

1398 AD – TIMUR CONQUERS DELHI

**“I looked, and, behold,
there was no man,
and the birds of the heavens were fled.” (Jeremiah 4:25)**

HISTORY

Delhi is famous for the richness and variety of its birds. According to some experts Delhi is second only to Nairobi for its varied bird population.¹ In **1398** AD Timur conquered Delhi. Ironically, ‘**the birds of the heavens fled**’ before he got there. We will explain this mystery.

Timur was a man of Turkic nomad origin whose capital was Samarkand. He was injured in his youth by arrows and was lame in one leg. Yet his intelligence, aggressiveness, and lust for conquest destined him for empire. His territory was vast – it rivalled the Mongol khanates.

His route of conquest was first his immediate area north of the Oxus river; then Persia, Baghdad, Iraq, Mongol lands, India, Armenia, Georgia, and Anatolia. Timur was a military genius of a high order. His conquest of Delhi showed how cleverly he defeated his foes:

The battle took place on 17 December 1398. Sultan Nasir-ud-Din Mahmud Shah Tughluq and Mallu Iqbal's army had war elephants armored with chain mail and poison on their tusks. With his Tatar forces afraid of the elephants, Timur ordered his men to dig a trench in front of their positions. Timur then loaded his camels with as much wood and hay as they could carry. When the war elephants charged, Timur set the hay on fire and prodded the camels with iron sticks, causing them to charge at the elephants howling in pain: Timur had understood that elephants were easily panicked. Faced with the strange spectacle of camels flying straight at them with flames leaping from their backs, the elephants turned around and stampeded back toward their own lines. Timur capitalized on the subsequent disruption in Nasir-ud-Din Mahmud Shah Tughluq's forces, securing an easy victory. Delhi was sacked and left in ruins. Before the battle for Delhi, Timur executed 100,000 captives.²

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delhi_Ridge

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timur#Period_of_expansion

HISTORY OF CHRISTIANS IN INDIA

From the first century AD it was possible for Christians to [sail to India from Egypt](#). There was a spice trade and so Roman ships journeyed around Arabia and across the sea to India. The overland route crossed mountains and deserts in Persia so it was not favored for travel.

The Church of the East developed a sizable community in Mesopotamia. The natural trade routes from this location were along the [Silk Road](#) into Persia, Afghanistan, then to China.

As a result of the trade route patterns the first Christian missions to India were likely via Egypt. Tradition from numerous sources is the apostle Thomas went to India and was successful in planting churches in the north and along the south-west coast. Many of the current Indian denominations trace their [roots to Thomas](#). Eusebius records a theologian from Alexandria who traveled to India in the second century - he found Christians there using the Gospel of Matthew in Hebrew letters. So, more than one missionary reached India.

Thomas is said to have gained the favor of two kings in India, one in the North and the other in the South. Reports say there were many conversions, including the king in the North.

In the fourth century there were migrations of Christians to India in modest numbers. A colony of Syrian Christians fled to south India from Sassanid persecution. Later Persian Christians migrated for the same reasons.

Records show in the 13th century local rulers granted Syrian Christians in the south rights and privileges of people of high station. This was not the case in north India which was ruled by Moslems.

MOSLEM RULE

Mamluks were Islamic warriors from slave origins. They became a military and political dynasty whose primary center was Egypt from the 9th century until the 19th century. The [Mamluks ruled northern India](#) with their capital in Delhi from 1206 to 1290.

The Mamluks were conquered by Ala Al-Din who established the [Khilji dynasty](#) in Delhi. See our paper on [1306 AD](#) regarding him. The Khiljis ruled from 1290 to 1320.

The third set of Moslem rulers was the [Tughlaq dynasty](#) from 1320 to 1413. They expanded Moslem domains by a military campaign (1330 to 1335) into the south of India along the west coast – the traditional Christian lands.

The reign of the Tughlaq Sultans was marked by torture, cruelty, and rebellions. The Tughlaq rulers lowered taxes on Moslems and raised them for people of other faiths. Later generations of Tughlaq rulers turned non-Moslems into veritable slaves by raising taxes so high no one could afford to pay them. The famers refused to plant crops and fled into the jungles. Famines came. There were waves of arrests, tortures, and mass punishments. The rulers ordered mass migrations of people to different places which resulted in much calamity and disruption of social order.

