

1. *The Connection Between Jubilee Cycles and the Timing of the Messiah's Return*

As I mentioned in our introduction, we have reviewed both the “49-year Jubilee cycle” belief and the “50-year Jubilee cycle” belief, and although we have chosen to lean a certain way, we do not feel any animosity towards those who do not agree with our conclusion. However, we *do* have concerns regarding the use of the Jubilee cycle as a means of “setting dates” based upon the interpretation of Bible prophecies. While my Jubilee discussions have only been with W. Glenn Moore, I have found that other folks also use the Jubilee cycle so as to introduce us to the timing of Scriptural events, all the way from the date of Creation to the timing of the second coming of Yeshua the Messiah. In order to accomplish this chronological determination, I have found that they often take liberties with the plain instructions found in Yahweh’s Word, and this, combined with Glenn’s adamant stand that the Jubilee cycle consists of 49 years, concerned me to the point that I eventually decided to put my own thoughts into written form. I want to make it clear that I write solely from the perspective of an individual who seeks the proper understanding of Yahweh’s Word, and I certainly do not condemn anyone who disagrees with our position, nor do I deny that each of us should be keenly aware of the “times and the seasons” (1 Thessalonians: 5:1-4).

All calculations relevant to the timing of Scriptural events aside, the question I am led to ask myself is, “If I were living in the days in which Sabbatical years and Jubilee years were observed, would I reckon them the way Glenn and others of his persuasion teach that they should be determined?”

Before we answer the above question, let’s first examine how different authors believe the Sabbatical years and Jubilee years should be determined. I have found that there are two primary interpretations of the commandment to observe the Jubilee cycle. The one interpretation, which is endorsed by June and me, enjoins that each Jubilee cycle contains 50 years. The other interpretation, supported by Glenn and many others, maintains that each Jubilee cycle consists of 49 years, with a designated “year 50” overlapping “year 1” of the next cycle. This “Year 50 = Year 1”¹ belief is somewhat confusing at first glance because one might think that if there is a “year 50,” then it must be a 50-year cycle. However, if “year 50” coincides with “year one” of the following Jubilee cycle, this “overlap” produces a 49-year cycle instead of a 50-year cycle. Here is how the author of an internet article explains this latter interpretation:

Also of importance is that the entry into the promised land occurred in 1406 BC. This means that we are currently half-way through the important 70th jubilee cycle, which will end in the spring of AD 2025. (70 x 49, which is 7 x 70 x 7 years, or 490 x 7 years. A jubilee is counted as 7 x 7 years in succession, with the 50th overlapping the first year of the next cycle of 49 years. Hence, the seven year Sabbaths and the 49-year jubilee cycles run uninterrupted in the same way as the regular weekly Sabbaths. God is consistent!)²

¹ For lack of a better designation, I will occasionally refer to this “two years overlapping as one year” approach as the “Year 50 = Year 1” method. It is certainly a method that is nowhere introduced or explained in Scripture, which is why proponents of this belief often find it necessary to go into considerable detail to explain it to others.

² From “The Geneva Peace Treaty: A Sign of What’s to Come,” by Dean Thomas Coombs. The entire article may be read by accessing the following URL:

<http://www.bible-codes.org/Geneva-peace-treaty-covenant-Israel.htm>

The author of the above excerpt shares Glenn's view that the 50th year overlaps the first year of the next Jubilee cycle. In other words, "year 50" is *also* "year one" of the following cycle. I'm sure there are other ideas and explanations pertaining to how count to Jubilee years, but the above is the one I am most familiar with. Interestingly, I find that although most of the explanations I have come across agree with the one cited above, virtually each individual's calculation seems to produce a different year in which the current Jubilee cycle ends. The above individual, as revealed in his commentary, maintains that the current cycle will end in the year 2025. Another individual, whose comment is cited below, speculates that the next Jubilee year will correspond to the year 2010:

I made my own chart, and guess what? The year 2010 AD came out as the Jubilee Year.

