

May 6, 2015 to Everett from Steven Buren,

The attached file is your conversation that is edited with highlights of my comments. It is in an attachment of MS-Word, because my laptop will remove all formats and highlights if I send it as email text.

I appreciate all constructive feedback, and will enjoy a chat with you any time. Please review, and try to find something you like about the book.

Steven Buren

From Everett, May 5, 2015
A Little Progress,

Hello Steve,

Long time no talk. I hope all is well with you.

I have moved (still relocating) to Panama City, Florida, I did not care for the winter in Kansas.

After being buried in research, reading and presentations I recently emerged and remembered your book. Your assertion that the Olympics were really every 5 years not 4 intrigued me, so I decided that should be investigated. You also recommended this in previous communication.

However, I want to clarify my intent in my comments. First is to help you see your writing from a third party perspective. You have obviously done some research in preparation for writing your book. Undoubtedly not everything that you discovered in your research is included in the book, but when you write you may assume something is known, because you know it. When someone else reads your book without that knowledge things can be confusing or not make sense. That is especially what I think you want to know from me. If I find something confusing or illogical I want you to know so you have the opportunity to smooth out the bumps in a future version of the book. This is written for the reading and comprehension level of common readers. Most readers do not indulge in details, and an over-indulgence bores them, so it is kept at minimums. One of the first reactions from readers is usually, "there are too many names to follow". Sufficient key references are given for those who wish to dig deeper.

For instance: in my first critique I mentioned that Marcus Agrippa couldn't have been Alexander the Great's general. You responded by saying there were many Alexander's, Agrippa's and Caesar's. OK, I understand that, but the only Alexander you identified in the immediate context of Agrippa was Alexander the Great. If you use a name more than once in close proximity, but intend to refer to two different people you need to make that clear or the reader will be confused. This is especially true if you intend the book for all levels of readers. There was also a son of Herod Agrippa (king of 1st century) called Alexander. It was stated that in the tradition of royalty, a child is usually named after parent or grand parent. The names of kings or emperors were only allowed in royal families, and authority was given to those who possessed royal names. Example: Josephus was anointed the name of Titus, and given tax free property and an annual sum by Vespasian. I had stated on page 90 in the study of Paul's lineage, of the naming of children, and that I would simplify when practical, by dropping part of some names.

Second, I'm looking for typos, grammatical errors etc. Fortunately, I'm not finding many. Long complicated sentences are sometimes a problem. Occasionally after going over my own work I'll wonder what I was trying to say. Keeping things short helps that. Try finding a strong positive of the content of the text, and build on that! Your approach seems to be: find a speck so we can destroy the book. I do need credible support, but years later support is too late. What do you agree with in this book? You have never stated any good findings of the hundreds available; are other things of interest? Have you found any good in the last half of the book?

Third I want to make sure that the material you reference supports your statements. It seems to me that if one is going to propose a different understanding than the norm, one must have solid verifiable evidence

that supports the new understanding and/or shows the old to be suspect. Without this evidence an author's credibility is undermined and their message discredited. It would be better not to discuss a subject than take a position and rest on evidence that doesn't substantiate it. Now, I suppose I might expect some things to be substantiated and others would expect other things. I can only give you my perspective. These were reduced to essential references, to keep from looking like only a theology study book. It has a positive story and builds on a positive outcome. There are many many many essential teachings here that NO OTHER WRITER HAS FOUND. That is an eye opener that needs instant awareness and recognition of the false teachings of the Pauline doctrine. Most books that are referred to me will do nothing but polish or throw glitter at old knowledge. It is RARE to find something new, but this book is loaded with NEW.

