
The End of 6,000 Years of Man-Rule Approaches

-What Has Been Accomplished?

SINCE a new Jewish lunar year began in September 1975 a significant point in human history was reached. What was that? According to the Bible's count of time, mankind then completed 6,000 years of existence on earth. Yes, the first man Adam, if he had chosen to remain obedient under God's rulership, would have still been alive and 6,000 years old in September of this year.

Does this mean, then, that mankind has now reached 6,000 years into the 7,000-year period that God 'blessed and made sacred' as his great "rest day"? Does it mean that Christ's millennial Kingdom rule, as the final 1,000 years of that "rest day," is to be reckoned from September 1975?—Gen. 1:27, 31; 2:2, 3; Rev. 20:1-6.

No, it does not mean that. Why not? Well, the Bible record shows that God's creations on the "day" just preceding that 7,000-year "rest day" did not end with Adam's creation. It shows a time lapse between the creation of Adam and that of his wife, Eve. During that time, God had Adam name the animals. Whether that period amounted to weeks or months or years, we do not know. So we do not know exactly when Jehovah's great "rest day" began, nor do we know exactly when it will end. The same applies to the beginning of Christ's millennial reign. The Bible provides us no way to fix the date, and so it does us no good to speculate when that date may be.—Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 24:42, 44.

However, the Bible's time clock does indicate to us that 6,000 years of human history end in this year 1975. Early in God's "rest day" Adam became a rebel against God-rule. Thus, for the most part, the first 6,000 years of man's history have been marked by man-rule. What did man's independent rulership accomplish during those six millenniums of time, or six spans of 1,000 years each? Let us take a panoramic view of those millenniums, each in its turn.

First Thousand Years Man's happiness in the paradise of Eden ended as Adam and Eve rebelled against the sovereignty of their Creator, Jehovah God. Justly, God expelled the man and his wife from the garden into the uncultivated earth, to fend for themselves under the independent government of their choice. Probably that became a form of patriarchal rule. But during the 900-and-more years that remained of Adam's life, sin-tainted mankind became involved more and more in violence, murder, false religion and a permissive way of life that ended only in death.—Rom. 5:12; Gen. 3:12, 16-19; 4:10, 11, 23, 26.

Second Thousand Years Under man-rule, "the badness of man" abounded to the point that God, after giving due warning, brought a global deluge to destroy those who had "ruined" the earth and filled it with violence. Though God preserved alive faithful Noah and his family because of their righteousness, their de-