

Jericho to Jerusalem – and back again

The Plan of God in 45 Miles

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 800 feet below sea level. Its tropical climate provided for an abundance of flowers and fruit trees, giving the name יריחו which means “*breath*” or “*fragrance*.” In later times, the spelling of the name was changed to יריחו 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.

But where do we get the 45 miles? Well, let’s take a look!



- ① Jericho
- ② Jerusalem
- ③ Wadi Al Junan empties into Dead Sea

The straight-line distance between each of these three locations is 15 miles, making a total of 45 miles. And a magnificent 45 miles it is, for it tells the whole plan of God for the redemption and restoration of mankind. So let’s begin with Jericho.

Jericho, the oldest city in the world that is still inhabited, also bears the epithet “The Key to Israel.” It has always been the entrance into Israel from the east, because the old road which followed the wadis on both sides of the Jordan, went through Jericho. This road crossed the Jordan at the fords of Bethabara – *The House of Crossing*. When the flow of the river was low it could easily be forded, but when it overflowed in the spring, boats were used.

Just as Jerusalem, in the Bible, is used as a representation of God's Government, Jericho is used as a representation of man's governments. Understanding this symbol is important to a comprehension of its use in the Scriptures – the stories and events which happened in this ancient city.

In the Bible we first meet Jericho in the book of Numbers. At the end of Israel's long trek through the wilderness, they came to camp on the plains of Moab, which is across the Jordan from Jericho. The intent was, that at this point on the river, they would cross over into the Promised Land. But a resident of the area named Balak was fearful that the great horde of people camped there would be a threat to him, so he hired a man of God, named Balaam, to put a curse on Israel.

Balak and Balaam went up into mount Pisgah (the same mountain where God later took Moses and showed him all the land of Promise), and as Balaam looked out over the camp of Israel, below, and the river, and the city of Jericho on the other side, he spoke the words that God had put into his mouth.

“I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the sons of Sheth. Edom will be conquered; Seir, his enemy, will be conquered, but Israel will grow strong. A ruler will come out of Jacob and destroy the survivors of the city.”

What city? Jericho!

This ancient prophecy tells us that Jesus, the ***“star out of Jacob”*** will conquer Israel's enemies, and will overpower man's governments, the city of Jericho.

The ***“Star”*** has a Gematria value of 48 both by addition and by multiplication (dropping the zeros). Balaam spoke this prophecy more than three millennia ago, thus he said, ***“I see him, but not now ... but not near.”*** But today we live in the era of its fulfillment.

How interesting that this Star is identified by the number 48. And if we did not drop the zeros it actually multiplies to 4800. Jesus, just before his crucifixion, was on the Mount of Olives with his disciples. They had asked him when he would return. He gave them many signs, and then said, ***“For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.”*** The portion underlined in red has a Gematria value of 4800. He identified himself with the Star of Balaam's prophecy. Not only Jesus, but also the prophet Micah used the same number to identify the coming of Jesus.

“I will surely gather all of you, O Jacob; I will surely bring together the remnant of Israel. I will bring them together like sheep in a pen, like a flock in its pasture; the place will throng with people. The Breaker will go up before them.”

The underlined portion adds to 480. The translators knew that “*The Breaker*” is another name for the constellation Perseus, who represents Jesus. But, I hear someone saying, “Those pictures in the sky are just old myths.” Yes, today, they are old myths. But they weren’t old myths when God put them there – He said they were to be for signs.



Perseus appears as a warrior, holding high a sword in his right hand, and securely tucked under his left arm is the severed head of Medusa, the enemy. This warrior has wings on his feet, indicating that he comes swiftly. His name is called “*The Breaker*” because the bright star in his left foot is *Athik*, which means “*who breaks.*” The bright star in the severed head is *Al Gol*, or in Hebrew it is called *Rosh Satan*, the head of the adversary.

In recent years a heavenly sign has been given to us regarding the star *Al Gol (Rosh Satan)* that is in the forehead of the severed head of Satan which The Breaker holds under his left arm.

On the night of April 11, 1996, the comet Hyakutake was positioned precisely over the star *Al Gol*. Exactly one year later, on April 11, 1997, the comet Hale-Bopp was also positioned precisely over *Al Gol*. The paths of these two comets crossed at right angles, forming a cross over the star, *Al Gol*. It was a sign, telling us that Satan (the ruler of man’s governments) will be removed from power by the sword that is in the right hand of The Breaker. Jericho – man’s governments – will be conquered by the returned Jesus Christ, the Star (48) out of Jacob.

