

The Return of the Lion King - at the Time of Release

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The Birthday of the King as the Lamb The purpose of our Savior's miraculous birth to the virgin Mary was His future sacrifice as the Lamb of God. He came to redeem mankind from sin, death, and hell. Because of love, our Savior paid the price for each of us. If we repent, the debt of sin will be wiped away via His cleansing blood. We are **released** from the oppression and burden of sin, saved by His grace (2 Ne. 25:23, see also Alma 24:11).

In our Lord's *sacred* calendar, which began for later Jews at the spring equinox (day 1 of Nisan, 1st month), there are 6 months until the birth of Christ, occurring just after sunset on the fall equinox (day 1 of Tishri, 7th month). He was born in the sacred Sabbatical month on its first day. This is New Year's Day on the *civil* calendar. It is known as *Rosh Hashanah*, meaning "head of the year." Westerners incorrectly refer to it as *the Feast of Trumpets*. It is not a "feast" day like Passover and Tabernacles, which occur at full moon and feature feasting as part of their celebration. Instead it is a special Holy Day of new beginnings, marked by *the New Moon* at the fall equinox. The New Moon marks the first day of the year, and the first day of every month on the Lord's calendar. Rosh Hashanah is the only Holy Day tied to *trumpeting*, the blowing of the Shofar or ram's horn - in connection with the coming of the King. This is the reason it is called the Feast of Trumpets. This special day is our Lord's birthday, the day He came to earth **to redeem us**. John the Revelator tells us that great and wondrous signs in the heavens accompanied this important event (see JST Revelation 12).

In the old world, the Bible tells us that a new star appeared to mark it. The Magi of the east recognized that it represented the birth of a very important King in the bloodline of Israel's Davidic kings - that of Judah, the tribe tied to the constellation Leo the Lion. They followed this new star (most likely a conjunction of Jupiter and Venus) to Bethlehem where they worshipped Him. In the New World, the Book of Mormon also informs us of this new star, along with additional signs. Samuel the Lamanite prophesied that there would be "a day, a night, and a day" without darkness the night before His birth. He stated that many would fall to the ground at this sign of great light.

Addressing the signs of His own coming, the Lord spoke to Nephi son of Helaman who prayed mightily all day, interceding for his people. Nephi prayed because threats had been made to kill his people if the signs given five years earlier by the Samuel the Lamanite did not appear (Hel. 14). Our Savior answered Nephi's prayer stating; "Lift up your head and be of good cheer; for behold, the time is at hand, and *on this night shall the sign be given*, and *on the morrow come I into the world*, to show unto the world that *I will fulfill all that which I have caused to be spoken by the mouth of my holy prophets*. Behold, I come unto my own *to fulfill all things* which I have made known unto the children of men from the foundation of the world, and to do the will, both of the Father and of the Son..." (3 Ne. 1:13-14).

Seven signs were given and fulfilled in Christ's birth as presented us in the Book of Mormon. These seven signs fulfilled the Father's everlasting covenant, where His Son, sent into the vineyard, was sacrificed for sin, the **debt** paid in full by his cleansing blood. The Nephite nation reckoned time from these signs forward (3 Ne. 2:8). The seven signs as prophecies in the Book of Mormon include:

1. Nephi prophesied two times that there would be 600 years from the time his father Lehi left Jerusalem to Christ's birth (*prophecy* 1 Ne. 10:4 & 19:8 / *fulfillment* 3 Ne. 1:1).
2. Samuel the Lamanite prophesied that in 5 years the Son of Man would come to redeem His people (Hel. 14:2).
3. Marking the night before Christ's birth, Samuel prophesied that there would be a day and a night and a day without darkness (*prophecy* Hel. 14:3-4 / *fulfillment* 3 Ne. 1:15, 19). A comet or supernova may have lit up the sky this night.
4. Samuel stated that a new star would also appear in the heavens (*prophecy* Hel. 14:5 / *fulfillment* 3 Ne. 1:21). It is believed to be the bright conjunction of Jupiter (the king planet) and Venus (the virgin planet). It rose in the east and set in the west as the "bright [evening] and the morning star" addressed by John in Revelation 22:16.
5. Samuel said many signs and *wonders* would accompany this birth (*prophecy* Hel. 14:3 & 6 / *fulfillment* 3 Ne. 1). One of these *wonders* is addressed by John. He said "And there appeared a great *wonder* in heaven" (see JST Rev. 12).
6. Samuel also said that many would fall down, astonished at the signs (*prophecy* Hel. 14:7 / *fulfillment* 3 Ne. 1:17). Only John tells us that those who came to arrest Christ in Gethsemane fell down when he told them He was the Great **I AM**, the Creator, King, and Judge (John 18:6).
7. Samuel added that those believing on the Son of God have everlasting life (*prophecy* Hel. 14:8 / *fulfillment* 4 Ne. 2-3).

The timing of our Lord's birth could not be more perfect, most likely occurring on *Rosh Hashanah*; day 1 of the 7th sacred, Sabbatical month - the civil New Year's Day. It is marked by the trumpeting of the coming of the King. The entire previous 6th month of Elul was dedicated to *repentance* in preparation for the holy 7th or Sabbath month of Tishri. This was the time Israel was to gather to Jerusalem to stand before the King in judgment. The first 10 days of Tishri were called the Days of Awe and represented a 10-day countdown to the very important Day of Atonement. This represented **40** total days of *repentance* prior to the day of blood, the day Israel's High Priest (representing our Lord - the Great High Priest) went into

the Holy of Holies of the temple and sprinkled blood on the Ark. This same blood was poured out at the base of the altar and smeared on the altar's four horns. This mirrors exactly how our Lord's blood was given for us in the Atonement. It was sprinkled on the ground in Gethsemane. It was poured out in the scourging of His torn flesh. And at His crucifixion, His blood was smeared upon the cross, a *Tree of Life* for us.

