

From Man's Government to God's Government

We are living in an era of transition. It is a major transition that will change the entire world – and is, indeed, changing it as we speak. For we are standing on the threshold of the establishment of the Kingdom of God – Divine Government.

More than 6,000 years ago man was given the right of “*dominion*” on this earth. But his allotted time is up.

The Bible is full of prophecies, stories, illustrations, parables and visions concerning the transition from man's governments to God's Government. To adequately speak of all of these would fill many volumes. However, I would like to concentrate on just one illustration of this transition: the city of Jericho.

Jericho, the “*City of Palms*,” is said to be the oldest city in the world that is still inhabited. It is situated in the plain of the Jordan at about 800 feet below sea level. Its tropical climate provided for an abundance of flowers and fruit trees, giving the name יְרִיחוֹ which means “*breath*” or “*fragrance*.” In later times, the spelling of the name was changed to יְרִיחוֹ meaning “*city of the moon*.” These two names are an integral part of the symbolisms which surround this ancient city.

The straight-line distance from Jericho to Jerusalem is 15 miles; however, the precipitous mountain road between the two cities takes the traveler much further. It winds a hazardous path from 800 feet below sea level to 2,500 feet above sea level – an elevation of 3,300 feet. It was, at one time, a dangerous road to travel, fraught with rugged terrain and the fear of marauding bandits.

Jericho is the “key” to Israel. It is the entrance into Israel from the east. It acquired this epithet through much use of the old road which followed the wadis on both sides of the Jordan, crossing the river at the *House of Crossing* – Bethabara.

This is where Joshua brought the Israelites into the promised land after their 40-year experience in the deserts of Sinai and Arabia. But to enter the land they first must conquer Jericho.

It was a city surrounded by walls which would normally provide adequate protection from any type of warfare in that day. But God had a plan for the complete destruction of Jericho. That may sound like a contradiction in the face of its being the world's oldest city still inhabited. Did God's plan for Jericho fail? Let's take a look!

God gave detailed instructions to Joshua for the overthrow and destruction of Jericho.

“See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour. And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shall thou do six days. And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of ram's horns; and the seventh day ye shall blow with the trumpets. And it shall come to pass,

that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.” (Joshua 6:3-5)

So Joshua instructed the people accordingly, and the armed soldiers marched in procession, with seven priests each blowing trumpets. For each of six days they thus marched around Jericho once. I'm sure the armed men of Israel wondered “what kind of warfare is this?”

Perhaps Joshua, himself, wondered at the military strategy, but he had the integrity to take God at His word, and obey.

“And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they arose early about the dawning of the day and encompassed the city after the same manner seven times ... and it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout ... so the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets ... the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.”

Why, after all the wanderings in the desert, looking forward to the entrance into the land that had been promised to them, did God instruct Joshua to cross the Jordan at the chosen ford of Bethabara, and to conquer Jericho in this strange manner?

Bethabara, the *House of Crossing over* – would be the place where atonement is symbolized. This is the place where the priests held the Ark of the Covenant in the middle of the river, symbolizing the atonement for man by the coming Redeemer – and this is the place where Jesus would, many years later, walk into the river and offer himself to be baptized – still meaning atonement, for all mankind. Following this “crossing over” the Israelites would conquer Jericho.

Jericho represents man's governments, and it is not until atonement is fully made that Jesus comes as King on David's throne, conquering man's governments, and setting up his own Divine Government.

It is fitting that the oldest city in the world, still inhabited, should be a picture of man's governments. Dominion was given to Adam in the Garden of Eden. For six thousand years man has been in dominion on the earth, by the authority of God. But it will not always be so. Jericho (man's governments) will be destroyed, never to be rebuilt to all the ages of eternity. Joshua said:

“Cursed be the man before the Lord, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho.” (Joshua 6:26)

The seven days of marching around Jericho are the same, in symbol, as the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles. The “Tabernacles” Age is earth’s great Millennium, during which man’s governments will be overthrown, and Divine Government will be set up in all the earth. It was a seven-day festival.

