

13. *I am a Date-Setter*

After having considered our position in this matter ... after all the criticism that I have directed towards W. Glenn Moore for being a date-setter ... I have come to realize that I am, in fact, a date-setter, too. Of course, I need to immediately interject here that I am not a date-setter after the manner prescribed and practiced by Glenn. Glenn has made it clear that he believes the Messiah will return “in or before the year 2016”:

QUESTION: If we cannot know the exact day or hour of the Messiah's coming, can we at least know the year?

ANSWER: Just because we can know approximately when the last millennium begins does not mean we can know exactly when the Messiah is coming, unless he should decide to reveal it to us. The Messiah can come at any time *prior* to that event, and *assuming that my calculations are correct then we can be pretty certain he will return in or before the year 2016*. We also need to be aware that the day of Judgment is more likely to take place over a period of at least one year or more, and so it is enough that we should prepare for the "season" of Messiah's coming--and **that "season" is now here**. It is "About Time."¹

Of course, if you have followed Glenn's commentaries both in this study and on his website, you know that he is also on record as stating that he is not “really” a date-setter. This is because, as he puts in so many words, he feels that Yahweh has given him this understanding:

*So, I am not really setting dates--only Yahweh our Creator can set dates. I am merely doing calendar research and comparing the results to certain heavenly signs. Amazingly, these signs appear to line up with the Jubilee Calendar. I honestly do not know when the Messiah will come, nor **exactly** how much time we have to prepare for the day of judgment. Please note the emphasis on the word "exactly," because what I *am* saying is we can know "about" how much time we have. And so I *do* know that we are nearing the end of this age, for **the time is at hand!***²

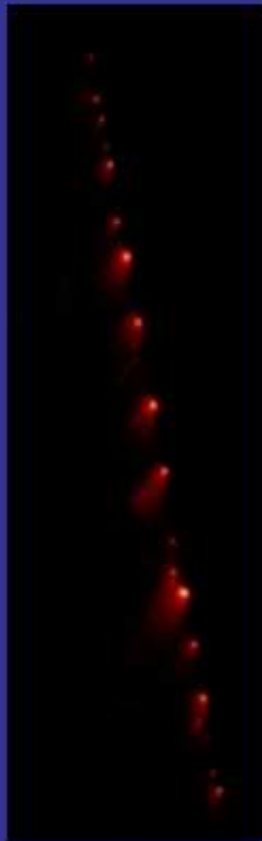
Glenn may protest my comment that he feels Yahweh has given him the understanding of when the Messiah will return. He may think I'm “putting words in his mouth.” In response, I would ask, “So you've done all this calendar research and you've compared your results to the ‘heavenly signs,’ which you believe line up with the Jubilee Calendar, but you *don't* believe Yahweh has given you this understanding? If this is so, then where did the ‘heavenly signs’ come from?” Indeed, if Glenn didn't feel that Yahweh has given him the year 2016, he most certainly wouldn't be publicly (*and boldly*) proclaiming it. Of course, when we consider that one of the most important of Glenn's “heavenly signs” is the (alleged) 21 fragments of the Shoemaker-Levy comet that struck the planet Jupiter back in 1994, we see that people make “signs” out of anything that will even remotely seem to substantiate their position. Glenn's commentary above begs the question, “If Yahweh has set the date for the Messiah's return, and it is *after* the year 2016, what does this tell us about Glenn's ‘calculations’?”

¹ From Glenn's website page entitled “Date Setting -- Truth Verses Myth.” This page may be accessed at the following URL: http://www.itsaboutthattime.net/date_setting.htm.

² Ibid.

Using Cosmic Events to Predict the Future

As referenced above, one of the most important of Glenn's "heavenly signs" is the (alleged) 21 fragments of the Shoemaker-Levy comet that struck Jupiter in 1994. Glenn converts the "21 strikes" into 21 years, projecting ahead to the year 2015 as the pivotal last year to "prepare for judgment." Glenn asks, "Is this a cosmic '21 gun salute' from the Creator? Is this Yahweh's warning that we have 21 years from that date to prepare for judgment? [1994 + 21 = 2015] ***Just Do the Math!***" Here is a screen capture from the Home Page of Glenn's website³:



In 1994 comet Shoemaker Levy broke into 21 pieces as it slammed into Jupiter, creating the greatest series of explosions ever seen in our solar system! These 21 strikes extended over a period of about seven days, starting on July 16, 1994. It began on the 9th of Av of the Jewish calendar, and it happened 49 years ~~to the very day~~ after the first ever historical test of an atomic bomb at the Trinity test site in New Mexico.

Is this a cosmic "21 gun salute" from the Creator? Is this Yahweh's warning that we have 21 years from that date to prepare for judgment?

[1994 + 21 = 2015]

Just Do the Math!

The Jubilee Code

³ This screen shot was taken on 11/15/2009 from the Home Page of W. Glenn Moore's website (<http://www.itsaboutthattime.net/>).

It is true that many sources disclose that 21 fragments of the comet Shoemaker-Levy struck Jupiter in July 1994. However, a closer examination reveals that it was actually 22 *fragments*, not 21. For example, the following is a screen shot from Northwest Florida State College's Astronomy 1002 class lectures⁴:

How close is too close?

The closest distance a moon can get to a planet without being torn apart is called its **Roche Limit**, and this works out to be about 2.5 times the radius of the planet. None of the rings of any of the giant planets extend further out than that. Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 encountered Jupiter in July of 1992, and broke apart into 22 fragments when it passed about 1.4 Jupiter radii away from the planet. The fragments continued to orbit the sun, and eventually crashed into Jupiter in the summer of 1994.

