

# For Revelation 12:6 which is correct? 1,260 Days? or 1,260 Years?

Rhonda Pickering – October 2021

**FAQ:** “If the 1,260 ‘days’ mentioned in the King James Version of Revelation 12:6 is fulfilled with the pattern of Daniel’s numbers using actual days, why did Joseph Smith change ‘days’ to ‘years’ in Revelation 12:5 of the Joseph Smith Translation?”

## Joseph Smith Rearranged the Verses

In the *Joseph Smith Translation* of Revelation 12, the Prophet rearranged the location of verse 5 (which talks about the birth of the man child) to occur after verse 2—effectually changing the timing of the child’s “coming forth” to be an event that takes place *before* the 7-headed, 10-horned dragon appears. Joseph also changed the *tense* of the verbs in verse 4 to agree with that timing and changed “days” to “years” in verse 6. Compare the two versions below:

KJV Revelation 12	JST Revelation 12
2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.	2 And <del>she</del> <b>the woman</b> being with child, cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.
3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.	5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up unto God and his throne. ( <b>verse order change by JST</b> )
4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.	3 And there appeared another <del>wonder</del> <b>sign</b> in heaven; and behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.
5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.	4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman which was <del>ready to be</del> delivered, <del>for</del> <b>ready</b> to devour her child <del>as soon as</del> <b>after</b> it was born.
6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.	6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she <del>hath</del> <b>had</b> a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore <del>days</del> <b>years</b> .

## The Day-Year Principle

The “day-year principle” (meaning one prophetic “day” = one literal “year”) was certainly not introduced by the Prophet Joseph Smith. Scores of Biblical expositors and scholars from the early days of Christianity have interpreted numbers in scripture using this principle.<sup>1</sup> For

<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Day-year\\_principle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Day-year_principle).

example, when Ezekiel was told to lay on his left side for 390 days, followed by his laying on his right side for 40 days, he signified by these acts the equivalent number of years of punishment that God decreed for Israel and Judah respectively for their lack of repentance (Ezekiel 4:5–6). Similarly, most Bible scholars consider the prophecy in Revelation 12:3 about the 7-headed, 10-horned dragon to mean that the dragon would rise to power *future to* the birth and ministry of Jesus Christ and would persecute the *woman* or church for 1,260 prophetic “years” (Rev. 12:6, 13).

Another reason for Joseph Smith’s changes in Revelation 12 becomes apparent by his addition to the text in verse 7—where he specified that the “woman” is the “church of God,” and that she brings forth “the kingdom of God **and** His Christ” as shown below:

KJV verse 8	JST Revelation 12:7
8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.	7 And <b><i>the dragon</i></b> prevailed not <b><i>against Michael, neither the child, nor the woman which was the church of God, who had been delivered of her pains, and brought forth the kingdom of our God and his Christ;</i></b>

The Prophet’s addition suggests that we may read the *child* as the “kingdom of God” on one level, and as “Christ” on another. By altering “days” to “years,” Joseph Smith alludes to the coming forth of the man child as the birth of Christ because 1,260 “years” need to elapse until the Kingdom of God comes forth as a reality in the last days.

### Multiple-Layered Fulfillment of Prophecy

Multi-layered fulfillments of prophecy can be identified in scripture. The understanding of prophecy on one level using the “day-year principle,” *does not negate* a second level, which is a literal reading of the passage. Thus, Revelation 12:7 can be understood with the “coming forth of the man child” being the birth of Jesus Christ. However, a *literal* reading of the passage may also be understood to mean that the “coming forth of the man child” is the coming forth of a political “kingdom of God” in the last days—after a persecution period lasting 1,260 *literal* days—until Christ physically reigns with peace on earth as King of kings for a thousand years (Rev. 11:2; 12:6; 17:14; 20:6).

In Farrell’s DVD presentation of *The Daniel Code I*, he shows a precedent for this same kind of multiple-layered fulfillment of prophecy. He demonstrates that Daniel’s “seventy-week”<sup>2</sup> prophecy was fulfilled precisely and simultaneously by: (1) the “Seventy Shmita-year cycles”<sup>3</sup> from Artaxerxes’ decree to build the temple in 458 BC; and (2) the “seventy years prophecy”<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> “Weeks” in the KJV is “*shevua*” in Hebrew, which is more accurately translated as “sevens” (Dan. 9:24).

<sup>3</sup> A Shmita year or Sabbatical year is the seventh year of a 7-year agricultural cycle mandated by the Torah in which the land is left to lie fallow and all agricultural activity, including plowing, planting, pruning, and harvesting is forbidden (Ex. 23:10–11; Lev. 25:2–7, 20–22; Deut. 15:1–3).

<sup>4</sup> Dan. 9:25

from Herod's decree to rebuild the temple in 17 BC. Daniel's prophecy thus pinpointed exactly the crucifixion and atonement of Jesus Christ on two levels.<sup>5</sup>

### Finding the Trigger Point: "Soft Starts" and "Hard Starts"

Prophecy is very rarely fulfilled at a single moment in time; when it does, it is usually at a climactic point. However, metaphorically speaking, in the fulfillment of such prophecies there is generally a "dawning," a "rising," and a "noon-day." In modern computer vernacular, we might use the terms a "soft start" and a "hard start." For example, in the return of the Jews from their exile in Babylon, there were four decrees and three waves of return:

Cyrus' decree	537 BC	(Ezra 1:2–4)
Darius' decree		(Ezra 6:1–5, 8, 12)
Artaxerxes' decree	<b>458 BC</b>	(Ezra 7:11–26)
Another decree of Artaxerxes	<b>445–444 BC</b>	(Neh. 2:5–8, 17–18)