Scriptures prophetic of this change of the rulership of earth suggest that man’s rulership will be conquered early in the Millennial “day.” But the complete overthrow will of necessity require the eradication of every effect of man’s unjust rulership from the hearts of men. This is the work of the entire Millennium. By the end of this great Millennium, of restoring to man all that Adam had lost, it is prophesied:

“I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God.” (Ezekiel 11:19)

And so it happened, when Joshua and the Israelites marched around Jericho seven days, that on the seventh day, they blew the trumpets and shouted, and the walls of the city fell down flat. The Gematria of this event is magnificent. It tells us the whole span of time from the giving of dominion to Adam until the complete removal of the effects of man’s rulership from the hearts of men. It is a span of 7,033 years. First, let’s take a look at this amazing Gematria, and then see this great span of time briefly and concisely charted.

7033 = *“and the priests shall blow with the trumpets, and it shall be when they blow long on the ram’s horn, shall shout all the people with a great shout, and shall fall the wall of the city down flat.”*

At the completion of 7,033 years from the creation of Adam, the “walls of Jericho” will have been felled. Jesus, earth’s divinely appointed ruler, will have put down and demolished even the last vestiges of the effects of man’s mis-rule of the earth. It will be at the end of earth’s great Millennium, and the beginning of God’s great Eighth Day – a New Beginning for His beloved human family.

How appropriate that the trumpets blown by the priests when they conquered Jericho were ram’s horns, *yobel*, Jubilee trumpets. The Jubilee trumpet was blown at the beginning of the year of Jubilee. On the grand scale of time, the ending of the Millennium will usher in God’s Grand Jubilee, when all that was lost through Adam’s disobedience will be restored to man.

The Gematria is amazing! Man will have received complete salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. The result will be global, covering our entire earth. Look at the amazing numbers. The Lord Jesus Christ, when spelled in Hebrew, has a

Gematria value of 792. He came to earth (which has a mean diameter of 7920 miles) to bring salvation. The Hebrew word “*salvation*” has a number value of 792. As the man Jesus, whose number is 888, he paid the price for the sin of Adam. The number of years for the completion of this amazing transaction is 7,033 years. This transaction, in its fulness is $792 \times 888 = 7033$. They are not random numbers! They tell a magnificent story – the story of the salvation and the restoration of the human race.

Let’s compute it another way. Start with the 7,033 years from Adam’s creation to the end of earth’s great Millennium, and multiply by π (3.14159), making a great circle of time, just like the marching around Jericho was a circle which represented the entire 7,033 years. Divide that circle by earth’s mean circumference – 24,881.392 miles – and the result is .888. This is absolutely amazing! The math is mind-boggling! It is beautiful and powerful evidence of a Master Plan. This magnificent plan was conceived long before the creation of man – long before the sun, moon and stars were created and set into motion. This is why Jesus was called “*The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*” (Revelation 13:8)

The long span of 7,033 years will conclude with the work of earth’s great Millennium finished. The Apostle Paul spoke of this time, and gave us the beautiful assurance that it will indeed be a reality. He said:

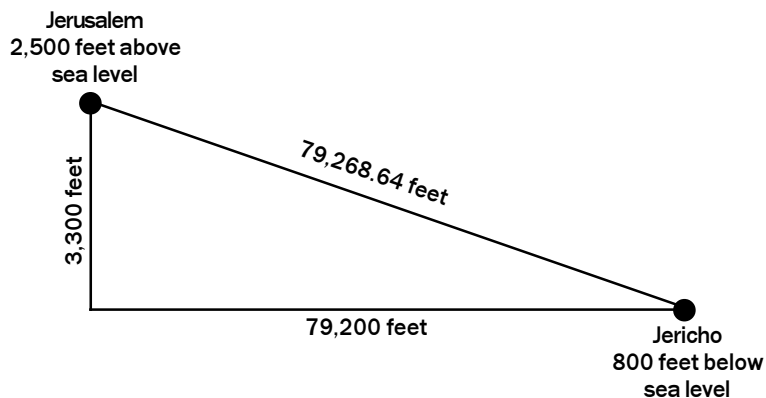
“Then the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power (man’s rulership). For he must reign till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.” (I Corinthians 15:24-28)

Jericho (man’s rulership) will have been completely conquered and destroyed. This was pictured by the walls of Jericho falling down flat, and the Israelite army going in and completely destroying the city. For Jericho, which had begun as a beautiful “*fragrance,*” became a stench because of the effects of sin. Its name was changed to “*city of the moon.*”

