

CALENDAR REFORM & THE PROPHECY OF REVELATION 9:15.

CALENDAR REFORMS

A. The Roman calendar was reformed by Julius Caesar in 46 B.C. (the Julian Calendar.)

WHY?: The 10 month year of 304 days had resulted in the seasons being off the natural cycle.

WHAT REFORMS WERE CARRIED OUT?:

1. The year 46 B.C. was made to equal 445 days, known as the "year of confusion."
 - a. 67 days were inserted between November and December.
 - b. 12 month calendar was instituted, with months of alternating lengths of 31, 30 days.
2. January and February were inverted.
3. A leap year was provided.

This resulted in a more accurate calendar.

B. The Julian Calendar was reformed by Augustus Caesar.

1. The name of the 8th month was changed to "August."
2. A day was added to August and a day subtracted from February.
3. He shortened September by one day and increased October by one.

All this resulted in a gain of .0078064 days/year or one day every 128-129 years, (about 11 minutes per year.)

C. THE GREGORIAN CALENDAR: By 1582, there had been a gain of 10 days in the calculated year, with a tendency towards leaving the natural cycle. Pope Gregory instituted a further calendar reform which would restore the calendar to the natural cycle.

1. 10 days were omitted from the month of October, (Going to bed on October 4, the people awakened to October 15 rather than October 5. The weekly cycle was not interrupted. The yearly cycle was not altered, but rather restored to the natural cycle.)

2. The vernal equinox was restored to March 21.
3. Leap years were established for every fourth year.

These changes made accumulated error not to be noticeable for about 100,000 years.

The "Gregorian" calendar was adopted in October by Portugal, Spain and Italy; in December by France. The Catholic German states adopted the calendar in 1583. Protestant Germany, Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands adopted the calendar in 1700; while England waited until Sept. 2, 1752. Because 170 years had passed since the reform was initiated, the number of days lost was eleven. Thus citizens went to sleep September 2 and the next day was September 14. The weekly cycle was not interrupted. The yearly cycle was not altered, only restored to the natural cycle.

CONCLUSIONS REGARDING HOW CALENDAR REFORMS MAY HAVE AFFECTED THE PROPHECY OF REV. 9:15.

1. No changes were made during the last two weeks of the prophecy.
2. The changes made did not add nor take away years.
3. The changes made only corrected previous calendar errors, bringing the calendar years back to the natural cyclical seasons.

Therefore, the calendar reforms did not change the application nor alter the reliability of the fulfillment of the prophecy to the date proposed by Josiah Litch.— •MS

References:

Longacre, C. S., *Review and Herald*, Aug. 21, 1941.
Haynes, C. B., *World Calendar vs. World Religion*, Southern Publishing Association, Nashville, Tenn. pp. 56+.