

THE JUBILEE CYCLE

By Larry and June Acheson

Part I: A 49 or 50-Year Cycle?

Introduction: Why Address the Jubilee Cycle?

The observance of the Jubilee cycle is not something that June and I have fully incorporated into our lives, not because it's something we don't personally observe, but rather because we live in a nation and society that has chosen to ignore this command from our Heavenly Father, and unless you live in a nation where this command is properly carried out and enforced, you cannot *properly* observe the commandment.¹ The consequences of living in a society that is ambivalent about observing the commandments of Yahweh are such that those who strive to live by those commandments are powerless to compel an unwilling nation to turn itself around and experience the blessings of observing this and other commandments given to Yahweh's people.

If we lived in a society that was dedicated to observing Yahweh's laws, we would anticipate a trumpet blast in a certain year on the Day of Atonement so as to proclaim liberty throughout all the land (Lev. 25:10), and we wouldn't be allowed to sow or reap during the year that followed. Since we do *not* live in a society where our leaders recognize the Jubilee cycle, we do not anticipate the sound of the trumpet blast on the Day of Atonement anytime soon, at least not by the leaders of the United States of America. Nevertheless, if we believe in our hearts that a certain year is a Jubilee Year and our hearts are also bent on obedience to our Heavenly Father's laws, we will strive to observe the law pertaining to the Jubilee Year to the best of our ability, such as by not planting a garden that year.

As alluded to above, in today's society, the Jubilee Year is of no consequence. For those who earnestly seek to please Yahweh, however, we understand that *everything* commanded by Yahweh is important, including the observance of the Jubilee cycle. Nevertheless, as with many of Yahweh's laws, controversy abounds. The most significant "Jubilee" controversy that June and I have been faced with involves the *timing* of the Jubilee Year. We had been aware of this controversy for many years, but we opted to not get involved because, for one thing, it has (or *should have*) no impact on whether or not we fellowship with each other. For example, if you believe this year is a Jubilee Year and you choose to not sow or reap, we respect your decision because we are not persuaded that *anyone* knows for sure whether or not a certain year is a Jubilee Year. This minor difference should not affect the day on which we worship, nor should either of us be dogmatic in asserting which year we believe is the "true Jubilee Year." The other reason that June and I avoided involvement in the "Jubilee Reckoning Controversy" is because no one had ever really challenged us on this topic. Until recently, this topic was one on which we have

¹ Our study focuses on the length of the Jubilee cycle, not on the physical application of the Scriptural commandment. Many studies have been written outlining the nature and purpose of the Jubilee commandment and while we do not recommend any specific articles, we do encourage you to pursue further study in this area. For those who would like to read an excellent introductory article pertaining to the meaning of the original Hebrew word for Jubilee (*Yobel* (יובל)), I recommend one entitled "Yobel," which may be read online by accessing the following URL:

<http://www.blackfriarspublications.co.uk/jubilee.htm>

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always “agreed to disagree agreeably” with those of the other persuasion. Those who are familiar with the studies that June and I have written over the years know that we don’t usually take the time to put our thoughts in writing unless our views have been challenged by others, and that is precisely what happened in 2008, which is what prompted our decision to write this essay.

Over the course of our many years of Bible study, we have met and fellowshiped with numerous individuals and groups with varied backgrounds, some similar to ours and some vastly different. June and I do not expect everyone to share our views on everything, and on many matters, including the reckoning of the Jubilee cycle, we are very content to “agree to disagree agreeably,” refusing to allow such a minor disagreement to affect our relationship with others. However, regrettably, we occasionally cross paths with folks who have an agenda ... an “axe to grind,” if you will – and we often find that their primary purpose is to get us to believe as they do. More often than not, if the agreement isn’t reached, the relationship turns sour. The first time I remember being approached by someone with an agenda was at a feast that June and I attended in 1991. Upon entering the meeting hall, we were greeted by several new faces. With plenty of time for fellowship before the services began, we enjoyed making new acquaintances and chatting about what had brought us to where we were in our walk. However, it didn’t take long for us to meet someone with an agenda. We were in the process of locating a resting place for our books when a gentleman extended his hand and introduced himself. I had no sooner returned the greeting when he asked, “Do you believe Yahshua is the ‘Yahweh’ of the Old Testament?”

