

End of Days

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The End of Days, namely the end of current history and the start of messianic times, when a divinely inspired, and guided holy leader will come to the world to initiate an eternal era of bliss, has occupied humanity to this very day. The ultimate redeemer, whose Biblical designation “Messiah” entered both Christianity and Islam, is known by various other names in religions not influenced by the Bible. The word “messiah”, the anointed (“*mashiyah*” in Hebrew), describes the redeemer, consecrated by being anointed with holy oil in the same way that any person (e.g. priest) or object is consecrated. The Greek translation of the term is *Christos*, Christ, and this term is sometimes used instead, together, or separate from, the messiah. In Arabic the term *masih* is used specifically to denote Jesus of Nazareth who is regarded in Islam to be a prophet whose birth from his mother Mary was caused by divine intervention (“...*His word that he committed to Mary and a spirit from Him*” [Q 4:171]).

In Christianity the duration of the blissful messianic times beginning with the “second coming” of Jesus is one thousand years, for which Christianity yearns, and for that matter, Christians add, the entire humanity should yearn for. In Judaism, it is the Messiah, the anointed one, the son of David who will finally bring ultimate freedom from bondage and exile to the Jewish people, and will re-establish the perfect kingdom of God in their holy land. For the Jews, the redemption is very well defined: it is finally the end of their suffering, it is the renewal of their independence and their freedom from persecution and physical destruction. In many ways, the

universal redeemer for the Christianity and Islam is for the Jews a national savior, and an actual human king belonging to the sacred dynasty of David. In Islam, the *mahdí*, whether Sunní or Shí'ite, with all the differences between them, will come like the others at the end of days, to fill the world with justice, replacing the evil and injustice with which it is filled nowadays. The Sunnís, of course regard the *mahdí*, the one supported and directed by G-d, in whose time, and as the outcome of whose activity the whole world will follow the true religion, namely Islam, Sunní Islam.

The Shí'ites are more specific as far as the identity of the *mahdí* is concerned. Unlike the Sunna, the Shí'ite *mahdí* is still alive, he is the twelfth *imám*, who until his reappearance to fulfill his major function, is hidden in the mystery of his "greater occultation." But when he appears he also will fill the world with justice and bring it under God's true religion, presumably Islam in its Shí'ite version.

Jesus also plays a role in the drama of the end of days according to Islam, mainly in its Sunní version. He also appears at the end of days next to, or with, the *mahdí*, mainly to clear the world of the major opponent of the *mahdí*, the *Dajjál*, the false messiah, the Anti-Christ. In all three or four versions of the apocalypse of the End of Days, the appearance of the ultimate redeemer is connected with the final battle between the forces of evil and those of righteousness. This battle, which assumes different names and takes place at various sites in the Holy Land, ending with the victory of the good side over the evil one, must precede messianic times. [See in Detail N. Cohn, *The pursuit of the Millennium*, London [1962], pp. 1-21 and throughout the book.]

Observing that the world is full of evil, and yearning for its redemption, religious thinkers were induced to look for clues in the scriptures, and transmitted tradition in order to calculate the exact era of messianic times. Each one of the religions mentioned above, Jewish, Christian and Islamic, tried to calculate the time of the arrival of *as-sá'ah* – the "Hour" if we use the Arabic-Islamic term; *aharithayamím* – the "End of Days," or *yemothamashiyah* – "The Days of the messiah" or just *haketz* – "The End," in Hebrew, if we use the Jewish term. Similarly "the *Millennium*," and the "Second advent" used in the Christian eschatology [ibid, pp. 13f.]. The search was for two different signs foretelling the approach of the final redemption. One related to its circumstances – unusual occurrences

or major events of colossal magnitude including moral corruption; the second was the actual mathematical calculation of the exact date in which the messianic age should be expected.

