YSTERY

QUESTION

Basic Apologetics

- Classical Arguments
- Historical
- Scientific
- Mathematical
- Geographical
- Biological
- Astronomical
- Archeological
- The Bible
- The Greatest Mystery?

Over 20 different compelling arguments for the existence of God and proof that the Bible is the Word of God given to man

Basic Apologetics

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- The Greatest Mystery?



- What if there was a mystery that spanned the ages?
- A mystery birthed in a Middle Eastern desert over three thousand years ago that is now determining the events of our day?
- What if I told you this mystery involves global leaders, heads of state, presidents, and many others who have all been working to a pre determined timetable?



- What if I could show you that this mystery has decided world events down to the year, the month and even the very day of their occurring?
- What if I showed you that everything that ever has been and all that will be are connected to and are part of this mystery?
- What if I showed you that you don't need faith to believe this mystery?



- What if there was a people brought into existence as a sign, as a witness to the existence of God and as a vessel to bring about His purposes?
- If such a people were to exist, what do you think would become of them?
- Wouldn't you expect them to stand out? ... to be different from every other people group on Earth?

ISRAEL



- In Moses final words to the nation of Israel, at the end of their journeying through the wilderness, and just before he died...
- He told them exactly what would happen to them in the centuries and ages to come...



- He told them that their land would be invaded by their enemies and they would be scattered from one end of the earth to the other!
- But he also told them that in the last days they would be re-gathered to their land!



The Mystery of Israel

- The Prophetic History of the Nation
 - The Diaspora & Regathering (Deut 28-32)
- The Appointed Times
 - The Mystery of Reoccurrence
- The Mystery of the Feasts
 - A Shadow of things to come
- The Labour Cycle in the Feasts
 - The Mystery of Life

490 YEARS

- Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?
- ²² Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Matthew 18:21-22

Was Peters question:

- An attempt to impress Jesus?
- Simply a reactionary comment?
- Or a could it have been a considered question?

Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

Matthew 18:21-22

- Gr. ἕως heos
- 'A point in time'
- The Greek is clear, Peter asked:

"shall I forgive UNTIL 'seven times"

What did Peter mean?

8 And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years.

Ihen shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubile to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land.

Leviticus 25:8-10

Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.

Leviticus 25:8-10

- This occurs in Leviticus 25:8 in regard to the year of Jubilee
- It was to be seven times seven years (49 yrs)
- The 50th year was then to be the year of Jubilee when they would 'Proclaim liberty'
- All debts were cancelled & slaves freed
- Peter as a good Jew would know this.
- His question to Jesus therefore makes perfect sense!
- "Should I forgive until the Jubilee?"

²² Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Matthew 18:22

Are we to forgive 490 times?
Is that really what Jesus was saying?
Most commentators conclude that Jesus was saying 'we should forgive lots'...
...but that's not what Jesus said!

Miss-translations in modern versions

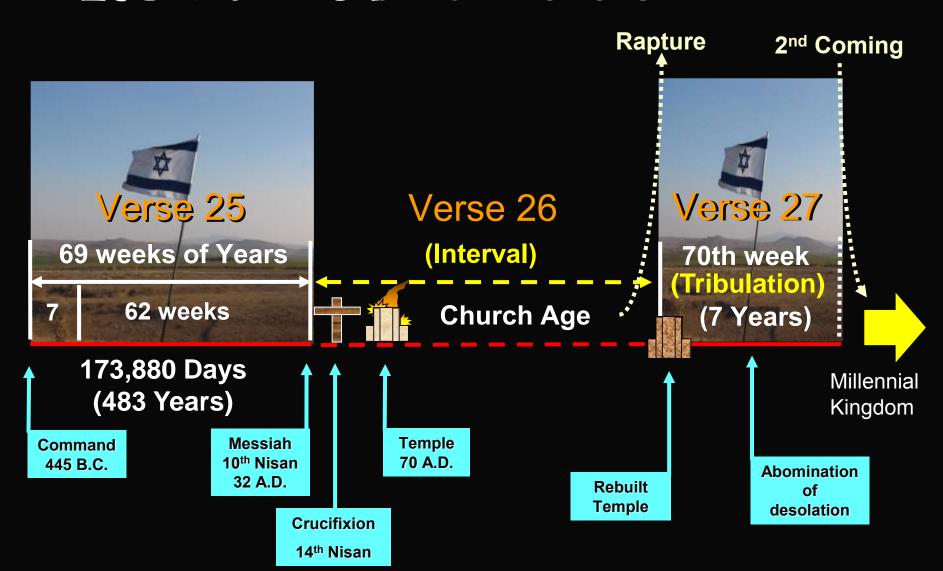
- Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times but seventy times seven". (RSV)
 - This implies a definitive number "forgive 490 times and that's it!"?
- Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven" (NASB)
 - "only forgive 490 times and no more"?
- Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times". (NIV / NCV)
 - 77 times? That's 413 less than Jesus actually said!!
- Jesus replied, "Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven". (The Message)
 - 'Try' 'go on, give it a go! Do your best, see how you get on.

