 3 main points of His plans for His creation/man! Those being (1) the salvation of man, (2) the Kingdom of God on THIS EARTH, and (3) His Eternal Kingdom. What did the Lord say in His Word concerning the “timing” of these events? Let’s take the last one first, which is the Eternal Kingdom and when this happens.

Revelation 20: 2-“*And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3: And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season*”.

Please read all of Revelation chapter 20 and compare with 2nd Peter 3: 10-14 (“*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*”).

Even though the earth and the heavens shall pass away **in** the “Lord’s Day” (“*the day of the Lord*”), we have the following as our comfort...

2nd Peter 3: 13-“*Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness*”!

Now this takes care of the approximate time until the Eternal Kingdom is established! Why do I say approximate? Because no one KNOWS what day or hour that the Lord will destroy the heavens and the earth to establish the final judgment and the New Heavens and New Earth! Now Christ’s words concerning this make total sense...

Matthew 24: 35-“*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. 36 But **of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only***”.

And what is ANOTHER scriptural explanation for the Father alone (at this time in Christ’s life) knowing the day and hour of the destruction of the heaven and the earth?

1st Corinthians 15: 24-“***Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have***

put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet”.

It seems apparent that once the 1,000 year reign of Christ is expired, that Jesus Christ will deliver the kingdom (the authority of it) back to the Father, which is why Jesus said that only the Father knows the day and hour of the heavens and the earth's destruction (Matthew 24:35-36).

Now we come to the “timing” of the establishing of this kingdom of God both SPIRITUALLY and PHYSICALLY. Both of the aspects of the kingdom of God have to do with the coming to the earth of Jesus Christ Himself! Christ's 1st Coming had to do with the establishing once and for all the “spiritual” Kingdom of God! With the FULFILLING of the Spring “Feasts of the Lord” in that of His DEATH (**Passover**), in the shedding of His “innocent blood”- “a sinless life” (**Unleavened Bread**), to His raising from the dead (**First Fruits**), to the empowerment of His Church by His Spirit to boldly preach this gospel to the WORLD (**Pentecost**- the 2 sheave offerings of both Jews and Gentiles)!

These 4 spring “Feasts of the Lord” were fulfilled completely IN THEIR SEASON and TIME that the Lord gave these Feasts to the Nation of Israel for their OBSERVANCE and REHEARSAL! See Exodus 12:6 (the day- 14th of the month) killing of the lamb at evening- **Passover**.

Exodus 12: 18-*“In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even”.*

Feast of Unleavened Bread (same day- different Feast) lasts 7 days
The rest of the feast I should not have to reiterate. The Lord commanded the people of Israel to:

Exodus 12:17-*“And ye shall **observe the feast** of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever”.*

Not only was this Feast of the Lord to be observed but so were all 7 of them.

Leviticus 19: 37-*“Therefore shall ye observe all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: I am the LORD”.*

The Lord is very adamant about the Israelites observing the Feasts along with the Laws (the 10 commandments) and statutes that He gave the people. Why so for His Feasts? They (the feasts) were and are to be rehearsals of God's working in and to the world through His chosen people (the Jews). In the beginning of the declaration of the "Feasts of the Lord", the Lord interjects the 4th Commandment! Why? You will see shortly!

Leviticus 23: 2-*"Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, concerning the **feasts of the LORD**, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are **my feasts**.* 3 *Six days shall work be done: but **the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings**".*

Make no mistake; these are the Lord's Feasts. He says that they are HIS! He also states that the 7th day is the Lord's Sabbath of REST! And no, it was not that the Lord needed "rest" from His creative work! It was that His work to that point was finished. But what did the Lord say about the 7th day for man and what was its intended purpose?

Deuteronomy 5: 12-*"Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee.* 13 *Six days thou shalt labour, and do all thy work: 14 But **the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou.** 15 *And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day".**

Here is further explanation for what was God's intent for the Sabbath Day! It was purely for physical rest so that the person could continue to work strongly for the next 6 days! I can't find anywhere that the "Sabbath" was intended for "spirituality" or "worshipping God" on this day specifically! It was only by tradition and not realizing that God is to be worshipped DAILY no matter where you are!

So the purpose of the "Sabbath Day" (which is the Lord's) is to give man the much needed physical rest he needs to continue in his labor for the next week! This "sabbatical cycle" can be seen in the Creation week itself, but also in the giving of the Law or the Ten Commandments themselves! Because when you look at the 1st four (4000 years from creation to Christ/our Sabbath) commandments they are of man's relationship to God and the

4th commandment (# of man in relationship to God's creative work with this earth-excluding days 1& 2) is the very one of the Sabbath day!

Consequently the last 6 (# of man) commandments are that of man's relationship with man. So then the typology is self evident in the Law of God in that after 4 days (4000 years), man will receive the spiritual "rest" that is only found in Christ Jesus!

Matthew 11: 28-*"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and **ye shall find rest unto your souls**"*.