This ancient city is in the Great Rift Valley. It is part of the effects of sin which caused a rift between God and His human family. Jerusalem is not in the Rift Valley, but is high above. The terrain between the two cities is rugged and steep. If we were to draw a straight line from Jericho to Jerusalem on a map, we would find the distance between the two cities is 15 miles. The difference in elevation is 3,300 feet. Thus the hypotenuse between Jericho and Jerusalem (still dealing with straight lines) would be 15,013 miles. Of course, if traversing the road it would be even further. But let’s look at this basic geometry. Obviously the relationship

between these two cities is part of the great plan.

The ascent from Jericho (man's governments) to Jerusalem (Divine Government) bears the numbers 792 - 6 - 864. The numbers tell the story of the purpose of earth's great Millennium, which is the ascent from man's governments to Divine Government.



The mean diameter of our earth is 7,920 miles, thus the 792 represents our earth. And 792 is the Gematria for "salvation," showing earth to be the place of salvation. The number 6 represents man. But joy upon joy, the number 864 is the Gematria for the name "Jerusalem," in the Greek text of the New Testament.

The means by which this ascent from Jericho to Jerusalem can be made is Jesus Christ, who, at the age of 33, poured out his innocent blood to pay the price for the guilty blood of Adam.

The 3,300 feet difference between the elevation of Jericho and the elevation of Jerusalem represents the beautiful fact that man can only make this ascent through the blood of Jesus. Man must go up, so to speak, from Jericho to Jerusalem – from man's governments to Divine Government – a difference of 3,300 feet. This number, 330 is prominent in the Gematria of the Bible. Here are a few examples of its meaning.

330 = Holy and Just One (Jesus)

330 = To Atone (Jesus atoned for the sin of Adam)

330 = Pain (through the pain he bore on the cross he redeemed us)

Jesus obviously knew the meaning and the relationship of Jericho to Jerusalem, because he told a very poignant story about a man who went the other direction – from Jerusalem to Jericho.

"A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and

departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, and went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again I will repay thee.”

The man who went down to Jericho was Adam. He “*fell among thieves*” – Satan was the thief who robbed him and left him for dead. Adam came under the influence of the thief, Satan, who stripped him of his clothes (his justification before God). The sad tale is told in Genesis 3:7-11:

“And the eyes of both of them were opened and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?”

In the parable, the man who went down to Jericho was as good as dead. If help had not come, he would have died.

While the traveler lay there dying, a priest and a Levite came along. As they drew near, and saw the plight of the poor victim lying there covered with mud and blood, they moved to the other side of the road, and hurried past, doing nothing for the injured man. Just so, the sacrifices of the Law, which were in the hands of the priests and the Levites, were completely unable to help fallen man or to heal his wounds.

But along came the Good Samaritan. He saw the traveler suffering certain death and he had compassion on him. The Good Samaritan is Jesus. He bound up his wounds, poured oil and wine on him to clean off the blood and mud, and to soothe his aching body. It describes the work of redemption, and pictures the work of the spirit (oil and wine) in transforming the sinful nature back into that which can be acceptable to God.

Then the Good Samaritan did something over and beyond the call to help. He

put the traveler on his “*own beast*,” which meant that he walked while the injured man rode. They switched places. It is a beautiful illustration of Jesus giving himself for Adam – taking the sinner’s place.

The Gematria for “*own beast*” is 792. Wow! This is amazing! It is the number for “*salvation*.” By telling this story, Jesus was illustrating the fact that he came to earth (7920) to take Adam’s place in death, thereby providing salvation (792) to all of Adam’s posterity.

The Good Samaritan took the injured man to an inn and paid the innkeeper two pence. A penny was a day’s wages, thus two pence would be two day’s wages. The allusion appears to be describing the two “*days*” in which Jesus would be “*away*,” before his return. But the apparent reference to two days is even stronger when we hear him say, “*When I come again, I will repay*.” The Good Samaritan revealed here that he plans to return to get the traveler.

The Gematria for “*I will repay*” is 2000. Perhaps Jesus was suggesting that his return will be 2,000 years after his first advent. Perhaps a time prophecy is implied; nevertheless, it is certain that Jesus indicated by this story that he would indeed return for the traveler (Adam).