The last moments of the last hour of the 6th month of Elul is marked by the going down of the sun, thus the heavens mark the transition to a new day. The rising New Moon that night marks the next "day" on the Hebrew calendar, prefiguring the rising sun the following morning. Elul 29 is the last day of the 6th month. It is New Year's Eve. The last moments of the last hour of this day are tied to a great **release**, a time of **judgment**, at the end of **the Sabbatical Year - when all debt is wiped out!** Immediately following there is the transition to Tishri 1, New Year's Day, at the moment of sunset on the Hebrew calendar. Darkness arrives as does the invisible New Moon. This is the darkest night of the month with virtually no moonlight. Only the far side of the moon is lit by the sun in this special alignment of the sun, moon, and earth. The dramatic end moment of the 6th month of Elul, the going down of the sun, is also the new beginning at the New Year in the Hebrew calendar. With sunset we have the first day of Tishri, in the sacred 7th, Sabbath month, the time of a dawning new day in the Lord's anticipated arrival at birth. The Creator, Savior, Judge and King had arrived!

The Lord's birth occurred just after sundown on New Year's Day or Rosh Hashanah, the only Holy Day tied to *trumpeting* of the ram's horn. It heralds the coming of the King of kings, He who is the sovereign ruler and judge over heaven and earth. He said, "*I make all things new*" (Rev. 21:5). It was the day the Lamb of God descended to earth to *redeem* us, to **release** us from *sin, death, and hell* in the Atonement and the Resurrection. It was at this moment that a great "**wonder**" appeared in the heavens to mark the birth, as prophesied by Samuel the Lamanite in the New World *and* John the Revelator in the Old World. The New Moon rose at the feet of the Virgin, the constellation Virgo, the sun illuminating her body, the stars behind her, crowning her head (see JST Revelation 12). It was a rare celestial marker for the important arrival of the King.

Judgment Day of the King Our Savior and King is coming again, but this time as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the great Judge. It may occur on this same day - at midnight, the arrival of the Bridegroom. He comes for His righteous Bride (the church) just after judgment to cleanse the earth of the wicked. Judgment occurs at the last moment of Elul 29, the end of the 7th Sabbath month in **the 7th Sabbatical Year of Release**. It was in the Sabbatical Year that all debts were forgiven. They were wiped out, remitted. The land was given rest for the full year. These provided **rest** and a **release**. These words are part of the focus and mission of our Lord Jesus Christ, the reason He came to earth, *and* at this exact point in time - to **release** us from *sin, death, and hell* via His redemptive blood - in "**the year of release**," also called "*the acceptable year of the Lord*" (see Isaiah 61:1-3).

It should thus come as no surprise that our Savior's miraculous virgin birth occurred at this same special point in time, the time of **release**, marked by John's Revelation 12 sign in the heavens, when a woman (the constellation Virgo) was clothed with the sun, the (New) moon at her feet, and above her head, was seen a crown of 12 stars. This is the "*wonder*" described by John the Revelator in the heavens. It is one of the "*wonders*" addressed by the Prophet Samuel in the Book of Mormon. It was a rare alignment of heavenly bodies occurring this special night, just after the sunset of Elul 29 (September 11 of 3 BC), marking our Savior's important entrance into the world! The Great King and Judge, the redeemer of mankind was born at this climactic transition point, just after sundown, at the close of **the Sabbatical Year of Release**, now transitioned to the first day of 7th, Sabbath month (Tishri 1). It is tied to *judgment* first, then a *release* thereafter. His birth makes possible our release from sin. The *debt is paid in full* by His redeeming blood. John tells us that because of His great sacrifice, He was and is the only one worthy to open the seven seals of the Book of Life (see Revelation chapters 4 and 5). The angels proclaim, "Worthy is the Lamb! Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts!"

The Coming of the Lion King The dramatic fall of the U.S. stock market in 2001 and 2008, at the exact end of **the Sabbatical Year of Release**, is expected again, at the same time and day - in the third of *three* consecutive Sabbatical Years - in the last moments prior to sunset on Elul 29, our September 13 of 2015 (New Moon at the fall equinox - the transition sign tied to Rosh Hashanah - New Year's Day). **All debt will be wiped out**, our nation's massive debt eliminated in the total collapse of the American economy. It will **release** us all from oppression of debt and of slavery to the things of Babylon. She, Babylon the Great, will then *fall* all around the world, as the world economy tied to ours, also plunges downward. Two weeks after the original equinox **release** date - at full moon, the sign of a *blood-supermoon* follows in the heavens on September 28, signaling the start of the eight-day Feast of Tabernacles. This special Holy Day, also in the sacred, 7th Sabbatical month, is tied to the enthronement of the King on day 7, a great feast given on day 8 (the 22nd day of Tishri). This is the great feast which the wise virgins attend. They were awake. They rose up with oil in their lamps to welcome the return of the Bridegroom at the sound of trumpeting as He arrived. They were invited into the Bridegroom's feast properly clothed and prepared guests. All were invited, but few entered in. Like sunrise following the night of great darkness (judgment), eventually light returns. He is Jesus Christ - the Savior and Redeemer, the light and life of the world. He will provide rest, release, and a full restoration to those who love Him. Praise be to our God, Jesus the Christ.