Other authoritative sources confirm that it was actually 22 *fragments* of the comet that struck Jupiter:

In July 1994, 22 fragments of the comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 plunged into Jupiter, each exploding with the force of millions of nuclear bombs. Plumes from the explosions were observed thousands of kilometers above Jupiter's cloudtops, leaving giant, Earth-sized blotches on the planet that lingered for weeks.⁵

Please understand that we realize that, in the scheme of things, the number of comet fragments that struck Jupiter in 1994 is of little, if any, significance. To June and me, they have nothing whatsoever to do with the number of years before judgment or anything else for that matter. We could just as easily declare that we have one year left prior to judgment as a result of the *one* comet that slammed into Jupiter in July 2009.⁶ Not so with Glenn, however, who instead prefers to apply the 1994 event to his prophetic interpretations of Scripture. Now that it has been demonstrated that the number of fragments was actually 22, Glenn can be expected to simply project his prediction forward another year, possibly transferring the significance of the "22 hits" to being representative of the countdown to the Millennium instead of the countdown to "judgment."

We thus see that date-setting, in many instances, also involves "date manipulation," i.e., attaching significance to years based upon convenience and how the numbers seem to work out. In the case of the Shoemaker-Levy comet that struck Jupiter, since it turns out that it was 22 fragments instead of 21, look for Glenn to attach their significance to the year 2016 instead of 2015, since both years are "prophetically important" in Glenn's eyes. Of course, if it could be shown that the actual number of comet fragments that struck Jupiter in 1994 amounted to 25, Glenn would be expected to gloss over the event entirely, treating it as "inconsequential." It's when things seem "neat and plausible" that they catch our eye, but when we proceed to apply our prophetic interpretations to such events, promoting our speculations as "prophetic warnings," we invite trouble, and as we previously addressed in Part II, chapter 2, more and more skeptics arise with each failed prediction.⁷

⁴ From Northwest Florida State College's Astronomy 1002 class lectures (Units 4, 11,12, and 14 & 19), by Tony Russo, Instructor of Physics, Meteorology, and Astronomy. This information may be read in its entirety by accessing the following URL: http://faculty.nwfsc.edu/science/russot/russo_old/FALL02/AST1002/Units_4_11_12_and_14_19.htm.

⁵ From the November 2004 issue of SCIO (Science Curriculum Information Outreach), the official newsletter of the Institute of Temporal Dynamics, Inc., Education Outreach Program, Las Vegas, NV. This newsletter may be read online by accessing the following URL: [http://www.temporaldynamics.org/EO/SCIOv1\(2\).pdf](http://www.temporaldynamics.org/EO/SCIOv1(2).pdf).

⁶ See "2009 Jupiter impact event," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 23 Oct 2009, 00:11 UTC. 14 Nov 2009 <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=2009_Jupiter_impact_event&oldid=321484628>.

⁷ Cf., Part II, ch. 2, "[Rise of the Skeptics](#)."

This brings me to the main point that I would like to make in this chapter. As I mentioned in the opening paragraph, I, too, am a date-setter, but not in the same vein as Glenn Moore. Rather, as I often share with acquaintances when it comes to discussing the timing of Yeshua's imminent return, *none of us is guaranteed tomorrow!* Thus, for all practical purposes, we should treat *each new day* as the date of His return. In fact, this is the message the Apostle Paul had for the Corinthian believers:

So if anyone is in Messiah, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from the Almighty, who reconciled us to himself through Messiah, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Messiah the Almighty was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Messiah, since the Almighty is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Messiah, be reconciled to the Almighty. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of the Almighty.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of the Almighty in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, **now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!** We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of the Almighty we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of the Almighty; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. (II Corinthians 5:17 – 6:8a, NRSV)⁸

I believe the Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, succinctly summarized Yeshua's role as Mediator between us and Yahweh. Yeshua, Who was without sin, qualified to be our substitute, dying in our place and paying the penalty that we ... not Him ... owe. It's a debt that we can never repay, and is a vivid illustration of Yahweh's great mercy. However, Yahweh's mercy should not be construed as "cheap grace." It requires a change of heart on the part of those who trust in Him and claim to be His servants. The subject of Yahweh's mercy is a separate study in and of itself, but suffice it to say that if we turn to Yahweh while not seeking to turn our lives around by pursuing *His* righteousness, then we haven't *really* turned to Yahweh at all! As such, the only thing we have to look forward to is "a fearful prospect of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries" (Hebrews 10:26-27). In other words, Yahweh's mercy has its limits.

The message of the Apostle Paul, then, is for us to be reconciled to Yahweh while there is still time! *Now is the day of salvation!* Our concern, then, should not be when our "deadline" is for becoming reconciled to Yahweh, as though we should look for a certain year to be the final "curtain call" for reconciliation opportunities. We are faced with our deadline with each new day, so instead of being so presumptuous as to predict the year of judgment or the year when the Millennium begins, why not just take the Apostle Paul at his word? The time frame we should be concerned about is not some year in the future; *now – today* is the time on which we should direct our energy and focus. There is no need for us to speculate when "time is up" for the reign of man.

⁸ This is from the New Revised Standard Version, but I have taken the liberty of replacing "Christ" with the more Hebraic "Messiah" and "God" with "the Almighty." For a detailed explanation of why I prefer to not refer to our Creator as "God," you may wish to read our study entitled "Do We Honor Yahweh by Referring to Him as 'Our God'?", which may be accessed at the following URL: <http://www.ponderscripture.org/PDF%20Files/Honor%20Name%20God.pdf>.