

The Great American Eclipse: Three Years Later

By T.W. Tramm

AUGUST 21, 2020, will mark three years since Jared Kushner flew to the Middle East to begin work on the Trump peace plan.

As Kushner was arriving on the other side of the globe to begin work on the plan—which we now know divides the Land of Israel—the shadow of the “Great American Eclipse” was tracing a path diagonally across the United States, in effect “dividing” the land.

While most Americans viewed the Great American Eclipse as simply an awesome spectacle, Bible-prophecy enthusiasts, for reasons noted below, considered it an omen.

RARITY

The last time an eclipse darkened the US in a manner similar to the Great American Eclipse was more than a century ago when the moon’s shadow cut a path from Washington State to Florida. The last time a total solar eclipse’s path crossed only the US, like the Great American Eclipse, was before the country’s founding in 1776, making the August-21 eclipse a first for our nation.

DATE

The Great American Eclipse occurred on the biblical date Elul 1. According to Jewish tradition, the first day of Elul marks the beginning of a 40-day period of repentance leading up to the Day of Atonement, or “Judgment Day.” The 40 days of repentance recall Jonah’s preaching to the Ninevites: the Lord sent Jonah to warn the wicked inhabitants of Nineveh that they had 40 days, presumably the span from Elul 1 to the Day of Atonement, to repent or face judgment (Jonah 3:4).

PATH

Jerusalem is God’s holy city, and seven is His number of completion. It’s thus striking that the Great American Eclipse’s path of totality crossed directly over seven US cities named “Salem,” an alternate name for Jerusalem (Ps. 76:2). Beginning on the West Coast, the eclipse’s 70-mile wide shadow crossed over: Salem, Oregon; Salem, Idaho; Salem, Wyoming; Salem, Nebraska; Salem, Missouri; Salem, Kentucky; and, finally, Salem, South Carolina.

REPEAT PERFORMANCE

Seven years after the Great American Eclipse, in 2024, a similar eclipse will trace a path diagonally opposite across the US. The respective paths of the 2017 and 2024 eclipses thus form a giant “X” over the center of the nation, with the crossing-point landing in the heart of the New Madrid Seismic Zone, a hotspot for major earthquakes. Considering the rarity of total solar eclipses over a given location, it’s remarkable that two eclipses occur seven years apart to form a giant “X”—the universal sign of something cancelled or eliminated—across the US.

TIMING

The Great American Eclipse occurred on the day Jared Kushner was arriving in the Middle East to begin work on a peace plan that divides the Land of Israel. God warns that He will judge those who sell or divide His land (Lev. 25:23; Joel 3:2). Additionally, in Paul’s first letter to the Church at Thessalonica, the sign that judgment is about to fall is a declaration of “peace and safety” (1 Thess. 5:3).

If the Great American Eclipse was a warning-siren from God concerning the apportioning of His land, the alarm has fallen on deaf ears. Israel is currently awaiting the greenlight from the White House, which has been working on a package to “sweeten” the deal for the Palestinians, before annexing areas in the West Bank as provided in the plan.

Speculation is that it could happen later this month.

With late August as a possible implementation time for the ill-omened peace plan, it’s interesting that August 21 marks yet another significant anniversary: it will be 50 years since the New York Times published an article about the newly approved master plan to rebuild Jerusalem, recaptured during the Six Day War of 1967.

The announcement of a plan to rebuild Jerusalem is significant because Daniels 70-weeks prophecy, the only Bible prophecy that contains an explicit countdown to Jesus’ coming, says: “From the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah comes, seven times seven years will pass” (Dan. 9:25 GNT).

According to Daniel, a command to rebuild Jerusalem initiates a 49-year countdown to Messiah. Counting from the 1970 publication of the plan to rebuild the Holy City, the 49th year ends the third week of August, 2020.

Is it coincidence that the third week of August marks three significant anniversaries, namely the Great American Eclipse, Kushner’s inaugural visit to the Middle East, and 50 years since the 1970 plan to rebuild Jerusalem was made public?

Scripture implies that there is no such thing as coincidence (Prov. 16:33).

That being noted, I want to make clear I am not proposing the third week of August to be a prophetic deadline or cut-off date related to Jesus' return. Only God knows whether the 1970 plan to rebuild Jerusalem is connected to Daniel's prophecy and, if so, how the timing might play out as regards the 49th and 50th year .

Nevertheless, with late August and God's warning against dividing the Land in view, it's fascinating to consider how the US—the nation administering the soon-to-be implemented peace plan—finds itself in the midst of a perfect storm of upheaval and calamity: record GDP losses, a plunging dollar, stock market and housing bubbles, rising unemployment, racial unrest, lawlessness, a record start to the Hurricane season, a major upsurge in Covid-19 infections, and mounting "division" along social and political lines.

No one knows exactly what the future holds for the US. However, if we're correct in our assumption that God is displeased with the peace plan, the days ahead may prove to be even more daunting.