Sept. 9, 2010 is Tishri 1, 5771, the Feast of Trumpets that is Christ's Coronation Day in Heaven. It is also the day of the Marriage of the Lamb and the Judgment Seat of Christ. It is the Day of God's Wrath too. If this is correct, Jesus would return, as I thought, on the following Nisan 1, 5771 (April 5, 2011), during the Jubilee Year.³

I never cease to be amazed at how there seems to be no end to individuals offering their predictions of when the Messiah will return, even though Yeshua plainly stated, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."⁴ The above prediction is but one of many I have read over the years. Other prognosticators, a little more cognizant of Yeshua's words, but still perhaps a little too sure of themselves, say things like, "He said no man knows the *day and hour* ... He didn't say we can't know the *month and year*!" Their different conclusions notwithstanding, both individuals from whom I have quoted thus far agree that "year 50" of the Jubilee cycle overlaps the first year of the *next* cycle. In other words, "year 50" and "year 1" coincide.

At this point, some folks may reach the premature conclusion that I am making a "sweeping generalization" that all believers who support the "Year 50 = Year 1" method are date-setters. However, all I am presenting here is a general observation that, to date, has consistently been true. There are bound to be some individuals out there who prove to be the "exception," so I don't mean to paint a broad picture of all "Year 50 = Year 1" adherents as being date-setters. Nevertheless, it all fits. Since I don't know of anyone who is actually willing and able to fully observe the Year of Jubilee, the only reason I can imagine for attributing such prominence to this belief is the setting of dates and times. I mean, I certainly doubt that any modern-day landowners out there are going to find out who owned the land before they did and return it to their descendents during the Jubilee Year, which is what landowners would be required to do if they truly observed the Jubilee Year. There may be a few folks out there who will blow the trumpet on the Day of Atonement to announce the Year of Jubilee, and there will likely be some believers who will not sow or reap during that year, but I highly doubt that it will go much further than that, if at all, in this day and age. Let's face it: You're not likely going to find any articles written about the Jubilee cycle from the perspective that we need to remember to not sow and reap during that year. Such being the case, the only reason I can think of for attributing so much significance to the Jubilee cycle that an individual would go so far as to name his ministry something akin to "Jubilee Countdown Ministries" would be to

³ Taken from the Prophecy.com website, "Pro and Con 1209," 05-23-2005, by Marilyn J. Agee, located at the following URL: <http://www.prophecycorner.com/agee/procon1209.html>. Note: The author also wrote that she believed the rapture would occur on the day of Pentecost, 1998 (see "Pro and Con 2").

⁴ Cf., Matthew 24:36.

direct his followers to the dates he has come up with while conducting his personal Jubilee cycle research. Of course, those dates include the timing of the Messiah's return.

By now it is certainly obvious that the primary supporter of the "Year 50 = Year 1" position with whom I am acquainted is W. Glenn Moore. In 2008, Glenn participated in a forum discussion board in EliYah's Forums,⁵ in which he laid his foundation that the 6000th year since Creation will begin in the year 2015. In a forum discussion that he initiated pertaining to the topic of "Jubilees, Sabbaticals, and Bible Chronology," Glenn submitted the following commentary:

I don't know when the Messiah will come, or when the end will be, but the signs clearly show that the time is near. 200,000+ people have died in Asia because of the cyclone in Burma (130,000) and the earthquake in China (70,000). And it happened soon after the start of Passover!! Is it just a coincidence that this also comes in a Sabbatical year? [Yes, we are now in a Sabbatical year.] My message is not about an exact date for all of these events, but it IS "About Time." Surely Yahweh does not want His children to be ignorant of the "season" of the coming of His Son, and His kingdom? The year 6000 is just around the corner, and while I cannot claim infallibility I do believe that we CAN know with 99% certainty when that year is. And yes, I have solid documentation to back that up.⁶

If you read the first portion of the above commentary apart from the second portion, you can see an apparent contradiction between the two portions. We first learn that Glenn doesn't know when the Messiah will come, a statement that June and I certainly agree with. He goes on to remark that the signs indicate that the time of His return is near. Again, we agree. After all, who can argue with Yeshua's own words in Revelation 22:20:

²⁰ The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."
Amein! Come, Master Yeshua!

So, yes, we certainly agree with the upper portion of Glenn's posting, and without question the season of Yeshua's return is near. If we cannot see this for ourselves, then we should at least believe Yeshua's own words. However, I purposely highlighted Glenn's last two sentences because I believe we should pay close attention to how those words contrast with his introductory words. On the one hand, Glenn states that he doesn't know when the Messiah will come. On the other hand, he is 99% certain of when the year 6000 will be. As we will see shortly, Glenn believes that knowing when the next millennium begins simultaneously reveals a time frame wherein the Messiah "must" return. Thus, June and I find ourselves dealing with an individual who seems to recognize the awkwardness involved with the setting of dates (and trying to remove himself from the stigma associated with his predecessors who were proven wrong), while simultaneously not being able to restrain himself from pointing out that he does indeed believe he knows the correct timing of these prophetic events.

