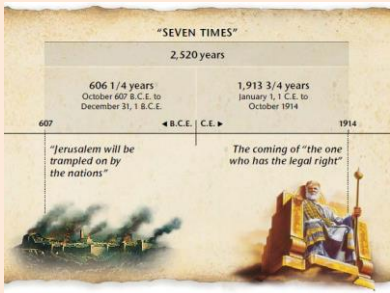



1914—A SIGNIFICANT YEAR IN BIBLE PROPHECY

What Does the Bible Really Teach? pages 215-218

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<p>DECADES in advance, Bible students proclaimed that there would be significant developments in 1914. What were these? (page 215)</p>	<p><i>Precisely what did they predict would take place in 1914?</i></p>
<p>What evidence points to 1914 as such an important year? (page 215)</p>	<p><i>What evidence were these Bible students anticipating?</i></p>
<p>At Luke 21:24, Jesus said: “Jerusalem will be trampled on by the nations until the appointed times of the nations [“the times of the Gentiles,” King James Version] are fulfilled.” (pages 215-216)</p>	<p><i>Has Jerusalem stopped being trampled on by the nations? Did that happen with the Balfour Declaration? Did that happen in 1948?</i></p>
<p>The line of kings from the house of King David. (Psalm 48:1, 2) ... sat on “Jehovah’s throne” as representatives of God himself. (1 Chronicles 29: 23) Jerusalem was thus a symbol of Jehovah’s rulership. (page 216)</p>	
<p>How and when, though, did God’s rulership begin to be “trampled on by the nations”? (page 216)</p>	<p><i>Was God’s rulership no longer operating while Jesus was alive? Or was he telling the people around him that they were able to seek and find the Kingdom?</i></p>
<p>This happened in 607 B.C.E. when Jerusalem was conquered by the Babylonians. (page 216)</p>	<p><i>How was that date arrived at?</i></p>
<p>Ezekiel said regarding Jerusalem’s last king, Zedekiah: “Remove the turban, and take off the crown. ... It will not belong to anyone until the one who has the legal right comes, and I will give it to him.” (Ezekiel 21:26, 27) “The one who has the legal right” to the Davidic crown is Christ Jesus. (Luke 1:32, 33) So the ‘trampling’ would end when Jesus became King. (pages 216-217)</p>	
<div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="text-align: center;">(page 216)</p> </div>	<p><i>Why does the diagram say that Jerusalem was destroyed in October?</i></p> <p><i>Why does the diagram say 607 B.C.E.?</i></p>

When would that grand event occur? (page 217)	
The account in Daniel chapter 4 holds the key to knowing how long that period would last. (page 217)	 Daniel chapter 4
It relates a prophetic dream experienced by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. (page 217)	Upon my bed this is what I [Nebuchadnezzar] saw; there was a tree at the center of the earth, and its height was great. ...
He saw a tree of enormous height that was chopped down. Its stump could not grow because it was banded with iron and copper. An angel declared: “Let seven times pass over it.”— Daniel 4:10-16. (page 217)	Let [Nebuchadnezzar’s] mind be changed from that of a human, and let the mind of an animal be given to him. And let seven times pass over him.
Trees are sometimes used to represent rulership. (Ezekiel 17:22-24; 31:2-5). (page 217)	<i>Ezekiel 17:22-24 and 31:2-5 are reproduced below.</i>
So the chopping down of the symbolic tree represents how God’s rulership, as expressed through the kings at Jerusalem, would be interrupted. (page 217)	<p>In order that all who live may know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdom of mortals. ...</p> <p><i>The purpose was to show that God was actively ruling over men. There was no intention to show that God’s rulership had gone into hibernation.</i></p> <p>The tree that you saw ... it is you, O king! All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. <i>How could the “King of Babylon” symbolise God’s kingdom?</i></p>
This ‘trampling of Jerusalem’ would be temporary—a period of “seven times.” How long a period is that? (page 217)	<p>Let his mind be changed from that of a human, and let the mind of an animal be given to him. And let seven times pass over him. ...</p> <p>When that period was over, I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me.</p>
Revelation 12:6, 14 indicates that three and a half times equal “1,260 days.” “Seven times” would therefore last twice as long, or 2,520 days. (page 217)	<p>The woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, so that there she can be nourished for one thousand two hundred sixty days. ...</p> <p>So that she could fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to her place where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.</p>

<p>The Gentile nations did not stop ‘trampling’ on God’s rulership a mere 2,520 days after Jerusalem’s fall. (page 217)</p>	<p><i>Jerusalem was “trampled” on long before it was destroyed or God’s rulership was “interrupted”. Trampling does not mean interrupted.</i></p> <p><i>Could God’s rulership really cease?</i></p>
<p>On the basis of Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:6, which speak of “a day for a year,” the “seven times” would cover 2,520 years. (page 217)</p>	<p>According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for every day a year, you shall bear your iniquity, forty years, and you shall know my displeasure. ...</p> <p>When you have completed these, you shall lie down a second time, but on your right side, and bear the punishment of the house of Judah; forty days I assign you, one day for each year.</p>
<p>The 2,520 years began in October 607 B.C.E., when Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians and the Davidic king was taken off his throne. (page 217)</p>	<p><i>Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians in July, not October.</i></p>
<p>The period ended in October 1914. At that time, “the appointed times of the nations” ended, and Jesus Christ was installed as God’s heavenly King.— Psalm 2:1-6; Daniel 7:13, 14. (page 217)</p>	<p><i>How is 607 B.C.E. calculated?</i></p> <p><i>When were the 1,260 years of Revelation 12?</i></p>
<p>Just as Jesus predicted, his “presence” as heavenly King has been marked by dramatic world developments—war, famine, earthquakes, pestilences. (Matthew 24:3-8; Luke 21:11) (page 218)</p>	<p>For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah!' and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet.</p> <p>Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.</p>
<p>1914 indeed marked the birth of God’s heavenly Kingdom and the beginning of “the last days” of this present wicked system of things.—2 Timothy 3:1-5. (page 218)</p>	<p><i>When was the first time that people were like this?</i></p> <p>You must understand this, that in the last days distressing times will come. For people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, inhuman, implacable, slanderers, profligates, brutes, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to the outward form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid them!</p>

Ezekiel 17:22-24

22 Thus says the Lord GOD:
I myself will take a sprig
 from the lofty top of a cedar;
 I will set it out.
I will break off a tender one
 from the topmost of its young twigs;
I myself will plant it
 on a high and lofty mountain.
23 On the mountain height of Israel
 I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
 and become a noble cedar.
Under it every kind of bird will live;
 in the shade of its branches will nest
 winged creatures of every kind.
24 All the trees of the field shall know
 that I am the LORD.
I bring low the high tree,
 I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
 and make the dry tree flourish.
I the LORD have spoken;
 I will accomplish it.

Ezekiel 31:2-5

2 Mortal, say to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his hordes:
Whom are you like in your greatness?
 3 Consider Assyria, a cedar of Lebanon,
with fair branches and forest shade,
 and of great height,
 its top among the clouds.
4 The waters nourished it,
 the deep made it grow tall,
making its rivers flow
 around the place it was planted,
sending forth its streams
 to all the trees of the field.
5 So it towered high
 above all the trees of the field;
its boughs grew large
 and its branches long,
 from abundant water in its shoots.