So with all that in mind I went to page 98 where you put forth a new timeline. I would have appreciated some reference to a historical work regarding the semi retirement of Caesar Tiberius to Rhodes Capri (bottom pg 98). Ant 18.6.4, Wars-1 Ch-20.1, Seutonius 25, 40-42, Tacitus Annals 1.3 Caius and Germanicus adopted, 1.53 Tiberius retires to Rhodes. This was not nearly the problem that your references supporting a five year Olympiad turned out to be (Mid pg.99). Josephus Antiquities 16.5.1 does not claim the Greek Olympiad was five years, but games established in Cesarea. It does connect the establishment of these games at Cesarea to the 192nd Olympiad, but does not indicate anything regarding the frequency of the Greek games. Your reference to Tacitus Annals 14.21 doesn't really support your claim either. It is talking of acting and entertainment competitions. There is mention of it being in the 'style of a Greek contest'. Perhaps both these competitions were modeled after the Olympiad, but based on the text referenced timing is not specifically mentioned. Is it the organization and manner of the Greek contests that is referred to or was it the timing? We're left to guess. The span is not given except in mention of five year games and Quintennial games. I verify this by calculating events and only a five year span will equate to the stated numbers of years, and the outcome is so much easier to follow. Wars book-1 chapter-21.8, Herod Philip built amphitheater for games every fifth year, Caesars games dedicated on the 192 olympiad, named it Agrippium after Agrippa but changed it later to Cesarea. Antiq 16.5.2-3 Herod the Great built and bestowed on cities in Syria and Greece the necessities to restore the Olympic Games and appoint revenues for their maintenance. He was declared as one of the perpetual managers of the games. The Olympic symbol is five rings, taken from an ancient Olympic artifact in Olympia, Greece, dedicated to their god of Jupiter. The four year span was established in 1896 when a Frenchman in Britain restarted the games (several variations to that story). But he used the span that was supposed to be set by the priest Exiguus that set our calendar dates.

You make additional references in support of a five year Olympiad a little further down the page. However, again, these do not really support what you intend to prove by them. Ant. 14.1.2 mentions the 3rd year of the 107th Olympiad. (177th Olympiad) It seems to me this only is evidence that the Olympiad was at least three years long, not five. The reference to Wars 1.21.8 again indicates the games at Cesarea were every five years not the Olympiad.

As an aside the reference in ant 14.1.2 must be mistaken when referring to the 107th Olympiad. Later you reference Apion 1.2 which tells us that Alexander the Great died during the 114th Olympiad. Certainly the events of Ant 14.1.2 followed that rather than preceded that, but that's not your fault. ☺ Ah, the version of Antiquities at biblestudytools.com indicates the 177th Olympiad. That makes more sense. The 107 reference must be an error in my book. There is no 107 Olympiad in the RBM book.

Toward the bottom of page 99 you reference Tacitus Annals 14.21 again along with 14.20 and 16.2. These again mention the Roman oratory and entertainment contests, not the frequency of the Greek Olympic games. It seems like there must be records somewhere that affirm the 5 year interval if that is indeed the case. I don't see the references you used as very solid evidence of your proposal.

On page 100 under Rebuilding History's Timeline you mention the Jewish Egypt Exodus. Maybe I'm picky, but it wasn't just the Jews that exited Egypt. It was all Israel. I understand many people don't

distinguish the difference. I think that's exactly why we should more accurately present reality. I should have said Hebrews, but I kept rewriting to satisfy common readers and their common associations.

The reference to -353 mentions Ptolemy Seleucus Soter. Perhaps this is OK, but I have otherwise only seen him referred to as Ptolemy Soter. I think he was referred as Seleucus and Ptolemy Soter in different nations, so I combined to identify him as the same individual, like Marcus and Agrippa.

-341 mention is made that Alexander died a year before the 115th Olympiad. Unfortunately Apion 1.22, which you reference does not say that. It says that he died in the 114th Olympiad and 11 years before the 117th. If one assumes 5 year Olympiad's it must mean the year before the 115th Olympiad, but the statement in Apion 1.22 would still be true if the Olympiad is 4 years. It would be the 2nd year of the 114th Olympiad. I understand your perspective is a 5 year Olympiad. I think you would be better off to state what the text says. If you want to draw a conclusion after that, fine. A second year of 114 Olympiad on a 4 year set, would be 2 years before the 115 Oly.