It is interesting that these calculations, somehow, led those who were engaged in them to reach the conclusion that their calculations pointed to their own time as the time of redemption, the messianic era and the time of the appearance of God's revealed, guided, inspired and even manifested, promised one. William Miller, for instance, fixed the end of 1843 and the beginning of 1844 as the date of Jesus' second coming. In Judaism there were such calculations, mostly in times of great stress and persecution. Each such calculation ended with disappointment. Some Talmudic scholars tried to stop the repeated exercise of the "calculation of the End" and the activities of "calculators of the End" (*mehashevekitzin*) by bringing proofs that "the Holy One blessed be He will not renew his world before 5000 or 7000 years (have passed since creation)" [BT, *Sanhedrin* 97b]. However, some scholars want to be more specific. An old document in Hebrew, they said, was found in the Roman archives, in which it was stated that "the world will come to an end 4291 years after the creation" [ibid.]. In Sunni Islam, the calculation of the End is described in great detail in the *hadith*, and is based on the division of Islamic history into two cycles (*dawlah*): a short one of one hundred years and a long one of an unspecified period. The short one is based on a *hadith* that states that Gods sends a "renewer" at the beginning of every century to revive the collapsing Islam." At the beginning of each *century*, Allah will send to this nation someone to renew its religion: *inna allah sayab'athiláhdhihi al-umma, 'ala ra's kull qarn man yujaddidlahá dínaha*. The second indication of the end of days, or the "Hour" in Sunní Islam is not connected with a date but with some major event, which will initiate the period of wars preceding the final redemption.

In Judaism, "the calculators of the end" based their calculations on the *Book of Daniel*, chapters 7, 9 and 12, where the cryptic language, and the no less cryptic numbers, have excited and challenged these calculators. They have been attracting them to the present day. Already in the early third century, Talmudic scholars attempted to stop the practice of apocalyptic calculations because they felt that they involved disappointment on the one hand, and hasty activity such as attempting revolt, which ended usually with

national disaster. The irresponsibility of such calculations could also lead to blasphemy. For if according to the calculators the Messiah was to come at a certain date, and he did not come then some people could conclude that he would never come, which would be a denial of one of the articles of faith – the belief in the coming of the Messiah. In the language of the Talmud: “Accursed are the calculators of the End for they used to say: since the End has come (according to the calculations) and he (the Messiah) has not come, it follows that he will not come.” This negates the obligation to say, “even if he tarries, I shall wait for him” [ibid.].

However, in institutionalized Judaism, Christianity and Islam, it is generally believed that since the true redeemer has not yet come; there is no need, therefore, to prove the authenticity of anyone who claims to be the promised one. Yet, in more than one case in modern times, there appeared claimants to messianic status who created a need for such proofs, namely objective sources proving such claims beyond doubt. The proofs are needed mainly to ward off the attacks of opponents, but they also help to strengthen the faith of believers. One of such cases is that of the Mormon religion in which the claim of Joseph Smith was supported by the mysterious gold plates that only he could read and translate. It was the testimony of eleven people who vowed that they had seen the tablets with their own eyes that established their existence, and therefore firmly supported the claim of Joseph Smith’s prophecy, which led to the foundation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints [see “Testimony of three and eight witnesses,” *Book of Mormon*].

The case of the Bábi-Bahá’í faiths is particularly significant in this regard. A few proofs were needed to confirm the claims of the Báb and then Bahá’u’lláh. Both claimed to have been prophets and the manifestations of God. During their lifetime, their claims were based on, and reinforced by, their personalities, writings and sayings. In the case of the Báb, at least, there were also the circumstances of his appearance. The Báb put his claim forward on a very significant date for the Shí’ah, in the year of 1260 of the Hijrah, a thousand years after the disappearance of the 12th *imám*, the hidden *mahdí*. Towards the year 1260 AH, and particularly during this exact year, the Messianic expectations in the Shí’ah soared high, and the Báb could well present himself as a Šáhibaz-Zamán, the master of time. The

proof that he was indeed divinely inspired was put forward when he wrote in Arabic a mystical interpretation of the *Súrat Yúsuuf*, the 12th *Súrah* of the Qur'án, right in front of the amazed eyes of Ḥusayn Bushrú'í, who became his first disciple.

The short ministry of the Báb needed no external, independent proofs. His writings were the best proof, particularly the Bayán, his major opus. His recognition as a Sayyid, namely the acceptance of his genealogy as the descendent of the Prophet, and particularly his imprisonment far away from his disciples which conferred on him the aura of mystical occultation (*ghaybah*) reserved until then only for the Hidden *Mahdí*, added to the establishment of his claim to *mahdíhood*, and to even more.

