

# World Events And The Bible

Since a new Jewish lunar year began in September 1975 a significant point in human history was reached. What was that? According to the Bible's count of time, mankind then completed 6,000 years of existence on earth. Yes, the first man Adam, if he had chosen to remain obedient under God's rulership, would have still been alive and 6,000 years old in September of this year.

Does this mean, then, that mankind has now reached 6,000 years into the 7,000 year period that God 'blessed and made sacred' as his great "rest day"? Does it mean that Christ's millennial Kingdom rule, as the final 1,000 years of that "rest day," is to be reckoned from September 1975? — Gen. 1:27, 31; 2:2, 3; Rev. 20:1-6.

No, it does not mean that. Why not? Well, the Bible record shows that God's creations on the "day" just preceding that 7,000-year "rest day" did not end with Adam's creation. It shows a time lapse between the creation of Adam and that of his wife, Eve. During that time, God had Adam name the animals. Whether that period amounted to weeks or months, or years we do not know. So we do not know exactly when it will end. The same applies to the beginning of Christ's millennial reign. The Bible provides us with no way to fix the date, so it does us no good to speculate when that date may be. — Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 24:42, 44.

However, the Bible's time clock does indicate to us that 6,000 years of human history end in this year 1975. Early in God's "rest day" Adam became a rebel against God-rule. Thus, for the most part, the first 6,000 years of man's history have been marked by man-rule. What did man's independent rulership accomplish during those six millenniums, each in its turn.

**FIRST THOUSAND YEARS:** Man's happiness in the paradise of Eden ended as Adam and Eve rebelled against the sovereignty of their Creator, Jehovah God. Justly, God expelled the man and his wife from the garden into the uncultivated earth, to fend for themselves under the independent government of their choice. Probably that became a form of patriarchal rule. But during the 900-and-more years that remained of Adam's life, sin-tainted mankind became involved more and more in violence, murder, false religion and a permissive way of life that ended only in death. — Rom. 5:12; Gen. 3:12, 16-19; 4:10, 11, 23, 26.

**SECOND THOUSAND YEARS:** Under man-rule, "the badness of man" abounded to the point that God, after giving due warning, brought a global deluge to destroy those who had ruined the earth and filled it with violence. Though God preserved alive faithful Noah and his family because of their righteousness, their descendants became involved in human politics in defiance of Jehovah God. Less than 200 years after the Flood, Nimrod became a ruthless dictator and king. He exalted himself against the Most High God, so that there came to be a saying, "Just like Nimrod a mighty hunter in opposition to Jehovah." His hunting exploits no doubt included the killing of men, as well as of animals, so that he established a tyranny over mankind. When his rebellious course culminated in building a city, Babel, and "a tower with its top in the heavens," Jehovah performed the miracle of confusing the language of mankind. This forced them to abandon their building program, and to be scattered over the earth. The first human dictatorship disintegrated in defeat! — Gen. 6:4, 5, 11; 10:8-12; 11:1-9.

**THIRD THOUSAND YEARS:** There were wars among mankind, tribe against tribe, city-state

against city-state and kingdom against kingdom. Egypt became the dominant world power, but was punished by God because it oppressed his people, Israel. The people of the nations drifted deeper into pagan idolatry, even to the point of offering child sacrifices. Oppressive dictatorships arose and the common people suffered as pawns of the rulers. Gen. 14: 1-16; Ex. 1:8-11; 6:1-6; 14: 26-31; Deut. 18:9-12.

**FOURTH THOUSAND YEARS:** In Egypt's wake, a procession of world empires, ruled by ambitious kings, rose in succession. These became prominent in the fourth millennium. Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome—each, in turn, fought with its mighty armies and gained world domination. They were also permitted to gain and wield sovereignty over the nation of Israel. The prophecies of Daniel and Revelation both liken such mighty political powers to "beasts." False religion was always prominent in its support of these cruel dictatorships. — Dan. 7:2-8, 17; 8: 3-8, 20-22; Rev. 13:1,2; 17:3-8, 11; Ezek. 21:25-27.

**FIFTH THOUSAND YEARS:** Imperial Rome now held sway over many lands. In the domain of Rome, John the Baptist was beheaded, Jesus Christ was impaled, the imperial armies destroyed Jerusalem and Christians were persecuted—all this within the first century of our Common Era. In the fourth century C.E., the unbaptized Caesar Constantine organized Christendom with its clergymen and the politicoreligious setup of Rome, and the Catholic Hierarchy brought on the Dark Ages, with all their miserable oppression of the common man, and particularly of those who sought to serve God. The Church-and-State combine was glorified in 800 C.E. when the Roman Pope crowned Charlemagne as ruler of the Holy Roman Empire. — Mark 6:25, 27; 15:25, 37; Luke 21: 20-24; 2 Thess. 2:3.



**THANKSGIVING DAY SET FOR WEDDING —** Mr. and Mrs. H.B. Miller of Rt. 2, Hertford announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Joan Yvonne, to Ralph Garland Katherman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold M. Katherman of Norfolk, Va. The bride-elect is a graduate of Perquimans High School and is a junior in the School of Professional Nursing, Norfolk General Hospital, Norfolk, Va. Mr. Katherman is a graduate of Maury High School and Tidewater Community College. He is employed at Bisesse and Console in Norfolk. The wedding is planned for Thursday, Nov. 27 at 4 p.m. in the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Rt. 2, Hertford. No invitations are being sent in the county, but friends and relatives are invited.

