

Jesus said:

Watch

for His return

Peter Michell

Introduction

It is serious!

‘Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.’

Revelation 3:3

‘Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.’ Matthew 24:42

**But do we know what we are watching for?
This study is aimed at bringing clarity. It is designed rather like stepping stones crossing a river from one side to the other – to take us safely from our current lack of knowledge across to the place of full understanding.**

We need to start Watching!

Contents

Stepping stone:

- 1 The earth was created for man's benefit – the doctrine of favour.
- 2 God chose Israel but has He finished with that nation?
- 3 7
- 4 Does God's favour end?
- 5 Consummation and termination
- 6 For Israel
- 7 For the Gentile nations and the church
- 8 It's time for a wedding and a banquet

More advanced matters – made easy:

- A Revelation 13:18 calculate the number
- B The wonderful numberer
- C Signs and days, years and numbers

Conclusion - the Watch

Appendix - How we came to understand days and years.

1 The earth was created for man's benefit -the doctrine of favour.

'Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.' Genesis 1:31

This is His conclusion, after He has created the earth and everything in it, He blessed man and gave him dominion over all His creation with the instruction to be fruitful and multiply.

The subsequent fall of man due to disobedience is not our subject here. We are establishing God's intent to bless mankind. Even when mankind becomes so disobedient that God regrets ever creating them His favour sees and rests on the one righteous family - Noah and his sons. (Genesis 6:6-7)

Our Lord God does not want anyone to perish (2 Peter 3:9). So we understand that Noah preached righteousness to a generation whose only thought was evil for about 100 years – with absolutely no success! Judgement had to come because regarding man, *'every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.'* (Genesis 6:6)

What greater warning of the coming flood could there be than the building of an enormous boat where there is no sea and so far as we know no rain. (the earth being surrounded by a water canopy.)

Methuselah, earth's longest living individual dies shortly before the great flood. His name carried a warning - its meaning being 'when he dies it will come.'

God's favour saw Noah and his family safely through the storms and the flood and delivered them onto firm ground one year 11 days later. (Genesis 7:11 and 8:14) That is one lunar year of 354 days plus 11 days making the total 365 days - a solar year.

The first Noah knew that the flood was over, and his release from the ark was near, was when the dove he dispatched from the ark returned with a freshly plucked olive leaf.

So the olive tree has ever since been associated with God's favour for mankind. We see it again in Romans 11 where its root is described as the root of fatness – or of being replete with goodness. (verse 17)

Stepping stone 1 God created the earth for man's delight and wellbeing – for His favour to us who were made in His image.

'God created the sun and the moon for signs, for seasons and for days and years.' Genesis 1:14 We live by a solar calendar with a year being 365 and a quarter days long. God's favour is measured by a lunar calendar of 354 days – as we noticed with Noah's time in the ark.

God measures time according to His favour.

The ark was enormous – approximately 450 feet long by 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. It had a displacement of 20,000 tons. Much bigger than Nelson's Victory. Nothing bigger was built until the 1859 construction of the 'Great Eastern.'

2 God chose Israel but has He finished with that nation?

In the first instance God's favour was for all mankind. However, because of man's fall into sin, that 'policy' failed as we have already seen. Some refer to this period as the 'age of conscience.' That is a time when righteousness relies on mankind being good and kind and living in goodness, not in evil.

So the Lord God selects a nation as His favoured nation. Israel was not chosen because it was in any way better than other nations. It was chosen because it was chosen. God's choice started with Abraham who was considered righteous because he believed God. Israel switched back and forth between following the Lord and following foreign gods, making it more culpable than other nations who had no knowledge of God.

Israel received wonderful promises from God – promises of abundant blessing. However, Israel tended to be stubborn and went after other gods, much to their loss and God's displeasure. Israel's abundant blessing depended on their adherence to the Law God gave them. Blessing for obedience, cursing for disobedience. (Deuteronomy 28)

So we ask the question - has God finished with Israel?

One of the characteristics of the Lord God is that He is entirely faithful. We read, in second Timothy chapter two, that even if we are unfaithful He remains faithful because He cannot deny Himself. We also read in Romans 11:29 that the gift and calling of God are irrevocable.

So far as Israel is concerned that means that the promises God has made to them, which are as yet unfulfilled, will be fulfilled at a future time. Much more on this in my booklet – ‘Israel present and future.’

In summary there are scriptures which tells us the main points -

- 1 Israel will become chief nation on earth
Deuteronomy 26:16-19
- 2 The land God gives them will be theirs forever.
Exodus 32:11-14
- 3 Israel will be regathered, not for their own sake but for the sake of God’s holy name.
Ezekiel 36:16-28
- 4 Israel will be gathered in unbelief - their regathering is not reliant on their behaviour or beliefs.
Ezekiel 20:33-42

So we can definitely say that God has a future for Israel.

