

NOW CONCERNING SPIRITUAL THINGS

an historical account of one man's walk with God

Jim Ash letter No. 116

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Boldly proclaiming the **new things** of Isaiah 42:9 and the **greater things** of John 14:12 in this generation

RESTORATION OF MAN AND THE EARTH Part Seven

The Length of Jesus' Ministry

The Lord has requested that I present in this letter biblical data concerning the length of Jesus' ministry. There is an almost unending amount of inconclusive research available on this subject, much of which is centered around Luke 6:1. Jesus died on Passover (Matthew 27:62; Mark 15:42; John 19:14). Therefore one may use the number of Passovers in His ministry prior to His death as an accurate way to determine the length of His ministry. The only questionable Passover date involved is the one between John 2:13 and John 6:4 found in Luke 6:1. The way that verse is translated

in some versions leaves room for doubt if it was Passover. In looking for an answer, I read Adam Clarke's scholarly commentary on this verse which cleared up any doubt for me that Luke 6:1 does describe a Passover. Since his commentary is too extensive to publish in this letter, I refer you to his commentary on Luke 6:1. One of my bible software packages (Biblesoft, PC Study bible, version 5) includes the complete works of Adam Clarke and others, which makes research much easier today than it was before the day of inexpensive computers, websites and extensive software packages. Here is my finding on the length of Jesus' ministry:

THE LENGTH OF JESUS' MINISTRY

<u>PASSOVER REFERENCE</u>	<u>PASSAGE</u>	<u>YEARS</u>
Ministry Started "On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there."	John 2:1	Start
First Passover "And the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem."	John 2:13	Less than one year
Second Passover "Now it happened on the second Sabbath after the first that He went through the grainfields. And His disciples plucked the heads of grain and ate them, rubbing them in their hands."	Luke 6:1	Less than two years
Third Passover "Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was near."	John 6:4	Less than three years
Fourth Passover "Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, Where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead."	John 12:1	Less than four years
Died on Passover "Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he (Pilate) said to the Jews, 'Behold your King!'"	John 19:14	More than three Years

I have often referred to the "three and one-half year" ministry of Jesus in my writing. It is obvious from the above data that His ministry lasted more than three and less than four years. The "three years" appear to be certain, but the "one-half year" is an estimate as

you can see. Therefore the three and one-half year period appears to be as close an estimate of the length of the ministry of Jesus as bible data permits.

Now that the **length** of Jesus' earthly visible ministry has been established, let's proceed to the

revelational content of this letter. As I have previously written, all of my writing and teaching now is predicated upon prophetic rhema words the Lord has given me. He has said to me, “You must hear **what I say** in order to understand **what I said.**” “What I say” means hearing rhema words from the mouth of God.¹ “What I said” refers to the logos, the written word or the Bible. When one learns to hear rhema words from the Lord continually, the light in each rhema word **you hear** will shine on the logos (words in the Bible) **with understanding.**² Only in that manner may the words Jesus said that are “covered” and “hidden” be “revealed” and “made known.”³

And very importantly, the Lord has assured me that He desires this intimate personal relationship with **every servant.** He has confirmed to me that intimacy with Him **in this rapture generation** may lead to the “new things” of Isaiah 42:9 and the “greater things” of John 14:12. That will take dedication, persistence, obedience and more time than one may desire. But I assure you the walk with God about which I write is real. I therefore invite you to join me in the most interesting and exciting adventure of life to participate in supernatural events under the direction of our Lord never before done since this world began again with Adam.⁴

One of the most remarkable prophetic rhema words the Lord has ever given Me⁵ is this word that came the morning of July 26, 2008:

¹“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’” (Matthew 4:4. See also Deuteronomy 8:3)

²Revelation is the source of true knowledge.

³Jesus said, “For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.” (Matthew 10:26)

⁴The supernatural events will be done through those now being trained by the Lord, to be commissioned and sent out as apostles beginning in 2009. They will do greater things than the first apostles did and greater things than Jesus Himself did, as Jesus prophesied in John 14:12. This has been confirmed to me by revelation.

⁵Retrospectively, it is difficult to say that one “word” from the Lord is more remarkable than another, because every rhema *word* you hear from Him is a blessing. That may not be evident when the word is received but may become so retrospectively. For example, I may transcribe something the Lord has given me and days later go back and reread the *word* for a second or third time and become awed and amazed all over again. That is because each rhema *word* you hear from the Lord carries the same anointing each time it is reread or shared.

