



Eclipse Signs, Jubilee, and America's Prophetic Destiny

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THE Great American Eclipse of 2017 was considered a major biblical sign.

With a second, similar eclipse set to occur in 2024—its path traversing the former eclipse's path to draw a giant 'X' across the continental US—it is fascinating to consider the United States' history and role in God's redemptive plan for Israel.

Let's start with America's discovery.

COLUMBUS'S DIVINE MISSION

The standard teaching is that Christopher Columbus's discovery of America was an "accident"—that he was actually trying to reach Asia. However, the facts surrounding Columbus's pivotal voyage suggest that it was not truly an accident but rather part of a divine plan.

Consider:

- Columbus was a devout follower of Christ who believed that God had ordained his expedition for a special purpose, to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth in anticipation of Jesus' soon return. The explorer was so convinced of his role in the end-times prophecies that he wrote a work entitled "Book of Prophecies" in which he cited Scripture to show how God had planned his voyage to the 'new world,' and would be doing further wonderful things for the Church through his discovery.
- A number of scholars believe that Columbus was of Jewish descent and that his voyage was in part a quest to find a better future, a new Promised Land, at a time when his people were being persecuted and expelled from Spain. Supporting this view is the fact that Columbus's journey was largely financed and supported by Jews. Researchers also point to the date Columbus set sail as evidence of his Jewish background: it was Av 10, the day after Jews traditionally mourn the destruction of both Temples and exiles from the Land, that he departed Spain.
- The duration of Columbus's voyage to parts unknown, which no man could have planned or orchestrated, nonetheless seems orchestrated. After a series of mishaps at sea, including a broken rudder, a faulty compass, and a near mutiny of the crew who feared they would never make it back to Spain, Columbus sighted land and went ashore at the Americas on the 70th day of the voyage. Thus, the journey to the new Promised Land began on Av 10, a day associated with Jewish exile; it lasted for exactly 70 days, the biblical number of homecoming and redemption, and ended on the last day of Tabernacles, the festival associated with God's provision and a temporary dwelling place.

America would indeed turn out to be a new Promised Land, a nation rooted in, and accommodative of, Hebrew values and aspirations:

- The Puritans living in America viewed themselves as a new 'chosen people' dwelling in a 'new Israel.' Their fast and feast days, including Thanksgiving, were based on Jewish observances such as Yom Kippur and Feast of Tabernacles.
- One of the original designs for the Great Seal of the US depicted the Israelites crossing the Red Sea, with Pharaoh in pursuit.
- The Hebrew language was a prerequisite for early American scholars. Many universities even required it in their curriculum.
- From the late 1800s to early 1900s, millions of Jews fleeing antisemitism in Europe immigrated to the US, making America home of the largest Jewish diaspora population. Around the same time, Zionism, the movement to create a Jewish state in the Land of Israel, gained momentum in the US.

Later, the US would become a vital ally to the Jews in Europe and Israel:

- The US defeat of Nazi Germany in the Second World War thwarted Hitler's plan to exterminate the Jews.
- After the Holocaust, the US played a key role in securing support for the UN resolution to create the modern State of Israel.
- When Israel declared itself a nation on May 14, 1948, the US was the first country to grant recognition.
- From 1948 to the present, the United States has provided more financial, political, and military support to Israel than to any other nation.

With the above summary in view, two things are clear: the US has been uniquely supportive of the Jews, and has been instrumental in the replanting and flourishing of the "fig tree," the modern State of Israel, in her ancient homeland (Isa. 11:11, 12; Matt. 24:32–34). In fact, one could say that without the US, there would be no modern State of Israel.

JUBILEE NATION

Another indication of America's prophetic connection to Israel is the fact that the US is uniquely founded on the Jubilee principle of "liberty" (Lev. 25:10). From the original ideologies and charters, to the nation's iconic symbols and currency, the theme of liberty, or Jubilee, is ever-present:

- Patrick Henry's battle-cry in the run-up to the Revolutionary War was, "Give me liberty, or give me death!"
- The US Declaration of Independence cites "liberty" as the first God-given right, next to the fundamental right to life.
- The US Constitution states that no person shall be deprived of "liberty" without due process of law.
- The US Pledge of Allegiance concludes with the words, "with liberty and justice for all."
- The Statue of "Liberty" greets immigrants arriving in New York harbor.
- The iconic symbol of American independence is the "Liberty" Bell, which is engraved with the biblical Jubilee command, "Proclaim Liberty Throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants Thereof" (Lev. 25:10).
- The one-word motto stamped on US coins is "Liberty."
- The US is the only nation comprised of 50 states—the number of Jubilee (Lev. 25:10).

