

My doctor asked if any members of my family suffered from insanity, I replied,

no, we all seem to enjoy it.

[Bert feared his wife Peg wasn't hearing as well as she used to and he thought she might need a hearing aid. Not quite sure how to approach her, he called the family Doctor to discuss the problem. The Doctor told him there is a simple informal test the husband could perform to give the Doctor a better idea about her hearing loss. 'Here's what you do,' said the Doctor, 'stand about 40 feet away from her, and in a normal conversational speaking tone see if she hears you. If not, go to 30 feet, then 20 feet, and so on until you get a response.' That evening, the wife is in the kitchen cooking dinner, and he was in the den. He says to himself, 'I'm about 40 feet away, let's see what happens.' Then in a normal tone he asks, 'Honey, what's for dinner?' No response. So the husband moves closer to the kitchen, about 30 feet from his wife and repeats, 'Peg, what's for dinner?' Still no response. Next he moves into the dining room where he is about 20 feet from his Wife and asks, 'Honey, what's for dinner?' Again he gets no response. So, he walks up to the kitchen door, about 10 feet away. 'Honey, what's for dinner?' Again there is no response. So he walks right up behind her. 'Peg, what's for dinner?' 'For pete's sake, Bert, for the FIFTH time, CHICKEN!']

מתתיהו

(Matthew) 6.19-21

Mattityahu (Matthew) 6.19

אַל תִּאָצְרוּ לָכֶם אוֹצְרוֹת עָלֵי אַדְמוֹת, בְּמָקוֹם שֶׁהָעֵשׂ וְהַחֲלוּדָה מְשַׁחֲתִים וְהַגָּנְבִים חוֹפְרִים וְגוֹנְבִים.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.

[Here are three sorts of earthly treasures pointed at, which are liable to be corrupted, or taken away:

- *garments, which may be destroyed, and rendered useless for wearing;*
- *provisions of things eatable, as all sorts of corn and grain, which may be so corrupted by smut and vermin, as not to be fit for use;*
- *and money and jewels, which may be stolen by thieves: so that no sort of worldly riches and treasure is safe, and to be depended on; and therefore it is a great folly and vanity to lay it up, and trust in it.]*

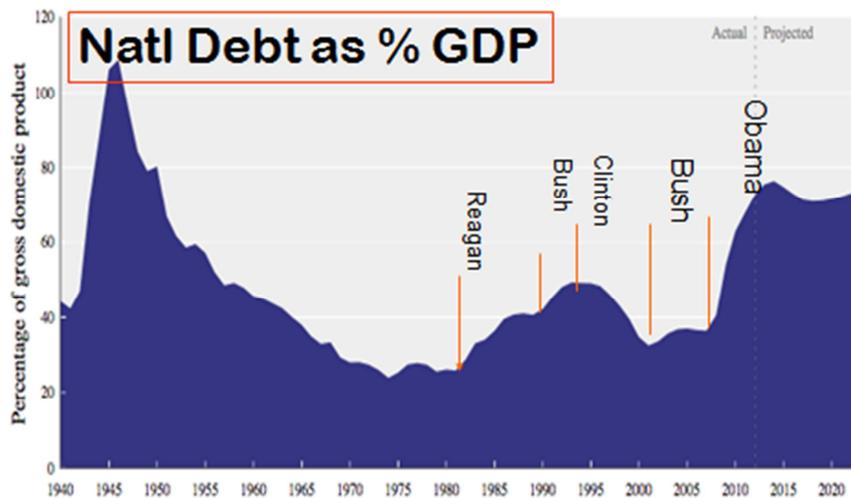


[Last week showed a diagram of the National Debt, horrific 17 trillion. Really only a fraction.

Personally, I have Apocalyptic fatigue. Been waiting and expecting doom since the 1960's.

Nevertheless... Yeshua ישוע warns us in this text that the wealth of this world is fleeting, and He gives us some dramatic apocalyptic visions. Mt. 25. Fleeting nature of the security in this world, but can be overemphasized → shabby workmanship, shoddy presentation.

Yet Judgment coming. Tension.]



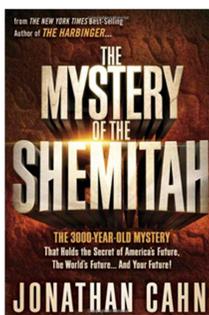
Reagan, 1981-1989; Bush, 1989-1993; Clinton, 1993-2001; Bush, 2001-2009; Obama, 2009-

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_debt_of_the_United_States#mediaviewer/File:FederalDebt1940to2012.svg

Mr. Obama said in his state of the Union address, or maybe the KU follow up, that the deficit had been reduced.

