**The Book of Revelation:**

**Are We in The Last Days?**

**Why is Revelation so popular?**

**I. Final book of the entire Bible.**

Revelation 22:18-21 (NKJV) – 18For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book. 20He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! 21The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

**II. Final word on history.**

Acts 15:18 (NKJV) – Known to God from eternity are all His works.

**III. The finality of time is upon us. (7 reasons to believe it is.)**

Revelation 1:3 (NKJV) – Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.

**1. The rise of intensive study on Bible prophecy.**

Daniel 12:4 (NKJV) – “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”

Amplified Bible – [Then] many shall run to and fro and search anxiously [through the Book], and knowledge [of God's purposes as revealed by His prophets] shall be increased and become great.

Daniel 12:4 (NLT) – But you, Daniel, keep this prophecy a secret; seal up the book until the time of the end, when many will rush here and there, and knowledge will increase.”

**Sir Isaac Newton?**

*The Concise Columbia Encyclopedia*describes him this way: “Newton, Sir Isaac, 1642–1727, English mathematician and natural philosopher (physicist); considered by many the greatest scientist of all time.”

**“In 1704, Isaac Newton Predicts the World Will End in 2060”**

“So then the time times & half a time are 42 months or 1260 days or three years & an half, reckoning twelve months to a year & 30 days to a month as was done in the Calendar of the primitive year. And the days of short lived Beasts being put for the years of lived [sic] kingdoms, the period of 1260 days, if dated from the complete conquest of the three kings A.C. 800, will end A.C. 2060. It may end later, but I see no reason for its ending sooner.” <http://www.openculture.com/2015/10/in-1704-isaac-newton-predicts-the-world-will-end-in-2060.html>

# Statement on the Date 2060, Stephen D. Snobelen, March 2003; updated May 2003 and June 2003

For Newton, 2060 A.D. would be more like a new beginning. It would be the end of an old age, and the beginning of a new era—the era Jews refer to the Messianic age and the era premillenarian Christians term the Millennium or Kingdom of God. <https://isaac-newton.org/statement-on-the-date-2060/>

2 Peter 3:3-4 (NKJV) – 3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation.”

**Current Biblical Year on Jewish Calendar: 5777.**

**The Epistle of Barnabas predicted a major time shift in our era.**

## Dated: **80-120 A.D.** (<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/barnabas-lightfoot.html)> or **A.D. 100** (<http://www.biblestudytools.com/history/early-church-fathers/ante-nicene/vol-1-apostolic-with-justin-martyr-irenaeus/barnabas/introductory-note-epistle-of-barnabas.html)> or **A.D. 100–131** (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epistle_of_Barnabas)>. It is written to Gentile Christians.

**Epistle of Barnabas** 15:3-5 – 3 Of the Sabbath He speaketh in the beginning of the creation; *And God made the works of His hands in six days, and He ended on the seventh day, and rested on it, and He hallowed it.* 4 Give heed, children, what this meaneth; *He ended in six days.* He meaneth this, that **in six thousand years the Lord shall bring all things to an end**; for the day with Him signifyeth a thousand years; and this He himself beareth me witness, saying; *Behold, the day of the Lord shall be as a thousand years.* **Therefore, children, in six days, that is in six thousand years, everything shall come to an end.5 *And He rested on the seventh day.* this He meaneth; when His Son shall come, and shall abolish the time of the Lawless One, and shall judge the ungodly, and shall change the sun and the moon and the stars, then shall he truly rest on the seventh day.** <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/barnabas-lightfoot.html>

**Ancient Jewish Writing and the Seventh Millennium**

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Year_6000#cite_note-10>

**The Talmud.**

R. Kattina said: **Six thousand years shall the world exist, and one [thousand, the seventh], it shall be desolate**, as it is written, And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. [Isa. 2:11] Abaye said: it will be desolate two [thousand], as it is said, After two days will he revive us: in the third day, he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. It has been taught in accordance with R. Kattina: Just as the seventh year is one year of release in seven, **so is the world: one thousand years out of seven shall be fallow**, as it is written, And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day,' [Isa. 2:11] and it is further said, A Psalm and song for the Sabbath day,[Psa. 92:1] meaning the day that is altogether Sabbath — and it is also said, For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past. [Psa. 90:4] The Tanna debe Eliyyahu teaches: The world is to exist six thousand years. In the first two thousand there was desolation;37 two thousand years the Torah flourished; and the next two thousand years is the Messianic era, - Sanhedrin 97a.

Shachter, Jacob; Freedman, H.. Soncino Babylonian Talmud Sanhedrin (Kindle Locations 25459-25476). Talmudic Books. Kindle Edition.

**Midrash.**

“Six eons for going in and coming out, for war and peace. The seventh eon is entirely Shabbat and rest for life everlasting.”