Stepping stone 2 – we need to be careful to agree with the Lord over the future of Israel. Though Israel was ‘cut off’ from God’s favour for a while, restoration is promised. (Romans 11)

The watch - in this day we see the beginning of God’s promise to Israel being fulfilled - they are now gathered and being gathered in unbelief. This is a significant sign to us and shows that the end time clock is advancing.

3 7

This may seem an unusual heading, just the number 7 !
There is a reason.

Some commentators avoid any consideration of numbers at their loss. A quick look at Revelation chapter 1 will demonstrate my point:

7 churches in Asia
7 spirits before His throne
7 lampstands with Jesus in the midst
7 stars in His right hand – being angels for the churches
... and later in Revelation
7 seals
7 angels
7 trumpets
7 thunders
7 heads
7 crowns
7 plagues
7 mountains
7 things the Lamb is worthy to receive – power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessing.

Here, where we have seen Jesus is in the midst, the number 7 has great significance – for here we see spiritual perfection. The number has not determined our doctrine but it does enhance our understanding.

In that light we can consider God's act of creation recorded for us in Genesis 1.

Six days of creative activity by our Lord ends with a seventh day of rest - a day which, incidentally, had no recorded ending. The result – everything was very good. Perfection.

Writing his second letter, in chapter 3, the apostle Peter is saying that the promise of Jesus return should not be forgotten. He refers back to creation (verse 6) and then goes on warning of coming judgement and telling us not to forget that 'one day is like (or is representative of) a thousand years.'

Here is a vital piece of understanding that we will see in all its importance in the following chapters. Regretfully, many dismiss the phrase saying it means 1 day represents any old time scale you choose to allocate to it - that is not what Peter the apostle said or meant, and it is not the truth!

The number 7 represents perfection and spiritual perfection.

More on the number 7 in my booklet 'Amazing numbers.'

Stepping stone 3 - understanding the significance of 7 especially in relation to God's plan of salvation.

Where 1 day of creation represents 1,000 years we could expect to be able to account for 6,000 years – we know 1,000 is still to come as the personal rule of Jesus.

(Revelation 19)

We most certainly can – refer to Ostrich Christianity to see in detail how the 'sands of time' have nearly run their course.

4 Does God's favour end?

Yes.

We have already mentioned Romans 11, the chapter that spells out that the favour of God is represented by the Olive Tree and its root of fatness.

Paul explicitly states that some of the branches have been broken off for unbelief. Here he is answering the question, *'has God cast away His people?'* – in the context, very clearly, a reference to Israel:

'Through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.' (verse 11)

We should now be able to discern that God's prime focus here is nations – that is Israel and Gentile nations, rather than just individuals. Some of the branches were broken off through unbelief, however Jewish believers who, like Job, placed their trust in the Messiah to come were not broken off. *'I know my redeemer lives.'* Job 19:25

Now God's focus switches away from Israel (temporarily) which has rejected the Messiah and onto the Gentile nations. A massive harvest of believers is found amongst the Gentiles who are grafted in to the Olive Tree and enjoy the flow of God's favour from the root of fatness. (Not from Israel – believing Jews are fellow branches enjoying God's favour, they are not the root.)

However, there is a warning. *‘Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but towards you, goodness if you continue in His goodness, otherwise you also will be cut off.’* (verse 22)

God’s goodness is there for all who believe. But for those who do not or will not there is only judgement remaining. This truth is very evident in the account of the Israelites who were miraculously delivered out of Egypt. Those who had seen the wonderful deliverance but failed to trust the Lord when it came to going into the Promised Land died out in the wilderness. They were not permitted entry – this was part of God’s judgement.

Jesus was specific in speaking to the Scribes and Pharisees – *‘See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.’* Matthew 23:28-9

‘If we sin willfully, after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgement.’ Hebrews 10:26-7.

Stepping stone 4. - God’s favour is for born again believers who have been judged already, found guilty, and been forgiven and washed clean by the blood sacrifice of Jesus. Final judgement will come on those who have not placed their trust in Him.

The door of salvation is still open for all who will place their trust in Jesus – even during the period of judgement yet to come.

5 Consummation and termination

The disciples were questioning Jesus. He had just berated the Scribes and Pharisees as we saw in the last chapter. They had just left the temple and the disciples were pointing out the magnificence of the temple.

Jesus said to them, *'Do you not see all these things, assuredly I say to you, not one stone will be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.'* Matthew 24:2

Now the disciples want to know more! *'Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming. And of the end of the age?'* (verse 3)

Jesus reply, *'Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, I am the Christ, and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.'* (verse 5-6)

A little lesson in Greek:

When the disciples ask the question the bold and underlined 'end' is the translation of '*sunteleia*.' The full meaning is consummation - that is the gathering together of the things that together make up the end period.