*Take a look around you boy,
it's bound to scare you boy
and ya tell me over and over again my friend
that you don't believe,
were on the eve of destruction.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfZVu0aIU0I>



***[NY Times Bestseller in religious literature.
Principle, NOT date setting.]***

(Exodus 23:10–11) “You may plant your land for six years and gather its crops. But during the seventh year, you must leave it alone and withdraw from it. The needy among you will then be able to eat just as you do, and whatever is left over can be eaten by wild animals. This also applies to your vineyard and your olive grove.”

[Land to be fallow every seventh year.]

(Dt 15:1–6) At the end of every seven years, you shall celebrate the remission year. The idea of the remission year is that every creditor shall remit any debt owed by his neighbor and brother when God’s remission year comes around. You may collect from the alien, but if you have any claim against your brother for a debt, you must relinquish it. ...”

[Debt cancellation every seventh year.]

Dvarim/Dt 31:10–13 Moses then gave them the following commandment: ‘At the end of each seven years, at a fixed time on the festival of Sukkot, after the year of release, when all Israel comes to present themselves before God your Lord, in the place that He will choose, you must read this Torah before all Israel, so that they will be able to hear it. ‘You must gather together the people, the men, women,

[Torah study for a YEAR!!]

Dvarim/Dt 31:10–13 children and proselytes from your settlements, and let them hear it. They will thus learn to be in awe of God your Lord, carefully keeping all the words of this Torah. Their children, who do not know, will listen and learn to be in awe of God your Lord, as long as you live in the land which you are crossing the Jordan to occupy’.”

Yermiyahu/Jer. 34.13-17 “Here is what ADONI the God of Isra’el says: ‘When I brought your ancestors out of the land of Egypt, where they lived as slaves, I made this covenant with them: “At the end of seven years every one of you is to set free his brother Hebrew who has been sold to you and has served you six years. You are to let him go free from you.” But your ancestors did not listen to me or pay any attention.

[Slave liberation seventh year.]

So the seventh year was:

- A fallow year for the land
- A cancellation of debt
- A release from slavery
- A full year of Torah study

The sabbath year (*shmita* שמיטה, literally “release”)

[Israel didn't keep Shmittah, and a lot else, and was exiled in proportion.]

Divrei HaYamim II 36.21 Thus was fulfilled the word of ADONI spoken by Yirmeyahu, “until the land has been paid her Shabbats”-for as long as it lay desolate, it kept Shabbat, until seventy years had passed.

[Israel didn't keep Shmittah, in terms of the fallow land, and a lot else, and was exiled in proportion.]

Yermiyahu/Jer. 34.13-17 Now you repented, you did what is right from my viewpoint when each of you proclaimed freedom to his fellow; and you made a covenant before me in the house bearing my name. But then you changed your minds. You profaned my name when each of you took back his male and female slaves, whom you had set free to live as they wished,

[Didn't keep shmittah in terms of the release of slaves.]

Yermiyahu/Jer. 34.13-17 and brought them back into subjection as your slaves.’ Therefore here is what ADONI says: ‘You did not heed me and proclaim freedom, each to his brother and each to his neighbor; so now I proclaim for you a freedom,’ says ADONI, ‘for sword, plague and famine. I will make you an object of horror to all the kingdoms on earth.’

[Huge consequence.]

When the people were not righteous, Shmittah was not observed, but it was divinely enforced:

- The land was abandoned.
- Slaves were freed by conquest.
- Debt was cancelled by conquest.

The Shmita שמיטה years are those divisible by 7. Since 1900 these years have been: 5663, 5670, 5677, 5684, 5691, 5698, 5705, 5712, 5719, 5726, 5733, 5740, 5747, 5754, 5761, 5768, and 5775

This year is 5775

[Why should this be related to US history?

We have some deep similarities to Israel.