Does Glenn believe the timing of the year 6000 plays a role in determining the timing of the Messiah's return? Absolutely. In a subsequent posting, Glenn made it clear that the Jubilee cycle plays a significant role in his dating process, which includes the timing of the Messiah's second coming:

⁵ EliYah's Forums may be accessed by going to the following URL: www.eliyah.com.

⁶ From a posting submitted by W. Glenn Moore on June 16, 2008 under the screen name gmoore44 in the forum thread entitled "Jubilees, Sabbaticals, and Bible Chronology."

The Bible is full of mathematical formulas, some complex and some simple. The formulas we will talk about here are relatively simple, and yet most people do not even realize that they exist. Did you know of these formulas, or what I call the **Jubilee Code**?⁷

If (and I say that with a straight face), IF my calendar is correct then **September 16, 2015 will be the BEGINNING of the 6000th year**. The Bible is full of mathematical formulas, some complex and some simple. The formulas we will talk about here are relatively simple, and yet most people do not even realize that they exist. [I recommend downloading the Excel file (The Jubilee Calendar) and going through each of the calendars, then checking at the end of the document for all of the reference pages. Everything is fully documented.] But just remember, **the millennium actually begins 1 year later (about 354 days later) at the next feast of trumpets. Does that mean Messiah will come at that time--who is to say? It could be sooner, and there is no reason to doubt that he could come at anytime between now and then.** Regarding the 7 year peace treaty, I don't know where Scripture actually supports such a view. I am more inclined to believe there will be a 3 1/2 year tribulation, followed by about 1 year of the 7 last plagues (during which we will have left the cities and returned to Jerusalem to await the Messiah). At least, that is my current understanding.⁸

Glenn makes it clear that IF his calendar is correct (and he has already stated that he is 99% certain of its accuracy), the 6000th year begins in the year 2015. Moreover, Glenn has privately (*though not confidentially*) told me that the Messiah MUST return prior to the 6000th year, and in the above commentary, he concedes that His return could come “anytime between now and then,” which effectively rules out any time afterwards. In other words, according to Glenn, Yeshua’s return MUST come prior to the year 2016, and the driving force behind this determination is Glenn’s proposed “Jubilee Code.” Once again, we find that men’s notions regarding the timing of the Jubilee cycle are used to persuade us about the timing of Scriptural events, all the way from the date of Creation to the timing of the second coming of Yeshua the Messiah. On his web site, Glenn repeats the claim he made in the internet forum, adding additional details:

Based upon my extensive research on the Jubilee cycles, I can state with almost complete certainty that 3985 BCE is the year of Creation, and 2015 CE will be the beginning of the 6000th year of history (based upon this very-well documented timeline). Assuming that the last millennium begins one year later, the year 2016 CE (on Tishri 1, in the fall) will be the beginning of the last 1000 years. The countdown shown below is to the *beginning* of the 6000th year, based upon the Jubilee Calendar (the visible crescent, Jerusalem time and ending at sunset). This is about a seven-year countdown. About one year later, in the eighth year from now, the seventh millennium should begin.⁹

In the above commentary, we not only read the author’s “almost certain” claim regarding the year of Creation, but we also read the confirmation of his claim pertaining to the 6000th year.

⁷ Ibid, June 22, 2008 at 8:06 AM.

⁸ Ibid, June 22, 2008 at 11:10 PM.

⁹ Excerpt from Glenn Moore’s web site article “It’s About That Time,” located at <http://www.itsaboutthattime.net/>.

Of course, we need to point out that, as with the previous author, Glenn is persuaded that a Jubilee cycle is 49 years in length, not 50 years.¹⁰ In fact, as I stated previously, we have found that the majority of articles written concerning the Jubilee cycle are written from this same perspective. As I gathered information for this study, I conducted a “Google search” for articles pertaining to the Jubilee cycle¹¹, and the overwhelming majority of “hits” generated by the search were for websites supporting the “Year 50 = Year 1” doctrine. In fact, the owner of the web site that made the top of the list of hits agrees with Glenn on the year when 6,000 “years of sin” comes to an end: 2015.