“Once the pattern established by Lucifer on the pre-Adamic earth is understood, all of My activities thereafter may be understood.”⁶

In view of that truth, in this series of letters we have learned that Lucifer, with his angels, were perfectly created by God to rule the perfect pre-Adamic earth populated by man⁷ (Strong’s #120, aadaam) or human beings as we are today until iniquity was found in him (Lucifer). Through Lucifer’s rebellion, iniquity encompassed the pre-Adamic earth and man became as he was immediately prior to Noah’s flood⁸ so that the intent of the thought of his heart was only evil continually. This condition of man triggered God’s total destruction of the pre-Adamic earth in His fierce anger.⁹ By revelation I have been told that before Lucifer’s iniquity, he was governed by God’s three measure standard.¹⁰

By revelation, I also learned that God, as a result of Lucifer’s failure, would institute an additional precautionary measure (litmus test) for His future authority figure. That test was not instituted in Adam because he was created to fail in order to procreate the earth¹¹ and was not needed in Noah. That test (meekness) was instituted in the life and training of Moses, but he likewise disobeyed.¹²

Instead of speaking to the rock before the

⁶By revelation I have been told that **Jesus was the first One to know this.** That means no one, beginning with Adam, including Moses and all of the Old Testament prophets, as well as John the Baptist, knew of this truth.

⁷See Jeremiah 4:25.

⁸See Genesis 6:5.

⁹In my letter No. 16 dated January 10, 1999, entitled EARTH 101, I explain in some detail Lucifer’s original rule over the pre-Adamic earth, his failure and God’s subsequent total destruction of the pre-Adamic earth in His fierce anger.

¹⁰For the three measure standard, see my letter No. 111 dated October 15, 2008, page 3 column 2.

¹¹See the prophetic word in my letter No. 111 dated October 15, 2008, page 3, column 1.

¹²The “meekness” test was not a “gifted” characteristic. It was a learned manner of conduct God taught Moses and was a precondition of His call to deliver the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage. Proof of this “litmus test” is recorded in Exodus 2:11-21. In this account, Moses at forty years of age killed an Egyptian and fled Egypt to escape Pharaoh’s wrath. Forty years later at eighty years of age, God had taught Moses meekness, as recorded in Exodus, chapter 3. Meekness does not mean weakness but a yielded will.

congregation to bring forth water as God instructed him, Moses, in his anger, said, "Hear now, you rebels! Must **we** (Moses and Aaron) bring forth water for you out of this rock?" He then struck the rock twice with his rod, and water came forth abundantly. Moses thereby forfeited the right to lead Israel across the Jordan to Canaan as the crowning achievement of his ministry. His sin was:

- (1) being controlled by his emotions (anger), an enemy to faith,
- (2) claiming credit for what only God can do, thereby robbing God.
- (3) striking the rock (which is of self) instead of speaking to the rock (which is of self denied) and
- (4) failure to give God the glory.¹³

Moses discovered that one may not rob God nor fail to give Him the glory without dire consequences. On the positive side, as one is obedient and gives credit (or glory) to God for one's blessings (past, present or future) his faith will grow and enable him to receive more from the Lord, as it is written, "Abraham grew in faith as he gave glory to God."¹⁴

The second litmus test (initiated after the failure of Moses) was the "I will never leave you nor forsake you" test that was instituted first in Jesus, by the Father, as He trained Him for His ministry.¹⁵ This second test, like the first, is not gifted but is a manner of conduct taught by listening to rhema words from the Lord for a sufficient period of time. Those words embody and impart spirit, life, love, truth and light, all of which are attributes of God. To one listening to the voice of God continually, there will come a time when he will say from his heart to our Lord, "I will never leave You nor forsake You." Only a sufficiency of God's love may evoke such a response. In my case this came a number of years after the Lord had instructed me, "Hereafter when you come to spend quiet time with Me, come with no prayer agenda. If I want you to pray, I will tell you." Then the flood gates opened. God has many urgent needs that must be accomplished by His faithful servants. However, before He gives you such

¹³For this story of Moses, the rock and the water read Numbers 20:1-12. Failure to give God the glory is disobeying the third of the three measure standard. As I have previously written, if you disobey one, you disobey all three. God is a jealous God. He wants your praise, honor and glory, not because He is selfish, but because that keeps you from the "clutches" of the enemy.

¹⁴See Romans 4:20-22.

¹⁵This was received by revelation.

instructions, there may be a period of time when He tests your commitment, faithfulness and obedience.

The Father said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" in real time to Israel (through Moses), then to Joshua prior to crossing the Jordan, then to Jesus (confirmed by revelation), then as it is written in the book of Hebrews.¹⁶ As Jesus was being trained by the Father in preparation for His personal, visible earthly ministry, He (Jesus) made that commitment to the Father (a first). Jesus then made that same commitment to His followers.¹⁷ Now He (Jesus) is presently training some of His servants to commission them with John 14:12. In time, each one in training will make that same commitment to Him. Here's the way that works:

After they have heard a sufficiency of His rhema words, by the power of those words, they will be so transformed that their allegiance, devotion and fidelity to Him will prompt the same statement from their heart to Him, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Only a sufficiency of God's love may evoke such a response.¹⁸

The three measure standard together with the two litmus tests **were first instituted in the life of Jesus**. That, plus being unencumbered in His ministry, **was why He succeeded and why everyone else failed**. Each of these six attributes became a measure of His life **through hearing a sufficiency of rhema words from the mouth of God**, so that He became conformed to the image of His Father as His Son.