I thought, “Wow! This guy doesn’t waste any time!”

Recently, another gentleman with an agenda found his way into our lives. I don’t mean to strike an accusatory chord here, for most likely no one will appreciate my singling them out as having an agenda. I myself have been accused of having an agenda, and I certainly didn’t appreciate the accusation, but I feel I eventually succeeded in demonstrating to him and others that he had been mistaken, and I’m pretty sure the man who made that comment a few years ago would now say that his initial assessment was premature. In that particular instance, I had given a presentation on why I personally believe the Messiah’s Name is spelled *yod, shin, waw, ayin* in Hebrew (commonly rendered *Yeshua* in English). The majority of Sacred Name believers we have met are persuaded that the Messiah’s name is correctly spelled *yod, heh, waw, shin, ayin* in Hebrew (commonly pronounced either *Yahshua* or *Yahushua*), and the individual I referenced above, who holds to the position that the shorter form of the Messiah’s name is the result of a Jewish conspiracy to remove the Father’s name (*Yah*) from the Son’s name, made a point of approaching me after my presentation to, among other things, let me know in no uncertain terms that I have an agenda. What was so unusual about the accusation was the fact that, during my presentation, I made it clear that I have respect for both positions, even though I personally lean the way I do.² As I mentioned earlier, those who have an agenda aren’t typically willing to settle for a “middle ground.” In fact, my experience is such that they seem to *look* for opportunities to broach the subject, apparently in hopes of wearing down those who are not easily persuaded until they finally “see the light.”

This brings us to the individual with a “Jubilee agenda.” A few years ago, a gentleman by the name of W. Glenn Moore asked me to assist him with editing a study he was in the process of writing regarding the association of the prophecies of Daniel with the first and second coming of the Messiah. I wasn’t

² An adaptation of my presentation on the Messiah’s name is available for review. It is entitled *Name of the Messiah*, and may be read by accessing the following URL: <http://www.ponderscripture.org/PDF%20Files/MessiahsName.pdf>.

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really sure if this was an undertaking that I wanted to get involved with because, like many others out there, I have other “irons in the fire,” so to speak. Nevertheless, I realize that we should make ourselves available to others whenever possible, so I agreed to give limited assistance as time allowed. Our only time to interact was on the day of the weekly Sabbath, so Glenn spent many a Shabbat in our home, studying Scripture with us and working on his study. As I delved into editing Glenn’s study, it soon became apparent that a major focal point was the length of the Jubilee cycle, which I soon learned consists of 49-year cycles, at least in Glenn’s estimation.

Having spent a relatively short amount of time studying the Jubilee cycle many years prior to having met Mr. Moore, I had already been persuaded that the Jubilee cycle consists of 50 years, not 49, and it didn’t take long for me to share my personal understanding with Glenn. One thing led to another, and eventually Glenn gave a presentation pertaining to why he believes the way he does. His reasoning did not persuade us of his position, but just as I do not believe our salvation is dependant on the precise spelling or pronunciation of the Messiah’s name, I likewise do not believe the Almighty is going to condemn anyone for not knowing the precise length of the Jubilee cycle. I believe Glenn agrees with this point, but even though I don’t believe he regards the understanding of the length of the Jubilee cycle to be critical to our salvation, at the same time, he regards it as being critical to the understanding of prophetic timelines, including the timing of the Messiah’s return.³ This, then, may explain why I began to get the feeling that Glenn wasn’t willing to “let go” until he succeeded in persuading me of his position.