- ***Biblical foundation***
- ***Covenant relationship***
- ***Dedicated to serve the G-d of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob.]***



*[Columbia U also
 America has been the place of GREAT spiritual awakenings, like ancient Israel.
 America has been the place of GREAT spiritual decline → judgment, like ancient
 Israel.
 Shmittah year history in US. Debt reset. This is presented as interesting,
 exhortational, not absolute.]*

Hebrew year Div by 7	Gre- gorian year	Start date Tishri 1	Finish date Elul 29	event
5663	1902- 1903	Sept. 1902	Sept. 21, 1903	1901-1903 46% loss stock market
5677	1916- 1917	Sept. 28, 1916	Sept. 16, 1917	40% loss of stock market value
5691	1930- 1931	Sept. 23, 1930	Sept. 11, 1931	April 1931, unending decline

*[Present columns:
 4 1 2 3 5
 April 1931 to July 1932 86% loss; till 1954 no recovery]*

Hebrew year Div by 7	Gregorian year	Start date Tishri 1	Finish date Elul 29	event
5698	1937-<u>1938</u>	Sept. 6, 1937	Sept. 25, 1938	Sept. 6, 1937 Wall St. collapse
5733	1972-<u>1973</u>	Sept. 9, 1972	Sept. 26, 1973	Jan. 11, 1973 long S&P decline started

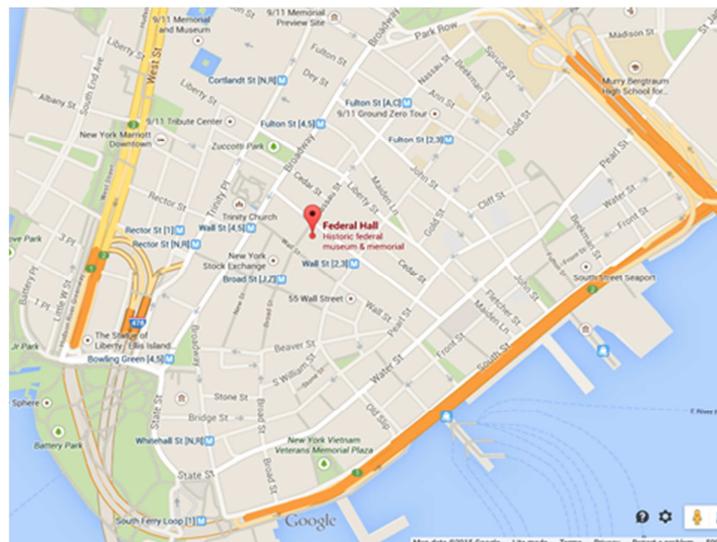
[Sept. 6, 1937 Wall St. collapse: over next 9 months: US mfg employment fell 25%, industrial output fell one third, by June 1937 four million out of work. Interval with no calamitous history, not always. 1972-73 70% decrease in GDP!]

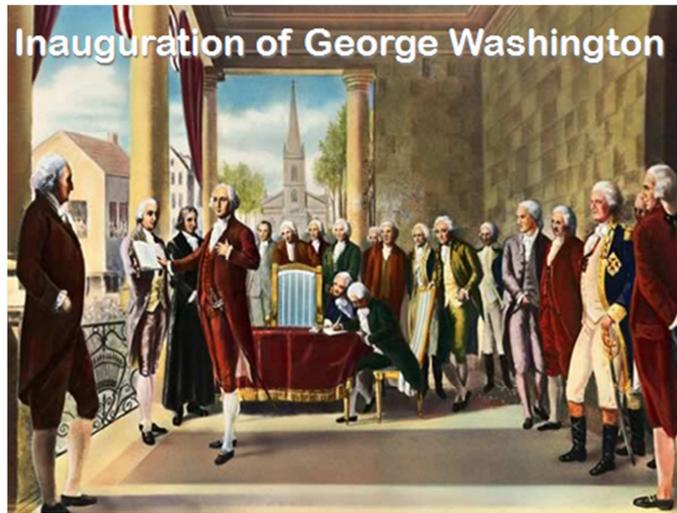
Heb year Div by 7	Gregorian year	Start date Tishri 1	Finish date Elul 29	event
5761	2000-<u>2001</u>	Sept. 30, 2000	Sept. 17, 2001	Dot com crash Sept. 11, 2001
5768	2007-<u>2008</u>	Sept. 13, 2007	Sept. 29, 2008	Great recession
5775	2014-<u>2015</u>	Sept. 25, 2014	Sept. 13, 2015	?

[9/29/2008 7% decline in NYSE 777.7 points. Greatest point drop US history. Wall St. bell wouldn't ring. Seemed omen. BTW, Michael Rood, others want to refigure rabbinic calendar, this seems to be confirmation.]