The Man Who Went Down to Jericho

One day Jesus was confronted by a lawyer who asked how he might obtain eternal life. Jesus took the occasion to tell him a story about a man who went from Jerusalem down to Jericho.

But wait a minute! That’s going the other way. This article is titled “Jericho to Jerusalem.” Why did Jesus tell a story about going the other way?

Remember, Jerusalem represents God’s Government and Jericho represents man’s governments. The un-named traveler in the story is Adam.

Adam was created perfect, and was given dominion. We might call him King Adam. God’s Government has always existed in the heavenly realm. This small piece of God’s Government on earth was the Garden of Eden, and Adam was given rulership. It was a small sample of what the whole earth will be when it and mankind will be perfected at the end of Earth’s Great Millennium. But Adam did not stay in figurative “Jerusalem.” He went down to “Jericho.” And while there, he “fell among thieves.” The thief is Satan. Adam came under the influence of Satan, who brought the temptation to disobey. And the thief stripped him

of his clothes, wounded him, and left him for dead.

Clothes, in the symbology of the Bible, represent our justification. It is only as we are clothed with justification that we can be acceptable to God. Adam lost his when he sinned. And he knew it. That is why he hid from God in the Garden of Eden.

In this story that Jesus was telling the lawyer, the man who went from Jerusalem down to Jericho was left as good as dead. If help had not come, he would have died. And while he lay there dying, a priest and a Levite came along. As they drew near, and saw the man lying there, covered with blood and dirt, they moved over to the other side of the road, and hurried past, not doing anything to help him. 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. More was needed to help him. He needed a Ransom. And so, the Good Samaritan came along – obviously representing Jesus. He bound up the man’s wounds, poured oil and wine on him to clean off the blood and mud, and to soothe his aching body. This describes the work of redemption. Then the Good Samaritan did something very special. He put the injured man on his own beast, while he walked. They switched places. It is a beautiful picture of Jesus giving himself for Adam – taking the sinners place.

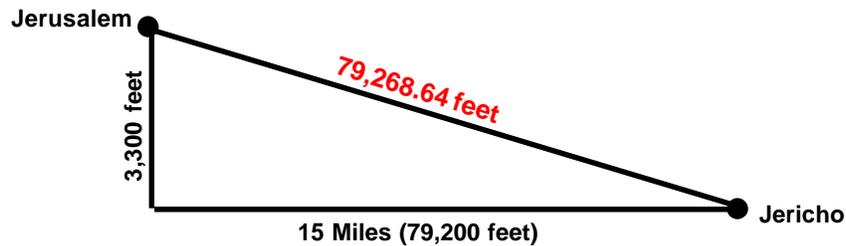
That this was Jesus’ intent in telling the story becomes obvious when we look at the Gematria involved. “*Own beast*” has a Gematria value of 792. Amazing! It is describing the place of salvation – the earth, whose mean diameter is 7,920 miles. The Hebrew word for “*salvation*” has a Gematria value of 792. Thus, placing the man on his own beast is symbolic of the salvation of mankind by means of the sacrifice of Jesus. It required a trading of places. The injured man rode while the owner of the beast walked. It clearly shows that Jesus took the place of Adam and bore the penalty for disobedience, so that Adam and his posterity could be saved.

He took the injured man to an inn and paid the innkeeper two pence to pay for his care until he returned to get him. Two pence was two day’s wages. It has beautiful chronological significance, showing that Jesus would return after two days to take the man back to Jerusalem. Two days equals two thousand years.

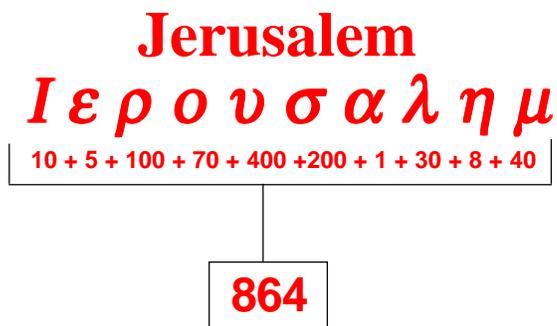
Then the Good Samaritan told the innkeeper something very significant. He said “*When I come again I will repay*” for any additional costs involved. Indicating that he would return after two days, or two thousand years. And the Gematria of Jesus’ statement confirms the time. “*I will repay*” has a Gematria value of 2000. Jesus was clearly suggesting that he would return after 2,000 years. At that time he would take the injured man – Adam – back to Jerusalem – God’s Government.