-295 It took me a while to figure out what x0 to x305 meant. I was expecting it to be explained by your reference to Josephus, but it wasn't there. Some things were written for my own references briefly. An entire 500 page book could be dedicated to the Olympiad timeline topic, if we get into minute details. The most elaborate of the Olympic history books have barely a paragraph identifying the 4 yr span. The aim of this book was to show the deception and false teachings of following the deceiver, and to rediscover the more interesting things. Perhaps some explanation would be in order. Actually the text you reference in Josephus verifies almost nothing of what this point contains. Only the reference to Seleucus being considered a god is supported. I'm not sure how important establishing that point is to your purpose. Year -150 King Antiochus Epiphanes of Egypt pretending peace, burned sacred books, plundered Jerusalem, and offered swine on the altar on 153rd Olympiad. (x145). (Antiq 12.5.4) Year 10 is the end of the Seleucus Mecedonian calendar (x305) on 185th Olympiad. (Antiq 12.3.1-2) 153rd to 185 is 32 Olympiads. In a 4 year set, that would be 126 years. In a 5 year set, that is 160 years, which is what matches the statements of Josephus. That is also why those that count Olympiads as 4 years, say that the records do not match. But they match perfectly if counted 5 years.

-180 This point indicates that it was 250 years from the beginning of Epiphanes' reign until the temple was destroyed. If that is the case that would make it 181BC since there is no year zero. Working historical dates, year 0 is just like using a 10 or 100. Subtracting a year in the middle of the span of Olympiads, creates confusion in calculations. That would be like going from 1999 to 2001. Therefore one must subtract another year when going AD to BC for year 0 that was assumed with normal subtraction but didn't exist. $70-250=-180-1=181$. I am unable to verify that period of time with your reference to Ant 20.10.1. That reference mentions the destruction of the temple and the tenure of the priests that served, but nothing about Epiphanes. It does mention his successor Eupator, but it is not definitive about the timing of his ascension to office. Pages 98 to 111 were on the timeline rewritten. If I put all references and all priests and all kings and events, that 13 page section could easily go 500 pages on history that would bore most readers. There is enough evidence in my pages to prove the point that the timeline matches a 5 year Olympiad period.

The lack of support in your references for your immediate point damages your credibility. It seems to me that if you want to overcome all the error of traditional scholarship into which we've all been indoctrinated protecting credibility would be very important. Once again; you are looking for a speck to destroy the 457 new findings. If you can't kill it with critique, then it will die of obscurity in the time lapse of investigation.

-150 This reference to Ant 12.5.4 does support your point that Antiochus plundered Jerusalem in the 145th year of the Seleucids. It also mentions this was in the 153rd Olympiad, which provides an opportunity to roughly test the length of the Olympiads. The beginning of the Seleucid empire is connected with the death of Alexander the Great, who Josephus claimed died in the 114th Olympiad. The Seleucid empire did not begin immediately after Alexander's death, but about 10 years later based on Wikipedia. Wiki is not a first century or earlier source; it is an open forum of common teachings. I use Wiki only to examine the common teachings and interpretations. I use ONLY the first century and earlier authors for a true statement. Then it is filtered through as many interpreters as I can muster. Seleucus Nicator like Alexander's other

military leaders initially pledged allegiance to Alexander's unborn son. Seleucus Nicator was initially assigned as governor of Babylon. However after a few years and the taste of power Alexander's military leaders started carving out their own territories. There was a lot of fighting among them. Seleucus actually fled Babylon and served Ptolemy in Egypt for a while. He returned and took Babylon after helping Ptolemy defeat Antigonus' son at the battle of Gaza about 10 years after Alexander's death. His empire began about the time he took Babylon back. His power increased from there. So from Alexander's death to the plundering of Jerusalem was about $10+145=155$ years. This would also be roughly the number of years between the 114th and 153rd Olympiad, roughly 39 Olympic periods. $39 * 5 = 195$ years. $39 * 4 = 156$ years. Clearly this supports a 4 year Olympiad, not 5. The Year -295 was the beginning of the Dominion of the Seleucus which is 145 years before -150. Alexander died 46 years earlier in -341 during 4th yr of 114 Olympiad, 1 year before 115 Oly, which equals 191 years before the 153 Oly.

