

Timeline Convergence 2018: Coincidence or Evidence of Design?

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ALL throughout Scripture, the number 70 is associated with the Nation of Israel:

- Terah, the father of Abraham, was 70 years old when Abraham was born (Gen. 11:26).
- The Nation of Israel began with 70 Hebrews who migrated to Egypt (Ex. 1:1-5).
- Moses appointed 70 elders to be the governing body of Israel (Ex. 24:1; Num. 11:16).
- Israel's greatest ruler, King David, died at the age of 70 (2 Sam. 5:4).
- The Jews were liberated from captivity in Babylon after 70 years (Jer. 29:10).
- God's plan of redemption for Israel is comprised of 70 weeks (Dan. 9:24-27).
- A typical biblical generation is 70 years, and Jesus says the generation who sees Israel reborn will be the final one (Ps. 90:10; Matt. 24:34).

With the above in view, it's significant that 2018 marks the 70th anniversary of Israel's prophetic rebirth in 1948. Conversely, 2018 marks 1,948 years since Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. Consider the "mirror" effect:

1948 AD + 70 years = 2018.

70 AD + 1,948 years = 2018.

Seeing how the number 1948 factors into both calculations, it's interesting that Israel's patriarch, Abraham, was born 1,948 years after Creation.

Coincidence?

Adding to the uncanniness, two distinct timelines in Daniel's 70-weeks prophecy point to 2018 as well. In verse 25, the angel Gabriel tells Daniel how many "weeks," or seven-year periods, will elapse from the time Jerusalem is rebuilt until Messiah comes:

“Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, until the Messiah, the Prince, there will be seven weeks and sixty two weeks” (Dan. 9:25).

As of 2018 it has been “seven weeks” (49 years) since the modern-day rebuilding of Jerusalem began in 1969. Additionally, it has been “seven weeks and sixty-two weeks” (483 years) since an earlier rebuilding of Jerusalem’s walls began in 1535 AD, when the emperor of the Ottoman Empire, Suleiman the Magnificent, ordered the restoration.

Assuming we’re applying Daniel’s weeks correctly, we have four prophetic timelines linked to Israel’s presence in the Land pointing to 2018:

- 1948 AD + 70 years = 2018.
- 70 AD + 1,948 years = 2018.
- 1969 AD + 49 years = 2018.
- 1535 AD + 483 years = 2018.

Coincidence?

The 70-year pattern manifests in other timespans related to Israel’s presence in the Land:

- From the destruction of the First Temple in 586 BC to the completion of the Second Temple in 516 BC is 70 years.
- From the first modern Jewish settlement in the Land of Israel (Petah Tikvah) in 1878 to the birth of the Nation in 1948 is 70 years.
- From the first major step in reestablishing the State of Israel (First Zionist Congress) in 1897 to the final step (restoration of Jerusalem) in 1967 is 70 years.

From its inception in the days of the patriarchs to its redemption at Messiah’s coming, the number 70 is vitally linked to the Nation of Israel. By way of typology and correlation to historical events it denotes an endpoint, or state of completion, for God’s people.

The 70 phenomenon is not limited to Israel but extends also to the Gentile realm. In the Bible, the post-flood world is repopulated by 70 descendants of Noah, resulting in 70 nations and 70 languages. Historically, the Greek translation of the Scriptures (Septuagint) that first made God’s word available to the Gentile world was carried out by 70 Jewish scholars who, though working separately, produced 70 identical translations.

Fast-forward to modern times. The United Nations Organization celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2015, the year of an historic sequence of solar and lunar eclipses on God's feast days. The Paris Peace Summit held in 2017 was attended by 70 nations whose intent was to advance "peace and security" between Israel and the Palestinians by dividing God's land (1 Thess. 5:1-3; Joel 3:2). On a related note, US President Trump, who is overseeing the soon-to-be-revealed peace plan being touted the "Deal of the Century," was exactly 70 years, 7 months, and 7 days old on his first full day in the White House.

Coincidence?

The more one observes the world through a biblical lens, the more one understands there is no such thing as coincidence. What we perceive as uncanny is, in fact, evidence of a reality designed and administered by an attentive and loving Creator. The Lord has a plan that encompasses every nation and individual on earth. We at times get a glimpse of this plan by way of the numbers and their meanings in Scripture.

What are the aforementioned numbers telling us about God's plan?

If we're reading them correctly, something momentous related to Israel and her Messiah is about to occur.