When Jesus replies 'end' is translated from '*telios*' which has the meaning termination.

Jesus goes on to tell them what makes up the period of the consummation - *'nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.'* (verse 7)

'All these are the beginning of sorrows.' (verse 8)

Stepping stone 5 - we now begin to understand that there is a period of consummation which is full of troubles before the end, the termination, of the current age. We are living in that time of consummation.

6 For Israel

We have already seen that our Lord has not yet finished with Israel, that the nation is being regathered in a period of troubles for the world.

'He spoke to them a parable; Look at the fig tree, and all the trees, when they are already budding, you see and know that the summer is near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the Kingdom of God is near. Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place.' Luke 21:29-31

Now we see Israel back as a nation – since 4th May 1948. Now we see many more nations have come into being – in 1930's there were only 66 nations, now there are over 200.

Consummation for Israel

Back to the gospel of Matthew. (It is generally recognized that the Gospel of Matthew has, in parts, specific importance and reference to Israel.)

Jesus warning: *'Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.'* Matthew 24: 9 The Jews have already suffered greatly, but there is more to come.

'When you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the Holy Place (in the rebuilt Temple), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. (verse 15)

Jesus goes on with specific instructions for those fleeing from Judea – hurry, hurry, don't turn back for possessions. Pray that your flight is not on the Sabbath. (verses 16-21)

Unless the days are shortened no flesh would survive. (v 22)

This is a time of mega trouble for Israel - in the Old Testament it is called 'the day of Jacob's trouble.' (Jeremiah 30:7) A significant sign will be Israel signing a peace agreement with the strong leader known as antichrist – this starts the last 'week' as recorded by Daniel. (Chapter 9) Zechariah tells us that only one third of the Jews will survive it. These are the ones brought through the fire and refined and who say, 'The Lord is my God.' (Zechariah 13:8-9)

Termination for Israel.

When the now believing remnant, the one third referred to above, recognize Him whom they pierced, mourn and say,
'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.'

Then:

'Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light: the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken – Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.' (verse 29-30)

Stepping stone 6 - Understanding that, during the period of consummation, Israel is restored as a nation and finally faces great tribulation at the termination of the age. One third will come to believe. We can see Israel being regathered.

7 For the Gentile nations and the church

The Gentile nations.

In chapter 4 we saw that there is a warning to the Gentiles. Stay in God's favour or you too will be cut off.

We need to remind ourselves just what the Gentile nations are at risk of being cut off from. It is the root and fatness of the Olive Tree- it is God's abundant favour. (The Olive Tree is God's favour from the root. We have joined any Jews who believe [they were not cut off with the unbelieving Jews] as branches of the Olive Tree, being nourished by the root – which surely represents our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom goodness, grace and mercy flow.)

We have seen that the Lord gave both the sun and the moon to measure days and years. We saw Noah in the ark for one lunar year plus 11 days making it a solar year in total.

So it is no surprise that the Lord has a method of counting the years of His favour that is a bit special. Take this bit slowly – it is a little complicated:

First He uses a lunar year of 354 days as we saw with Noah.

Second He introduces Jubilees (50th year). Jubilees speak massively of favour - all debts are forgiven, land is restored to original owners and so on. You can read all about it in Leviticus 25. The amazing thing is that the Jubilee year starts half way through the 49th year and ends half way through year 1 of the next cycle – it is not a year in its own right. We live and count 49 but God counts 50.

Thirdly He does not count years of judgement – as they are not years of favour! When Israel was under the domination of foreign rulers, that was judgement, so those years do not count in a total of years of favour.

Putting all this together there have been 1900 solar years (which relates to 2,000 lunar years calculated in the extraordinary way outlined above) of favour for the Gentiles since Christ's crucifixion.

Then the Gentile nations were cut off from God's favour – that was in 1933. In fact the specific date was 12th June 1933. This is now history and this is what happened:

The date was very heavily marked at the time. Every national newspaper carried the warning about the 12th of June in 1933. (A group of bible teachers had set themselves apart to understand these matters when the first world war ended at 11am on the 11th of the 11th month of 1918.)

The group received specific warnings 200 and again 40 days before what turned out to be the 'World Monetary and Economic Conference' held in London. 66 nations attended and ended up concluding that it was not beyond the wit of man to solve the massive economic problem the world faced at the time.

Here was an opportunity for the nations of the world, in dire economic trouble at the time, to call upon the Lord – they did not and slipped out of the favour of God. The warning had been clearly given.

For much more on this read 'Miracle of Time' by Frank L Paine (one of the group of bible teachers mentioned above) and published by Shiloh Ministries.

Consummation of the age for the Gentile Nations.

1933 started the consummation of the age for the Gentile Nations who soon found themselves in a massive world war again. We have and are seeing all the signs Jesus spoke of in Matthew 24.