Bahá'u'lláh openly claimed to be the manifestation of God, and the promised one of all ages and all creeds. During his lifetime he had no need for external proofs, his charismatic personality, his prophetic writings, and his firm claim for divine station were sufficient to secure this status. After he passed away, however, Abdu'l-Bahá', his son and heir, felt that in spite of the fact that a growing Bahá'í community worshiped his father, it was still necessary to delve into the former scriptures, and look for the proofs for his claim. Like calculators of the End before him (including William Miller) he concluded that the best proof could be the one that would show the correlation between the dates of the revelations of the Báb and of Bahá'u'lláh, and the dates found in the cryptic prophecy of Daniel. The Qur'án could also be used for that matter, through the interpretation of some verses, but the Book of Daniel is a different matter. If one could work out mathematically the meaning of Daniel's numbers, that would be a "scientific" proof for the claim of prophecy.

'Abdu'l-Bahá' was no doubt familiar with the correlation between Arabic letters and their numerical value. The heart of the faith created by the Báb and his father was established on such correlations. 'Abdu'l-Bahá', using the numbers in Daniel 9:24 proves that Daniel prophesized the martyrdom and ascendance of Christ [SAQ, 40-45]. We have to note in passing that the calculations of 'Abdu'l-Bahá' were based on wrong translation of a verse in Numbers 14:34, which has nothing to do with "The day of the Lord is one year". This does not appear anywhere in the Bible. What appears in

the Bible is that the day of the Lord is a thousand years [Ps. 90:4, “*For a thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when it is passed*”]. However, there are other sources to support the notion that one day could mean one year. At any rate, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’ introduces the supposed prophecy about Christ only as an introduction to Daniel’s prophecy about the Báb and Bahá’u’lláh: “*Now that the manifestation of Christ has been proved by the prophecies of Daniel, let us prove the manifestation of Bahá’u’lláh and the Báb*” [ibid].

By a simple arithmetic exercise, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’ shows that Daniel prophesized the appearance of the Báb in 1844. The cryptic verse in Daniel 8:14, which in the original Hebrew says: “וַיֹּאמְרָאֵלַי עֲדַעֲרֹבֶבְקָרָאֵלְפִיּוֹם וְשָׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת וְנִצְדָקְדָשׁ:” And he said unto me: Unto two thousand and three hundred [days] then shall the sanctuary be cleansed” [Translation: Authorized King James Version]. The Arabic translation (published in Beirut, December 1880) which ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’ must have consulted reads: فَقَالَ لِي الْبَالِقَيْنِوَتَلَاثِ مِئَةِ مَسَاءٍ وَصَبَاحٍ نُمُّ يَطَهَّرُ الْقُدْسِ. This is interpreted by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’ to mean that in 2300 years, “the sanctuary will be cleansed,” namely that will be the time of the “dawn of the Manifestation”. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’ then makes the following calculation: From the time of the edict of Artaxerxes to rebuild Jerusalem until the birth of Christ there were 456 years, and the Báb appeared in 1844. Adding these two numbers (1844+456) and you get 2300. (Artaxerxes’ rule began in 465 BC, and the permission to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem was issued by the King to Nehemiah as late as summer 445BC. *JE*, 2:146)

Daniel’s cryptic verse probably means 2300 days, which, in Biblical terms could also mean years. (יָדַי day, and יָמֵי days, in the plural, mean both a day and a year). Otherwise, as we have just seen, based on Ps. 90, *yom* (day), would be a thousand years and this surely is not the interpretation of Daniel in this verse. Daniel, therefore, according to ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s calculations prophesized the “dawn of the Manifestation of the Báb” [SAQ, 42]. One note should be added here; the *Septuagint* Greek translation of the Bible says clearly “two thousand three hundred *days*.” (The word “*days*” does not appear in the original Hebrew text, but it is implied by the usage of “evening and morning” which was translated correctly into Arabic.) Incidentally, William Miller used the text of Daniel to prove that the Second Advent will take place in 1844.