But America's connection to the Jubilee goes deeper still. According to the Sabbatical-year chronology favored by scholars, the US's first full year as a nation, 1777, was a Sabbatical year. The next year, 1778, was a Jubilee. (We understand 1778 to be a Jubilee as it falls exactly five jubilee periods before the calculated Jubilee year 2023).

It is significant that the US has now existed for five Jubilee periods, as the number five signifies God's favor and grace toward man.

That America's Jubilee 'grace-period' is ending in 2023 brings us back to the eclipses of 2017 and 2024.

'X' MARKS THE SPOT

On the last day of the current Jubilee year, April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will darken a path diagonally opposite that of the 2017 eclipse, thus drawing a giant 'X' across the center of the US. Significantly, the center, or crossing point, of the 'X' is an area of Southern Illinois called "Little Egypt."

To appreciate the improbability of such an occurrence, consider that on average, any particular location on earth sees a total solar eclipse only once every 375 years. Yet, America's Little Egypt will, on the last day of the Jubilee, see its *second* total solar eclipse in a period of only seven years.

It gets more interesting. Viewing the 'X' drawn by the eclipses as a biblical sign, it is significant that the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet is the 'X,' or Tav. The 'X' (Tav) is a picture of two crossed sticks. This is significant because, speaking of Israel's redemption in the last days, God says He will join the "stick" of Ephraim, representing the scattered tribes of Israel, with the "stick" of Judah, the tribes who dwell in the Land of Israel, where they will be cleansed of all their idolatry and worship Him as one:

"I am going to take the stick of Joseph—which is in Ephraim's hand—and of the Israelite tribes associated with him, and join it to Judah's stick. I will make them into a single stick of wood, and they will become one in my hand I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel" [There] I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I will be their God" (Ez. 37:19, 21–23).

How does the prophecy about the scattered tribe of Ephraim relate to America? The US, home to nearly half the world's Jews, is believed to be home to the descendants of Ephraim. Thus, the prophecy of Ephraim's return to the Promised Land is actually a prophecy about American Jews returning to Israel.

With the Ephraim–America connection in view, it is befitting that the center point of the eclipse 'X' is Little Egypt, and that the 'X' is formed on the last day of a Jubilee. Egypt is a symbol of God's people in a foreign land, and the Jubilee denotes a return to one's own land.

Could the 'X' drawn across America's Little Egypt on the last day of the Jubilee be a sign heralding the return of scattered Jews foretold in Ezekiel?

It is a fascinating notion to ponder.

SUMMARY AND FINAL THOUGHTS

Columbus, who is believed to be of Jewish heritage, and who believed himself to be fulfilling Bible prophecy, discovered America after 70 days, on the biblical festival associated with God's provision and a temporary dwelling place.

The United States was founded on the Jubilee principle of Liberty. What's more, the US's first full year as a nation, 1777, was a Sabbatical year preceding a Jubilee.

As of 2023, the US has existed for five Jubilee cycles, denoting a period of God's favor or grace.

On the last day of the current Jubilee, a total solar eclipse will complete a giant 'X,' or Tav, across the US, with the center point crossing through Little Egypt.

The crossed "sticks" of the Hebrew 'X,' or Tav, evoke the prophecy about the return of the scattered tribe of Ephraim to the Land of Israel.

The US is home to Ephraim.

With the above facts in view, it appears America's prophetic destiny is nearly fulfilled: She has been a safe haven for half the world's Jews. She has facilitated the replanting of the "fig tree" in the Land of Israel. And now, five Jubilee periods after the US was founded, a giant 'X' drawn by two eclipses suggests that God is about to call His people out of spiritual Egypt, presumably by some calamitous event, and bring them home to the land of their fathers.

Could the calamitous event be the collapse of the US, brought about by the Rapture—disappearance of around half the nation's population?

It is an awesome prospect to consider in this presumed Jubilee year.

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NOTES:

1. In Scripture, 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 US, the world's only superpower, is de facto head of the Gentile nations.

2. The Great American Eclipse of 2017 was considered an ominous biblical sign because:

- It occurred on Elul 1, a date that in Jewish tradition marks the beginning of a period of warning and repentance.