In His personal visible ministry, Jesus did not have all authority in heaven and on earth. That was vested in the Father. That authority was given to Him (Jesus) after He put His blood on the mercy seat in the third heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.¹⁹ Only then, after He had been perfected by the cross,²⁰ His final exam, was He qualified to become Christ, the Messiah, **in real time**. Then He was given by the Father all authority in heaven and on earth²¹

It is important to know that the Father first embodied these six measures in Jesus. Only as He passed His final exam (the cross) was the Father able to

¹⁶See Deuteronomy 31:6, 8; Joshua 1:5; Hebrews 13:5.

¹⁷See Matthew 28:20.

¹⁸For the source of God's love see Romans 5:5.

¹⁹See Mark 16:19; Acts 2:33; 7:55; Romans 8:34/ Hebrews 10:12; 1 Peter 3:22.

²⁰See Luke 13:32; Hebrews 5:9; 7:28; 10:14.

²¹See Matthew 28:18.

give Him **in real time** the authority to become that which was prophesied when Adam failed in his assignment.²² It took a little less than four thousand years for that prophecy to be fulfilled. It actually took more than four thousand years because God the Father saw the cross when a multitude of Lucifer's iniquities caused him to fail.

I remind you again that God is conformed by, to and within His Own spoken word (logos). That includes all of His words and promises spoken in the creation of Lucifer (His prized creation among the heavenly hosts) to rule the earth. That's why Lucifer was in Eden, the garden of God,²³ and why, as Satan, he was in the garden of Eden²⁴ and why Satan today is literally the god of this world.²⁵ God gave Satan (as Lucifer) certain rights and privileges concerning the earth that cannot be revoked **because of God's words spoken when Lucifer was created.**

Consequently, God, within His previously spoken words in the creation of Lucifer, had to bring forth **from the womb of a woman** One who would overcome the overcomer. This is because **His original creation was a perfect finished work, both in the creation of Lucifer and his angels and in the creation of Adam and Eve.**

God therefore could not create other angels to replace Lucifer and his angels to rule the earth nor could He create another man (aadaam) to replace Adam who failed. He therefore had to devise a plan within His previously spoken creation words that, through the

²²See Genesis 3:15.

²³See Ezekiel 28:13. Eden, the garden of God is not the same as the garden of Eden. The two are different but it appears were located in the same general area. Eden, the garden of God was in the pre-Adamic earth while the Garden of Eden was the setting for creation of Adam and Eve.

²⁴See Genesis 2:9 & 3:1-6.

²⁵See 2 Corinthians 4:4 also John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11. Satan will continue to be the god of this world so long as "self" governs man since "self" is the god of Satan. I have treated that subject in detail in My letter No. 110, Part One in this series, RESTORATION OF MAN AND THE EARTH.

Know assuredly that Satan, as the god of this world, has the world in his grip. God said to me several years ago, "Satan is now in control of the world." Man can do nothing to change that. Satan's grip on the world will tighten until the charismatic figure appears on the world scene at the beginning of the Tribulation. He will bring about a false period of peace preceding the three and one-half year Great Tribulation after which Christ will return to earth to bring forth victory at Armageddon. Hallelujah!

womb of a woman, One would come to replicate Lucifer to rule the earth with a resurrected body in the likeness of an angel.²⁶ Then from the same source would come a raptured church to replicate a supporting staff of angels under the authority of that One.

There was much more at risk at the cross than mankind may fathom intellectually.

There was a thirty-minute period of silence in heaven when Adam sinned²⁷ because the Father Himself and the heavenly hosts knew of the cost of Adam's failure. **That meant God would have to alter the existence of Jesus in the Godhead permanently to assume the role that Adam was created to fill.** He then would have to live as Adam could have lived, as the Son of God and as the last Adam, to overcome the overcomer (Satan).

When Jesus came forth from the womb of Mary **He was forever changed.** He originally was a Spirit Being Who was within the Father and Who came forth from the Father.²⁸ When He was within the Father they were One. When He came forth from the Father they were Two separate Spiritual Entities but still One in purpose.

When Jesus came forth from the womb of Mary, He was forever changed. He will always have a resurrected body of flesh and bones subject to spiritual laws, precisely as those of us who will be raptured to form his supporting staff of angels to rule the earth. Jesus and his staff of angels will replicate Lucifer and his staff of angels in the same number. **He will never again be a Spirit being as He was in the beginning before the world was.** Today He is still the second Person of the Godhead, with all authority in heaven and on earth but with a body of flesh and bones,²⁹ no longer subject to physical laws but subject to superior spirit laws as are angels and those of us who will be raptured. When He came as the Son of man and as the Son of God to be perfected by the cross, He gave up much more than finite mind may comprehend. To Him be praise, glory and honor throughout all eternity. Amen

²⁶The resurrected Jesus and the raptured believers will have bodies like the angels (a subject that is treated in some detail in Jim Ash letter No. 113, dated December 15, 2008).

²⁷This is not the "about half an hour of silence in heaven" as recorded in Revelation 8:1. This is another thirty minute period of silence in heaven given to me by revelation.

²⁸See John 17:8; 16:27, 30.

²⁹See Luke 24:39.