Once Abdu'l-Bahá' established the manifestation of the Báb by Daniel's prophecy, he used the same source to prove the Manifestation of Bahá'u'lláh. For this purpose, 'Abdu'l-Bahá' changed calendar, and based his proof on the Islamic one instead of the Christian one, which he just used to prove the manifestation of the Báb. In Chapter 12: 11, Daniel mentions twelve hundred and ninety years "*from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away and the abomination that maketh desolate set up...*" This is a very cryptic verse too. 'Abdu'l-Bahá' was not interested in the "daily sacrifice" nor the "abomination that maketh desolate" (שִׁקְיָן שְׂמִים in Hebrew). Only the number 1290 interested him for proof. With no effort he shows that 1290 lunar years had elapsed from the announcement of Muhammad's prophecy, ten years *before* the Hijrah, until the announcement of Bahá'u'lláh of his prophecy and manifestation in 1280 AH, namely in 1863, at the Garden of Riḍwán.

The obscure text of Daniel and its cryptic numbers allowed "Calculators of the End" throughout the ages to find in them almost anything they wanted. Here 'Abdu'l-Bahá' goes as far as attributing to Daniel full knowledge of both the Hijrah and the Christian calendars (in the 2nd century BC), calculating of the appearance of the Báb using the Christian calendar and placing the birth of Christ in the centre of his calculation, an event of no significance for the Jews.

On the Jewish side and about the same time, the number 1290 was used in a short treatise by Joseph ben 'Uliel (1858-1937), a rabbi who was born in Morocco, was a professor of Roman languages at the University of Lisbon, and the consul of Morocco in Portugal. In 1917 he wrote his "Five Statements of Daniel on the Redemption" (חמישה מאמרי דניאל על הגאולה). He regarded the year 1917, or 5677 of the Jewish calendar, as the year of global redemption, but particularly the long awaited redemption of Israel. According to his calculation, all the numbers in Daniel's prophecies lead to the same conclusion –that the Hebrew year 5677 definitely signifies Messianic times. He goes so far as to suggest that the number 1335 in Daniel 12:12, "*Blessed be he that waiteth and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days,*" refers to the Hijrah year equivalent to 1917 CE. "It is possible that this number hints to the date counted by the Mohammedans, the rulers of the Holy Land, from then until now, which comes to one thousand three hundred and thirty five."

Abdu'l-Bahá by the way does not refer to this number. [For an interesting Christian interpretation of the same date see *The New Scofield Reference Bible*, Daniel 12:12, note 3.] Ben 'Uliel, however, does refer to 1290 which 'Abdu'l-Bahá' calculates as the time from the proclamation of Mohammad's mission until the proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh in 1280 AH (1863). 'Abdu'l-Bahá' does not refer to the whole verse in Daniel 12:11, which speaks about 1290 (days/years) which will elapse from "the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away and the abomination that maketh desolate set up." For Ben 'Uliel this entire verse is important for establishing his calculation based on the general, not the Muslim calendar. This verse mentions two events – the taking away of the daily sacrifice (in the Temple) and the setting up of the destructive "abomination." In between the two, he adds the destruction of the Temple, about ten years after the abolition of the sacrifice. The "abomination that maketh desolate" according to his understanding, is the mosque built by caliph 'Umar on the Temple Mount (meaning the Dome of the rock which was built over the site, that is generally regarded as the location of the Holy of Holies in the Temple.). This took place, he says, in 637 when 'Umar conquered Jerusalem. Now the calculation up to 1290 adds up as follows:

From the abolition of the daily sacrifice to the destruction of the Temple: 10 years

From the conquest of Jerusalem by 'Umar until Ben 'Uliel's present: 1280 years

In this way, says Ben 'Uliel, Daniel's verse points directly to 1917 (1280 + 637), his own time, interpreting the whole verse rather than only using the number 1290. I quoted Ben 'Uliel to show that the Book of Daniel can be easily manipulated to serve the needs of the user. It is, however, interesting that 'Abdu'l-Bahá' turns to the Bible when searching for proofs from a sacred text. For the Western faithful, this has been surely convincing.