In 1327 revolts began and continued. A new Hindu empire was established in the south which pushed the Tughlaq territory back to Delhi and the Ganges Valley. Tughlaq rulers became zealously Islamic and persecuted and tortured all sects, even sects within Islam. Many disciples of other religious were martyred.

In 1368 a civil war broke out that continued until 1390. Hindus of south India rebelled. In 1392 the Sultan attacked the rebels, massacred peasants and raised cities to the ground. The Taghlaq dynasty split into rival states.

Such was the state of affairs when Timur appeared at the gates of Delhi. Surely the justice of God came around and punished the Taghlaq dynasty for their gross mismanagement of India and all the horrors they perpetrated on the people.

PROPHECY OF JEREMIAH 4 V 25

“I looked, and, behold,”

All the people of the world are a concern to God. Surely God loves the people of India for their humble and gentle spirit. God is not disinterested – God is intimately concerned with the welfare of people – especially the poor, with whom Jesus has a deep connection. God is watching and looking all the time.

“there was no man”

God looks for justice for the poor. In 1398 when God looked at the face of India – of course he saw all the many people – but he did not see an ‘Adam’ (this is what the Hebrew word says – it is translated ‘man’ frequently – but it reads ‘Adam’ in the text).

Adam lived in freedom in the Garden of Eden. There was food to eat. There was work to do tending the Garden. And Adam walked with God and communed with God in his spirit.

But at this time in India, there were no ‘Adam’ anywhere to be found. There was no freedom. The Tughlaq’s were killing people based only on their religious affiliation. They were taxing at high rates. They were fighting among themselves. There was no food. There was no peaceful meditation on the beauty and the mercies of God. There was only distress, confusion, bloodshed, anarchy, and civil war.

“and all the birds of the heavens were fled”

Most importantly from a prophetic perspective, the persecutions of the Tughlaqs oppressed the Christians. The events of Tamerlane occur during the period we call the Age of Grace – between the Cross and the Rapture. During this period the Christians are the salt of the earth – in other words the existence of a genuine Christian faith and testimony of believers stays the hand of God back from judging the world. But the Tughlaq’s must have oppressed the churches badly – because it appears from the prophecy of Jeremiah that the ‘birds of the heavens had fled’. The Christians may have gone into hiding or converted under duress or perhaps even left the northern territory of the Tughlaq and migrated south to safer towns.

There is some evidence the Christians in north India either perished or migrated. Looking at the demographics of Christianity the two most populous states are [Tamil Nadu](#) (3.8 million) and [Kerala](#) (6.4 million). Both of these are located at the very southern tip of India, on the east coast and west coast respectively. All the rest of the provinces of India have much fewer Christians – less than 2 million each – with larger populations in the south of India. If the traditions of Thomas planting churches in north India are correct – then those believers were either killed in persecutions, famines, and wars or the people migrated as far away as possible.

With nothing to hold back the wrath of God Tamerlane arrived and delivered a crushing punishment upon the Tughlaq. They lost their city, their dynasty, and their lives.

Here is a warning to Moslem governments: care for the poor and do not persecute religions.

SPIRITUAL NUMBER ANALYSIS

For a mind that has wisdom please read on. See truth from another perspective.

PART ONE

Jeremiah **4 v 25** is the **19,053th** verse in the whole Bible starting at Gen **1 v 1**.

The number **19,053 = 73 x 261**

The spiritual meaning of **73** is 'Babylon'

The spiritual meaning of **261** means 'Lowly Servant Exalted'.

Prophecy can be this precise – by virtue of his disability – God considered Timur to be a 'lowly servant' – yet at the same time the absolute all-powerful ruler of an aggressive military empire with unlimited ambitions – which fits the Biblical type of a 'Babylon'. This is in stark contrast to the Tughlaq rulers who exalted themselves and were abased.

PART TWO

Jeremiah **4 v 25** is the **1,398th** verse of The Prophets starting at Isaiah **1 v 1**.

The number **1,398 = 6 x 233**

The spiritual meaning of **6** is 'Man' or 'Flesh'

The spiritual meaning of **233** is 'Believers Appear in Holy Land'.