Nevertheless, even at that juncture of our relationship, Glenn exhibited great reservations in broadcasting the dates that he had personally arrived at, expressing concern that the consequences of publishing his Jubilee calendar might generate more *harm* than benefit. For example, he shared the following commentary in a posting that he submitted while participating in the “True Sabbath” forum at www.eliyah.com:

In all of my studies into Biblical Chronology I have learned that determining the exact years of Biblical events is like putting together a 10000 piece jigsaw puzzle with half the pieces missing (and you don't even have much of a clue as to what the puzzle is supposed to look like). One of the reasons I have yet to publish my Jubilee Calendar is that I fear someone will accept every single date I give as "gospel" and form some new religion around it!! I hope that you, Larry, realize that as much as I believe in the Jubilee research I have done-I cannot be dogmatic regarding all of my conclusions.⁴

As demonstrated above, in the beginning of our Jubilee discussions, Glenn made it very clear that his findings were more or less private ones that he found intriguing and made for great conversation, but nothing that he felt needed to be offered to the public-at-large. At the time of the above commentary (January 2007), it was obvious that he still felt this way. By May of that same year, Glenn expressed the need to share with others the “unique messages of truth” that Yahweh had opened to him, but it wasn’t

³ For example, in an e-mail that Glenn sent me on 09/21/2008, he wrote, “And I don't mind if we disagree on this issue, so long as we can accept that this is not a salvational issue. I do, however, believe it is important because of the times we are living in.”

⁴ Excerpt from a posting submitted by Glenn Moore, under the screen name “gmoore44,” to the now-defunct “True Sabbath” forum at www.eliyah.com. This posting was submitted on 01-13-2007 at 08:18 PM in the forum thread entitled “**60 Pinpointed Sabbaths.**” Within less than two years of submitting this commentary, Glenn was in the process of informing anyone willing to listen of his proposed date of when the next Millennium begins (of which date he is 99% certain), as well as offering his Jubilee calendar to all visitors to his website.

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until the summer of 2008 that I noticed an abrupt change from his previous commitment to not publish his Jubilee calendar, along with his proposed date for the beginning of the 6,000th year of history. What began as his impression of “messages of truth” to share with others evolved into a “vital message of salvation” that he needed to “get to the world.”⁵ It eventually became evident to Glenn that June and I do not agree with his “message.”

As time progressed without my being persuaded that the Jubilee cycle consists of 49 years, Glenn began to exhibit an even greater passion regarding his understanding of the Jubilee cycle as it relates to the timing of prophetic events. I noticed an increased push for me to understand and accept his view regarding the Jubilee cycle, and he became increasingly bolder in promoting his teaching, including the timing of 6,000th year of history. As I believe I have made very clear, June and I have no problem with those who disagree with our understanding of the length of the Jubilee cycle. It matters not to us whether you choose to believe the cycle consists of 49 years or 50 years. One thing we have learned over the course of time is that it is very difficult to find two individuals who agree on *everything*, so if this is something we don't agree on, then I'm willing to table it while keeping our focus on pleasing Yahweh by remaining as faithful as we can to His Word, striving to follow the example set by His Son Yeshua, Whose sole focus was doing those things that please the Father (John 8:29).

Regrettably, it became apparent that, while it is not important to June and me that others agree with our position regarding the Jubilee cycle, such does not seem to be the case with Glenn. I noticed that he began posting dates for when the 6,000th year of history will begin ... with full knowledge that he believes the Messiah *must* come at or before the new Millennium begins, which would be a year later (Year 6001). Thus, I began to witness the realization of my worst fears: *Glenn was setting dates based upon his understanding of prophetic timelines, combined with his belief regarding the length of a Jubilee cycle.* I have been exposed to too many “date-setters” over the years, none of whom were correct in the dates they came up with, so you can imagine that I was not thrilled when Glenn decided to “go public” with his findings.

Although I shared my concern about the historical fallacies connected with date-setting, combined with the fact that Yeshua essentially cautioned against doing such a thing, Glenn responded, “[While I also urge caution regarding anyone who sets dates for certain Biblical events to occur—we have to at least leave some latitude since it is entirely possible that they could possibly be correct.](#)”⁶ He proceeded with his prophetic timeline, and began a ministry named “Jubilee Countdown Ministries.” As I reflected upon what prompted the strange shift from not wanting to publish his proposed dates to feeling an intense *need* and even a *calling* to do so, I eventually pieced together a *possible* explanation. While I can only recognize the following explanation as a *possibility*, at the same time it is based upon facts that certainly have the potential of influencing such an abrupt change of heart.