In our English Bibles, it reads “*when I come again*” but in the original Greek text it reads “*in the return.*” The Greek words “*in the*” used here have a Gematria value of 6000 by multiplication. Not a random chance! I believe this number was placed here as part of the story, telling us that 6,000 years from when Adam “*went down to Jericho,*” He whose right it is will come and establish God’s Government – Divine Government – in the earth. It will be a return from Jericho to Jerusalem.

But take a look at the distances involved. They are fantastic! The road from Jericho up to Jerusalem is all up-hill. The terrain is rugged and dangerous. Jericho is at 800 feet below sea level, and Jerusalem is 2,500 feet above sea level. The straight-line horizontal distance between the two cities is 79,200 feet or 15 miles; and the straight-line elevation distance is 79,268.64 feet. The actual height between the two cities is 3,300 feet.



The ascent from Jericho (man’s governments) to Jerusalem (Divine Government) bears the numbers **792-6-864**. Absolutely remarkable numbers, which tell a fantastic story of the purpose of earth’s Great Millennium – the ascent from man’s governments to Divine Government. The mean diameter of our earth is 7,920 miles, thus the 792 represents the earth. And 792 is the Gematria for “*salvation*,” showing earth to be the place of salvation. The name Lord Jesus Christ, the means of salvation, when spelled in Hebrew, bears the Gematria 792. 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. Are these magnificent numbers just a coincidence? I think not! They bear the positive evidence of a plan that was prepared from the beginning.



The means whereby this ascent can be made is Jesus Christ, who, at the age of 33, poured out his innocent blood to pay the price for the sin 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 distance of 3,300 feet.

The city of Jerusalem represents the seat of Divine Government. Jericho represents man's governments. Thus the traveler (Adam) will be returned to all that he had before he fell into the hands of the thief (Satan). And it follows, that all of Adam's posterity – the human family – will be restored with him. The Apostle Paul made this very clear when he said, ***“As in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive.”***

This is the first 15 miles of our 45-mile journey. Bear in mind that each 15-mile segment of this journey is 79,200 feet, bearing the number of the Lord Jesus Christ, and ***“salvation.”***

The second segment of this journey is from Jerusalem to the place where the Wadi Al Junan empties into the Dead Sea. Just like the road from Jericho up to Jerusalem, this Wadi traverses a very rugged downward terrain until it reaches the Dead Sea, where its pure water pours into the contaminated waters of the Dead Sea. But we are not just talking about the excess waters that are the run-off from a rainstorm. These are special waters that Ezekiel saw in vision and described to us in detail. He was describing a process of development that will occur during Earth's Great Millennium – a process that will bring mankind back from a dying condition to a life condition. First, let's read what Ezekiel wrote:

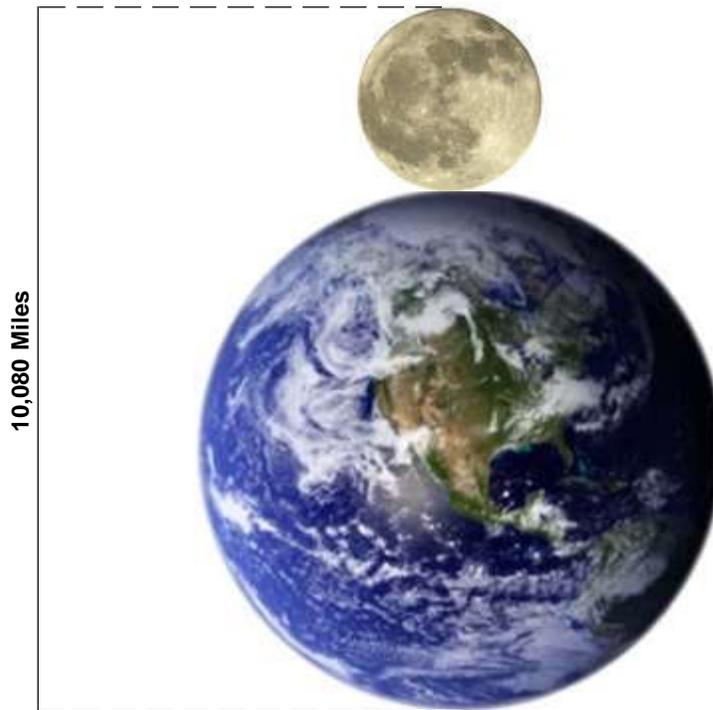
“... I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east ... As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in ... Then he led me back to the bank of the river. When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. He said to me, ‘This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Sea. When it empties into the Sea, the water there becomes fresh. Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows ... because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live ... fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.” (Ezekiel 47:1-12)