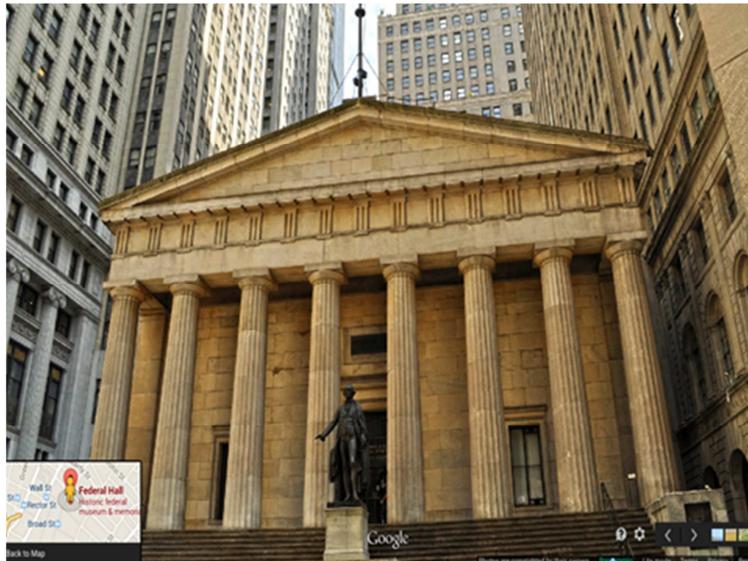
**29 Elul 5768 is 09/29/ 2008
(FALL of the stock market)
the drop of 777.7 points or
7 percent took place in
reaction to the US
Congress failing to
approve the first vote for a
Wall Street bailout**

[Place of destruction is the place of dedication.]





***[April 30, 1789; Federal Hall, New York City
 Judgment comes to the place of dedication: Solomon's Temple destroyed by the
 Babylonians.
 America his increasingly rejected G-d and the scriptures.]***



***[Judgment has come to America regularly, since WW II particularly, every
 Shmittah year. This one?
 Apocalyptic fatigue, nevertheless.]***

I sensed the Lord saying: "The season of the fisherman is coming to an end. The Season of hunters is starting gradually, but will increase in intensity." (Jeremiah 16:14-16)

[I have felt in my spirit that the easy ride that Jews and Messianic Jews have had in the Midwest may be coming to an end. That is, we as Messianics have been a bit of a celebrity end times tourist attraction to charismatics and other evangelicals. That period of charm may be closing as the hunters close

in. Israel, and those who will stand with Israel may soon pay a price for being who we are! Sounds gloomy, but it's happened in France, and Belgium, and at the JCC here in Overland Park already!]

Yermiyahu/Jer 16.14-16 “‘Therefore,’ says ADONI, ‘the day will come when people will no longer swear, “As ADONI lives, who brought the people of Isra’el out of the land of Egypt,” but, “As ADONI lives, who brought the people of Isra’el out of the land to the north and out of all the countries where he drove them”; for I will bring them back to their own land, which I gave to their ancestors. Look,’ says ADONI, ‘I will send for many fishermen, and they will fish for them. Afterwards, I will send for many hunters; and they will hunt them from every mountain and hill and out of caves in the rocks.’”

[So review first verse.]

Mattityahu (Matthew) 6.19

אַל תִּאָצְרוּ לָכֶם אוֹצְרוֹת עַלֵי אֲדָמוֹת, בְּמָקוֹם שֶׁהָעֵשׂ וְהַחֲלוּדָה מְשַׁחֲתִים וְהַגְּנָבִים חוֹפְרִים וְגוֹנְבִים.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.

Here are three sorts of earthly treasures pointed at, which are liable to be corrupted, or taken away:

- garments, which may be destroyed, and rendered useless for wearing;
- provisions of things eatable, as all sorts of corn and grain, which may be so corrupted by smut and vermin, as not to be fit for use;
- and money and jewels, which may be stolen by thieves: so that no sort of worldly riches and treasure is safe, and to be depended on; and therefore it is a great folly and vanity to lay it up, and trust in it.

Mattityahu (Matthew) 6.20

אַצְרוּ לָכֶם אוֹצְרוֹת בַּשָּׁמַיִם, בְּמָקוֹם אֲשֶׁר עֵשׂ וְחֲלוּדָה לֹא יִשְׁחִיתוּ וְגְנָבִים לֹא יַחְפְּרוּ וְלֹא יִגְנְבוּ;
But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in or steal.

Mattityahu (Matthew) 6.21

כִּי בְּמָקוֹם שֶׁאוֹצְרֶךָ נִמְצָא, שָׁם יִהְיֶה גַם לְבָבְךָ.

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

How do we put treasures in heaven?

