

# Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



The Ridgeway, London, NW7 1RN Telephone: 020 8906 2211

AB December 27, 2017

Jacob Halsey  
25 Summer Lane  
BRIXHAM  
TQ5 0DL

Dear Brother Halsey:

Your letter of December 13, 2017 requested research details for statements in the *Watchtower* article, "When Was Ancient Jerusalem Destroyed?-Part Two," published in our November 1, 2011 edition.

We encourage you to check through the source material as listed in the article for further details. On your specific question about the translation of *VAT 4956*, we are happy to provide you with the listing given which we have copied for your help. We regret that we do not have further information to hand, but we feel sure that what we have published presents a clear support for the biblical chronology outlined in our publications.

Please refer any supplementary enquiries to the elders of your congregation as they will no doubt be glad to help you see the soundness of the views presented.

We take this opportunity to send you our very warm Christian love and greetings.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation  
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

Attachment

<i>The Line in Vat 4956</i>	<i>Babylonian date</i>	<i>Julian date</i>	<i>Match</i>
1. Lines 1, 2	Nisanu 1	May 2, 588	Excellent
2. Line 3	Nisanu 9	May 10/11, 588	Exact
3. Line 8	Ayyaru 1	June 1/2, 588	Excellent
4. Line 12	Simanu 1	June 30/July 1, 588	Good
5. Line 14	Simanu 5	July 4, 588	Excellent
6. Line 15	Simanu 8	July 7, 588	Good
7. Line 16	Simanu 10	July 9/10, 588	Excellent
8. Line 5'	Sabatu 1	Feb 21/22, 587	Excellent
9. Line 6'	Sabatu 6	Feb 26, 587	"The Pleiades was 13° from the Moon and thus within the 22° halo."
10. Line 7'	Sabatu 11	March 4, 587	Excellent
11. Line 12'	Addaru 1	March 23/24, 587	Excellent
12. Line 13'	Addaru 2	March 24/25, 587	Excellent
13. Line 14	Addaru 7	March 29/30, 587	"The Moon was [more than] 29° below α Leonis. Does not match 22° halo."

NOTE: The word translated "halo" ("*tarbasu*") is disputed. The word literally means "pen, fold." This word does not necessarily refer to spherical bodies, but refers to something that the moon is "in" or "inside," just as an animal is in a pen, and a pen need not be spherical. At times a halo may not be perfectly round but may have irregularities that can extend beyond the standard 22°. That in ancient times the halo was not limited to 22° is strongly suggested in line 15'(reverse) where the same word is used. It says that the "*tarbasu*" "surrounded Cancer and Leo," two *constellations* that are over 50 degrees apart at their nearest points.—Sachs and Hunger, pp. 33, 51.

*Berichte über die Verhandlungen der Königl. Sächsischen Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften zu Leipzig*, Reports Regarding the Discussions of the Royal Saxonian Society of Sciences at Leipzig), Vol. 67, May 1, 1915, article "An Astronomical Observer's Text of the 37th Year Nebuchadnezzar II," ("Ein astronomischer Beobachtungstext aus dem 37. Jahre Nebukadnezars II,") by Paul V. Neugebauer and Ernst F. Weidner, pp. 41, 67-76;

NOTE: Neugebauer and Weidner list 17 lunar observations; however, four of these simply use the expression "the God was seen with the God," which means "full moon." So in these four instances, the moon was not described as being connected to a certain star or constellation. The numbers that are omitted are 3, 9, 13, and 17. Thus, the number of instances where the position of the moon is described in relationship to a certain star or constellation is 13. The 15 sets of planetary observations are on pages 72 to 76; The book *Mesopotamian Planetary Astronomy—Astrology*, by David Brown, published 2000, pages 53 to 57.