Ezekiel saw the same trees that John saw in his Revelation vision – trees that were for food and for healing. But note the portion that I have underlined in red. Would you believe, it has a Gematria value of 1008. In the English translation it says ***“So where the river flows everything will live.”*** However, in the original Hebrew text it is turned around to

read, ***“Everything where the river flows will live.”*** And since it is the Hebrew text that we must follow, we have in it a beautiful promise -- a promise of life to ***“Everything where the river flows”*** – and it has a Gematria value of 1008 – the numbers of Beginning and New Beginning.

It is a river of life that flows from the Temple of God down to the Dead Sea, filling it with fresh life-giving water. It will no longer be a “dead” sea but a “live” sea. It will no longer represent the great reservoir of death into which all mankind have been placed; but it will be a sea that brings life to all mankind. And it is the waters of this river that effects this transformation. It is the story of the entire Millennium – the restoring to man of all that Adam lost. By the end of Earth’s Great Millennium, mankind will stand before God in the same “sonship” relationship in which Adam was created. This is why the Bible calls Jesus’ death a ***“ransom.”*** The Greek word translated ***“ransom”*** means ***“a price to correspond.”*** It is equal value for what was lost. Jesus was the exact substitute for Adam, and had the exact price to pay for the sin of Adam. When Jesus, at his resurrection, presented the merit of his sacrifice to the hands of Divine Justice, he freed Adam from the death penalty. And this included all of Adam’s seed, who were still within him.

“Everything where the river flows will live.” Its Gematria adds to 1008. It is a number that is all-inclusive of earth and its moon. For the combined diameters of earth and moon are, in fact, 10,080 miles.



10080 = “He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest, and the Lord God shall give him the throne of David.”

This is what the angel told Mary at the time of the conception of Jesus. He gave her the identity and work of this marvelous child that would be born. He would be the One through whom *“all the families of the earth”* would be blessed, as God had promised to Abraham. And this blessing would come when he received his great power to rule on David’s throne – when *“Everything where the river flows”* will receive life.

This is why *“Everything where the river flows”* has a Gematria value of 1008; it is prophetic of the complete global transformation from man’s governments of selfishness and death, into the beauty of Divine Government, bringing peace, goodness and life.

Ezekiel went on to describe this river of life that flows down from the Temple to the Dead Sea. He said, *“The water there becomes fresh.”* It is a transformation from a death condition to a life condition. This promise has a Gematria value of 432. This is global in its reach, for the Hebrew word for *“world”* has a Gematria value of 432 – also, the Hebrew word for *“all nations”* has a Gematria value of 432. The meaning is obvious. The transformation from man’s governments to God’s Government will be world-wide.

Amazingly, this watercourse that Ezekiel saw in vision enters the Dead Sea at the latitude of 31.68 degrees north – identifying the source of life for all mankind. For the name Lord Jesus Christ, as is in the Greek text of the New Testament, has a Gematria value of 3168. These facts go far beyond the concept of a coincidence. They were planted there from the Beginning, and they prophesy to the New Beginning – 1 and 8 – that is why they bear the number 1008.

Thus the second leg of our journey is also 15 miles, or 79,200 feet. But why do we need the third leg, taking us back to Jericho? Does this take us back to man’s governments? Emphatically NO!

Jericho is the world’s oldest city that is still inhabited. It didn’t just happen that way by chance. It is part of the picture. Jericho was first spelled *יְרִיחוֹ* which means *“breath”* or *“fragrance.”* It was known for its abundance of flowers and fruit trees. Before its name was changed, it represented the Garden of Eden where Adam was given *“dominion,”* which was a little sample of Divine Government in the earth. But when Satan stepped in and defiled that perfect condition, it meant the degrading of what was once Divine Government down to the imperfect condition of man’s governments. And Jericho experienced a name change.

But when Divine Government replaces man’s governments, Jericho will again be a fragrant breath of life for all mankind. This change is the work of the Millennium – bringing all of Adam’s posterity back to the perfection that he had before he sinned. This can be done because Jesus, the perfect man, paid the price for Adam’s sin, thereby releasing Adam and all of his posterity from the sin-penalty, which is death.

There is an interesting story in the Old Testament that illustrates this change that will happen to Jericho. There exists to this day a large spring just outside the city of Jericho, and it flows with pure, drinkable water. But it was not always so. The waters of this spring had become contaminated. When Adam sinned, that which was represented by pure life-

giving water would, of necessity, have to be changed.

