

Have We Miscalculated the Beginning of the Current Shemitah Cycle?

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Many Bible scholars in the last few years were teaching that the next Shemitah cycle would start on the feast of Rosh Hashanah, or Feast of Trumpets in September of 2015. These same scholars who made the connection that the next Shemitah cycle would start in September were of the Pre-Trib position and having that perspective; it would only make sense that the coming seven year cycle would start during Feast of Trumpets preceded with the rapture of the church. Some of these same scholars even said that if the rapture did not happen in September of 2015, then the rapture would not happen for another seven-year cycle or two.

I want to make a case from God's Word that the new year and beginning of the Shemitah cycle does not start until the spring of 2016, the time of planting and new beginnings. The Jews recognize two calendars, the Civil Calendar and the Sacred Calendar. The Civil Calendar starts in fall and the Sacred Calendar starts in the spring. The Civil Calendar has become accepted in Jewish tradition as the celebrated New Year, Rosh Hashanah, but I will show using God's Word that the true Jewish New Year is to be counted from the spring, at Passover.

Most of the Messianic Jewish Rabbi's hold to the Pre-Trib rapture position. I have heard Jewish Rabbi's explain that it is Jewish Tradition that after the wedding, the married couple would have a honeymoon for seven days and this is part of their evidence that the rapture happens just before that last seven days of Daniels Seventh week. This Jewish Tradition would lead them to believe the rapture would happen in the fall at the time of the Feast of Trumpets. Also, most Pre-Trib, Mid-week and Post-Trib rapture teachers agree that the rapture will happen at the last trumpet of the Feast of Trumpets. Those who hold to either the (seven year)Pre-Trib or (seven year) Post Trib would agree that the Seven Year cycle leading to the rapture would need to start in September during the Feast of Trumpets.

In my book, The Window of the Lord's Return. I build a strong case for what I call a mid-week rapture, the middle of the last seven years before the Lord's Return. With a mid-week position, the seven year shemitah cycle leading to the rapture would need to start in the spring, so that after 3.5 years of Great Tribulation or as it is called in Daniel and Revelation , Forty-two months of War on the Saints, the rapture would happen in September during the Feast of Trumpets.

The sacred calendar based on God's Word proves to me that the beginning of any year and the beginning of the Shemitah cycle has to occur in the spring. If this can be shown from Scripture, then we must acknowledge that God's Word trumps the Jewish Tradition of recognizing the New Year as Rosh Hashanah. I will show below from God's Word that what I am saying is backed by God's Word.

Exodus 12:1-3 "The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household."

This verse is God telling Moses that the month of the Passover is to be the first month of their year. What is interesting about this is :

1. This is in the spring, seed time, the time of new beginnings. This year the Passover begins April 22nd, and Sept 22nd is the first day of autumn or fall, Harvest time and the time of the Feast of Trumpets.

2. The Passover in Egypt was when God sent his angel of death to all the unrepentant in Egypt. Last September we were expecting judgment to fall in September but it didn't really happen. Since the scripture from Exodus written above, and the scripture from Leviticus I show below both support that the new seven year Shemitah cycle begins this spring and it will be at the time of the Passover that we will see events of Gods judgment?

The second verse that shows that the true first month of the year starts in the month of the Passover is found in,

Leviticus 23:4,5 "These are the Lord's appointed feasts, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their appointed times: The Lord's Passover begins at twilight on the fifteenth day of the first month."

When you take into account what these scriptures are saying from a Mid-week rapture perspective, it makes a lot of sense that the next seven year Shemitah cycle did not start in September of 2015 but it will start in April of 2016. If the next Shemitah cycle and the beginning of the Great Tribulation starts April, 2016 and you go to the time of the feast of Trumpets at the end of September of 2019, This timeframe adds up to Three years and six months, equaling the forty-two months of War on the Saints. If you will read my recent study called, “**Fresh illumination showing a Mid-week rapture**”, this study proves from a Greek word study that the Great Tribulation is only three and a half years long, then the rapture occurs and then three and a half years of the Wrath of God begins.

There is something special about this new Shemitah cycle we are entering. It is called a Super Shemitah. Every seven Shemitah cycles brings us to the year of Jubilee, which is the fiftieth year. The way this works is; when you complete seven, seven year cycles it equals forty-nine years. Then the first year of the next Shemitah cycle is the fiftieth year and thus the year of Jubilee.

Over a year ago I was struggling with, “How a new Shemitah cycle starting in September of 2015 could maintain the fifty year pattern of Jubilee in the last one hundred years. Using a start date of September of 2015 for the new year would mark the beginning of the year of Jubilee, but this starting date in 2015 would not bring us to the previous pattern of 50 year cycles which should bring us to 2017.

Why is this important? It has been recognized that in 1917 the Balfore Declaration granted Israel the right to regain their land and become a nation. This event was recognized as a year of Jubilee. Then fifty years later in 1967, when the Six Day War occurred, it looked like Israel would be over run and destroyed. Instead Israel had a great victory and gained more of their land. Thus 1967 marked another Year of Jubilee.

Based on these Jubilee events the next year of Jubilee should be 2017. If we entered the Jubilee year in September of 2015, that year would stretch to September of 2016, falling short of 2017. If instead we recognize God’s Word shows the new year measured from a spring Passover and thus begins in April of 2016, the year of Jubilee would stretch to April of 2017. This would give a window in 2017 for a Jubilee event to happen in Israel that would be similar to the events

that occurred in 1917 and 1967. This would maintain the pattern of a Jubilee event happening in 2017.

I have written a recent study called, "Has the Lord delayed His Coming?" In this study I share the scripture that says, "***Unless I shorten those days no one would survive, for the sake of the elect I will shorten those days.***" I point out in this study that we have a destiny with the timing of the rapture at the time of the Feast of Trumpets at the end of September. Therefore the shortening of days has to happen before the Great Tribulation starts. I had thought that last September would be the beginning of the birth pain and would usher in events that would have added months of distress before the Great Tribulation started in the spring of 2016. By God's Grace those days have been shortened.

I believe we are in the time of the shortening of the days. If this is so, what a shame that this miscalculation for the beginning of the Shemitah cycle has put the church to sleep. At a time when people think we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, thinking good times are coming back, they will soon discover that the light they are seeing is instead another train coming and we are about to have a head-on collision. After reading this study I recommend that you read my study called, "**Has the Lord delayed His Coming?**" Then to pull it all together I would recommend you read my recent study called , "**Fresh illumination showing a Mid-week rapture.**"