Termination for gentile Nations

The termination of the age is the very same date for Israel and for the Gentile nations - Jesus returns as promised in Revelation 19, in Acts 1, Matthew 24, in parables and in other scriptures. This is **the Day of the Lord.**

The church – the bride.

Born again believers, whether racially Jew or Gentile, have become a new creation in Christ, and the 'middle wall of separation' mentioned by Paul in Ephesians 2:14 has been totally broken down. In Christ there is neither Jew nor Gentile.

As such every born again believer is in this world but not of this world. We are a completely different category! We are waiting for the fulfilment of Jesus promise:

'Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And If I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.' John 14:1-3

This is our inheritance referred to in other scriptures. This is what the bride of Christ should be watching for – the coming of Jesus.

'Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.' 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

This is known as the rapture of the church. There is much more on this subject in my booklet, 'Will the church be caught away?' This is what we are watching for.

Paul to the Thessalonians - *'you brethren are not in darkness, so that this day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.'* 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6 We should expect to see and know this day approaching as we watch.

In Revelation 19 we see the bride, returning from the Fathers House in heaven, with Jesus coming back to earth on white horses. So we must have been taken up to heaven sometime earlier, indeed before the judgement.

Each born again believer has, of course, been judged and found guilty, and been forgiven, and been washed clean by Jesus sacrifice. There is no further judgement for us. (Only our works are judged in the future).

The last seven years of the consummation of the age for both Israel and for the Gentile nations, concluding with the termination of the age, are a period of severe judgement of the peoples of the earth. This is recorded in Revelation 6 to 18 and is known as the Tribulation or the Great Tribulation.

Stepping stone 7

Now we are well into the period known as the consummation of the age. For Israel and for the Gentile nations the period ends with severe judgement.

The bride is watching for her bridegroom to come and keep her from the hour of trial for the whole world as promised to the Philadelphian church of Revelation 3:7-13.

With all believers gone in the rapture there will still be a 'church' on earth – the description of this church is found in Revelation 3:14-22 – it is blind and naked and has no white garments, there are no believers just religious people. Jesus stands at the door and knocks that some may believe and be saved.

The time is drawing very close now.

8 It's time for a wedding and a banquet.

Matthew perfectly records the sequence of events in chapters 24 and 25. So let's see what he has written.

As we have seen already His disciples had asked Him about the end (consummation) of the age. Jesus warned of what Matthew described as the beginning of sorrows - false Christs, wars, rumors of war, famines, pestilences and earthquakes. (24:4-8) Followed by:

Great tribulation. Jesus warns that when the abomination of desolation is standing in the Holy place in the Temple (rebuilt by now) that those in Judea should flee. Terrible tribulation comes --such that unless the days are shortened no one would survive. (24:15-29) Followed by:

The coming of Jesus and the gathering of the elect. (29-31) Jesus explains more in a parable:

The bridegroom is seen coming (with His bride), at midnight. 10 virgins (religious people) are waiting. Some have oil in their lamps - these are those who have survived to the termination of the age and become believers in the Lord Jesus in the process. Others have survived to the end but have no oil – they are not believers and are not permitted to enter into the banquet with the bride and bridegroom. (25:1-13)

Now Jesus will reward believers and judge the nations. The personal rule of Jesus for one thousand years awaits His bride and the believers from the Old Testament and from the Tribulation. Those shut out because they did not believe will go away into everlasting punishment. (25:14-46)

Where has the bride been in all of this? In heaven preparing ourselves for the wedding in heaven. (Revelation 19:7-8)
The wedding supper is announced (Revelation 19:9) Riding on white horses we return to earth with Jesus for the banquet and for the personal rule of Jesus. (Revelation 19:11-16 and 20:1-5)

Stepping stone 8

The return of Jesus for His bride is coming close. We will see this more clearly as we now move onto more advanced material – biblical and the signs we observe.

Stepping stone summary:

- 1 The doctrine of favour – we need this to understand that God measures time according to His favour which started with favour for all mankind.
- 2 The Lord God's favour rested on Israel and that He has not finished with that nation. Now we see Israel restored - a major sign for the last generation.
- 3 7 We saw the importance of 7 and of the 7 days of creation. Now we know, from the Apostle Peter, that each day of creation represents one thousand years on earth.
- 4 We saw that God's favour does end as we then move on to the culmination of the things of the current age.
- 5 We understood the difference between consummation and termination. The gathering together of what has to come to pass culminating in the termination – the Day of the Lord.
- 6 We saw that Israel faces terrible tribulation before one third call on Jesus and are saved.
- 7 We saw the meaning for the Gentile nations - terrible tribulation for unbelievers but for the believing church – the glorious hope of meeting Jesus in the air.

- 8 Finally the marriage, the wedding banquet and the entry into the personal rule of Jesus Christ here on earth for one thousand years.