- So what is so significant about 70x7?
- Do we find this anywhere else in scripture?
- Yes!
- We actually find it in Daniel chapter 9
 - A passages that Jesus quotes from in Matt 24
- This then leads us to an astonishing discovery...

- Daniel's people had returned home...
- Daniel then set his heart to pray
 - One of the most impassioned prayers in scripture!
 - Quoting almost verbatim Solomon's prayer in 1 Chronicles 6:36-39
 - -1) Confessing the sins of his people (v1-15)
 - -2) Interceding for the city (v16-19)
- Mid-prayer he was interrupted by a visitation from the Angel Gabriel!
- Gabriel then gives a detailed 4-verse prophecy laying out the future of the Jewish people!

²⁴ [490 years] are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

Daniel 9:24



So what is Jesus' response to Peter's question?

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<sup>22</sup> Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seventy times seven.

Matthew 18:21-22
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• "Don't just forgive until the Jubilee, forgive until the '490' – until the kingdom comes!

1) **Abraham to the Exodus**

Promise

Gen 12:4

75 years

505 +430

Ishmael,

Gen 16:16; 21:5

-15

490 years

Exodus to the Temple 2)

Begun:

1 Ki. 6 - 8

Judges 3 - 13

594

Completed:

Servitudes:

1 Ki 6:38

+ 7

601

490 years

3) The Temple to the Edict of Artaxerxes

1 Ki 8:1-66

1005 B.C.

Neh. 2:1

445 B.C.

560

Babylonian Captivity

-70

490 years

4) **Artaxerxes to the Second Coming**

445 B.C. to the 1st Advent (69 x 7)

483

[Church interval]

"The Seventieth Week"

+ 7

490 years

Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

Isaiah 46:9-10

YSTERY



- Why all this background? Why so much about Israel?
- The mystery begins with Israel!
- We have already seen that in Moses' last words to the Nation he told them what would happen to them in the centuries and ages to come - he foretold their future



- Now, that should be impossible!
 - to tell the intricate course of human events even days or weeks before they take place cannot happen
 - let alone speaking thousands of years into the future of a nation -
- But all that Moses said has come true
 - with incredible detail & precision!
- However with all the incredible things we have looked at over the last 2 weeks, there is one thing we have not yet spoken of...



MYSTERIES



- As we have already mentioned the Jubilee would occur every 50 years, and those who had lost or sold their home or land would have it restored,
 - your separation from that which was yours would be ended
- To mark the Jubilee there would be the blowing of the Shofar - the rams horn, as a trumpet to announce the coming of the year of Jubilee
- To whom was the Jubilee given? Israel!



- What does the Jubilee signify?
- Returning to your possession, to regain that which you had lost
- For two thousand years Israel had wandered the world without a homeland, with a possession of their own.
- But as prophesied by Moses, their return home would be a sign that we are in the end times, the final days of this era.



 Although totally unprecedented, Israel have returned to the land, a sign that the ancient Jubilee Mystery is being played out on a cosmic scale, touching kings, prime ministers, presidents and world leaders alike.

of the STRANGER

- It speaks of one who would come to the land when it was still the barren wilderness, and bear testimony to that fact.
- Moses and the Children of Israel were promised a land 'flowing with milk and honey'
- It was through their disobedience the land became a barren wilderness.
- Yet the mystery of the jubilee has to do with restoration, restoring that which was lost!

- The prophecy Moses gave spoke of a stranger who would come from the ends of the earth, from a far away land.
- When he enters the land he will bear witness of its barrenness, its devastation and its desolation.
- The Hebrew word that speaks of the stranger is 'Nakri'
- It is singular, implying an individual.