**SIXTH THOUSAND YEARS:** The Roman Empire fragmented into rival and oppressive European states. These sent their warships abroad to seize and colonize the so-called "pagan" areas of the earth. Great Britain became the dominant world power. Colonial America declared and gained its independence

from Britain but continued close alliance in an Anglo-American world-power arrangement. The eighteenth century was a time of industrial revolution.

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*Marion Swindell*



# Sunday School Lesson

## STRUGGLING WITH DOUBT

GENESIS 17: 1-8, 15-19

Someone has said that "if there should arise one utterly believing man, the history of the world would be changed!" Abraham must have come very close to being that man for he was certainly an instrument of God in changing his world. He is held out as an example of one who had faith in both the Old and the New Testaments. He demonstrated his faith by deliberate and daring obedience to the will of God. But even Abraham was not perfect in his faith. Nobody ever is. Every man must struggle with his doubts. Every one willing to see the struggle through will win the victory. God's call to Abraham was the call to be perfect.

Perfection, Genesis 17:1

Abram was ninety nine years old when this call from God came to him. The caller is identified as "the Almighty God." Faith and obedience is always easier when there is abiding assurance that it is God who is speaking.

Abram is told to walk before God. You will notice that the command is to walk before God, not with God. God would not command fellowship with Himself. That must come as man's faith grows.

Abram is told to "be thou perfect." The word "perfect" means blameless, mature, whole, complete. Abram must not be satisfied with less than he was capable of being. "Perfection" must always be the goal. Some people make the mistake of assuming this is a possibility here in this life. Others make the mistake of ignoring the passage altogether! Even the apostle Paul could say he never attained perfection (Philippians 3:12), but he makes it clear that Perfection is his goal. He would be satisfied with nothing less, so he continued to "follow after."

God strengthens Abram by giving him the Promise of an everlasting covenant.

Promise, Genesis 17: 2-8

The fact is that many things are involved in the promise of God to Abram.

God changes his name from Abram to Abraham. "Abram" means "the father is exalted." "Abraham," means "father of multitude."

God promises him that He will be his God and make an everlasting covenant with him. There is no word for "everlasting" in the Bible, either in Hebrew or Greek. The Hebrew had no concept of everlasting. In the Hebrew language the word occurs in something hidden. "As far as you can see" or "in the dim unknown." In the Greek it is expressed as "ages upon ages." The idea was that it was to be a perpetual covenant.

Abraham was to be the father of multitudes of nations. There is no limit to what God can do regardless of the circumstances. What is Abraham's reaction to all of this? Our next passage pictures a patriarch perplexed.

Perplexity, Genesis 17: 15-19

In verse 3 of this chapter "Abram fell on his face." That was silent submission to the will of God. In this passage "Abraham fell upon his face and laughed." He questioned the possibility of God's promise being fulfilled.

It may be that Abraham just didn't want to get involved in

## It's A Baby Girl

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Wilder of Woodland Circle, Hertford announce the birth of their second child, first daughter, Tammy Lynn, born Sept. 26 at Albemarle Hospital. Fraternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. James T. Wilder of Hertford. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Bill King of Rocky Mount, N.C.

this faith at his age! "God why not just work through Ishmael?" "Leave well enough alone!" No wonder God opened His conversation with Abram as He did — "Walk before me and be perfect." Abraham was willing to settle with second best, but God will not let a person rest like that. God has definite plans for your life and mine — let's not set our hopes on anything less!

### BIBLE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

"Is there any relationship between circumcision in the Old Testament and baptism in the New Testament?"

### ANSWER

There seems to be some relationship between the two. Just as circumcision symbolized induction into covenant relationship in the Old Testament so baptism into the New Testament covenant relationship.

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## Dr. Emanuelson To Speak At Women's Aglow Breakfast

The Elizabeth City's Women's Aglow-Fellowship will meet October 18 at the Vicki-Villa Restaurant across from Albemarle Hospital on Route 17. The breakfast meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Guest speaker will be Margaret Sells

Emanuelson, D.Ed. Dr. Emanuelson is Director of Psychological and Psychoeducational Services at the Human Resource Institute of Norfolk, Va.

Because of the limited space, reservations should be made by Tuesday, Oct. 14 by calling 264-2751 or 330-2647.

## In The News

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Overton and daughter of Newport News, Va. spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bass and Mrs. Barry Overton.

Miss Aileen Beck and Jim Presley of Raleigh were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. W.F. Tarkenton.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Baker and sons, Mark and Clark, of Belvidere spent the weekend in Fayetteville with Mr. and Mrs. Tim Baker.

Mrs. C.E. Cannon and Miss Cornelia Cannon are spending a few days with

Mr. and Mrs. Garland Stanton in Portsmouth, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Frazier Miller and family of Virginia Beach, Va. spent the weekend with Mrs. E.A. Goodman and visited Mr. Goodman, who is a patient in the Chowan Hospital.

Miss Sue White of Virginia Beach, Va. was a weekend guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Julian White.

Mr. and Mrs. William Stanford of Virginia Beach, Va. were guests of Mrs. T.W. Nixon on Sunday.

## BNC introduces the Mini-App for loans. And the mini-wait.

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