You cannot “return” to a place you’ve never been. Jesus was talking about coming again to earth.

Jesus said “*when I come again*” I will repay. The Greek words used here may indicate the time of that return. The literal Greek text reads “*in the return*.” The words “*in the*” multiply to 6,000 (dropping the rest of the zeros). Was he giving us a time prophecy? Perhaps!

It becomes apparent from the time-line of chronology that after 6,000 years of rule by man’s governments, “*He whose right it is*” will take his place on David’s throne and establish Divine Government in the earth. Is this the reason why Jesus used the words “*in the return?*”

Some interesting Gematria is obtained from the concept of his Kingship. Perhaps it is suggesting that after 6,000 years of man’s rulership, the promised King would establish his Kingdom of righteousness. The following are examples of the multiplication of Gematria.

6000 = King (in Greek)

6000 = Kingdom (in Greek)

6000 = Behold your King (in Hebrew)

While Jesus and his disciples were in Jericho, on their way to Jerusalem, they spent the night in the home of a man called Zacchaeus. While there that night, he told his disciples a story – a story full of prophetic meaning. He chose this story, appropriately, because they were in Jericho, and he was impressing on them the fact that he would soon be going away, but would return again; for he knew that

when they reached Jerusalem he would be put to death. And so he spoke this parable to them, to prepare their hearts for this traumatic event. Jesus began:

“A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.”

It is obvious from the rest of the parable that Jesus spoke of himself. However, this identification was not left to our conjecture. It is confirmed by the Gematria which has been encoded into the text. The phrase with which he began: *“A certain nobleman”* has a Gematria value of 3168. The name Lord Jesus Christ, as is used throughout the Greek text of the New Testament, has a Gematria value of 3168.

Notice, it was the purpose of this nobleman to go into a far country to receive a kingdom, and then to return – in that order. But as he proceeds with the parable, Jesus puts the receiving of the kingdom past tense, and then speaks of his return.

“... and when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him.”

The receiving of the “right of rulership” as King on David’s throne precedes the time when he comes for his servants – to them he had given the admonition, *“Occupy till I come.”*

The 6,000 years of man’s rulership began when Adam was created, and expired on Rosh Hoshanah 1999. Prior to this date many were expecting to see his return and experience being transferred from this earth to a heavenly wedding. To all outward appearances Rosh Hoshanah 1999 came and went uneventfully. But did it really?

Let’s go way back to the beginning. In the first chapter of Genesis we were told that God made the sun, moon and stars to be for “Signs.” We often realize how the sun and moon are for signs, but we fail to acknowledge the use of the stars for signs, because this sign has been so mis-used. Yes, it has been mis-used by man down through the centuries, but let’s remember that God was the one who created those stars, and put them in motion – and He said they were to be for “signs.”

For several years prior to Rosh Hoshanah 1999 astronomers were aware of a strange phenomenon happening in the constellation Virgo. On Rosh Hoshanah of every year, beginning with 1996, the moon appeared to be moving from the abdomen of Virgo, down between her legs, and they could project that on Rosh Hoshanah 1999 the moon would be beneath her feet. It appeared to speak of a birth. It was suggested that this would be the sign of the fulfillment of Revelation 12:1 regarding the “woman” clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet, giving birth to a “Manchild.” Prior to Rosh Hosh Hoshanah 1999 this was the expectation of many.

But Rosh Hoshanah 1999 silently came and went, and a fulfillment was not seen – and so the date and the concept passed into history. The watchers passed on from that failed prediction to suggesting future dates for the event of Jesus riding through the heavens on a white horse and coming to earth to collect his saints.

May I suggest that the date was correct. The interpretation was somewhat correct. But the expectation was misleading. The moving of the moon through the birth canal of Virgo, and the depositing of it at her feet on Rosh Hoshanah was indeed fulfilled – most were simply looking for the wrong thing. A conquering King on a white horse was not what was predicted by the prophecy. The prophecy predicted a tiny baby would be born.