⁵ For more details regarding this “calling,” please see Part IV, ch. 1 (“**To All Fruit Inspectors: Do Yahweh’s Servants Honor Their Vows?**”), [footnote #7](#).

⁶ C.f., “In Response to *The Jubilee Cycle*,” by W. Glenn Moore, December 2008, p. 3. At one time, Glenn posted this rebuttal 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>.

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In October 2009, I came across a website that features assorted testimonies from various believers. Included among those testimonies is one from W. Glenn Moore. I couldn't help but notice that a major turning point in his life involved witnessing an auto accident in the Dallas, Texas area in the year 1980. Here is the pertinent excerpt from Glenn's testimony:

AT A YOUNG AGE I BEGAN TO VENTURE OUT TO HEAR OTHER MINISTERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST FAITH. WHILE I DID NOT IMMEDIATELY JOIN, AT THE AGE OF 20 I FINALLY DECIDED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE SABBATH. THAT SPIRITUAL AWAKENING TOOK PLACE IN THE SUMMER OF 1980, AFTER WITNESSING AN AUTO ACCIDENT IN THE DALLAS AREA. I STOPPED MY FREQUENT DRINKING AND SOON AFTER BEGAN ATTENDING THE LOCAL SDA CHURCH. WITHIN A FEW MONTHS I JOINED THEIR FELLOWSHIP.⁷

Clearly, witnessing the auto accident in 1980 had a profound effect on Glenn's life, prompting him to begin attending worship services with the most Scripturally-sound organization he knew of at the time. That life-changing event, as significant as it was, never came up in conversation during the years of our acquaintance with Glenn. Upon reading of this traumatizing experience, however, I was reminded of *another* auto accident – an accident in which *Glenn* was involved in January 2008. On January 29th of that year, Glenn suffered a slight neck injury as a result of a collision in Stephenville, Texas. Although it wasn't considered a serious injury, Glenn later explained that he would be “out of commission for a little while.”⁸

Curiously, it was within a relatively short time of Glenn's accident that he asked to “piggyback” a website off of ours, which we agreed to allow him to do. Subsequently, during the early summer of 2008 we noticed, to our disappointment, that Glenn was not only publicly sharing his proposed date for the 6,000th year of history on an internet forum board, but he was *also* promoting that date on his website. In attempting to determine the catalyst for Glenn's decision to abruptly switch from a *fear* of sharing his proposed dates to feeling an urgent *need* to do so, the best I can presently come up with are the above-described experiences. In his internet testimonial, Glenn does not share any details of *how* the auto accident of 1980 impacted his life so dramatically that he decided to begin attending an SDA church. I would venture to say that it was most likely *not* a minor accident. Were any lives lost? If so, this is certainly traumatizing to the point that it would likely cause anyone not living in accordance with the standards that they *know* are expected by our Creator to commit to a new life of obedience.

Although Glenn and I have certainly had some differences of opinion over the years, not the least of which are the ones addressed in this study, I had never for a second questioned the fact that he had a *conscience* ... a heartfelt desire to act in accordance with what he feels is the Will of the Almighty. With this understanding, I can only imagine that being injured in an auto accident served to reinforce in Glenn's mind the fact that we are *all* only given a relatively short amount of time to live out our lives in this present world. As the Apostle James put it, our lives are “a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”⁹ As such, I recognize the possibility that, as a result of his 2008 accident, Glenn may regard his survival as a “reprieve” of sorts – perhaps an awareness that if he had *not* survived, his findings would have been lost forever, depriving a perishing world of “truths” that he no longer simply

⁷ From “True Personal Testimonies *W. Glenn Moore*.” The entire testimony may be read by accessing the following URL: <http://www.by-t-yhwh.org/wglennmoore.html>.

⁸ This quote is taken from a voice message left by Glenn on 01/31/2008 at 07:05 PM Central Time.