The assertion that each day represents a thousand years is not fantasy, it's proven. In coming to understand the time scales of the cutting off of Israel and of the Gentile nations from God's favour it is helpful to see this assertion proven in history.

Please see my booklet 'Ostrich Christianity' for full details.

We are to be watching for:

***'Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.'* Titus 2:13**

Expect it soon!

In the contents list what now follows is described **as 'more advanced matters** – made easy.' This section contains material not widely known or understood, so is very likely to be new and eye opening to you. We already have the overall picture with the stepping stones of understanding. You may consider what follows is unnecessary but it adds tremendous insight and confirmation for those who want to work through it.

For more deeper insights to the following matters see 'Unlocking the biblical watch of Messiah's return' by Jonathan Hill – available on Amazon. Highly recommended.

A Revelation 13:18 'calculate the number'

'Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.'

The very concept of 'calculating' or 'counting' the number is new to most people. In the past many have looked upon numbers as irrelevant even as potentially evil - in so doing they have overlooked the instruction of scripture in this verse and missed seeing the wonderful depth of the inspiration of scripture.

Our Lord God created, through mankind, letters and numbers. The whole concept of writing and recording is His idea - after all He has the book of life itself! He created both Hebrew and Greek to have each letter represent a number.

The scripture, written in Hebrew (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament), is God breathed. So when God breathed the scriptures, through His human authors, He breathed matters that can be searched out both in terms of letters and of numbers - hence we are instructed to calculate or count the number.

The Lord God also created mathematics – so we need have no fear of numbers or of calculating or counting them.

Simple introduction to number calculating.

We are familiar with adding up, subtracting, multiplying and dividing but how do you calculate a single number?

A look at the Greek translated 'calculate' or 'count' according to your translation, will start us on our way. According to both Bullinger and Thayer the word '*psephizo*' means to count or reckon with small round pebbles.

Now picture a snooker table laid out with all the coloured balls. Replace the round pebbles in our translation with the 15 red balls which we see have been put in a wooden triangle with equal sides. So the bottom row has 5 balls, the next row up 4 balls, then 3, then 2, with one ball at the top. $5+4+3+2+1 = 15$.

In our example the bottom row is 5 balls making the total 15 balls the 5th triangular number because it can be organized like this without any balls left over.

(The next sequence would be based on 6 balls on the bottom row – then $6+5+4+3+2+1 = 21$ making 21 the 6th triangular number. And so on. It quickly becomes clear that the numbers 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 cannot be fitted in to this pattern and therefore are not triangular numbers.)

Now we can take the idea a stage further and make our triangle into a pyramid – adding three sides vertically from the base will make it three dimensional and it will be able to hold many more balls. In fact, in our example one would need 35 balls to make the pyramid.

What is the point?

As the creator of all numbers and of mathematics it is not surprising that the Lord uses them to confirm and to convey truths we have already discovered in regular bible study. We do not create doctrine with numbers, just confirm it! The Lord uses triangular and pyramid (technically 'tetrahedron') numbers to mark matters of particular importance.

To show you an amazing example:

In chapter 3 we saw that 7 represents spiritual perfection. Add to that number 10 - numerical completion and we have 17 representing that which is spiritually perfect and numerically complete – the believing church. Then calculate:

Stage 1 – triangular number.

17 represents the body of Christ. So taking 17 balls as the base, then a row of 16, then 15 and so on, we will need 153 balls to complete the triangle.

In John 21 there is the report of Jesus restoring the Apostle Peter. It involves another miraculous catch of fish – this time 153 great fish. The 153 fish are taken out of the water (representing the world) to Jesus in a net which does not break. 'The net' has a number value of 1224 which is 8 times 153. Eight is the number representing resurrection. Here the numbers are wonderfully confirming what we already know - the completed body of Christ will be taken out from the rest of humanity (the sea) to Jesus. According to 1 Thessalonians 4 we rise to meet Him in the air – the rapture of the believers.

Stage 2 – turn our triangle into a pyramid number.

Now to make a pyramid we are going to need many more balls – in fact we need a total of 969 balls.

969 is the age at which Methuselah died.

His name meant 'when he dies it will be sent.' Immediately after his death the great flood of judgement deluged the whole world wiping out all life – except for Noah and his family. Genesis chapters 6 to 8.

Summary of what the numbers confirm – the completed church of born again believers will be taken out of the world to Jesus before the great Day of Lord's judgement known as the Tribulation or the Great Tribulation.

666 is the mark of the beast.

Revelation 13:16-18 tells us that during the tribulation period buying and selling will only be possible if one has the mark of the beast on the right hand or forehead.

6 is recognized as the number representing man.

66 is the 11th triangular number. 11 speaks of imperfection and disorder, it also anticipates the perfect government of number 12. In this context it is anticipating:

666 is the 36th triangular number.