In order for a 5 year Olympiad to work, the time from Alexander's death to Seleucus return to Babylon would need to be more like 49 years. Assuming Seleucus was 25 when Alexander died, which it seems is younger than reality, he would have been about 74 upon returning to Babylon. Wikipedia indicates he lived about 77 years. That's not much time to build an empire.

Steve, maybe there's something here I don't understand, but it seems that these references prove a 4 year Olympic period rather than 5. Try squeezing the Antiquities 20.10.1 timeline into a four year span. It is impossible, and will only work with a five year span of Olympiads. Refer to page 100, the -1722 date line.

Once again, you are walking away from the essence of the story of this book, to prove the deceiver and his false doctrine that is prominent in all teachings. The majority of the Olympic references were in the first century. This is the important part of the timeline that shows who was related to whom and what and when they were doing things. THIS is the focus of the book.

Yr 05 184th Oly, Herod approved by senate while Antigonus besieged Masada.

Yr 23 Octavian is Emperor after Antony killed.

Yr 23 Messiah born in Bethlehem, Octavian notes barbarity of Herod, Herod dies after Day of atonement.

Yr 37 Tiberius is Caesar after 14 yrs of Octavian.

Yr 38 Josephus born

Yr 50 Tiberius retires on 12th yr of 23 yr reign, leaving Caligula and Claudius as Caesars.

Yr 54 Josephus is 16 when John the Baptist imprisoned

Yr 55 Claudius sends Vespasian to set Agrippa in Judea, Titus is lieutenant in army. Philip sent to get Greek priests of Alexandria for the Temple. (Because Agrippa needed interpreter Barnabas for Hebrew)

Yr 56 Claudius evicts Jews from Rome and forbids assembly, for refusing statue of Caesar in Temple.

Yr 57 Yahshua crucified at Passover.

Yr 58 Herod Philip beheaded for rebellion in 20th year of Tiberius, Agrippa is now king.

The rebellion was from Herod Antipas exiled, Philip took his wife Herodius, Philip's wife Miriam complained to her grandmother Queen Bernice of Syria, and she gave Antipas an army against Philip.

Yr 61 Tiberius dies 37 years after Antony, 22 yrs as Caesar. Claudius is now Augustus.

Yr 64 Paul and Josephus (age 26) arrive in Rome.

Yr 68 Vespasian Caesar for 10 yrs

Yr 70 Titus destroys Temple 2nd Yr of Veespasian.

Yr 79 Pompeii destroyed by eruption of Vesuvius, and Titus Reigns as Caesar 2 yrs.

Yr 80-81 Domitian reigns after Titus

Yr 93 Josephus age 56 at Domitian's 13th year.

My set point for the timeline was the eruption of Mt Vesuvius in Year 79, from the historical records of many reports that set the dates on August 9-24 of the eruption. That date was set in 532 when the priest Exiguus counted back from 139 yrs when the last 293rd Olympiad was banned. Using 4yr spans, Exiguus established the timeline that makes our 2015 calendar. If there are 5 yr spans, then we are at least 102 yrs off of the date when Messiah was born.

An interesting finding on that date, if you add 125 years to our date, you will find that the Messiah was born on April 1, -102. A date that is taught by tradition as a fool's day where everyone is supposed to tell lies.

Now let's go through the Caesars and their span of reign to fit the timeline.

-17 Julius -17 to -13 a 3 yr reign after Pompey
-13 to 23 Triumvirate (3 men) Antony, Octavian, Aristobulus
23 Octavian Augustus 23 to 37 a 14 yr reign
37 Tiberius 37 to 67, a 3 yr reign, retired 12th yr giving proxy to two in 49
49 Caligula 49 to 55, killed by guards of Claudius
49 Claudius 49 to 63 poisoned by wife Agrippina so her son Nero gets throne.
63 Nero 63 to 68 suicide when attacked by Galba
68 Galba Otho and Vitellius each murdered by next
69 Vespasian reigned 10 yrs
79 Titus dies of disease after 2 yrs
81 Domitian to 96 reigns 15 yrs