⁹ Cf., James 4:14.

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regards as “unique,” but by now they have become “vital” to *salvation*. Perhaps Glenn feels that Yahweh spared his life in that accident because He had a mission for Glenn – a *calling* – to announce the impending arrival of the 6,000th year of history.

Regardless of the factors that influenced Glenn to no longer withhold his proposed date for the 6,000th year of history, the fact remains that, without sharing with us his reasons for deciding to “go public,” Glenn did so. Of course, this is a free country and he is free to do as he pleases. Nevertheless, as a result of his transition, I became concerned that others, aware of the close association that I had with Glenn, might identify me with his ministry, including his inclination towards setting dates. I thus decided that it was time to put my own views in writing. Initially, we attempted to present our view solely from our own perspective without making any allusions to our previous discussions with Glenn. In fact, when June and I composed the first version of our *Jubilee Cycle* study, Glenn’s name was only mentioned in three footnotes in which I attributed quotes to a study that he had written. However, amid protests from Glenn that I was making “sweeping generalizations” about all who focus on the Jubilee cycle as being “date-setters,” and his adamant claim that he wasn’t among that crowd, I was compelled to illustrate that, indeed, Glenn *is* in with that crowd.

“Date-Setter” vs. “Year-Setter”?

Since the very beginning of our Jubilee discussions, Glenn has denied being a “date-setter.” His most adamant denial is found in a “Question/Answer” composition entitled “Date Setting -- Truth Verses Myth”:

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!**¹⁰

Based on the above commentary, it appears that Glenn *may* be stating things from a “technical” perspective. I say this because, as we are about to see, Glenn is unabashedly willing to offer the *year* in which he believes the Millennium will begin, as well as the year of Creation; perhaps, then, Glenn might be more willing to identify himself as a “*year-setter*.” Thus, although Glenn denies being a “date-setter,” he certainly claims to know “with almost complete certainty” the exact *year* of the Creation.¹¹

¹⁰ Moore, W. Glenn, “Date Setting -- Truth Verses [sic] Myth.” The entire commentary may be read by accessing the following URL: http://www.itsaboutthattime.net/date_setting.htm.

¹¹ To affirm that Glenn claims to know the exact year of Creation, we refer you to the “Home Page” section of his web site, where we read the following tell-tale commentary: “**But can we be more precise? Can we even find the actual year of Creation? I believe we can.** I would like to present four major keys that I believe will lead us to the year of Creation.” (Note: *This quote was later removed from Glenn’s website*). Rather than presenting all four of Glenn’s “keys,” we will offer the following quotation, taken from Key #4: “**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

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Glenn's "almost complete certainty" is elsewhere expressed in more "certain" terms, such as his exposé entitled "Comets and Eclipses: Signs of the End." In this composition, Glenn proclaims that the 1994 cosmic event in which fragments of the comet Shoemaker-Levy bombarded the planet Jupiter represents 21 years leading up to the Judgment:

On the 9th day of Av (July 16, 1994) Shoemaker-Levy sent a direct message to us by exhibiting 21 of the most powerful explosions ever seen in our solar system by modern man. 21 times over a period of about 6 or 7 days it sent its strikes into the largest planet in our solar system, the planet Jupiter. Each of those strikes would have been capable of destroying our entire planet, if they had been directed toward us. If we put aside all the complex interpretations and theological confusion, and forget about the secular reasoning that these are merely natural events with no real meaning, we come to one simple (yet profound) explanation for this comet. It is indeed a sign from Yahweh. The 21 strikes represent 21 years which, counting from 1994, leads us to the year 2015. The Jubilee Calendar **confirms** that this represents the end of the year 5999 from the Creation of this earth.