6th pyramid number is 56 which has the meaning, 'the perverse being to grips with the principles of nature and surrendered to his own justice - that is answerable to no one.'

So now we can summarise the meaning of calculating or counting the number of the beast.

It is representing a man, full of evil intent, coming to a position of extreme power in imperfect and disorderly government. It is a man putting himself above everything including the Lord God - he is described in revelation 13:1-10. The conclusion (for those alive in the tribulation - on no account take the mark of the beast.)

B The wonderful numberer

Having seen that numbers are God's creation and that He uses them to confirm good doctrine it is not surprising to find there is a wonderful numberer in scripture.

Jesus is the word of God made flesh.

Sometimes in the Old Testament we come across people who have the very qualities of God - Melchizedek is the best known example. He is described as having no beginning and no end, no mother and no father - this is a description of an eternal being. Melchizedek was the King of Salem (think Jerusalem). So we consider Melchizedek to be a pre-incarnation of Jesus. So now let's meet Jesus, the wonderful numberer.

Our translations have now lost sight of the wonderful numberer by translating verse 13 of Daniel chapter 8 as follows:

'Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, 'How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot.'"

That certain one who was speaking is in some versions and in other authorities a translation of *'palmoni'* the wonderful numberer. A pre incarnation of Jesus again.

His answer is 2300 days.

The application of 2300 days is still obscure. Some commentators believe it refers to the time (future when Daniel was written) when Antiochus Epiphanes desecrated the Jewish temple before and up to his death in around 165 BC.

Other commentators believe the one day represents one year principle needs to be applied and that somehow it will stretch from Daniel to the return of Jesus.

Neither understanding seems to fit with the chapter. The vision is said to be for the very end when a fierce king arises and even rises against the Prince of Princes.

The length of each day is twice defined as an evening and a morning - so literal days seem to be in view.

When we consider the numbers we can get a bit more light on the subject.

2300 is a pyramid number working its way up from a base of 23.

23 represent the last hour of trial - death and resurrection.
(Revelation 3:10)

276 is its triangular number representing believing Israel in the tribulation. (See the use of the number in Acts 27:37.)

2300 would then represent the second coming of Christ

I am sure there is more to learn so I am seeking the Lord for more understanding on this one.

c Signs and days, years and numbers

Fig tree

The specific sign given by Jesus has already been seen in stepping stone number 6. This is a very important sign and one we can easily watch. The regathering process for Israel is still happening before our eyes. The message is - this generation will not pass away till all things take place. We are right on the cusp of fulfilment. We are heading for the great 'Day of the Lord.'

There is more - when Israel was taken captive into Babylon (see Jeremiah and Daniel) the process was accomplished in four stages over **19 years**. They were captive for 70 years in total. Israel was re-established in 1948, just one biblical 'hour' after the cutting off of the Gentile nations. **19 years** later in 1967, as a result of the war, Israel recovers more territory including the wailing wall. The necessary process of the consummation for Israel continues.

Fire

Joel, in chapters 1 and 2 has fire devouring. *'For fire has devoured the open pastures and a flame has burned all the trees of the field.'* This is stated to be before the great 'Day of the Lord.'

The number of fires around the world has been increasing greatly - it is reported that this year, 2019 up to the summer, the Amazon basin has suffered 73,000 fires – mostly man made!

The other signs of Matthew 24

Jesus listed other signs which precede the great 'Day of the Lord.' They continue and will continue unabated during the consummation period. (Verses 4-8)

A more current sign

A remarkable rescue took place in 2010 – the whole world watched it taking place on television.

Before we see the details we are just going to consider the number 33. As we have ascertained previously numbers can carry spiritual meaning.

How do we determine a meaning for a number? In the case of 33 it is discerned this way:

1 The 33rd mention of Noah (found in Genesis 9) is when God says to him, *'This rainbow is the **sign** of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.'*

2 The 33rd mention of Peter (found in Acts) is when Peter receives the vision of all the animals lowered to him in a sheet with the instruction to kill and eat. This was the **sign** that opened the door to Peter going to the Gentiles.

3 The 33rd time we meet Paul (found in Acts) is when Paul is explaining Old Testament **signs** that proved Jesus to be the Messiah.

The sign –

On August 5th 2010 a mine collapsed in the Atacama Desert, in Chile, South America. 33 miners were trapped underground. The amazing rescue process was watched by billions on television. On 13th October 2010 all 33 were safely brought to the surface.

There were many 33's in the rescue – the day of discovery of the miners was the last day of the 33rd week of the year - the first message from the miners contained 33 letters – the drill used to create the rescue shaft had a diameter of 33 centimetres - the average temperature in the mine was 33 degrees C – the spiritual leader of the group had been married 33 years and had worked in the mine for 33 years.

The rescue date was 13/10/10 $13+10+10 = 33$

The world was astonished at the remarkable rescue – it was a sign!