When Jesus was born on Rosh Hoshanah 2 B.C., the world was almost totally unaware of it. Even the people who lived in Bethlehem were oblivious to its existence. It was only revealed to a few uneducated shepherds who were tending their flocks out in the fields below Bethlehem. Likewise, it is reasonable to expect that when this prophesied “*Manchild*” would be born, it would not be broadcast to all the world, but would be a silent event, receiving no attention from the world. And, just as it was a tiny baby that was born 2,000 years ago, likewise it is still a tiny baby that was born on Rosh Hoshanah 1999.

The prophet Daniel spoke of the same event and instead of calling it the birth of a baby, he called it the cutting of a tiny little stone out of the Mountain of God. That stone was hurled down and struck the great imposing image of man’s governments on its feet, and the great image was ground to powder and the wind blew it away. It is the same event that John told us in the book of Revelation. In the case of Daniel it was a tiny little stone; and in the case of John it was a tiny little baby.

Just as the cutting of the tiny little stone out of the Mountain was not noticed by the world in general, just so the birth of the tiny little baby was not recognized by the majority of the world.

In both prophecies, the stone, and the baby, both are figurative illustrations of Divine Government under the administration of Jesus Christ. Before our modern era, monarchs did not have a separate governing body. They **were** the government. Their word was law. There was no separation between the king and his government. This is the concept involved in the ruling authority of the Manchild of Revelation 12:1. He **is** Divine Government.

Isaiah had prophesied the birth of this coming One. He wrote:

“For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.”

The portion of this scripture that is underlined has a Gematria value of 3760. Why 3760? The day that Jesus was born was the first day of the Hebrew year 3760. He came to this world as a baby on the first day of the Hebrew year 3760. Before he was born, the angel Gabriel reassured young Mary that this child would be the One prophesied by Isaiah, for he told her:

“He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest, and the Lord God shall give him the throne of David.”

Nine months later she gave birth to the promised child, unknown to nearly the entire world. Luke recorded it this way:

“And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.”

The underlined portion of this scripture has a Gematria value of 3760. It is telling us that the birth of this very special Manchild was in the Hebrew year 3760.

As was the custom, on the 8th day they took the baby to the temple, and while there, an old man came in. His name was Simeon. God had told this faithful man that he would not die until he had seen the promised Messiah. Immediately Simeon, being led of the Holy Spirit, recognized that this baby was the fulfillment of the promise. He took the child in his arms and said:

“Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.”

The underlined portion has a Gematria value of 5760. Oh! Now we have added 2,000 years to the year 3760 and we have the Hebrew year 5760 – the first day of which was September 11, 1999 (Rosh Hoshanah). And even though he came to be a “*light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Israel*” he could not begin this work until he became the rightful heir on David’s throne. He took that place of authority on Rosh Hoshanah 5760 (September 11, 1999).

God asked Isaiah:

“Do I bring to the moment of birth and not give delivery, says the Lord? Do I close up the womb when I bring delivery, says your God? Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her.”

The underlined portion has a Gematria value of 1999. On Rosh Hoshanah 1999 a birth took place. The “sign” of this birth was in the constellation Virgo. It was the birth of the Kingdom of God – Divine Government, as is embodied in the person of Jesus Christ. It was the first day of the Hebrew year 5760. Divine Government began as a newborn – or, as Daniel saw it, as a tiny little stone cut out of a great Mountain. The first thing this little stone did was to hit the mighty imposing image on its feet. Not until then did it begin to grow and fill the whole earth.

God sees the filling of the earth with Divine Government as an accomplished fact, because He knows that His plans are sure to be fulfilled. Thus we have the statement in Psalms 96:9-10:

*“Tremble before him all the earth. Say among the nations ‘The Lord reigns.’
The world is firmly established.”*

I’ve underlined this whole verse, because its Gematria adds to 5760. On Rosh Hoshanah of 5760, Divine Government was born as a tiny baby – as a tiny little stone, just an innocent little pebble, unseen by man it was cut out of the mountain. But the Psalmist said *“The world is firmly established”* because its fulfillment is a sure thing. God’s plans do not fail.

Yes, Jericho, representing man’s governments, will indeed fall under the conquering rulership of Divine Government. That Government was born as a tiny baby on Rosh Hoshanah 1999. The *“little stone”* has been cut out of the Mountain, and is being hurled down at the feet of the great image (man’s governments). Its blow is a fatal blow. Jericho will never rise again.