Until now I have not dealt with the involvement of the Bahá'í Jews in supplying proofs for the validation of the manifestation of Bahá'u'lláh. A very interesting manuscript, which came to my attention some time ago, triggered the present discussion.

The manuscript is a one page document in Hebrew, Judeo Arabic and Aramaic. It surfaced in the antiquities market in Jerusalem. Its owner, an antique dealer, demanded for it an exorbitant price. Since the document is still in his possession, I cannot publish it. I was able to make, however, a copy of it. The writer of this document is a Jewish convert to the Bahá'í faith who brings proofs that the actual name Bahá'u'lláh is no less than the representation of the most secret, the most holy name of the Lord in Hebrew consisting of the four letters, the *tetragrammaton*, which no Jew is allowed to pronounce. The true vowels of this sacred name has been intentionally obscured to prevent its exact pronunciation. Instead the vowels of the word *Adonai* ("my Lord") was attached to the four consonants of the Lord's name creating a bizarre meaningless combination. The usage in western languages of the pronunciation "Jehovah" or "Yahweh" is based on these purposefully confusing vowels. Even the writing of the four consonants outside the realm of sacred writing is not allowed. In post-Biblical literature we are told that only the high priest could pronounce the name of the Lord in its correct form, and only on the Day of Atonement and only next to the holiest place in the Temple.

In this document, the Jewish writer has no such restrictions. Bahá'u'lláh is the Lord in his most majestic, secret and mystical name Y-H-W-H. The document begins with the four letters, the *tetragrammaton*, and under these letters we read בִּהַי אֲבֵהי which is the exact transliteration of the Arabic بها الابهى . The article *al* in Hebrew is written in small letters above the text; the real name should accordingly be read without the article, *Bahá Abhá* in Arabic بها ابيهى . The numerical value of these letters ($2+5+1+1+2+5+10$) is 26, which is the exact numerical value of the *tetragrammaton* ($10+5+6+5=26$). In other words בִּהַי אֲבֵהי (note that אֲבֵהי is the exact transliteration of the Arabic) is י ה ו ה . For a Jew this is no less than pure impudent blasphemy. Following this we read:

י ה ו ה "Welcome Adonai (the Lord) *Y-H-W-H*."

The four letters beginning the four Hebrew words create the acronym בִּהַי – Bahai. The same is repeated at the end of the document where this acronym is specified.

The text then continues in Judeo-Arabic and Aramaic written in Hebrew letters: *ha bisharat hadrati rabbina wa moshi' ana bahá elohayah*. This is the good tidings of our Lord and Saviour Bahá (splendor) of God. The word Saviour is in Hebrew with the Arabic possessive ending in the plural. Instead of al-Abhá which in the Arabic means the “most glorious”, “most splendid” referring to God and to Bahá'u'lláh in the designation “Bahá' al-Abhá” – the glorious of the most glorious, the Hebrew/Aramaic text has the word *elohayah* – God, and the combination for Bahá'u'lláh – The splendor of God (*bahá elohayah*). This one sentence is a statement repeating the idea which defines Bahá'u'lláh as both the Lord and the Saviour.

The usage of the Hebrew *moshiya'* to denote “saviour” is important, for it comes from the list of the adjectival appellations of the God of Israel, defined in the first Benediction of the daily “Eighteen Benedictions Prayer” as מלך עוזר ומושיע ומגן. The word *moshiya'* (Gr. σωτήρ) indicates the exalted divine station of Bahá'u'lláh in his capacity as the ultimate Savior. He is described in terms saved for God Himself: “A Helper King, Saviour and Protector.” The text moves to Aramaic quoting the *qaddish* prayer: *yehesh mehrabbahmeborakhle'alam we-'alme'almayah*.” May His Great Name (in the original the Lord's, but here could well mean Bahá'u'lláh) be blessed forever and ever.” The text continues in Hebrew: *bishnat shalosh'esrim malkhut Náşir-al Dín Sháh Melekh Paras ...etc.*

“*In the year twenty three of the rule of Nasir ad Din Shah, the King of Persia, concerning the vision of Daniel, fulfilling his prophecy*” (12:11]. “*And from the time that the daily sacrifices shall be taken away and the abomination that maketh desolate set up one thousand two hundred and ninety days; every day is a year from the Caliphate of 'Umar until now and this is in the year 5633 (=1873) of the creation*”). The year 1290 AH is 1873 corresponding to 5633 of the Creation, which the writer identifies as “now”. However, 23 years of the rule of Náşir ad-Dín Sháh is not 1873 but 1871. This date cannot be explained, but could well be a mistake. This date 1873 however is very important for the writer, as we shall soon see.