*Pirke De Rabbi Eliezer*, Gerald Friedlander, Sepher-Hermon Press, New York, 1981, p. 141.

**Zohar (foundational work of mystical Kabbalah).**

The redemption of Israel will come about through the mystic force of the letter “Vav” [which has the numerical value of six], namely, **in the sixth millennium**…. Happy are those who will be left alive **at the end of the sixth millennium to enter the Shabbat, which is the seventh millennium**; for that is a day set apart for the Holy One on which to effect the union of new souls with old souls in the world (Zohar, Vayera 119a).

**Millennium Hebrew Year Corresponding day of week**

**(In Hebrew and English)**

1 0 – 1000 Yom Rishon / Sunday

2 1000 – 2000 Yom Sheini / Monday

3 2000 – 3000 Yom Shlishi / Tuesday

4 3000 – 4000 Yom Revii / Wednesday

5 4000 – 5000 Yom Chamishi / Thursday

6 5000 – 6000 Yom Shishi / Friday

7 6000 – 7000 Yom Shabbat (Sabbath) / Saturday

**2. There is an explosion of knowledge and transportation.**

Daniel 12:4 (NKJV) – “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”

**3. The return of Jews to form Israel.**

Jeremiah 16:14-15 (NKJV) – 14“Therefore behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “that it shall no more be said, ‘The Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,’ 15but, ‘The Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.’ For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers.

* According to Israel’s *Central Bureau of Statistics*, Jews from 47 countries have returned. And, that is counting the Soviet Union as 1 rather than the 15 that actually exist. This makes Moses' Exodus look like *"poof!"* <http://www.cbs.gov.il/reader/shnaton/templ_shnaton_e.html?num_tab=st04_04&CYear=2016>

Matthew 24:32-34 (NKJV) – 32“Now learn this parable from **the fig tree**: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near. 33So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! 34Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

* Figs are a symbol of Israel.

Jeremiah 24:5-7 (NKJV) – 5“Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: ‘Like these good figs, so will I acknowledge those who are carried away captive from Judah, whom I have sent out of this place for *their own* good, into the land of the Chaldeans. 6For I will set My eyes on them for good, and I will bring them back to this land; I will build them and not pull *them* down, and I will plant them and not pluck *them* up. 7Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I *am* the Lord; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart.

**4. There is a moral and ethical collapse.**

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NKJV) – 1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

Perilous – *chalepos* **(χαλεπός**) or harsh, fierce, savage.

**5. Spiritual Apostasy**

2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NKJV) – Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition.

a falling away – apostasia (ἀποστασία)

1 Timothy 4:1 (NKJV) – Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons. depart – *aphistemi* (ἀφίστημι)

2 Timothy 4:3 (NKJV) – For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers.

**6. There are environmental and ecological signs.**

The earth has **7.4 billion people**.

* **Extinction** is happening at a surprising rate. (One report that says that 24 species become extinct per day.) <http://e360.yale.edu/feature/global_extinction_rates_why_do_estimates_vary_so_wildly/2904/>
* **God created the universe like a finely tuned watch.**
* **Pesticides and herbicides and fertilizers are affecting the farming land.**
* **Hazardous chemicals and nuclear waste are creating long-term consequences.**
* **What about pollution?** 
  + The 2016 Rio Olympics? <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/rio-olympics-2016-severe-water-pollution-clouds-games/>
  + October 2014 article: “114,000 pounds of trash found at uninhabited islands” <http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/wilderness-resources/blogs/114000-pounds-of-trash-found-at-uninhabited-islands>
* **Global warming? Rainforests?** Only 2 **countries have gained trees over the past 100 years**. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tree_planting>; <http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/wilderness-resources/stories/more-trees-than-there-were-100-years-ago-its-true>
* **Increase in earthquakes** and other phenomena.

**7. Church leadership increasingly agrees it can't be long.**

Revelation 1:1-3 (NKJV) – **1** The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which **God** gave **Him** to show His **servants**—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified *it* by **His angel** to His servant **John**, 2who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. 3Blessed *is* **he who reads** and **those who hear** the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.

Revelation – apokalupsis; "to disclose" or "unveil."

Daniel 12:4 (NKJV) – “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and **seal** the book **until the time of the end**; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.

Revelation 1:4-8 (NKJV) –

4John, to the seven churches which are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, 5and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

7Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

8“I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

**All 3 persons in the Trinity are mentioned.**

* The Father (vs. 4) and the Son (the pierced one in vs. 7-8) are both described with the same Trinitarian formula. They are one, yet distinct.
* Why 7 Spirits (vs 4)? (7–number of perfection: Ps. 12:6, Sabbath)

1. The *fullness* of the Spirit?

Isaiah 11:2 – 2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

1. The *universal* Spirit.
2. The *universal* *church*.