- It traced a path exclusively across the US, a phenomenon which had not occurred since before the nation's founding in 1776.
- Its 70-mile-wide shadow crossed over seven US cities named Salem, an alternate name for Jerusalem in Scripture: from the West Coast to the East Coast, the eclipse's 70-mile-wide shadow crossed over "Jerusalems" in Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska, Missouri, Kentucky, and South Carolina.
- It crossed through the center of three of the US's most notorious seismic hotspots: The Cascadia Subduction Zone on the West Coast, the Yellowstone Caldera in Wyoming, and the heart of the New Madrid Seismic Zone centered on the southern tips of Illinois and Missouri.
- It occurred on the same day President Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, arrived in Jerusalem to begin work on a peace plan that divides Jerusalem.
- It occurred 33 days before another heavenly sign, the Revelation 12 alignment, on September 23, 2017

3. The last time an eclipse similar to the Great American Eclipse occurred in the US was a century earlier in June 1918: <https://www.greatamericaneclipse.com/20th-century/>

4. Columbus's Christian-Jewish background:

<https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/article/why-did-columbus-sail>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2012/05/20/opinion/garcia-columbus-jewish/index.html>
<https://www.threemac.org/docs/Americas%20Hebraic%20Roots%20-%20Columbus%20and%20the%20Discovery.pdf>

5. Significantly, the year after Columbus's voyage (1493-94), a blood-moon tetrad occurred on the biblical harvest festivals. Following this rare event, the next biblical tetrads occurred:

- In 1949–50, the year after the Nation of Israel was reborn (Matt. 24:32–34)
- In 1967–68, the year after Jerusalem was restored (Dan. 9:25).
- In 2014–15, one Sabbatical year, prior to our calculated Jubilee in 2023. This is noteworthy because God typically gives a 'one-week warning' before bringing judgment (Gen. 7; 41; Josh. 6).

6. Concerning the reckoning of Sabbatical years, it is important to note that there are two accepted chronologies, which differ by a single year. The first chronology, associated with Benedict Zuckermann, has the most recent Sabbatical year ending in 2022. The second chronology, associated with Ben Zion Wacholder, has the most recent Sabbatical year ending in 2023. <https://www.pickle-publishing.com/papers/sabbatical-years-table.htm>

7. 2023 Jubilee calculations:

<https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-35306783/documents/0914ab8706874dab8a231c932b6b8ef3/DANIELS%20SEVEN%20WEEKS%20UNTIL%20MESSIAH%202023%20rev%20b.pdf>

<https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-35306783/documents/5d9d83c6cb9944c5994d2473b600ad24/THE%20YEAR%20OF%20REDEMPTION%20-%20WHY%20MILLIONS%20WILL%20SOON%20GO%20MISSING%20rev%20b.pdf>

<https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-35306783/documents/c2110f6238be4320ab5b1beefae3e963/Why%202023%20Is%20the%20Highest%20Rapture%20Watch%20Ever.pdf>

8. Supporting our Jubilee reckoning is the fact that the biblical years that correspond to 1778 and 2023 (5537 and 5782) are divisible by 49, a characteristic unique to Jubilee years.

9. American eclipses and Little Egypt:

<https://medium.com/@jamieacarter/the-crux-of-the-eclipses-little-egypts-seven-year-itch-f1b0ea2d5c2e>

https://nationaleclipse.com/maps/map_2017_2024.html#:~:text=Because%20the%202017%20eclipse%20traveled, Missouri%2C%20Illinois%2C%20and%20Kentucky.

<https://sic.edu/about/facts-and-history/legends-and-lore/#:~:text=Southern%20Illinois%20has%20long%20been,of%20bad%20winters%20and%20droughts.>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Illinois

10. Hebrew letter Tav (X) meaning: <https://ancient-hebrew.org/ancient-alphabet/tav.htm>

11. The US as Ephraim:

<https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/topical.show/RTD/cgg/ID/445/Ephraim.htm>

12. A fascinating connection between Ephraim (America) and the Hebrew letter Tav, or 'X' is as follows: Because Joseph's sons Ephraim and Manasseh were born in Egypt, their grandfather Jacob said a special blessing over them to make clear that they were not Egyptians, but were of the family and inheritance of Abraham (Gen. 48). Significantly, when Jacob blessed Ephraim and Manasseh, he crossed his hands (forming the Hebrew letter Tav, or 'X'), placing his right hand on the head of the younger boy, Ephraim, and his left hand on the head of the older boy, Manasseh, thus bestowing the greater blessing on the younger son, Ephraim, and reserving a lesser blessing for Manasseh, the firstborn. Jacob's blessing is prophetic of two major world powers, the British Empire (Manasseh) and the US (Ephraim).