- Israel were dispersed from the Land in 70
 A.D. & finally forced out completely in 132
 by Emperor Hadrian
- Jerusalem was plowed but it took many years for the land to become the complete desolation it was foretold to be.
- The prophecy specifies the time it was to be fulfilled by the Hebrew word "Akharone"
 - 'a coming generation', specifically 'the latter'
- So this prophecy of a stranger coming to the Land refers to the end times.

- According to Moses, the stranger would come to the Land before another specific event:
- In fact, it would be a precursor to...
- The regathering of the people to the Land:

So that the generation to come of your children that shall rise up after you, and the stranger that shall come from a far land, shall say, when they see the plagues of that land, and the sicknesses which the Lord hath laid upon it;

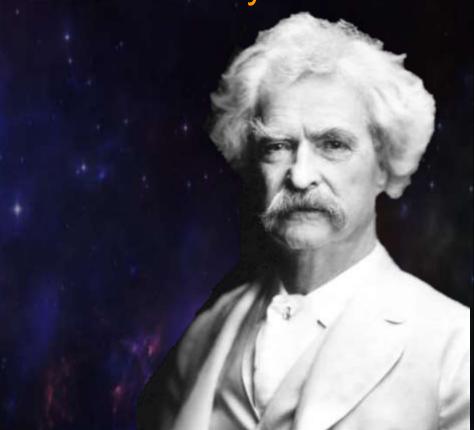
Deuteronomy 29:22-23

And that the whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, and burning, that it is not sown, nor beareth, nor any grass groweth therein, like the overthrow of Sodom, and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the Lord overthrew in his anger, and in his wrath:

Deuteronomy 29:22-23

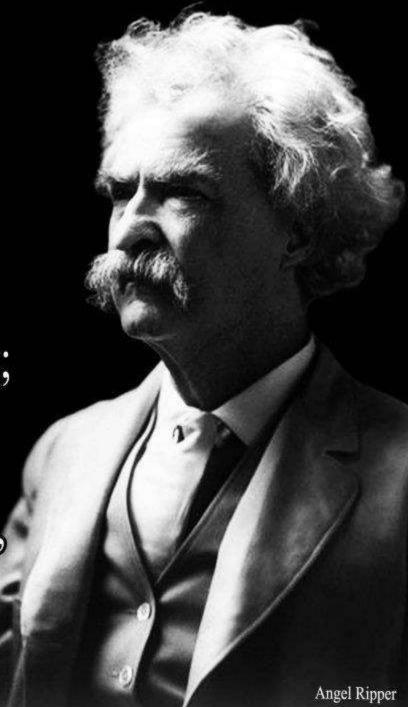
- When did this happen?
- In the 19th century...
- In fact, in the year 1867
- A stranger, from America, boarded a steamship for a voyage that would take him around the world, ending up in the Land of Israel, specifically, the City of Jerusalem.
- The individual in question just happened to be a journalist, and he kept a notebook of his journey.

- The stranger was none other than Mark Twain!
 - Known as the father of American literature.
 - Author of Huckleberry Finn / Tom Sawyer



THE BIBLE

"It is full of interest. It has noble poetry in it; and some clever fables; and some blood-drenched history; and some good morals; and a wealth of obscenity; and upwards of a thousand lies." - Mark Twain



Upon arriving in the Land he wrote:

"Rags, wretchedness, poverty and dirt...Lepers, cripples, the blind...To see the number of maimed, malformed and diseased humanity that throng the holy places..."

- According to Moses the stranger would say:
 The whole land is brimstone, salt...
- So Twain would bear witness:
 - "...all desolate and unpeopled...
 - ...miles of desolate country
 - ...the far reaching desolation ...the
 - waste of a limitless desolation...

