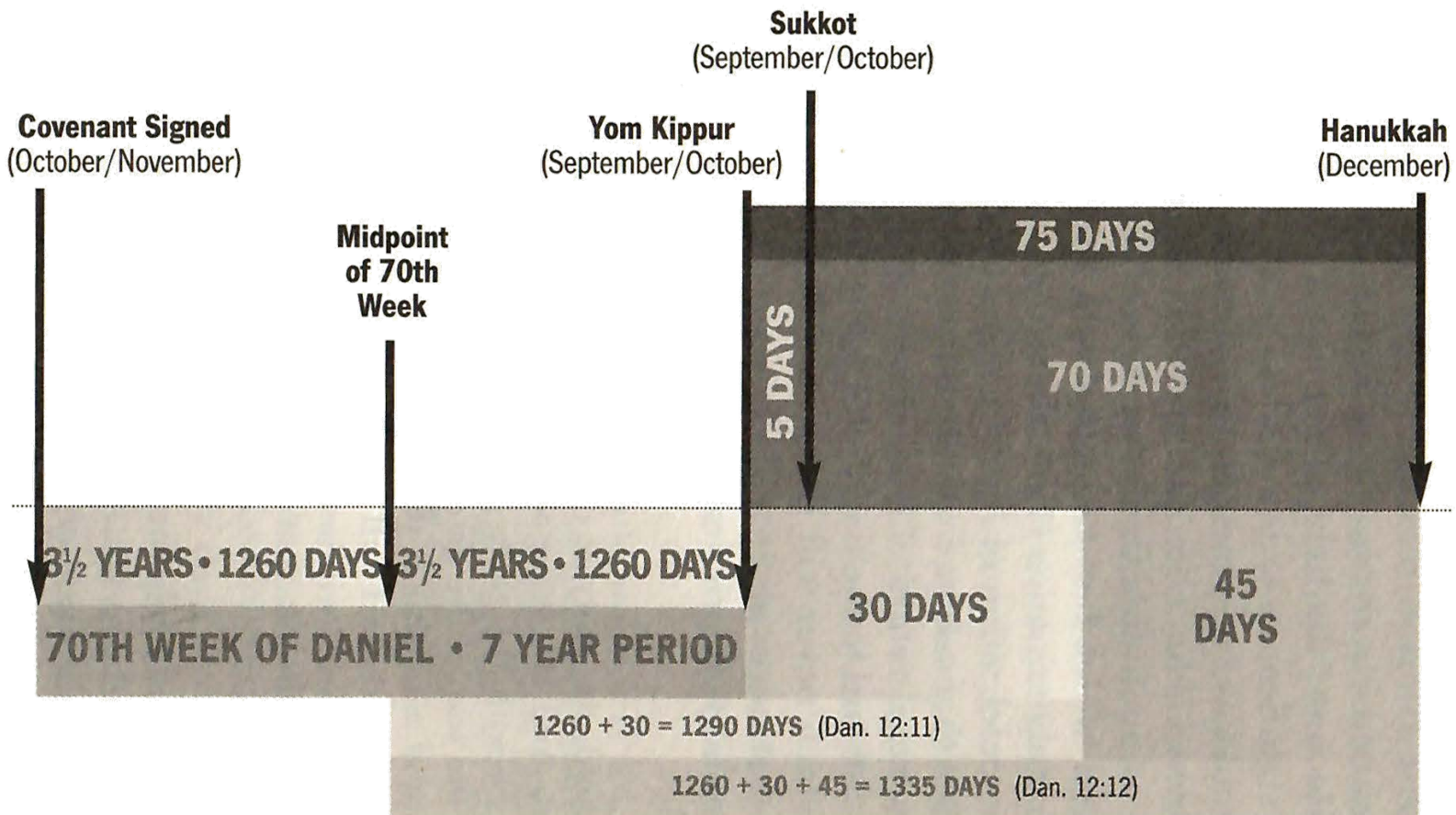


ISRAELITE CELEBRATIONS

A Prophetic Perspective of Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Hanukkah



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The ultimate Yom Kippur for the nation of Israel will be on the last day of the seventieth week when the Israelites have made "an end of sin," when they have made "atonement for [their] iniquity."

The ultimate Sukkot will occur five days later, two days after the national salvation of Israel, as Christ and His redeemed people ascend Mount Zion singing Psalm 118, praising God for their deliverance from tribulation and their salvation.

Then, seventy-five days following the final Yom Kippur and seventy days after the final Sukkot, a restored and redeemed Israel will celebrate the ultimate and final Hanukkah, when the glory of Christ returns to the temple, after which Christ's millennial rule over the physical Kingdom of God upon earth will begin.

I am convinced that when Christ returns, He not only will fulfill the ultimate meaning and significance of those three festivals, but He will also fulfill them chronologically to the exact day and hour—in precisely the same manner that Christ became the Passover Lamb on the exact day the Passover feast was celebrated by Israel at His first coming.

The significance is clear. We cannot know in advance the exact day or hour that Christ will cut short the great persecution by Antichrist, when He comes to rescue His church and destroy the earth's wicked. We cannot know in advance the year in which the covenant of death will be signed, initiating the seventieth week. But this author believes that to the degree it is possible to know when Yom Kippur will be celebrated by Israel seven years in the future, a good indication of when the covenant will be signed in the current year can be determined.

Christ tells us that we should learn from the parable of the fig tree—"when its branch has already become tender, and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near" (Matt. 24:32). Because all the events necessary to initiate the seventieth week are now complete—except for the alignment of three Aryan nations with a powerful leader—every Christian should be aware that the seventieth week could begin practically overnight. To that end, if my assumptions are correct, I believe we can determine to some degree in advance, what time of the year the covenant will be signed in any given year.

In other words, we know that the seventieth week of Daniel is a "week" of prophetic years (that is, seven years), consisting of 360 days each and totaling 2,520 days. We know the covenant of death will be signed on the first day of that seven-year period and if indeed are assumptions are accurate, it will end 2,519 days later on Yom Kippur. With that little bit of knowledge we can also determine what day Yom Kippur will be celebrated for any given year in the future, from official Jewish sources that give the future dates set for Yom Kippur. Once that date for Yom Kippur is determined, one can work back from this date to determine the exact date the covenant of death would need to be signed in any given year seven years in advance.

Suffice it to say, Yom Kippur normally falls in late September or early October and for that reason, mathematically, the covenant would be signed in late October or early to mid-November of any given year. In other words, watch the activities of Israel especially during the fall season! If the covenant is going to be signed in any given year that is the time of year in which the covenant, in this writer's opinion, will be signed.

What year? I have no idea. But this one thing I do know. Everything that Scripture says should be in place before "these things" can occur (other than the public debut of Antichrist, incognito), is already in place for the first time in almost two thousand years. For that reason, as never before, the true church should be alert and watchful!