Here, just as in the calculations of Ben 'Uliel, we read the name of 'Umar. Ben Uliel identified “the abomination that maketh desolate” in Daniel's prophecy, as the mosque of 'Umar, and it seems that here

also ‘Umar’s Caliphate in general could well be the “abomination.” If one takes into consideration that for the Shi‘ah ‘Umar is probably the most hated figure in the entire Islamic history, this hatred filtered through into the Bábí and Bahá’í thought, and found its way to occupy the place of the “abomination” in Daniel’s vision. One thing seems sure, the 1290 date in this document is not the period of time that elapsed from the time of ‘Umar’s Caliphate but of the time from the *Hijrah*. It is only thus that we arrive at 5633 corresponding to 1873 the accepted date of the writing of *al-Kitáb al-Aqdas*. Unless there is a mistake in the dating. The text that follows says:

The majesty of the Divine presence (or the Being) shone and blazed; the light of ‘I am that I am’ glittered, rising, when the mighty and awful God became jealous for the shrine of Zion in the tower of Akko. ‘Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities etc. [Thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of its stakes shall ever be removed neither shall any of its cords be broken. [Isaiah 33:20]’.

In the document, “*etc.*” is written after ‘solemnities’ leaving the continuation of the very well-known verse (continued here in square brackets) to the reader. In this part the writer describes the appearance of Bahá’u’lláh as ‘rising light’ and his imprisonment in the fortress (“tower”) of ‘Akko as the time when he had the vision of the revival of Jerusalem and the “shrine of Zion” (היכל אלציונא). The language is basically Hebrew to with the Arabic article (“al”) added. For the glitter of light of the new manifestation, the writer uses the Hebrew words אור אל אלהים the light of God *Ehyeh*, the word by which God defined himself to Moses: “I AM” [Exodus 3:14]. The manifestation is defined by the Hebrew כבוד אלהויה the Majesty of Being (הויה).

In the fortress of Akko the angry God is jealous for the temple of Zion. This is an interesting interpretation of the redemptive station of Bahá’u’lláh as an angry god for Zion, and its saviour. In this way, he fulfills the role of the Jewish Messiah who redeems Zion, and heals its wounds. The following paragraph in the text moves again to deal with yet another date connected with the time of redemption:

Blessed is he who waits and reaches the days of one thousand, three hundred and thirty five days – each day means a year (הימים לשנה). Until now (Aramaic: לְכַן) he revealed the year 5675 as the [time of] redemption according to the full calendar.

(In the text לְכַן acronym: “according to the lesser calendar system” namely without the figure of thousands, but it should be לְכַן ג, acronym: “according to the full calendar” system including the reckoning of the thousands as we have it in the text. Without the thousands, the date is 675, but the text explicitly gives the full date with the thousands that is to say 5675.

This is a difficult part. 5675 corresponds to 1915, the middle of the First World War. The writer uses the Aramaic כְּעַן meaning “now, at this time,” to denote the time of redemption. However it is possible that he means that the year 1335 of the Hijrah which corresponds to 1917 is the awaited date of the redemption which is expected already in 1915 (5675). This brings us back to the calculations of Ben ‘Uliel from Lisbon who in his own way calculated that the redemption would occur in 1280 after ‘Umar’s conquest of Jerusalem (1280 + 637 = 1917). The combination of General Allenby’s conquest of Jerusalem in 1917, and the Balfour Declaration in the same year obviously had the qualities of redemption for the Jewish rabbi, professor and a consul at Lisbon, as well as for our obscure writer, who at this point breaks into exaltation with the verse of Isaiah 52:7: “*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace, that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation, that sayeth unto Zion: Thy God reigneth!*” This verse is used by Christians to mean Jesus and by Bahá’is to mean Bahá’u’lláh.

