

The Quarterly Journal



THE NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION OF PERSONAL FREEDOM OUTREACH

VOL. 38, NO. 2

APRIL-JUNE 2018

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The Paradox of *The Paradigm* The Flawed Hermeneutical Method of Jonathan Cahn

by J. Greg Sheryl

The dust jacket of Jonathan Cahn's *The Paradigm* calls the book "The Ancient Blueprint that Holds the Mystery of Our Times." The top of the back cover of the dust jacket boasts, "This May Be the MOST EXPLOSIVE and AMAZING Thing You've Ever Read!" Near the bottom of the back cover, it promises, "Prepare to be stunned, shocked, illuminated, and amazed. *The Paradigm* will reveal secrets and mysteries taking place all around you and show you what you never could have imagined." The sensationalism on the back cover concludes by suggesting, "As you open up *The Paradigm*, [Cahn's] most explosive book yet, you may never see your world the same way again."

In calling *The Paradigm* Cahn's "most explosive book yet," the publisher is referring to the three previous books that the Messianic Jewish rabbi has written.¹ His first, *The Harbinger*, written as a novel, revealed



what Cahn believed to be a contemporary fulfillment of Isaiah 9:9b-10. Cahn's second book, written as non-fiction, *The Mystery of the Shemitah*, proposed that the Jewish sabbatical year (the *shemitah*) affects present-day economic conditions in America and the rest of the world. His third volume, *The Book of Mysteries*, was a thinly disguised novel written in the format of a year-long devotional and sought to reveal some of Cahn's spiritual insights, which he called "mysteries," whether or not they deserve such a designation. *The Quarterly Journal* has carried articles on Cahn and his previous works.²
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