NOTES:

1. Jared Kushner Heads to the Middle East:

<https://www.cnn.com/.../jared-kushner-middle-east-.../index.html>

2. Biblically, a total solar eclipse is a sign of the impending Day of the Lord (Rev. 6:12; Joel 2:31; 3:14, 15; Isa. 13:9-10; Mark 13:24; Luke 21:25-27; Acts 2:20, 21). In the Talmud, solar eclipses are a sign of judgment for the Gentile world (Succah 29a). The United States, the setting for the Great American Eclipse, is the world's only superpower and thus the de facto head of the Gentile nations.

3. More on the Great American Eclipse:

http://www.theseasonofreturn.com/IS_THE_GREAT_AMERICAN_ECLIPSE_A_HARBINGER_OF_DOOM.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3k97TVSfJeH1NVUUNHnjEaHw7wEd3JF3dL1ZXh1KDmXHUEI7xHTeTjxFM

4. "The Seven Salems of the Great American Eclipse":

http://blog.chrisify.com/2017/08/the-seven-salems-of-eclipse-coincidence.html?fbclid=IwAR00qdmNVU8ZzqmAgI_2PpONREitg612oiJ2c-iCXY_rEZ6isL6ZMiQTcRO

5. Concerning Jonah and the 40 days of repentance (presumably spanning Elul 1 to the Day of Atonement), an intriguing link to an actual total solar eclipse is noted. NASA data confirms that a famous eclipse mentioned in ancient cuneiform tablets, the Bur-Sagle Eclipse, occurred in June of 763 BC, just before Jonah began preaching to the Ninevites. The path of this eclipse crossed directly over the City of Nineveh. Some speculate that the Ninevites

interpreted the darkened sun as an omen of God's impending wrath and that this is why they were quick to repent when Jonah arrived a couple of months later.

Noteworthy is the repeating pattern of "threes" in the story of Jonah. The prophet was in the belly of the fish for three days and nights (1:17). Afterward, in verse three of chapter three, when God sends Jonah to warn the Ninevites, it takes the prophet three days to go through the city of Nineveh and declare that judgment is 40 days away.

With the "three" motif in view, it's interesting that Elul 1, 2020, marks exactly three years since the Great American Eclipse and Kushner's inaugural trip to the Middle East to start work on the peace plan. Could the first day of Elul in 2020, as in the days of the prophet Jonah, mark the beginning of a 40-day countdown to Judgment Day?

6. "While they are saying, 'Peace and security,' destruction will come on them suddenly" (1 Thess. 5:3).

Netanyahu to Pompeo: "We'll Promote 'Peace and Security' Based on Understandings With Trump":

<https://www.haaretz.com/.premium-pompeo-to-discuss-iran-west-bank-annexation-during-brief-visit-to-israel-1.8840978?fbclid=IwAR2lmmg58ElrxeEYGyYPY0oXrk67VdN TrY8qAAEV50MPM1nwbWWG17ZkEc>

7. White House still mulling annexation, which could happen this month – source

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/white-house-still-mulling-annexation-which-could-happen-this-month-source/?fbclid=IwAR0kdRGGPiRX2JnD62-EN1aD9yu2oV8IJ56x1KwIONTDGjUbOp3JlrtcNJU>

8. New York Times article dated August 21, 1970: "Jerusalem is Hewing To Rebuilding Plans"

https://www.nytimes.com/1970/08/22/archives/jerusalem-is-hewing-to-rebuilding-plans.html?fbclid=IwAR3IHn0jgcVTJnZbhMX2TEYwHC2SOFfkj4-561hIMhvWH_pEax3R3I3Hv1k

While the planning and clearing of rubble in preparation for the rebuilding of Jerusalem began soon after the Israeli takeover in 1967, the plan to rebuild the Holy City, composed by a team of architects, engineers, and administrators, was not approved and publicly communicated until the third week of August, 1970.

9. Most interpreters limit the predictive scope of Daniel's Seventy Weeks prophecy to Jesus' first coming. Typically the "seven sevens" and "sixty-two sevens" are added to get 69 sevens, or 483 years. Counting 483 years from the 457 BC Artaxerxes decree allowing the Jews to return to and rebuild Jerusalem, we arrive at Jesus' anointing as Messiah in 27 AD. Thus the prophecy accurately predicts the year of Jesus' first coming. However, since the prophesied final restoration of Jerusalem was such a principal expectation among the Jews, it would make sense for said (latter) restoration to be included in Daniel's prophecy. This would explain the two sets of sevens (seven and sixty-two). Together and independently they identify the years of Messiah's first and second coming, following two historical restorations of Jerusalem.

10. Interestingly, if August, 1970, marks the prophetic command to rebuild Jerusalem in Daniel 9, there would be exactly 1,900 years between the destruction of the Holy City in August 70 AD and its rebuilding in August 1970. According to E.W Bullinger in His Book Numbers in Scripture, the number 19 denotes the perfection of Divine order connected with judgment.