We have the story in 2 Kings 2 of Elijah and Elisha crossing over the Jordan (to the east) where Elijah was taken up in a whirlwind, leaving Elisha on shore. As Elijah was being taken up, his cloak fell onto Elisha, who then rolled it up and smote the waters of Jordan. The waters parted, and Elisha walked back (going west) across the dry riverbed of the Jordan. When he reached the west side of the river, there were men there from Jericho who told Elisha about the contaminated waters of the spring, and asked for him to do something about it. Elisha took salt and sprinkled it into the spring, and the waters became pure again – and still are to this day.

This is not just an “old wives tale,” this really happened. But it was for a purpose. When Elijah’s cloak fell onto Elisha it represented the fact that Elisha was to carry on the work that Elijah had begun. Elijah represented Jesus, and I believe that Elisha, holding the cloak of Elijah, represented both Jesus and his Bride, going back across the Jordan symbolically in a resurrection. It is when the Bride of Christ experiences her resurrection to the heavenly condition, and becomes one with him in marriage, that they, together bring healing to that which is represented by Jericho. It is the transforming of the contaminated waters of death (by man’s governments) into the life-giving waters of Divine Government, healing mankind of the poison, and bringing them to a condition of life. This transformation is the work of the Millennium.

Amazingly, this happened at the same place on the Jordan where many centuries later Jesus was baptized – it was at Bethabara, the House of Crossing. When Jesus came up out of the water he said ***“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”*** And, just like Elisha, Jesus entered the Jordan from its east side and came up out of the Jordan on its west side. It is also the same place on the river that Joshua led the Israelites after their 40 years in the desert. It was what later became Bethabara that Joshua had the priests hold the Ark of the Covenant. It represented the payment of atonement for the sin of Adam.

Let’s look, for a moment, at the events following that crossing of Joshua and the Israelites – the conquering of Jericho.

Jericho was a city surrounded by strong 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 (man’s governments). He gave Joshua detailed instructions.

“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 shalt thou do six days. And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of ram’s horns; and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests 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. Joshua, perhaps, 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.”



The Fall of Jericho – Wikimedia Commons

The seven days of marching around Jericho are the same, in symbol, as the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles – the time 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. However, the prophetic scriptures indicate that man’s rulership will be conquered early in the Millennial Day; but the complete eradication of every effect of man’s governments from the hearts of men will require the entire Millennium. By the end of this great Millennium of restoring man to the condition of perfection which Adam lost, the last vestiges of man’s

selfish rulership will have been erased from the hearts of men. This transformation was assured in the prophecy of Ezekiel (11:19).

“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.”

It so happened that when Joshua and the Israelites marched around Jericho for seven days, that on the seventh day the walls fell 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. Let’s take a look at this amazing Gematria.

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 (number 8) for His beloved human family.

How appropriate that the trumpets that were blown were ram’s horns – *yobel* – Jubilee trumpets. It will be the beginning of God’s Grand Jubilee, when all that Adam lost will be restored to him and all his posterity.

The Gematria is amazing! Man will have received complete salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. The result will be global, covering our entire earth. Just 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 for “*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 transaction is 7,033 years from the creation of Adam. This transaction, in its fulness, is $792 \times 888 = 7,033$. Simple arithmetic! They are not random numbers. They tell a magnificent story – the story of salvation and restoration of the entire human race.

Just to observe a bit of the magnificence of God, let’s compute this another way. Start with the 7,033 years from Adam’s creation to the end of earth’s Great Millennium, and multiply by *pi* (3.14159), making a great circle of time (just like the marching around Jericho was a huge circle which represented the entire 7,033 years). Then divide that circle by earth’s mean circumference. Amazingly, the result will be 888 – the name Jesus.

$$7033 \times 3.14159 \div 24,881.392 = .888$$

Years

π

earth circumference

Jesus

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 from the time when “*dominion*” was given to Adam, to the time when Divine Government will be fully established in the hearts of men will be 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)

In this study we have traveled 15 miles from Jericho to Jerusalem; another 15 miles from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea; and another 15 miles from the Dead Sea back to Jericho, where the waters of Jericho are healed. This is 45 miles of the Plan of God. Let’s convert it to feet. $45 \times 5,280 = 237,600$. It is the number that describes the One (Jesus Christ) who gives us the victory.

2376 = “The One giving us the victory” (I Corinthians 15:57)