- According to the prophecy the stranger would say: "All the land is ... a burning waste"
- Or, as another translation puts it, "your land" has become a scorching desert".
- So Twain would write:
- "It is a scorching, arid, repulsive, solitude.
 Such roasting heat, such oppressive solitude, and such dismal desolation cannot surely exist elsewhere on earth...
- · Nowhere in all the waste around was there a foot of Shade, and we were Scorching to death

- The prophecy in Deuteronomy says that the land will become devoid of anyone to sow it,
- Twain wrote:
 - "All it's land is unsown...One may ride 10 miles, hereabouts, and not see ten human beings"
 ...these unpeopled deserts, these rusty mounds of barrenness, that never, never, never do shake the glare from their harsh outlines... "There is not a solitary village throughout its whole extent
 - not for thirty miles in either direction"

- Moses also prophesied that the Land would not bring forth produce "nor does it bear..."
- In the Hebrew the word *Tzamach* is used, which specifically refers to 'sprouting',
- Twain bears witness to the Land's inability to sprout vegetables, writing:

"The valleys are unsightly deserts fringed with a feeble vegetation... a desert, paved with lose stones, void of vegetation, glaring in the flerce sun... this blistering, naked, treeless Land"

- The prophecy states that the stranger who comes will specifically speak of grass, or rather the absence of it: "no grass grows in it"

 or as one translation: "not even a blade of grass"
- Twain, in his notebook almost quotes scripture word for word! :

"No sprig of grass is visible"

- As already mentioned, Mark Twain was a skeptic, and it is certain he had no intention of fulfilling a 3500 year old prophecy,
- Yet in addition to the things already noted, scripture foretells that in the day of the Stranger it will be said:

27 And the anger of the Lord was kindled against this land, to bring upon it all the curses that are written in this book:

Deuteronomy 29:27

Incredibly, Mark Twain wrote:

"Palestine sits in sackcloth and ashes. Over it broods the spell of a curse! ... Palestine is desolate and unlovely. And why should it be otherwise? Can the curse of the Deity beautify a land?"

 Mark Twain's words appeared in articles across America and beyond and would become a witness to his generation, thus fulfilling the prophecy!

THE Greatest MYSTERY 2



- And the timing was right on cue!
- It was when the Land was at it's most desolate, these events would be the prophetic key to set the stage for the redemption of the land and the return of its exiles - the Children of Israel!
- But there was another prophecy that was to be fulfilled before they could return.
- Just before Israel's return from Captivity in Babylon, Zechariah recorded a vision of a man with a measuring line



With The MEASURING LINE

- Then I raised my eyes and looked, and behold, a man with a measuring line in his hand. So I said, "Where are you going?"
- 2 And he said to me, "To measure Jerusalem, to see what is its width and what is its length."

Zechariah 2:1-2

 Just as a builder uses a measuring line as he is planning to build, to prepare the foundation, so God did this with Israel, not just in Nehemiah's day, but in recent times also.

- What happens when you are about to take possession of a piece of land or a property?
- A survey has to be completed
- 'The land must be defined or redefined, its length, its breadth, its borders, its parameters. And if there's no existing survey, then a survey must be made. The land must be defined, mapped out . . . measured and so the measuring line. So in the days of Zechariah, when the Jewish people were returning to the land, the man with the measuring line comes to the city in a vision. And his appearance is a sign of what is yet to take place. It happened in the ancient world. So too it would happen again in the modern. The ancient sign would again manifest in the world . . . in modern times. The man with the measuring line would again come to Jerusalem. And his appearance would be a sign of what was yet to come'.
 - Jonathan Cahn

- The name of the man was Charles Warren.
 - He was a former head of the Metropolitan Police, and had served as an Officer in the British army as a member of the Royal Engineers.
 - The skills he learnt in so doing proved to be invaluable, for he was later recruited by the Palestine Exploration Fund and sent to the land of Israel on a mission to survey and map out Jerusalem, to measure the Holy City.
- The Land at that time was under the control of the Ottoman Turks who were suspicious of his activities. He was always being watched.

- Nevertheless: "Warren's work would constitute the first extensive excavation of biblical Jerusalem, the first extensive measuring of the biblical foundations of the Temple Mount and of the city itself. It would usher in a new age of biblical archaeology".
- Remember the Jubilee?
 - That which was lost must be restored
- The boundaries of the Land given by God to Moses, the inheritance allotted to the Children of Israel had long since been forgotten.
- Now they were being rediscovered!

- His mission was not just to survey Jerusalem as it was then but as it once was:
- "To measure its ancient parameters, the boundaries of ancient Jerusalem, the biblical city, to locate its ancient walls and borders, to uncover its foundations"
 - To restore that which had been lost!
- In order to do that, he had to dig through centuries of ruins and earth to get to the city's biblical foundations.