In the fall of 2015 the 6,000 years of sin on earth will come to an end. Jesus will come to take His people to heaven and the 1,000 years of rest for the earth will begin.

Between 2008 and 2015 the great tribulation will occur and many other Bible prophecies will be fulfilled.¹²

The author of the above commentary, who chooses to remain anonymous, leaves no doubt that he is predicting the time of the Messiah's return, and a focal point of his message involves the Jubilee cycle. In fact, another author of a Jubilee study refers to this approach as the “*Messiah Jubilee Theory*.”¹³

From an anonymous internet article entitled *The Jubilee Cycles*, we read virtually the same “year 50 = year 1” rationale:

¹⁰ For example, we read in chapter 6 of Glenn's book *The Jubilee Code*, p. 64, “If Daniel bases his prophecy on the Jubilee cycles (as I have just shown), and the period of time which his prophecy concerns is 70 times 7 (or 490 years), then he demonstrates by his testimony that the Jubilee cycles are intended to be 49 year cycles, not 50 year cycles.”

¹¹ When conducting the “Google search,” I only used the following search criteria: “Jubilee cycle years Messiah.” A screen shot displaying the top five “hits” generated by my search (all of which support a 49-year Jubilee cycle), is located in the [Appendix](#). For the record, I am *not* pointing out that the majority view supports the 49-year cycles in an effort to depict “the broad road of destruction” (Matt. 7:13-14). Rather, I point out the majority view mainly out of surprise that, in spite of the many articles we have reviewed, none of them offer satisfactory explanations for why a Jubilee cycle should consist of 49 years instead of the fifty years mentioned in Scripture, or even an explanation of why “Year 50” should be understood as coinciding with “Year 1” of the next cycle, even though Scripture does not mention such a requirement, which one would think would be necessary for proper understanding of how to reckon the cycles. I also mention the majority view because, in every instance, the articles I reviewed by these authors shared the common thread of promoting the dating of prophetic events. I am sure there are exceptions out there, but not in any of the articles we reviewed.

¹² From the article, “Is the Jubilee cycle 49 years or 50 years?”, which can be accessed at the following URL: <http://www.markbeast.com/70jubilees/fortynine.htm>. Note: The anonymous author may agree with Glenn Moore with regard to when the year 6,000 will occur, but he is at odds with Mr. Moore when it comes to the year in which the Israelites entered the Promised Land. Elsewhere on the above author's site, he writes that the Israelites entered the Promised Land *during a Jubilee Year*, a point that Glenn disagrees with, and a point that, as we will soon see, is a critical one with regard to our discussion. In the article “Do 70 Jubilees predict the end of the world in 2015?”, the author writes, “The 70 Jubilees began in 1416 BC when God's children entered Canaan. The 70 Jubilees will end 3,430 years later in 2015 AD when God's children will enter heavenly Canaan.” (From <http://www.markbeast.com/endworld/jubilees-end-world.htm>). Later in our study, we will see that Glenn agrees that ancient Judaism understood that it was a Jubilee Year when the Israelites entered into the Promised Land. In fact, we will also see that *The Book of Jubilees*, an ancient text cited by Glenn in support of the 49-year Jubilee cycle, supports a Jubilee Year entrance into the Promised Land.

¹³ Taken from the following website: http://www.sabbathcovenant.com/doctrine/144_years_of_jubilee_cycle.htm. I believe the author's name is Paul Sides. Although his name does not appear in the posted study, it does appear on other studies found on this web site. He concludes his article with the following words: “The *Messiah Jubilee Theory* is thus projecting the 2nd Advent of *Jesus Christ* to be no later than the year 2009 AD.”

