

Maybell, Colo. Mar. 29, 1948

Elder. E. S. Ballenger
Riverside, Calif.

Dear Brother Ballenger: Will try to answer your letter of Jan. 16.

I note what you say about the 407 as being the date for the Seventh year of Artaxerxes and the date William Miller used to make the world come to an end in 1844. All dates thus far given by different authorities shoot wide ~~of~~ the mark when they attempt to give dates for Artaxerxes as it appears that little is said about it in the bible and there are no secular dates. ^{reliable} As a matter of fact when we come to trace the chronological thread through the bible, we learn that all secular dates before Alexander are of little value, as they are mainly guess work from scraps of history in which they did not use dates at that time.

being unable to gather data from the bible, these secular dates have been the cause of keeping us in ignorance on some important scriptural matter. For instance, as you say 457, 458 are given for the seventh year of Artaxerxes and the completion of Jerusalem. Then to come out with the 69 weeks at the anointing of Christ the position was taken that the going fourth of the commandment as mentioned by Daniel was the finishing instead of the beginning of the work.

As for myself I never felt quite able to swallow that idea. Should you tell me that on April 1, you would start or go forth on a trip around the world, I would certainly understand that you had particular reference to the start and not the finishing of your trip as it might take you a year or more. And when the angel told Daniel that the commandment went forth at the beginning of his supplication, we know he did not mean that it was finished, for it was not finished for ten or more years later. And as you know that was in the first year of Cyrus when the commandment went forth which set the Jews ~~free~~ to go back to their own land.

We did not really have this in mind when we wrote the Chronology of the Bible, but when attention was called to the date of the first year of Cyrus, we found it to be 3546 A.M. Taking this from 4000 gives 454 years before Christ was born. From here the 69 weeks bring us to 4029 A.M. or to the anointing in his thirtieth year, and Lu says, He began to be about thirty years of age. Of course when we change this to the Christian era date it would be 26 A.D. The date for the seventh year of Artaxerxes would be, as near as we are able to locate from the bible, about ten years later than Cyrus, which would be 444 years before the Savior was born. Or if you want the Christian era date it would be 448 B.C. However in counting the 70 weeks we do not need that date as it must be counted from Cyrus's first year, 454 before Christ was born, ~~of 3546 A.M.~~ I like to use the latter because it is less confusing.

I have the chronology ready for the printer and as soon as it is out I will send you some copies. It may not be just as good as it should be, as I am busy helping my wife and keeping up the work outside, I would write a little now and then when I could catch a few minutes, and you know when you loose your line of thought it is difficult to pick it up just right again. But, the figures are all correct.

I think it is so nice that the Lord is giving you such good health to cary on your work.

Wife is some better than when I wrote you before Think I will send her to Denver where she can try out a little lower altitude

If you come this way this summer, just let us know and we can meet you at Maybell any time. We are only five miles south. You would nodoubt come from saltlake City on the buss. It is about 300 miles from there to Maybell.

As ever your brother,

L. Q. Sultz