So what we see is a picture of what will be accomplished at the rapture of the church. Jesus said, *'This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing but should raise it up at the last day.'* John 6:39
The rapture will take the whole born again church (none lost) from the darkness of this world up into the glorious light with Jesus.

Another more current sign

In Revelation we read that, towards the end of the consummation period, 10 kings will arise followed by a further king (known and defined as the beast). During their tenure of '1 hour' the 10 kings hand their kingdom to the beast. (Revelation 17:12-18)

When we consider the statue in the vision given to Nebuchadnezzar, (Daniel chapter 2) it becomes apparent that the final kingdom before the return of Christ is pictured by 10 toes, 5 on each leg of the statue. Each element of the statue is explained in the scripture and is now confirmed history –

The head was Babylon, the chest and arms represented the Medes and Persians, the belly and thighs represented Greece and the legs Rome.

As each stage of the vision has a literal fulfilment, it would be folly to think that the 10 toes don't have such a fulfilment – especially as Revelation 17 makes confirmation.

Looking to the modern equivalent of the Roman Empire we can see Europe unifying under the Treaty of Rome. The European Union which is ruled by 5 Presidents could represent the Western 'leg' of the Roman Empire with 5 'toes.'

The Eastern leg of the Roman Empire is not quite so clear but would be likely to include, Turkey, Syria/Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Watch this space! – bit by bit it will be clearer as we watch.

Days and years and numbers

I want to draw your attention to 'Unlocking the biblical watch of Messiah's return' by Jonathan Hill – available on Amazon. Jonathan has done extensive examination of current events and found some remarkable associations. His work takes in some deep concepts which will be completely new ground for us. A number of current events are shown to be linked in a remarkable way by days and by years and by numbers. October 13th 2025 is shown to be a focus point which could possibly be the rapture of the church.

In considering all Jonathan's findings we should be willing to be instructed and prayerful, discerning as we go what the Lord is wanting us to understand. As we watch we can expect things to become clearer – so that which is true will be confirmed, while anything incorrect will fall away. Prayer and discernment are vital. In this area.

Conclusion - the watch.

The KEY message is the one we started with:

‘Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.’ Jesus message to the church in Revelation 3:3

Are we watching, are you watching, do we expect Messiah’s return, do you expect Messiah’s return or will it come upon us as a thief, upon you as a thief. Are we ready? Are you ready?

A second KEY message is this:

‘But concerning the times and seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, ‘Peace and safety, then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labour pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of the darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.’

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6. We will know as we watch.

Much of the body of Christ has been ‘asleep’ in this regard, not even considering that Jesus return for His bride is likely to be soon, if at all! It is time to repent – the Lord wants His bride to be looking forward to and looking for His return.

We are expected to know when Jesus will come for us. (Only during the tribulation, which does not apply to the bride of Christ, will they not know the day or hour of the second coming - because the days of the tribulation are shortened to allow some to survive.)

There is good reason to think that the year 2033 will be very significant. We have seen history in blocks of 2,000 years and we know that the coming age of Jesus rule on earth is 1,000 years - so why would the age of the church from Jesus death to His return be different. We have seen 33 representing a sign - what greater sign that the death and resurrection of Jesus in AD 33? 2,000 years to 2033?

The last 7 years of the current age are a period of tribulation on earth whilst the bride gets herself ready in her Father's House in heaven. So we can expect the rapture of the church may be around 2025 - about 7 years before His return to earth – for we come with Him. Jonathan sees 13th October as very significant, maybe it will turn out to be the rapture. Whether it does or it doesn't isn't the point - the point is we will know for sure as we watch, and watch we certainly should!

'The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.' 'Surely I am coming quickly' Amen. Even so come Lord Jesus.' (From Revelation 22:17-21)

Appendix - How we came to understand days and years.

Much in the watch appends on understanding God's plan for the sun and the moon to be responsible for ruling the seasons, the days and the years. Genesis 1:14.

Today we have the benefit of great bible students who have gone before us. We can 'stand' on their shoulders and with that higher view we can now go even further and higher.

Henry Grattan Guinness (1835 – 1910) proposed that in some circumstances one day could represent one year.

Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, was subject to a second dream in which he was likened to a tree that was chopped down. He was then subjected to a seven year period eating grass like the beasts of the field.

Grattan Guinness proposed that there would be a correlation between Nebuchadnezzar's 2520 days (7 Babylonian years of 360 days each.) and the establishment again of the nation of Israel.

His dates were:

1914 which was the start of the 1st world war.

1917 which saw the Balfour declaration and the capture of Jerusalem from the Turks.

1923 which saw the League of Nations give Britain a mandate over Palestine.

1933 which we have already discussed was the World Economic Conference and the cutting off of the Gentile Nations from God's favour.