Following this, the writer finishes the happy part of the text by quoting a verse from a religious hymn sung by the Jews on the conclusion of Sabbath (Saturday night). Only a Jew could have thought of including this verse in a text dedicated to Bahá’u’lláh in his capacity of the harbinger of the redemption of Zion and his coronation, according to Isaiah, as her king. The harbinger could be Bahá’u’lláh but it could also be the Báb proclaiming the ascension of Bahá’u’lláh to the throne of Zion.

In Jewish tradition, the herald of the Messiah is the zealot prophet Elijah. He will precede the coming of the Messiah, preparing the way for him. It is not surprising that the Báb is represented as Elijah. In Jewish tradition Elijah, who destroyed the priests of the Phoenician god Ba'al out of jealousy for the God of Israel is likened to the priest Phineas who is described in the Bible as the ultimate zealot. In reward for his jealousy, God says: "*I give to him my covenant of peace*" [Numbers 25:12]. Of course, it is Moses who brought the divine promise to Phineas, who reappeared, many generations later, as Elijah. This idea is conveyed in the hymn sung at the end of the Sabbath the first verses of which run as follows:

Elijah the Prophet, Elijah the Tishbite, Elijah the Gileadean:
Let him come quickly to us with the messiah, the son of
David.

He is a man who was jealous for the name of God; He is a man
who received the good tidings of peace by Yekutiel.

Yekutiel is another name of Moses in Jewish tradition. Only a Jew who kept the Sabbath and was well acquainted with the ritual at its conclusion could quote the verses of this hymn, which refer to the Messianic ideas of this document. This in fact could be the end of the document but the writer finishes by emphasizing yet again the divine station of Bahá'u'lláh. For in this hymn the Báb who is Elijah, and beforehand Phineas, was chosen to receive the good tidings by no less than Moses himself. However the text continues with going back to the holy *tetragrammaton*. Y-H-W-H, he says, is Bahá'u'lláh in gematry, as we saw above. The acronym "Welcome the Lord Y-H-W-H" in Hebrew **בְּרוּךְ הַבָּא אֲדוֹנֵי הַיּוֹד** (which we met at the very beginning of the document), gives us the word **בְּהָאִי** -Bahá'í. The text mentions the reference to Daniel 12:11-12, which we dealt with above, and is used here towards the end of the document as a reminder. It ends with a sentence in Aramaic: "It came from the Holy Torah to the people of the world, from the vision of the later prophets who brought the good tidings of Oneness." The meaning of this sentence is more or less clear. The message of Divine unity, brought to the world in general, is found in the Holy Torah and the prophecies of the later prophets meaning, most probably one prophet, Daniel, to whom the reference is supplied. Above of the

words “vision of the later prophets” the writer inserted two words “visions that bring good tidings” correcting the language of the text under them.

Summary

The *Calculation of the End* in the anonymous document presented here refers to the same dates used by Ben ‘Uliel and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. All three documents refer to the date of a number of years in the esoteric prophecies in the Book of Daniel. The main number is 1290 which appears in the last chapter of the book, chapter 12 verses 11-12. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, regards it to refer to the time that elapsed from the public proclamation of Moḥammad’s mission, ten years before the *hijrah*. If we detract 10 years from 1290, we are left with the 1280 years that have elapsed since the *hijrah*, which corresponds to 1863 CE, the year of Bahá’u’lláh’s proclamation at Riḍwán.

Ben ‘Uliel refers to the whole verse (12:11) and also detracts 10 years from 1290 – the time that elapsed from the abolishment of the daily sacrifice to the destruction of the Temple. According to him the “abomination” mentioned by Daniel refers to the mosque, which was built by Umar in 637.

The calculation in the anonymous document is similar to Ben Uliel’s although the interpretation is none too clear. However, in this document the important parts are dedicated to proving the divinity of Bahá’u’lláh using combinations of letters which demonstrate that the name Bahá’u’lláh is no less than the revered, mystical and great name of the Lord.