

Jacob Halsey
25 Summer Lane
Brixham
TQ5 0DL

Watch Tower
The Ridgeway
LONDON
NW7 1RN
ENGLAND

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have recently read the article 'When Was Ancient Jerusalem Destroyed?—Part Two' – Watchtower 2011 11/1. I am very curious about the methodology used in matching the observations recorded in VAT 4956 with astronomical data.

The Watchtower stated that 'While not all of these sets of lunar positions match the year 568/567 B.C.E., all 13 sets match calculated positions for 20 years earlier, for the year 588/587 B.C.E'.

I am curious to know what dates on our calendar each of the 13 lunar observations match, and to what degree of accuracy do the lunar events match the measurements given in the text?

Having read the translation of VAT 4956 I can see that many of the observations contain Babylonian terms and expressions, for example Obv' 17 – 'one god was seen with the other', and Rev' 5 – 'the moon became visible in the Swallow'. I would like to know how these have been translated for use in modern astronomical calculation, and from what sources this was determined?

Finally, although I realise the Watchtower stated 'Because the cuneiform signs for many of the planetary positions are open to speculation and to several interpretations, these positions were not used in this survey to pinpoint the year intended by this astronomical diary.' I am wondering if the researchers were able to find or suggest any of the several interpretations that would allow the planetary observations to match the year 588 B.C.E. ?

Thank you

Jacob Halsey