The message is clear—we have 21 years to get our act together, repent of our sins, and come out of this Babylonian system. After that time has expired, judgment comes to our world, and millions will die as a result. Within about a year from the time (by 2016 CE) the world enters into the last millennium of life on this earth, a new Messianic Era.¹²

Does the above commentary come from an individual who shuns "date-setting"? As I reflect on Glenn's denial that he is setting dates, a denial that is found on the same web site where he states with "almost complete certainty" that 2015 CE will be the beginning of the 6000th year of history, I can only shake my head in disbelief. The term "spin doctor" comes to mind, as I ponder the following hypothetical conversation between myself and Glenn:

(on Tishri 1, in the fall) will be the beginning of the last 1000 years." *Note: This quote was later removed from Glenn's website and his "Four Keys" were moved to a separate page entitled "Can We Really Find the Year of Creation?" On that page, Glenn preserved the following summary of his fourth "key": "Key #4: If we can find the exact year of the Exodus, then we can link the chain together and establish a stable timeline from creation to today. Since we know from our examination of the Jubilee cycles that the year of the Exodus had to have been in a year of Jubilee, and since we know based on Daniel 9 when a Jubilee year is, then it is simply a matter of finding the general timeframe of the Exodus. There is no historical reference or archeological evidence to determine the exact year of the Exodus. However, archeologists can determine the approximate date of the Exodus based upon the 8 spoke chariot wheels found at the bottom of the Red Sea (by Ron Wyatt). The 8 spoke chariot wheels were only created and used in the brief decades of the 18th Egyptian dynasty. Since the 18th dynasty is well known to be between about 1500 to 1400 BCE, then it is simply a matter of tracing the 49 year Jubilee cycles back from 457 BCE. The closest Jubilee year to that era would then be 1437/36 BCE, making **that** the year of the Exodus. **Now the link in the chain is restored, and we now have a way to determine the year of Creation.**"* (*Note: This quote has since been altered so as to read, "... to determine the most likely year of Creation"*). We thus see that, in spite of claiming to know "with almost complete certainty" the year of Creation, Glenn somehow still denies being a "date-setter."

¹² From "Comets and Eclipses: Signs of the End," By W. Glenn Moore, 03/22/2009, p. 14. The entire treatise may be read by accessing the following URL: <http://www.itsaboutthattime.net/PDF%20Files/Comets%20and%20Eclipses.pdf>.

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Glenn: I can state with almost complete certainty that 3985 is the year of Creation and 2015 CE will be the beginning of the 6000th year of history, plus I'm pretty certain the Messiah will return in or before the year 2016.¹³

Larry: Glenn, you're establishing yourself as a 'date-setter,' especially since you're broadcasting this to anyone and *everyone*!

Glenn: No, I am not really setting dates.

With this as the backdrop semi-illustrating some of the frustrating discussions I've had with Glenn, I will now proceed to present our study, which has grown from a short seven-page essay to one containing over 300 pages. For now, I only want this introduction to help you, the reader, to better understand why I have taken the time to put my thoughts in writing. I would much rather compose a study explaining my view without involving the names of those with whom I disagree, but due to the complexities involved in needing to provide quotes, along with the journalistic responsibility of attributing the quotes to the person who made them, I am left with no choice but to mention Glenn by name, not in an attempt to disparage him, but rather to provide readers with the facts pertaining to the progression of our discussion, as well as my reason for choosing to author this study.

For the record, I do not come to you as a teacher, nor do I write this in an attempt to persuade anyone of our position. You are free to believe as you wish regarding the length of a Jubilee cycle; since it has no bearing on our observance of Yahweh's Torah in this day and age. Moreover, since we do not believe it dishonors our Heavenly Father to believe one way or the other, June and I respect whichever view you come away with. Thus, instead of regarding this study as a persuasive article designed to attract a following or otherwise convert anyone, we would prefer that you understand that this is an explanation of why we believe as we do. Hopefully, we can all agree that our primary focus should be on honoring our Heavenly Father and His Son, so as long as we are willing to focus on the weighty matters of Yahweh's Torah and the importance of remaining faithful children, we should be able to get along just fine!

¹³ Glenn expresses this view regarding the Messiah's second coming in his web site treatise entitled "Date Setting -- Truth Verses [sic] Myth." He writes, "Just because we can know 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." The entire commentary may be read by accessing the following URL: http://www.itsaboutthattime.net/date_setting.htm.