

THE HEAVENLY SIGNS OF AMOS AND ISAIAH'S TIME

(Base text written by Carl Franklin and edited by myself
to bring the chronological dates in line with Ages in Chaos)

While studying Sanctification of the New Moon by Maimonides, it became apparent that his material is based on one very important, yet erroneous assumption: "That the solar calendar of Moses' day and the solar calendar of Maimonides' calculations contained the same number of days".

The Hebrew calendar of Moses' day contained 360 days (This is why the prophetic year of the Bible is 360 days and why there are 360 degrees in a circle). Thus, there was no need for a thirteenth month added seven years out of a nineteen year cycle.

The Hebrew calendar of Hezekiah's day contained 360 days but the solar calendar now contains 365 1/4 days. After King Hezekiah's reign, God added 5 and 1/4 days to the solar year.

Intercalated (leap) years were not part of the original calendar and were not needed until after the time of Hezekiah. A second Adar, or thirteenth month, is not mentioned once in all the Old Testament but can be inferred from Ezekiel 4.

Around 800 B.C. Venus, during its 52-year elliptical cycle, once again approached the Earth. In its increasingly erratic course it collided with the planet Mars. Mars was knocked out of its orbit and began an elliptical orbit that brought it in close contact with the Earth every 15 years (777-687). This period of 15 years still is the time between each favourable opposition of Mars, the point in its orbital cycle when it nearest approaches the Earth. The first encounter of Mars with the Earth was about 777 B.C. The year after would mark the first Olympiad of Greece.

The prophet Amos wrote: "The words of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa (given while he sees the approaching bodies of Venus and Mars in the night sky) -- what he saw concerning Israel two years before the earthquake (747 B.C.), when Uzziah (781-740 B.C.) was king of Judah and Jeroboam II (783-743 B.C.) son of Joash was king of Israel." (Amos 1:1)

"Will not the land tremble for this, and all who live in it mourn? The whole land will rise like the Nile (the Nile rose at least 28 feet every year); it will be stirred up and then sink like the river of Egypt. In that day (fulfilled in type in 747 B.C.), declares the Sovereign Lord, I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight" (Amos 8:8-9, NIV).

In 743 B.C. Jeroboam II, King of Israel, ended a 40-year reign over Israel (783-743 B.C.). Amos ended prophesying. The heavenly signs prophesied by him occurred. Mars approached the earth and a great earthquake occurred throughout the land of Israel and Judah. The sun went down (or forward from an observer's viewpoint) 10 degrees on the sun dial (Isaiah 38:8 – Ahaz in this verse refers to Uzziah).

The earth itself had been moved backward. The earth was thus darkened at noon as Amos had prophesied. The Great Rift Valley was greatly expanded! The entire continent of Africa had moved toward the west. Africa and the southwestern tip of Arabia had moved farther apart. The Red Sea was expanded even more. All navigation, communication and commerce was disturbed worldwide. The calendars of the nations were now worthless.

"Accordingly, when a remarkable day was come, and a general festival [i.e. Passover] was to be celebrated, he [Uzziah] put on the holy garment, and went into the temple to offer incense

to God upon the golden altar, which he was prohibited to do by Azariah the high priest, who had fourscore priests with him, and who told him that it was not lawful for him to offer sacrifice, and that 'none besides the posterity of Aaron were permitted so to do.'

"And when they cried out that he must go out of the temple, and not transgress against God; he was wroth at them, and threatened to kill them, unless they would hold their peace. In the mean time a great earthquake shook the ground, and a rent was made in the temple, and the bright rays of the sun shone through it, and fell upon the king's face, insomuch that the leprosy seized upon him immediately. And before the city, at a place called Eroge, half the mountain broke off from the rest on the west, and rolled itself [toward the west] four furlongs [880 yards or half a mile], and stood still at the east mountain, till the roads, as well as the king's gardens, were spoiled by the obstruction" (Josephus, Book IX, Chapter X).

The fear of the heavenly signs and the great earthquake perhaps played a factor in Uzziah's presumptuous actions. The Temple lay in ruins and would not be used again for a period of 117 years. The Temple was restored in 630 B.C. (II Chr 34:8), when Josiah (640-609 B.C) was 18 years old. Baalism would once again run rampant throughout Israel.

Isaiah began prophesying around 750 B.C. In 743 Zechariah began a 6-month reign in Israel. Shallum began a 1-month reign in 743. At the beginning of 743, Menahem began a 5-year reign over Israel to the year 738. In 738 Pekahiah began a 1-year reign over Israel to 737. Uzziah ended a 41-year reign over Judah in 740 and Pekah began a 5 year reign over Israel (737-732). Jotham began a 4-year reign over Judah (740-736).