It is plain to see that the purpose/ goal or result of the 1st Coming of the Lord was for the spiritual REST for our souls! Now we come to the purpose of the Fall Feasts and the 2nd Coming! You can see that there are 6 commandments that deal with man's relationship with man or his striving/ laboring one with another. And in following the full type of the creation week, of which is reiterated in the 4th commandment, we see that after 6 days (6000 years) man will enter into the Lord's Day/ the Sabbath Day! And again, what was the purpose of the Lord's Sabbath that He commanded Israel to observe? It was for PHYSICAL REST!

Now we are finally getting to it! This "rest" is for the whole world, but first and foremost seen in and through the nation of Israel! Because of Israel (the physical nation as held in "unbelief" of her Messiah) having been "born in a day" and established as a physical nation in 1948, she has been either at outright war or in distress because of the people (Arabs) to which she resides with. When does scripture say that she will finally get her "REST" and no longer be afraid?

Jeremiah 30: 7-*"Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: **it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.** 8 For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: 9 But **they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.** 10 Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, **I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid.** 11 For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished"*.

What did the Lord promise to the world at large?

Isaiah 14: 5-*"The LORD hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers. 6 He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth. 7 **The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing.** 8 Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us. 9 Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. 10 All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us? 11 Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee. 12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. 16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; 17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners"?*

The Lord is talking about physical rest and peace, not only in and for Israel but for the whole world! And the context of both sets of scripture (Isaiah 14 and Jeremiah 30) is physical rest. The "*time of Jacob's trouble*" prior to this physical rest is also found in Jeremiah 30! See www.godstimeline.net for information on what this is scripturally and it's being fulfilled historically NOW!

But as the scripture states, Israel will be saved "*out of it*" (Jeremiah 30:7)! And then Israel will be AT REST and no longer afraid! The same is true for the nations of the whole world! As we see in Isaiah chapter 14 above, the reason for this coming to REST and peace for the whole world is that Lucifer/ Satan is brought down to the sides of the pit! This all happens at the 2nd Coming of Christ to establish His Kingdom!

If the establishing of His Kingdom is for (1) the PHYSICAL REST and Peace for Israel, and (2) that of the physical REST and peace for the whole world, it stands to reason by the scriptures that the Lord will establish His Kingdom at

the beginning of a Sabbath or Schmitta Year (Feast of Trumpets) IN A SABBATICAL CYCLE!

Why do I draw this conclusion? I draw this from the scriptures concerning the Law given to the world through the nation of Israel in which it also refers to that of the Sabbatical cycle and what the Lord says that this day/year was meant for physical REST. Notwithstanding, the Jews have taught that the Messiah could come to deliver them in this manner and this timeframe.

Now if this is scripturally sound and the Fall Feasts of the Lord are for His establishing of His Kingdom here on earth (to give peace and REST to both Israel and the world) then here is a problem for a lot of people! For not only do the Jews teach that the Sabbatical cycles are in that of YEARS, but so does the Lord! Here is what the problem is: it is that the 70th week of Daniel CANNOT BE THAT OF THE SABBATICAL CYCLE! Why? Because the last year of those 7 years are FILLED WITH VIOLENCE/ BLOODSHED and Israel is afraid and NOT AT PEACE!

The Sabbatical cycle WOULD HOWEVER have to END WITH THE START OF THE 7th YEAR, OR SCHMITTA YEAR, AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE 70TH WEEK OF DANIEL!

Now if people are looking for the Lord Jesus Christ to be returning sometime soon before a so-called "7 year Tribulation" is to begin, then I would conclude that the Lord would have to be coming for the "resurrection/ rapture" of His saints 1 YEAR PRIOR TO AN UNDERSTOOD JEWISH SABBATICAL CYCLE! Because that would then put the conclusion of the 70th week of Daniel to the BEGINNING of that Sabbath Year!

Now then, when did the last Sabbatical cycle begin? It began on Rosh Hashanah of 2008! And yes, that would mean (again if the scriptural rationale is sound) that the Lord would have had to return shortly before Rosh Hashanah of 2007! It also means that if the scriptural reasoning of and for the Sabbatical Cycles and the Feasts of the Lord hold to be fulfilling cohesively (meaning that they must work together and in unison) then the next time that can be expected for the Lord's return for his saints (Resurrection/ Rapture) would be shortly before Rosh Hashanah in 2014! And that also means that since the start of the Sabbatical cycle has already started in 2008, I personally DO NOT EXPECT the "Resurrection/Rapture" this Feast of Trumpets (2009 or even 2010) based upon the teaching of the 70th Week of Daniel as being equated to a "7 year tribulation"!

Unless there is another scriptural explanation that ties these 2 crucial elements of Biblical TIME together without contradiction (that being the 70th week of Daniel along with the Sabbatical Cycles and The Lord's Sabbath Day), then I don't believe that the Lord is Coming for His "Church" at the Resurrection/ Rapture any time SOON! And of course, that word alone ("soon") is relative to the individual! The Lords' coming in a year, may be too soon for one, and way too long for someone else!

And again, you can find out HOW and WHY scripturally (by the documented historical fulfilling of scripture) that the reconciliation of these elements of "Biblical Time" are POSSIBLE and still near.

Go to www.godstimeline.net.

Don't be disheartened if we are still here in November of this year (2009)! There is a Scriptural reason.

In Looking for the Soon Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

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