

Historical dates

605BC, May/June, 1st siege

597BC, Mar 16, 2nd siege

586BC, Jul 18, 3rd siege

537BC, Total lunar eclipses at Passover and Sukkot

538/537BC, 1st decree - Cyrus

520/519BC, 2nd decree - Darius

515BC, Mar 12, Temple completed

445BC, month 1, 3rd decree - Artaxerxes

445BC, Oct 2, Walls completed

443BC, Apr 4, Total lunar eclipse at Passover

Triple conj. with Regulus

608BC (4) Jupiter

528BC (7) Saturn

525BC (3) Jupiter

513BC (1) Jupiter

410BC (6) Saturn

347BC (6) Jupiter

264BC (5) Jupiter

181BC (4) Jupiter

15BC (2) Jupiter

3BC (7) Jupiter

33AD (7) Saturn

Looking for triple conjunctions with Regulus similar to the one in 3/2BC, beginning at or near the Hebrew New Year, we find 11 occurrences between 620BC and 35AD. Following Zuckermann's reconstruction of the Sabbath year cycle, the numbers in parentheses show where in the Sabbath cycle each occurrence falls, with (7) being the Sabbath year. The historical dates are from Finegan 1998.

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Only 4 of these triple conjunctions remain in the list when we pay attention to the cycle of Sabbath years, considering only those conjunctions occurring in the first or last year of the Sabbath cycle. The 3BC and 33AD conjunctions are in just the right place to serve as bookends marking the Messiah's time on earth. But what about the other two cases, 528BC and 513BC? Do these dates have any significance? Hold that thought. We'll see the amazing answer on page 5.

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Venus/Jupiter conj.

618BC (7) Aug

571BC (6) Oct

554BC (1) Jan

527BC (7) May

513BC (7) Aug

469BC (2) Feb

464BC (1) Oct

149BC (7) Jan

148BC (1) Apr

108BC (6) Aug

2BC (7) Jun

Looking for exceptionally close conjunctions of Venus with Jupiter similar to the one in 3/2BC, passing within 1 minute of a degree of each other, we find 11 occurrences between 620BC and 35AD. Again the numbers in parentheses show where in the Sabbath cycle each occurrence falls, with (7) being the Sabbath year.

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2BC (7) Jun

These 8 Venus/Jupiter conjunctions remain in the list when we pay attention to the cycle of Sabbath years, considering only those conjunctions occurring in the first or last year of the Sabbath cycle. Note the unexpected result, that most of these **are** in the first or last year of a Sabbath cycle. There's more than one theory of where the ancient Sabbath cycle fell, but here we're finding this one, Zuckermann's theory, to be supported by astronomical evidence.

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2BC (7) Jun

A second unexpected result. Comparing the two lists of conjunctions, we find confirmation of some kind of significance for 528BC and 513BC. Just as for 3/2BC, these years are marked by both kinds of conjunction.

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148BC (1) Apr

~~108BC (6) Aug~~

2BC (7) Jun

7 sevens

Identifying the historical significance of the 513BC pair of conjunctions. Here we find a third unexpected result, that our astronomical data is pointing to the beginning and end of a 49-year Jubilee period. Given the Zuckermann solution for Sabbath year placement, there are still two competing theories for placement of the Jubilee cycle. But again the astronomical data makes the choice for us. The 513BC conjunctions are in just the right place to mark the beginning of a Jubilee period whose end is marked by the 464BC conjunction. They are also in the right place to fit the Daniel 9 prophecy of 7 sevens, following the decrees of both Cyrus and Darius.

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464BC (1) Oct

149BC (7) Jan

148BC (1) Apr

~~108BC (6) Aug~~

2BC (7) Jun

70 years

7 sevens

Identifying the historical significance of the 528/527BC pair of conjunctions. It's in just the right place to mark the end of Jerusalem's 70 years of desolation, if we take the starting point to be the siege of 597BC. This is when the king of Judah was first deposed, exiled to Babylon, and replaced by a king of Nebuchadnezzar's choosing. At this time many others were also carried away as captives, and also the treasures from the Temple were carried off to Babylon.

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443-436BC seven 1

23-16BC seven 61

16-9BC seven 62

9-2BC 7-year window

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2BC (7) Jun

70 years

7 sevens

Looking again at Daniel's prophecy of the sevens, if we take the decree of Artaxerxes as the starting point for the 62 sevens, we find the historical significance of the 3/2BC pair of conjunctions confirmed as their endpoint. They occur in the final year, the Sabbath year, of a 7-year window in which 62 sevens have been completed, but not yet 63.

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Messiah's time on earth

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Venus/Jupiter conj.

618BC (7) Aug ← actually not a Sabbath year

~~571BC (6) Oct~~

554BC (1) Jan ← marking 42 years

527BC (7) May

513BC (7) Aug

~~469BC (2) Feb~~

464BC (1) Oct

149BC (7) Jan ← marking 42 sevens

148BC (1) Apr

~~108BC (6) Aug~~

2BC (7) Jun

70 years

7 sevens

Messiah's time on earth

All of the Sabbath-year-oriented conjunctions except for the very first in 618BC seem to be part of the picture. The exact purpose isn't yet known for three of these, but a pattern can be seen, characterized by the number 42. They seem to be marking the partial completion of their respective periods. A future study will explain the 618BC anomaly. It actually was not a Sabbath year, because it came before a discontinuity in the Sabbath/Jubilee cycles during the exile.