Rome was founded by Romulus and Remus. Mars, the "god of war," had caused a great deal of political instability! The year 747 B.C. also marked the beginning of the era of Nabonassar of Babylonia. Three years later, in 744, a new dynasty commenced with Tiglathpileser III at Nineveh in Assyria. The second and final phase of the Assyrian Empire was under way. It was this dynasty that endured through the final 132 years of Assyrian power until the final collapse of Assyria in the year 612 B.C.

Jotham ended a 4-year reign over Judah (740-736) and Ahaz began a 20-year reign over Judah (736-716). Micah commenced his prophesying. There was great trepidation as the year 732 approached, as another encounter with Mars was anticipated. Around 732, Mars approached the Earth for the fourth time. Isaiah prophesied around this time of approaching astronomical calamity, the heavenly signs of Hezekiah's time (Isa. 13).

"And this shall be a sign unto thee from the Lord, that the Lord will do this thing that He hath spoken; Behold, I will bring again the shadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sun dial of Ahaz (Uzziah), ten degrees backward. So that the sun returned (rose from sunset to its noontime position) ten degrees, by which degrees it was gone down (the sun had set 10 degrees during the time of Uzziah)."

In 732, Pekah ended a 5-year rule over Israel (756-737) and Hosea began a 9-year reign over Israel (732-723). Five years after Samaria fell, Mars once again challenged Earth. A year after this encounter, Ahaz ended a 20-year reign over Judah (736-716). Hezekiah began a 29-year reign over Judah in the year 716(716-687).

In 723, Shalmanesser IV sent 120,000 troops across the Euphrates to crush a revolt which had suddenly developed along the shores of the Eastern Mediterranean. He moved south during the next year and in 722 began his seige against Israel. In 722, Israel was defeated and carried off into captivity by Shalmaneser IV. Hosea the prophet ended his prophesying.

Assyria advanced into the Delta region of Egypt by the year 720, overwhelming Dynasties 22 of Bubastis and 23 of Tanis, ending both those dynasties and sending the Ethiopian Cushites, the mainstay of Egyptian history, scurrying south to their ancient capital of Thebes. The year 716 marked the beginning of the Lydian dynasty [ancient Ludites] in Asia Minor. Gyges was their first king. Vashti, queen of Persia, came from this line of rulers. Romulus, king of Rome, ended a 38-year reign at Rome.

In 702 B.C. Sennacherib came against Judah. This occurred in year 14 of Hezekiah's reign. Hezekiah made peace with Sennacherib and agreed to pay tribute (2 Kings 18:13-14).

In this same year Hezekiah was sick and near death. God told him through Isaiah that he was going to die. Hezekiah pleaded with God to extend his life and God gave him 15 more years of life. A sign was given as proof of God's intervention – the sun would go backwards in its motion from east to west 10 degrees – the exact opposite of what happened in Uzziah's day at the time of the great earthquake of 747 B.C.

The year 702 B.C., when this miracle occurred, marked the third near collision of Mars with the Earth since the great earthquake of 747 B.C. The gravitational effect of this planetary passing is what disturbed the rotation of the Earth causing this great miracle in the heavens.

God gave Hezekiah 15 more years of life. The number 15 is very significant here as it marks the time between this heavenly sign of 702 B.C. and the next near collision of Mars with the Earth. During that 15 years Hezekiah fortified Judah and had Hezekiah's tunnel dug in Jerusalem.

In 687 B.C. Mars would near collide with the Earth for the seventh and final time! In 687 B.C. when Sennacherib came against Judah there was no peace deal to pay tribute as had occurred in 702 B.C. during year 14 of Hezekiah's reign. Hezekiah sought God's deliverance. The King of Ethiopia at this time is called Tirhakah in II Kings 19:9. This Tirhakah is one and the same as Taharka, king of the Ethiopian Dynasty of Egypt (Dynasty 25) and he ruled from 690 until 664 B.C. when Thebes was sacked by the Assyrians.

In 687 B.C., at the Passover season, the prophesied heavenly signs of Isaiah occurred. Judah was threatened with total annihilation! Sennacherib attacked Judah (Isa. 36) and would have succeeded if God had not passed over her again!

As Mars passed close to the earth, great chunks of Martian rock fell upon the earth. (An expedition to Antarctica in the decade of the 1980's discovered chunks of Martian rock. The rock was compared with and verified against rock brought back from Mars by NASA in the mid-1970's. The obvious question that one has to ask about these Martian meteorites found in Antarctica is HOW DID THEY GET HERE???)

