http://www.jehovahs-witness.net/watchtower/bible/215282/5/WT-Nov-1-2011-public-When-Was-Ancient-Jerusalem-Destroyed-Part-2

Alleymom

Re: WT Nov. 1, 2011 (public) - When Was Ancient Jerusalem Destroyed - Part 2 posted ~ **11 hours ago** (9/2/2011)

Post 1263 of 1266
Since 10/19/2001

I wrote to Dr. John M. Steele whose work is cited in footnote 18a of the article. He gave me permission to share the following response:

From: Steele, John [email address deleted]
To: marjoriealley [email address deleted]
Date: Fri, Sep 2, 2011 9:32 am

Dear Ms Alley,

Thank you for your email concerning the citation of my work in the recent Watchtower article. As you suggest the author of this piece is completely misrepresenting what I wrote, both in what they say about the lunar three measurement, and in what I say about the possibility of retrocalculation of eclipses (my comments on the latter were restricted to a distinct and small group of texts which are different to the Diary they are discussing). Just glancing through the Watchtower article I can see that they have also misrepresented the views of other scholars by selective quotation out of context.

I've looked at the date of VAT 4956 on several occasions and see no possibility that it can be dated to anything other than the conventional date.

Regards,
John Steele

18a. These time intervals ("lunar threes") are the measurement of time from, for example, sunset to moonset on the first day of the month and during two other periods later in the month. Scholars have tied these time measurements to calendar dates. ("The Earliest Datable Observation of the Aurora Borealis," by F. R. Stephenson and David M. Willis, in *Under One Sky—Astronomy and Mathematics in the Ancient Near East*, edited by John M. Steele and Annette Imhausen, published 2002, pages 420-428) For ancient observers to measure this period required some sort of clock. Such measurements were not reliable. (*Archimedes, Volume 4, New Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology*, "Observations and Predictions of Eclipse Times by Early Astronomers," by John M. Steele, published 2000, pages 65-66) On the other hand, calculating the *position* of the moon in relation to other celestial bodies was done with greater certainty.

Notes for "When Was Ancient Jerusalem Destroyed?—Part Two"