All of these events were stepping stones in the restoration of the nation of Israel.

Sir Edward Denny was thinking about the scripture - *'Lord how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times? Jesus said to him, I do not say to you up to seven times but up to seventy times seven.'*
Matthew 18:21-22.

He quickly recognized that seventy times seven being 490 has a connection with the Jubilee. The Jubilee is all about forgiveness and restoration and is therefore very relevant to the Apostle Peter's question.

Everyone recognizes the jubilee as the 50th year – but in Leviticus 25 we learn that the jubilee is to start half way through the 49th year and ending half way through the 1st year of the next cycle.

So this 50th year is one that God counts but we do not experience as a separate year - it straddles the 49th and 1st year of two cycles.

Now it became clear that Jesus likened forgiveness to 10 jubilee cycles of 49 years – hence $70 \times 7 = 490$ years. At the same time God is counting 500 in His calendar of favour. Four of these major cycles of 500 years make 2,000 years.

Before Israel there were 4 500 year cycles making 2000 years and for Israel there were also 4 500 years cycles making another 2,000 years in the chronology of favour. This is now proven historical fact - see Ostrich Christianity or Miracle of Time for details.

The Apostle Peter made the very important statement: *'But beloved do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as (that is represents) a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.'* 2 Peter 3:8

A E Ware and F Payne put together the exact biblical chronology. As we have noted, both the sun (solar) and the moon (lunar) have responsibility for ruling the years. That there are chronologies based on each of the sun and the moon should not be a surprise. That the two chronologies come together at exactly the same date after 4,000 years is astonishing. How can 4,000 solar years of 365.25 days start and finish on the same day as 4,000 years of 354 days? The answer is found in the method of counting years of God's favour. This is how they are counted: The chronology of favour is based on what are sometimes called 'bible years' of 354 days. (Lunar years) When we count 49 years God counts 50 years. Periods when Israel were under the domination of foreign rulers God does not count in His years of favour because they are periods of judgement and not of favour.

Many find the question of creation difficult because they cannot perceive a very young earth only around 7,000 years old.

But look at Genesis more carefully and this is what we see: Verse 1 *'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.'* Just consider for a moment – at this point would the earth be in total darkness? Could God who is light create it like that? Did something happen to bring in verse 2 -

Verse 2 *'The earth was without form and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.'* How did the earth become like this? Does Peter have the answer? – *'By the word of God the heavens were of old (ancient), and the earth through water and in water by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.'* This could refer to a time before mankind when the earth was created for Lucifer as his domain. (See Ezekiel 28) If this is the right interpretation it accounts for the seemingly long ages well before the Genesis 1:3-31 and well before Noah's flood.

Whatever, from the point when God said. *'Let there be light'* we have a clear analysis of 6 days of creativity followed by 1 open day of rest. Revelation 20 strongly confirms 1,000 years for Jesus personal rule.

The broad summary of time now looks like this:

2,000 Years before Abraham
2,000 Years from Abraham to Jesus
2,000 Years from Jesus crucifixion to His return
1,000 Years of Jesus personal rule

7,000 YEARS TOTAL.

Please see 'Ostrich Christianity' for the full details of what is here in summary form.

**Now we are certain – the end time clock is well advanced
And the watch is increasingly vital.**

Other titles:**The ICCC – Transformed Working Life series:**

Inherent Power

Work is a 1st class calling

No one can serve two masters

Hope - the certainty of future blessing

Faith or presumption

Hearing God speak

Working from rest

Renewing the mind

Be strong in the battle

Anointing

Fruitfulness

Other booklets written for ICCC

Powered by grace

Works of power - now is the time

Stand tall - take your position

Transformed Working Life - quick view

Other publications

Will the church be caught away?

Explaining the future.

Rightly dividing the word of truth.

So that's what it's all about (overview of the bible account)

*Daniel (introductory level)

*Revelation (introductory level)

Ostrich Christianity

Israel and the church not in competition

Favour - enjoying the children's bread.

What should we do with money?

Going for Gold – the testing and stretching of our faith

After Brexit – the nature of the battle ahead

Last Orders

Wisdom

The King is coming
Health and Healing
The sign of Jonah – solved
Understanding the parable of the 10 virgins
The Kingdom Way
The Persistent Widow
Can I lose my salvation?
Meet the Teacher
Love, 153 fish and seven signs
Paul's thorn in the flesh - its message for today
Deception and how to avoid it
Chosen and Choice
The end is not quite yet
Amazing numbers
Blood – the blood of the New Covenant
Building spiritual strength
Grace and judgement
The believer's authority
God's eternal purpose
And God spoke - hearing God speak today
Understanding Hebrews
Reigning in life
Inspiration from Word for the week

To access printed copies at Amazon - type peter michell in the search box.

* Not in print

All booklets are available as free PDF downloads at www.freebiblebooklets.com