- Jonathan Cahn states:
- "In the Jubilee the connection between the land and its original owner is restored. And so the consequences of Warren's work were to restore and strengthen the long-lost connection of the Jewish people to the land. And with every restored connection, the idea that the Jewish people, after almost two thousand years, might somehow return to their homeland began to move one more step out of the realm of fantasy."

 "After nearly two thousand years of exile, the man with the measuring line reappeared in Jerusalem as a sign that God was about to bring about a restoration. A measuring line is used when one is about to build something. So then the reappearance of the man with the measuring line in the person of Charles Warren was a sign that God was about to act, to move again, to build something . . . to rebuild that which once was and had fallen . . . the nation of Israel!"

- "And when else do you use a measuring line?"
- When there's about to be a transference of land.
- So when the man with the measuring line appeared in Jerusalem, it was a sign that the land was going to be transferred ... back to the original owner. The land was being prepared for the return. So it was in ancient times when the prophet Zechariah revealed the meaning of the measuring line: "A measuring line will be stretched over Jerusalem . . . And the LORD will again comfort Zion and again choose Jerusalem"

 Anyone know when Warren came to Jerusalem?



- The exact same year as Mark Twain!
- So the stranger from Deuteronomy 29 and the man with the measuring line from Zechariah 2, both herald's of Israel's return to the Land were in the land at the same time.
- In fact the two would dwell inside the walls of the ancient city at the same time...
- The same month, the same week, the same days. In fact they would dwell together in the same lodging place, the very same building!

PARASHA

- Every Sabbath day, from ancient times, the Jewish people gather in their synagogues, open up the scrolls, and read the ancient Scriptures.
- Thus on every Sabbath day there is a specific portion of Scripture appointed to be read.
- The portion is called the "Parasha".
- "Could it be possible that some of these appointed words were appointed not only to be spoken on those days but of and to those days... to speak of events that would take place in modern times?" JC

- Twain's pilgrimage had begun in June 1867.
- In the summer months he would travel the cities of Europe.
- He would reach the Holy Land in mid-Sept.
- He would enter the gates of Jerusalem on September 23.
- On September 27th, after an excursion in the desert, he returned to the Holy City for the culmination of his pilgrimage.

- So September 28th would constitute his last full day and night in Jerusalem.
- The following day he would leave the city and head back to the shore to board his ship and begin the journey home to America
- September 28 fell on a Saturday = Sabbath.
- And so on the stranger's last full day in Jerusalem and the last Sabbath of the stranger's journey in the land there was an appointed Scripture

22 So that the generation to come of your children that shall rise up after you, and the stranger that shall come from a far land, shall say, when they see the plagues of that land, and the sicknesses which the Lord hath laid upon it;

Deuteronomy 29:22-23

23 And that the whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, and burning, that it is not sown, nor beareth, nor any grass groweth therein, like the overthrow of Sodom, and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the Lord overthrew in his anger, and in his wrath:

Deuteronomy 29:22-23

THE APPOINTED PARASHA

- This scripture, this prophecy, was appointed to be read in every synagogue in the world.
- So all across the earth, in every synagogue from San Francisco to Siberia, they were reciting and chanting the prophecy of the stranger, who would come from far away to the land of Israel to bear witness of the desolation.

THE APPOINTED PARASHA

- And so the prophecy of the stranger was being proclaimed throughout the earth at the very moment the stranger was in the land fulfilling its words.
- And they had no idea. Nor did the stranger -Mark Twain - the skeptic!

But there's more!



- Since ancient times the scattered Children of Israel would pray to God to have mercy on Jerusalem, to restore the city and bring them home:
- "Have mercy, Lord, our God. . . on Jerusalem, Your city; and on Zion, the resting place of Your glory . . . Rebuild Jerusalem, the city of holiness, speedily in our days. Bring us up into it and gladden us in its rebuilding and let us eat from its fruit and be satisfied with its goodness and bless You upon it in holiness and purity".

- They prayed that prayer, seeking God's mercy, virtually every day of their exile for two thousand years. And for two thousand years it seemed to them as if God wasn't hearing their prayers.
- But the stranger would be the sign that their exile was about to end. God had heard their prayers.

- The strangers real name was not Mark Twain.
- At his birth he was given the name 'Samuel'.
- Samuel is a Hebrew name.
- So he was given a name that came from the land of Israel, the land he would one day visit.
- And in Hebrew his name contained a message

- Samuel means "God has heard!"
- For God had heard the prayers of His people.
- He would fulfill His purposes for Jerusalem and the Promised Land.
- And what were the prayers that His ancient people prayed, that He heard and would soon answer?
- They were that He would restore the land and that He would bring them back, that He would have mercy, that He would be merciful to them.