Mal. 3.10-12 “Bring the whole tenth into the storehouse, so that there will be food in my house, and put me to the test,” says ADONI-Tzva’ot. “See if I won’t open for you the floodgates of heaven and pour out for you a blessing far beyond your needs. For your sakes I will forbid the devourer to destroy the yield from your soil; and your vine will not lose its fruit before harvest-time,” says ADONI-Tzva’ot. “All nations will call you happy, for you will be a land of delights,” says ADONI-Tzva’ot.

1 Tim 6:17-19 As for those who do have riches in this present world, charge them not to be proud and not to let their hopes rest on the uncertainties of riches but to rest their hopes on God, who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment.

Charge them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, to be generous and ready to share. In this way they will treasure up for themselves a good foundation for the future, so that they may lay hold of the real life.

Yeshayahu 3.10 **Say that it will go well with the righteous, that they will enjoy the fruit of their actions;**

Mishlei/Prov 11.30 **The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who is wise wins souls.**

Matt.19.21 **Yeshua said to him, “If you are serious about reaching the goal, go and sell your possessions, give to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come, follow me!”**



[Rabbi Greg Hershberg, : Shmuel, We built a \$3 million facility debt free.

- *Having a building of your own changes your dynamic in the community. Sense of permanence. “If you build it...” He had great increase after building.*
- *Called a 3 day fast to determine if G-d's will.*
- *\$250k bought 12 acres*
- *Gave out 5x7 cards for pledges, he and wife \$50k*
- *Only \$240k response*
- *Started streaming services, 25% of income on line. 2000 hits. Giving increase, two \$35k gifts \$3 million facility debt free. Have a Kotel replica outdoors for community prayer posting.]*



[The money is there.

We have a Holocaust survivor who would attend, except she can't get up these steps.]



Vayikra/Lev 19.23-25 **When you come to the land and you plant any tree, you shall treat its fruit as forbidden; for three years it will be forbidden and not eaten. In the fourth year, all of its fruit shall be sanctified to praise Adoni. In the fifth year, you may eat its fruit.**



New Year for trees, Wednesday, February 4, 2015

The Torah says (Deuteronomy 20: 19), “For man is a tree in the field...” The Torah calls humankind “trees of the field,” and therefore Tu BiShvat – the New Year for trees -- is also a New Year for people. King David also used the metaphor of a man as a tree. In his words (Psalm 92), “The righteous man shall flower like a date palm and grow tall like a cedar of Lebanon.”

[<http://online.flipbuilder.com/dspg/hlj/>]



Date palms flourish in desert climates, but they must grow near a source of water. Their roots are broad, but relatively shallow. Date palms give a tremendous amount of luscious fruit. The wood of a date palm has no real value.
[<http://online.flipbuilder.com/dspg/hlj/>]



Lebanon cedar trees grow on top of high mountains. They have strong roots that can penetrate rocks until reaching a deep source of water. Cedars give no fruit. The wood of the Lebanon cedar is one of the best on earth.
[<http://online.flipbuilder.com/dspg/hlj/>]

King David advises us to be both – like cedars and like date palms. Our character “wood” should be good, like a cedar. We should have deep roots like a cedar, with a deep connection to our the Ruakh. And, like a date palm, we should be close to a source of water, the Word, our vitality and bear fruit: Give, serve, lay up treasure in Heaven!!
[<http://online.flipbuilder.com/dspg/hlj/> Heaven is closer than we think!]



[What is believed to be an angel might have appeared, on stage, at a Promise Keepers event. A Baptist minister, Miles McPherson, is said to have used his iPad to photograph the the men leading the PK worship when the light-imbued form was captured. In disbelief, the pastor took another photo, and again, the angelic light appeared beside the men.]



[Next photo people begged me to show, and begged me NOT to show!!]



[Isaac Alongi, accomplished professional photog, <http://isaacalongi.com>, son of Ted and Suzanne said this looks like a situation of light hitting a smudge on the lens, which shows up in the second image only because of a slight change in the angle of the lens as the second pic is snapped. Particularly if taken with a cellphone - whose screens are so prone to smudging.]

Mk 10.29-30 Yeshua said, “Yes! I tell you that there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, who will not receive a hundred times over, now, in the `olam hazeh, homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and lands -- with persecutions! -- and in the `olam haba, eternal life.”

2 Cor. 9.6-11 Here’s the point: he who plants sparingly also harvests sparingly. Each should give according to what he has decided in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God has the power to provide you with every gracious gift in abundance, so that always in every way you will have all you need yourselves and be able to provide abundantly for every good cause - as the Tanakh says, “He gave generously to the poor; his tzedakah lasts forever.” He who provides both seed for the planter and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your tzedakah. You will be enriched in every way, so that you can be generous in everything.