I skimmed through your other datings and came across another that I suspected would provide a means of verifying the length of the Olympiads. The one I chose, -27, makes use of your reference to Hyrcanus being made high priest by Pompey on the third year of the 177th Olympiad. (Ant 14.1.2, 20.10.1). However, 14.1.2 connects the Olympiad with the 'beginning' of Hyrcanus tenure as high priest, not his later appointment by Pompey. The previous chapter, last chapter of book 13, i.e., 13.16.2 relates that Hyrcanus was appointed by his mother at the death of his father Alexander. It then continues with details of her reign until her death (Ant 13.16.6). Pompey's intervention was 12 years and 3 months later according to your reference, Ant 20.10.1. So this reference to the 177th Olympiad in 14.1.2 has nothing to do with Pompey, but with Hyrcanus initial appointment by his mother Alexandra. The context is clear, because immediately after the death of his mother, Alexandra, his brother, Aristobulus, moves to take the kingdom and the high priesthood, which Hyrcanus is content to relinquish. This is in accord with the description in Ant 20.10.1, before any mention of Pompey.

So according to Josephus, Epiphanes plundered the temple in the 153rd Olympiad the 145th year of the Seleucids (12.7.6) and Hyrcanus was appointed high priest after Alexander, his father, in the third year of the 177th Olympiad. I find the following in Ant 20.10.1: Jacimus 3yrs (Installed by Antiochus Eupator), priesthood empty 7 years, Jonathan 7 yrs, Simon 8 yrs(one year longer than his brother Jonathan), Hyrcanus(son of Simon) 30, Judas(Aristobulus) 1 yr, Alexander 27 yrs, Hyrcanus(son of Alexander) 9 yrs.

It was evidently shortly after the 160th year of the Seleucids that Jonathan became high Priest(13.2.1-3). So there was about (160-145=) 15 years from the 153th Olympiad until Jonathan became High priest. Adding

15 to the tenure of the priests beginning with Jonathan through Alexander, Hyrcanus father, I get **88 years**. From the 153rd to the 177th Olympiad is about 24 Olympic periods. $24*5=120$ years. $24*4=96$ years. This is not quite as good a fit as Alexander to the desolation of the temple, but certainly the case for a four year Olympic period is stronger than a five year period. We don't know exactly how long after the 160th year Jonathan was considered High Priest and we have many tenures to add, each of which could include some transitional uncertainty.

These two relatively straightforward examples of Olympiad length dampened my enthusiasm for most of the rest of your timeline. It seems that any timeline that is based on a 5 year Olympic cycle will misrepresent reality, but that is your fundamental basis. I did note your reference in 63 that Josephus and Paul sailed together to Rome. This intrigued me, so I looked at Josephus Autobiography that you referenced (paragraph 3).

Although it is indeed odd that Josephus might be involved with some religious leaders sailing to Rome to plead their cause before Caesar besides Paul, a connection with Paul seems highly unlikely. The details of the two cases differ significantly. Josephus account records Felix as procurator of Judea; Acts records that Paul was sent to Rome during the tenure of Festus who succeeded Felix. Josephus indicates there were multiple priests defending themselves, Paul was not a priest and he was the only defendant. There were 600 in Josephus boat, there were only 276 on Paul's. Acts 27 is talking about two boats that sailed together. There may have been more that started with several destinations, with safety in numbers or fleets. As the common historians state that it is not possible for the known boats of that era to hold that many people, and 300 would be packed to the brim. Josephus swam all night for rescue. Paul's group all stayed in the boat until day. Eighty were saved with Josephus by another boat; Paul's group was all saved by reaching land. Josephus was instrumental in getting the 'priests' freed through a connection with Nero's wife; there was no apparent extended amount of time noted to accomplish the priests' release, Paul was kept in Rome for at least two years.

I hope that is helpful.
Everett

You are apparently focused more on the timeline, which is probably a good portion of my next study, but not the main topic. Following your questionnaire form and looking for errors or corrections is defense mode and not a productive building mode. There is nothing in this entire confrontation that would be supportive of any portion of my book.

My intent is to detail the first century in a story form, somewhat like a movie script. Then maybe it will get this story out to an interested public that is looking for answers. To me; it is more important to teach that the deceiver's doctrine is the problem, than to focus on the dates, though they help to prove the events.

Steven...