- The stranger's real last name was not Twain; it was Clemens.
- Clemens also holds a mystery and a message
- Clemens means "Merciful"
- "the quality of showing mercy"
- The stranger was literally a sign.
- "Samuel" God had heard their prayers;
 - "Clemens" and was about to show them mercy
 - it is doubtful that Mark Twain ever realized the part he played in the mystery!



 "In the Jubilee, the connection between the land and its owner is restored. Up until then the original owner has no right concerning the land. He can't even walk on it without the permission of the one now occupying it. But when the Jubilee comes, the owner can again walk on his land, farm it, build on it, and dwell in it. The barriers are removed. The owner's connection to the land and the land's connection to its owner are reaffirmed and restored" - JC

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- When the Jewish people lost their homeland and their Holy City in the first century, the Romans tried to erase every connection between the land of Israel and the people of Israel.
- They remade Jerusalem into a pagan city and called it Aelia Capitolina.
- And to further eradicate the connection of the Jewish people to their homeland, they renamed the land of Israel Palaestina, meaning the land of the Philistines.

- The erasing was so successful that for most of two thousand years the land of Israel would simply be known as Palestine.
- The Jews were even banned from setting foot in their Holy City.
- "So the owner was cut off from his land. And the other powers who would follow the Romans in occupying the land and the city would do similarly, obscuring the connection of the land to its people. But when the Jubilee comes, the connection between the owner and the land is restored, and that which was lost is regained". JC

- Charles Warren, "the man with the measuring line", didn't only measure Jerusalem.
- In order to map out ancient Jerusalem, he had to dig it up.
 - So he came with more than surveying equipment;
 he came with shovels and pickaxes.
- He uncovered the walls of the ancient city, ancient gates, and chambers.
- He uncovered what was hidden under the Temple Mount.

- But it was something else ...
- ...something he didn't plan on, something he would stumble upon, that would end up being his most dramatic discovery.
- It happened while he was crawling through one of Jerusalem s rock chambers with his assistant. He stumbled upon a shaft.
- The shaft would lead to the discovery of an ancient city, a city hidden in the dust for two thousand years.

- For ages everyone thought the Biblical city of Jerusalem was *inside* the walls we see today.
 Some of it was.
- But the original city of Jerusalem, the Biblical core, was outside the gates we know today
- Warren found it.
- He literally uncovered the core and Biblical city of Jerusalem that had lain hidden for nearly two thousand years, the city of David and Solomon, Isaiah, and Jeremiah. A city that had been lost for two thousand years

 "In the mystery of the Jubilee what has to take place? That which is lost, must be found, and the land must be restored to its original owner. So the Jerusalem that was lost was found again and this marked the beginning of the restoration of Jerusalem to the Jewish people. And according to the mystery of the Jubilee, the original connection between the owner and the land, Biblical Jerusalem and the Jewish people, was renewed". JC

- The shaft that Warren discovered linked up with Jerusalem's ancient water system.
- Why is that significant?
- It was through Jerusalem's ancient water system that King David's soldiers first entered Jerusalem and thus by which the nation first came into possession of the city.
- Warren's discovery thus renewed that ancient connection.
 - When did all this happen? When was ancient Jerusalem discovered?"



The Year of Jubilee

"So Jerusalem is hidden in the earth for two thousand years, and of all the years to begin emerging . . . it happens in 1867 . . . the same year everything else happens! Remember the prophecy, The stranger comes to the land, and then what happens? The return, the regathering. The land was being readied. And the discovery was in the autumn of 1867. Why is that significant? Because it was in the autumn of 1867 that the stranger came to the land ...and to the city . . . and dwelt in the same dwelling place as Warren". JC

- "In fact after two thousand years of lying in the dust, ancient Jerusalem was discovered less than thirty days after the coming of the stranger . . . It would ultimately be a sign . . . and a foreshadowing that Jerusalem would again be restored and become a living city filled with the children of Israel". JC
- But if the land was under the rule of others, how would that happen?"
- It would happen through another mystery, a mystery that would ultimately change the course of world history.



CONTINUED!