At Passover, Nisan 14, 687 B.C., 185,000 of Sennacherib's army elite were destroyed by Martian rock. Judah was saved for the sake of the coming Messiah. Judah had been spared. She would not be taken into captivity for another 102 years (585). Sennacherib carried tens of thousands of Jews into slavery, however, and transplanted them in Central Europe (the Assyrians controlled those regions of Europe at that time). By the year 708, the entire region of Central Europe had accepted the Jewish faith.

The prophecy of Isaiah (Isa.13:10) had been partially fulfilled. The great and final "end time" fulfillment yet remained. The Heavenly Signs of Matthew, Mark and Luke have not yet happened! If they had, we would have known, because when they happen the planets will be knocked out of their orbits as they were in the time of Amos and Isaiah!

In 687 the calendars of the nations were again made worthless! Twice during a period of 60 years, astronomical observation and thus all calendars had been thrown into total chaos. Judah, and only Judah, had a benchmark for calculation; for these extraordinary events had happened on the Passover, Nisan 14, 687 B.C.! This explains, in part, the Babylonian superstition that Nisan 14 was unlucky, and why their "Lord's Supper" was celebrated on Nisan 15 (an attempt at communion with Baal, the sun, again). "Baal's" solar year had just been disrupted again. The Babylonians came to Jerusalem to enquire of Hezekiah, and to re-calibrate their calendar. All nations had heard of the destruction of the Assyrian armies at Jerusalem!

Why then would Judah be unable through observation to determine the time and day of the Passover after 687 B.C.? Why would the faithful Josiah resurrect the Passover in his eighteenth year (630 B.C.), a mere 57 years after the events of 687 B.C., only to observe two days of Passover? Hadn't God marked the Passover by His intervention in the heavens? HE HAD INDEED, BUT HE HAD ALSO BEQUEATHED TO JOSIAH A LONGER SOLAR YEAR!

The length of the solar year had been extended to 365 and 1/4 days! The earth's rotation around the Sun had been slowed by these encounters with Mars. After 687 B.C., 5 and 1/4 days had been added to the solar year. During the 90 year period between 777 and 687 B.C., the existence of the Earth itself had been threatened by Mars 7 times. An extraordinary eclipse had 'shaken' the entire world. The "sun-god" had twice moved in relationship to the horizon! The next 57 years (687-630) would see continued neglect of the Temple and a deepening ignorance relevant to the Passover and its meaning and time of observation.

The worship of Baal, the sun-god of the Canaanite, intensified in Judah. By 595 B.C., Ezekiel would record that the leaders of Judah were worshiping Baal at Temple sun-rise services. As Judah was worshiping Baal on the 5th day of Elul, they were also worshiping Baal on his two most important banquet (Lord's Supper) days; Nisan 15 and Tishri 15! And, the Assyrians, Greeks, and Romans began worshipping Mars as the god of war.

Wicked King Manasseh began his 45-year reign (687-642) over Judah in 687 after Hezekiah died in the same year that Judah was delivered from the Assyrians by God. By 677 the great trading city of Troy (located just above the future cities of Smyrna and Ephesus) fell for the third and final time. At this time many of the Hittites commenced a migration out of Anatolia northwest up the Danube into Europe. Roman annals within a few centuries would be filled with the name Khatti, Chatti, or Hatti. The name would be eventually changed to Hesse.

The collapse of Phrygia (the Phrygians migrated into France and became known as the West Franks, the French) and the decline of the Hittites east of the Halys River basin (of central Turkey) in 677 is confirmed by Herodotus. His words are: "...the Medes bent under the Persian yoke, after they had ruled over all Asia beyond the river Halys for the space of one hundred and twenty-eight years, excepting the interval of the Scythian dominion" (Herodotus, Clio, 130). The Medes succumbed to Cyrus in 549. Counting 128 years before 549, we come to the year 677, the date of the fall of Troy and the defeat of the Hatti, who were Trojan allies.

In 664, Thebes in Egypt was sacked by the Assyrian king Assurbanipal. In 663 Taharka was succeeded by another Ethiopian, Bakare Tanuatamun, whom the Assyrians named Urdarmane. Four years later, in the year 660, the Kassites of the Kingdom of Karduniash (Cushite Ethiopians from the country of India) were overthrown in an Assyrian attack that carried Assyrian arms to the River Indus. This is the time of the main Aryan invasion of the sub-continent of India. To the plains of India the Assyrians sent into exile tens-of-thousands of Ethiopians (today we know these people as the people of India), thousands of Egyptians (Gypsies) and multitudes from the region of the Hindu-Kush mountains in Bactria (modern Pakistan).