The Connection Between Jubilee Cycles and the Timing of the Messiah's Return

The jubilee cycle is 50 years long and begins every 49 years, so that the 50th, or jubilee, year of one cycle is also the first year of the next cycle.¹⁴

This same author also offers a “calendar” depicting how he believes the Jubilee cycle should be reckoned. As you can see from the calendar, shown below, this individual is likewise persuaded that the Jubilee cycle is actually 49 years long, not 50:

Year 1 "Sunday"	Year 2 "Monday"	Year 3 "Tuesday"	Year 4 "Wednesday"	Year 5 "Thursday"	Year 6 "Friday"	Year 7 Sabbath
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Sabbath (land rests)
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Sabbath (land rests)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Sabbath (land rests)
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Sabbath (land rests)
29	30	31	32	33	34	35 Sabbath (land rests)
36	37	38	39	40	41	42 Sabbath (land rests)
43	44	45	46	47	48	49 Sabbath (land rests)
50/1 Jubilee (land rests)	2	3	4	5	6	7 Sabbath (land rests)
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Sabbath (land rests)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Sabbath (land rests)
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Sabbath (land rests)
29	30	31	32	33	34	35 Sabbath (land rests)
36	37	38	39	40	41	42 Sabbath (land rests)
43	44	45	46	47	48	49 Sabbath (land rests)
50 Jubilee (land rests)						

¹⁴ From a Seventh-Day Adventist website article (written by an anonymous author) entitled “The Jubilee Cycles,” which may be read by accessing the following URL:

http://www.danielrevelation.com/sda/reference/jubilee_cycles.html

Also, see *The Chronology of the Old Testament: Solving the Bible's Most Intriguing Mysteries*, Floyd Nolen Jones, New Leaf Publishing Group, Green Forest, AR, November 2004, p. 288, where the author writes, “Whereas the Year of Jubilee is regarded as the 50th year (Lev. 25:10), there are only 49 years from one Jubilee to the next.”

Is the above author's definition of a Jubilee cycle Scriptural? Can we find in Scripture a teaching that the 50th year is also the first year of the next cycle? In a word, the answer is no. The above definition does not come from Scripture; rather, it comes from an *interpretation* of Scripture.

Glenn Moore, in his rebuttal to our original study, took issue with the above paragraph, and wrote the following:

COMMENT: I disagree! This view is not strictly an "interpretation of Scripture." Larry says that those who follow my view (the 49 year cycle) do not base it upon Scripture, but instead from their "interpretation of Scripture." My question is, how so?¹⁵

I would answer Glenn's "How so?" by stating that unless he can produce a direct statement from Scripture in which we read that the 50th, or Jubilee, year of one cycle is *also* the first year of the next cycle, then his definition constitutes an *interpretation of Scripture*. By reading Glenn's "disagreement," it becomes apparent that he believes his view is more than an interpretation: It is, to Glenn, an incontrovertible fact. However, a couple of years prior to authoring the above comments, Glenn wasn't quite as certain of his "Scriptural definition." What follows is an excerpt from a commentary that Glenn posted in an online forum in August 2006:

Now I have to admit it is strange that Yahweh leaves us "hanging" regarding that 50th year--I sure wish He had made it clearer. Evidently, in that year (which started the new cycle) they did not sow or reap just as in the Sabbatical years. That meant they apparently only sow or reap for 5 years instead of 6 after the year of Jubilee. But when you "weigh all the evidence" it is not difficult to see that all of these cycles are endlessly repeating cycles of time. A 49 year cycle is something which can be defended with Scripture (as I have done). And it can be defended with history (although I haven't gone into that much, as of yet).¹⁶

For someone who currently believes that the teaching "**The 50th year is also the first year of the next cycle**" is *more* than just an "interpretation of Scripture," Glenn is certainly more sure of himself *now* than he was a couple of years earlier. In order to get a firm grasp of what Scripture actually *does* say, let's review the text in question. We will do this in our next section.

¹⁵ From "In response to *The Jubilee Cycle*," by W. Glenn Moore, December 2008, page 7. At one time, Glenn posted this study on his web site, but he removed it in the spring of 2009. For reference purposes, we have decided to post his *original* study (November 2008) on our web site. It may be read in its entirety by accessing the following URL:

<http://www.ponderscripture.org/PDF%20Files/Jubilees%20-%20Glenns%20Original%20Rebuttal%20to%20Our%20Study%2011-01-08.pdf>.

¹⁶ From a posting submitted by Glenn Moore, under the screen name "gmoore44," to an online forum located at www.eliyah.com. This forum was a special forum set up by the forum owner for the purpose of discussing the Lunar Sabbath doctrine, and it was called the "True Sabbath" forum until it was closed by the owner in 2008. The "forum thread" was called "**70 Week Prophecy Confirms Weekly Cycle**," and Glenn posted the above commentary on 08-20-2006 at 01:59 PM.