

“Set the Cornerstone”

SETTING THE CORNERSTONE, JANUARY 1, 2017 AD

Message Summation: It is the year 2017. We know this because we count years from Jesus’ birth. Jesus is the hinge and the cornerstone of human history. His birth is the culmination of everything that came before and everything that comes after. He earned this title because He alone has come “to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.” He will also return one day - this time to rescue us from the ravages of sin and set up an eternal kingdom of peace, love, and joy.

WHY IS IT JANUARY 1, 2017? AND, IS IT JANUARY 1, 2017 AD OR CE?

- **Academic debate:** Anno Domini – “In the year of our Lord”; or In the Common Era?
- **Secular Argument:** An accident of history. Western culture is the dominant culture and Christianity is the dominant force
- **Biblical Argument:** The Bible affirms Jesus’ birth and constitutes the cornerstone of history, before and after

—————→ JESUS ←————

He has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.²⁷ Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,²⁸ so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who eagerly wait for him. (Hebrews 9:26b – 28, NIV)

- **He has appeared** = Incarnation; conception in Mary’s womb
- **Culmination of the ages** = Jesus, his birth, is the hinge of human history
- Hebrews was written around 75 AD
- Although the Gregorian Calendar wasn’t officially adopted until 1582 AD, its inception was in the 6th century when the traditional date of nativity was calculated

WHY IS JESUS THE CORNERSTONE, THE CULMINATION, THE CENTER OF HUMAN HISTORY?

1. Jesus provides forgiveness of sins! “To do away” = Annul
 - “As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.” (Psalm 103:12)
2. Jesus rescues us from judgement!
 - Every person will stand before God and be judged
 - “Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many...”
3. Jesus will return and bring salvation!
 - Jesus will come and usher in His eternal kingdom of peace, love, and joy.

WHO ELSE COULD MADE THIS CLAIM AND ACTUALLY PULL IT OFF? ANYBODY?

Muhammad? Isaac Newton? Albert Einstein? Aristotle? Charles Darwin? Augustus Caesar?

JANUARY 1, 2017 AD IS AN IMPLICIT AFFIRMATION THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE CULMINATION OF HISTORY!

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