There is a double entendre here. First, the believers – the Christians – were either persecuted to death or migrated away from Delhi – and arrived in the a new Holy Land in the south of India. Second, Timur arrives at the gates of Delhi – the new 'believers' who replace the old 'believers' – the Tughlaqs – and dispossess them of their 'Holy Land' – Delhi.

PART THREE

To this paper we will introduce a gematria study of the Hebrew words in the verse:

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| Verse # = 19053 | 13 REBELLION | | | | |
| Words =8 | 113 SAINTS SNATCHED AWAY | | | | |
| v25 Letters = 31 | 1469 | | | | |
| JEREMIAH 4:25 | Gematria | | | | |
| English | Hebrew | Value | Number Meaning | Value | Number Meaning |
| I beheld | ראיתי | 621 | CRY TO GOD FOR RESCUE FROM DEATH | 687 | FOREIGNERS PLUNDER THE LAND |
| and see | וְהִנֵּה | 66 | IDOL WORSHIP | | |
| not | אַיִן | 61 | KING OF JEWS: MESSIAH | 111 | FEAR OF THE LORD |
| man | הָאָדָם | 50 | FIRE: Purify | | |
| all | וְכָל | 56 | HARD HEART | 212 | GOD'S COMMANDS FORSAKEN |
| the birds | עוֹף | 156 | MAN'S LEADERSHIP | | |
| of the heavens | הַשְׁמִימִים | 395 | PRISONERS SET FREE | 459 | AGONY ALONE IN DARKNESS |
| fled | נִתְּהַלֵּל | 64 | FELLOWSHIP BROKEN | | |

The sum of the gematria of all the Hebrew letters in the verse is 1,469. $1,469 = 13 \times 113$.

Therefore we can interpret the meaning of 1,469 as 'Rebellion' (13) 'Saints Snatched Away'.

So, the spiritual numbers tell us there was a ‘Rebellion’ to God’s authority – the Sultans of the Tughlaqs behaved lawlessly and cruelly to their people – which caused ‘Saints Snatched Away’ – the Christians fled from Delhi.

If we put the meanings of the gematria of the words beside the literal meaning of the words here is the hidden message in the spiritual numbers of the verse – from God's perspective:

| | | |
|----------------|---------|------------------------------------|
| I beheld | | 'Cry to God for Rescue from Death' |
| And see | | 'Idol Worship' |
| Not | | 'King of the Jews, Messiah' |
| Adam | (on) | 'Fire' |
| All | (are) | 'Hard Heart' |
| The Birds | (under) | 'Man's Leadership' |
| Of the Heavens | (are) | 'Prisoners Set Free' |
| Fled | | 'Fellowship Broken' |

The hidden meaning of the spiritual numbers tells exactly the same story as we saw work itself out in the History of the Modern World.

God says: '**I looked**' at northern India, and the people were afraid of the rulers: '**Cry to God for Rescue from Death**'.

God says: '**I beheld**' and he saw pagans. He saw: '**Idol Worship**' - Hindus and Moslems. Hindus bow down in temples which contain idols. Moslems bow down in the direction of Mecca, which contains a sacred stones. Both are prohibited by God.

'**Not**' any '**King of the Jews, Messiah**'. No one is left who worships the God of Heaven – the Lord Jesus sitting at the right hand of the Father – raised from the dead on the third day.

All God could see was: '**Adam**' (on) '**Fire**' – people in distress from the hunger, the wars, the taxes, and the misery of decades of these trials.

'**All**' '**Hard Heart**' - God could not find any quiet meditation on the mercies and beauties of God – everyone's love was grown cold – fighting for survival.

The '**Birds**' – all the different peoples – which make India so wonderful - of all the varied cultures – were oppressed – under '**Man's Leadership**' – all the restrictions and burdens the government placed on minority sects – in fact anyone who was not a Tughlaq.

'**Of the Heavens**' '**Set Free**' – the birds migrated and sought shelter far away – the land of the north India had become a cauldron of religious persecution and all manner of suffering.

'**Fled**' '**Fellowship Broken**' – no fellowship of Christian believers, in particular, remained.

What can be the result of such a situation? God brings Timur to punish those tyrants!