In 660 the "son of heaven," Zoroaster II (a direct worshipper of Semiramis), began a 76-year reign among those Japanese who were called Sakai and Scythians (the vast majority of the Scythians were the lost tribes of Israel who eventually migrated to north-west Europe, Britain and America). The Japanese throne was thus established by this High Priest of the Rising Sun of Semiramis. (The Japanese worship the rising sun to this day, witness their flag.) The year 659 marked the accelerating disintegration of the Assyrian Empire and the corresponding rise of the Babylonian Empire.

In 644, Mader, king of the European Assyrians, invaded Northern Italy, establishing the city of Milan. He then led an Assyrian campaign as far east as Syria and Palestine. Of his sons, Balweis received Lombardy; Sigweis, Bavaria, and Brenner, Thuringen and Meissen.

In 642 Manasseh of Judah ended his 45 wicked years as king. Amon assumed the throne of Judah for 2 years (642-640). Josiah began his wonderful reign of 31 years (640-609). In 630, the young Josiah began the restoration of the Temple and the true worship of God. In 625 Jeremiah began prophesying the end of Judah. Habakkuk and Zephaniah also prophesied during this fateful year. Nabopolassar, the father of Nebuchadnezzar, began a 21-year reign in Babylonian (625-604).

The year 621 marked the fall of the ancient Assyrian line of Calah (1058-612). During the reigns of the last three kings of Calah (659-621) the Assyrian Empire quickly disintegrated. Plagues ravaged the homeland. Revolt flared throughout the length and breadth of the Empire. The final revolt in Calah in the last year of Assur-nirair V brought the downfall of the dynasty. The calendar year was 622-621 B.C. This is the very year that the Babylonian Canon records a revolt and a great victory over the Assyrian army.

In 612 the remnant of the Assyrian Empire collapsed. The Medes and Babylonians (Chaldeans) besieged Nineveh. Onto the scene came Scythian troops from the region of Bactria to lift the siege of their Assyrian allies. The Medes (Russians or Ukrainians today), sensing what would happen if Assyria were to recover strength, submitted terms to the Scythians in exchange for breaking their (the Scythian) alliance with Assyria. They were accepted. Nineveh fell. But the agreement cost the Medes control of much of Upper Asia for 28 bleak years (612-584, Herodotus, Clio. p. 106).

Lohorasp, king of the Persians and ancestor of Cyrus, perished in the war of 612. The Persians, allies of Assyria, became the subjects of the Medes until Cyrus overthrew their rule in 549, thus establishing the embryonic Medo-Persian Empire.

With the collapse of the Assyrian Empire came a great revival of Egypt. In 609 B.C., Ramses the Great began his reign at Thebes. Ramses and his revitalized Egyptian armies marched through Palestine, slaying Josiah of Judah (640-609), and reached Kadesh or Carchemish on the Euphrates (east of the future Antioch of Syria). Jehoahaz assumed the throne for 3 months in 609. Jehoiakim assumed the throne of Judah for the next 11 years (609-598).

The year 607 was the nineteenth year of Nabopolassar, father of Nebuchadnezzar. The Chaldeans marched up the Euphrates in 607, seizing Kimuhu on the banks of the river near Carchemish. In 606 the Babylonian Chronicle reported a great victory for the Egyptians at Kumuhu. A year later, in 605, the Chaldeans counterattacked and smashed the Egyptian army at the second battle of Carchemish. The Chaldeans then seized the entire area of the ancient Hatti (the original Hittites had migrated out of the region in the 1400's B.C. to the Americas and became known as the Mayan Indians). The Assyrian Hatti had already begun their migration up the Danube to Germany.

In 604 B.C., Nabopolassar died, Nebuchadnezzar assumed the throne of the Chaldees and attacked Judah. Nebuchadnezzar ruled for the next 43 years (604-561 B.C.), the last seven of which he was insane (568-561). Jehoiachin assumed the throne of Judah for a short period in 598. Zedekiah assumed the throne of Judah in 598 and reigned for 11 years. He was to become Judah's last monarch. Now began the prophetic odysseys of Daniel, Ezekiel, Joel, Obadiah, Zephaniah, and Haggai among others.

By 585 the Temple in Jerusalem had been destroyed. Seventy years of desolation ensued (585-515) before a remnant of Jewish slaves would return to Palestine and later rebuild the Temple of God. From amongst their descendants would be born Jesus Christ, the Saviour and Messiah, who's Second Coming to rule this earth will be ushered in by dramatic heavenly signs such as occurred in the days of Amos and Isaiah!