The first three decrees involved the *rebuilding of the temple at Jerusalem*. The last included rebuilding the city, the walls, etc.<sup>6</sup> Nevertheless, it was only Artaxerxes' decree in 458 BC that actually began the "seventy Shmita-year" count (70 x 7 years) to "make an end of sins" (Daniel 9:24). Generally, using the hindsight of history, it is possible to *precisely* determine grand prophetic-vision trigger points that have been fulfilled. But for determining future prophetic events, prayerful scriptural and historical study must be applied to discover potential fulfillment trigger points and whether they are "soft" or "hard" starts. In scriptural terms, a trigger point may begin at dawn, at the rising of sun, or at noonday.<sup>7</sup>

### The Work of Sir Isaac Newton

In studying end-time prophetic fulfillments, the work of Sir Isaac Newton becomes particularly intriguing because one of his possible projections exactly aligns with Farrell's findings. Isaac Newton spent the last years of his life working with the prophecies of Daniel and John the Revelator to try to determine how and when they might be fulfilled. Newton believed that 1,260 years corresponded to the duration of the corruption of the Church. He considered several proposed starting dates, each that would ultimately end with the "fall of Babylon" and the cessation of the apostate Church. In his posthumously published *Observations upon the Prophecies of Daniel and the Apocalypse of St. John*, he used the day-year principle to consider several start dates for the 1,260-year prophecy—which he viewed as the culmination of the Great Apostasy formalized by the political empowerment of the imperial Church or Papal Office. His earlier suggested commencement dates include AD 607 and AD 609, but with the passing of years, he also considered AD 774, 788, and 841.<sup>8</sup> In his later life, he twice gave AD 800.<sup>9</sup> The following are three trigger points he considered for the ascent of evil ecclesiastical

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<sup>5</sup> See Farrell Pickering's video presentation, *Daniel Code I (2016)*, with its accompanying chart *Dating the Birth and Ministry of Christ*. [www.propheticappointments.com](http://www.propheticappointments.com).

<sup>6</sup> *Daniel Notes*, Daniel Expository Commentary, Dr. Chuck Missler, p. 102. [store.khouse.org](http://store.khouse.org).

<sup>7</sup> See examples in Isaiah 58:8–10; 60:1–3; and 2 Peter 1:19.

<sup>8</sup> "A Time and Times and the Dividing of Time": Isaac Newton, *The Apocalypse and 2060 A.D.*, Stephen D. Snobelen, 2003, <https://isaacnewtonstheology.files.wordpress.com/2013/06/newton-the-apocalypse-and-2060-ad.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> *Statement on the Date 2060*, Stephen D. Snobelen, June 2003,

power and control that would begin the 1,260-year persecution period and would finally end with the binding of all unrighteous dominion. Newton's date of AD 774—looking for when the Pope acquired temporal power—is of the most interest here because it coincides with Farrell Pickering's findings regarding the pattern of how Daniel's numbers fit in our day.<sup>10</sup>

**Newton's Suggested Start Date at AD 609:**

**The Decree of Phocas** granted Pope Boniface IV the right to set up images of the Virgin Mary and all the martyrs in place of the images of Cybele and the heathen Gods in the Pantheon at Rome and to institute "All Saints Day" in their honor.

**AD 609 provides conclusion dates** (by adding to AD 609 the scriptural numbers 1,260; 1,290; and 1,335 years) **of AD 1869; AD 1899; and AD 1944.**

**Newton's Suggested Start Date at AD 774:**

The acquisition of **temporal power by the Pope** (through Charlemagne's overthrow of the last Lombard King). Newton writes that in 774 "the Pope gained his temporal Estate dominion by the grant of Charles the great [Charlemagne] & thereby became a king & <like> ye rest of ye horns." In *Observations*, Newton points to the Pope acquiring his dominion "in the latter-half of the eighth century."<sup>11</sup>

**AD 774 provides a conclusion date** (by adding 1,260 years to AD 774) **of AD 2034.**

**Newton's Suggested Start Date at AD 800:**

This was the beginning of "the Pope's supremacy" when Charlemagne was crowned emperor of Rome in the west by Pope Leo III at St. Peter's cathedral in Rome.

**AD 800 provides a conclusion date** (by adding 1,260 years to AD 800) **of AD 2060.**

Again, Newton's suggested trigger-point of **AD 774** ending in **AD 2034** corresponds with Farrell's findings. This "end" would also be a new beginning—the end of an old age, and the beginning of the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ!

**Conclusion**

The *Joseph Smith Translation* of Revelation 12 provides dual levels of prophetic fulfillment to consider. Drawing from the Prophet's own explanation and addition in verse 7, we can explore the possibility that both are correct—a **1,260-year** persecution period for the church following the birth of Christ *and* a **1,260-day** persecution period in the end time bringing forth the political Kingdom of God. It once again reveals the magnificence of God's word: prophetic "days" can be fulfilled both in days *and* years.

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<https://web.archive.org/web/20131015054011/http://www.isaac-newton.org/update.html>.

<sup>10</sup> See Farrell Pickering's video presentations, *½ Hour of Silence—Hour of Judgment (2021)*, and "At the Time Appointed the End Shall Be"—*Moedim (2021)*, with their accompanying chart *Daniel's Hour of Judgment*. [www.propheticappointments.com](http://www.propheticappointments.com).

<sup>11</sup> "A Time and Times and the Dividing of Time": Isaac Newton, *The Apocalypse and 2060 A.D.*, Stephen D. Snobelen, 2003, <https://isaacnewtonstheology.files.wordpress.com/2013/06/newton-the-apocalypse-and-2060-ad.pdf>; Footnote #23: *Observations*, Newton, p. 113.