

END TIMES AS PICTURED IN THE FALL FEASTS

Week 6 – Will There Be A Tribulation? Why?

Will there be a Tribulation? YES! Why? Because the Bible teaches us so.

The overarching Biblical truths that must guide our study of end times:

- The study of end times begins with God! (Isa. 46:9-10)
- The reason for end times: God's commitment to RESTORE all that was lost at the fall: mankind's relationship with God and the earth.
- God's end times plan revolves around Israel (Rom. 11:15).
- God chose Israel to bless the world (Gen. 18:18). End times will impact the world!

Daniel 9:24-27 has been called “The Backbone of Prophecy.” These four verses in Daniel 9 are also known as “God's prophetic time clock.” The book of Daniel unfolds the time of the Messiah! Daniel ruled over the Magi (Dan. 2:48). He must have taught them about the Messiah; and the Magi taught their descendants. What do we find in Matthew 2? The Magi traveled to Jerusalem in search of the King of the Jews!

What does “The Backbone of Prophecy” mean? Everything in Scripture must fit into the outline of this prophetic revelation in Daniel. All other Bible prophecy is validated by this prophetic passage. NOTE: JESUS makes mention of Daniel's prophecy in Matthew 24:15. This is a clear proclamation on the part of Jesus that the readers should take care to consider and understand this passage.

Dan. 9:24-27 is one of the most dramatic examples of prophecies fulfilled and prophecies yet to be fulfilled. Re: already fulfilled prophecy, Dan. 9:24-27 points to the exact moment in history when the Jewish Messiah, Jesus, would present Himself to the Jewish people. And, this prophecy was written more than five hundred years before the event took place. As well as establishing the timing of the first coming of Jesus, this prophecy establishes the Second Coming of Jesus!

The prophecy in Daniel 9 was spoken directly to Daniel by the angel Gabriel...the same angel who appeared to Joseph and to Mary – announcing the birth of Jesus. Gabriel is sent by God to give Daniel the timeframe of the Messiah and of God's plan for Israel and for the world – in the future!

Daniel, a faithful Jewish man, is in Babylon in exile. At this point in the book of Daniel, he is an elderly man. He has been in Babylon for approx. 68 years. In chapter 9 of Daniel, he is reading the scroll of Jeremiah and he comes across Jer. 25:1-11 - *The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah (which was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon),² which Jeremiah the prophet spoke to all the people of Judah and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying:³ “From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, even to this day, this is the twenty-third year in which the word of the LORD has come to me; and I have spoken to you, rising early and speaking, but you*

have not listened. ⁴ And the **LORD** has sent to you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear. ⁵ They said, 'Repent now everyone of his evil way and his evil doings, and dwell in the land that the **LORD** has given to you and your fathers forever and ever. ⁶ Do not go after other gods to serve them and worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands; and I will not harm you.' ⁷ Yet you have not listened to Me," says the **LORD**, "that you might provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt. ⁸ "Therefore thus says the **LORD** of hosts: 'Because you have not heard My words, ⁹ behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,' says the **LORD**, 'and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations. ¹⁰ Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp. ¹¹ And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Daniel's thoughts: It will just be a few years until we're restored to the land of Israel. Judgment will come to a close. But, my people – are they ready? God has called us to repent (Leviticus 26:27-28, 32-35, 38-45; Deuteronomy 28:63-66; 30:1-10; 31:16-18; Isa. 55; Jer. 3; Hos. 5:15. . .). We haven't. Daniel also read, from the scroll of Jeremiah, God's promise to Israel in Jer. 29:4, 10-14 *Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon. . . . For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.*

NOTE: the many specific timeframes/specific years. Are we to take them literally? We are reading history. We need to take this literally.

NOTE: God is speaking to a nation of people carried away because of their disobedience, because of their worship of other gods, because of their rebellion towards God's commandments. BUT God is a God of restoration. And so we read these words that God spoke to Israel) ¹¹ *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.*

We are reading of the future promise of blessing for the nation of Israel in Jer. 29:11-14. From what Daniel has read in Jeremiah, can you understand why Daniel would think that Israel, upon their returning to the land, would be realizing the ultimate blessing

– the Messianic Kingdom? Therefore, Daniel gets down on his face before God and begins to pray, knowing full well that Israel wasn't ready to be restored to the land – to experience the ultimate blessing. Israel, as a nation, hadn't yet repented. Daniel, as a knowledgeable student of the word of God, knew that God had told Israel to repent.

And we read in Dan. 9:20-23 - *Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God,* ²¹ *yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering.* ²² *And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand.* ²³ *At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:*

As soon as Daniel began to pray, God answered... God answered - but not in a way Daniel expected. God sent Gabriel, His angel, to give Daniel understanding and insight and to set straight Daniel's wrong conclusion: that the Messianic Kingdom/the Kingdom of God would be given to Israel upon their return to the land. God wanted Daniel to know that Israel's imminent return to the land was not the coming of the kingdom of God. Not now. Not at this time. God sent Gabriel to Daniel to give him understanding. God wants us to understand what He tells us in His word.

Gabriel told Daniel – *Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city,* (Dan. 9:24). The word "determined" means "carved out." For whom? For your people; Daniel's people were the Jewish people. . . . and for your holy city – which is Jerusalem. When studying Scripture we need to understand the text. The text is specifically addressing the Jewish people and Jerusalem.

And Gabriel was specific re: what would be accomplished for Israel and Jerusalem at the end of the 70 weeks.

*To finish the transgression,
To make an end of sins,
To make reconciliation for iniquity,
To bring in everlasting righteousness,
To seal up vision and prophecy
And to anoint the Most Holy*

The first three of the six goals address the sin of Daniel's people, Israel. The basis for dealing with Israel's sin was provided during the first coming of Jesus when He died on the cross and rose from the dead to pay for the sin of the Jews and for the sins of the entire human race. Individually this has been realized in the lives of many Jews and Gentiles – God forgiving the sins of those who ask Him to do so – one at a time. Re: the nation of Israel, this glorious provision of forgiveness of sin will not be realized for the nation as a whole until the end of the 70 weeks. Israel will be restored and brought into a relationship with God through Jesus at the end of the Tribulation. This goal will be

fulfilled at the Second Coming of Jesus. It's the finishing of the transgression – for the nation of Israel. The second goal, to make an end of sins, speaks to the end of sin! The third goal tells us that all this would be accomplished through atonement – through Jesus. While it doesn't mention Jesus in this verse, Jesus as the Messiah Who dies is mentioned in v. 26. The basis of all six goals is the New Covenant – the shed blood of Jesus. This speaks of Jesus' first coming. Israel as a nation will be brought under the New Covenant at Jesus' Second Coming (Jer. 31:31ff; Eze. 36:24-27). The last three goals mentioned point to Jesus' Second Coming, when the Messiah returns in glory. He will then build the Millennial Temple (Zech. 6:12-13; Ezekiel 40-48) and fill it with the divine presence (Eze. 43:1-7) and consecrate it for use throughout the Messianic Age/Millennial Kingdom (Isa. 56:6-7; 60:7; Je. 33:18; Eze. 43:11, 18-27; 44:11-28; 45:13-46:15; Zech. 14:16-21).

What we're reading in this passage in Daniel is God's promise of RESTORATION!

Re: the term "week" in Hebrew is the word *shavuiim* which means *sevens*. It has reference to a unit of seven. Seventy sevens or seventy units of seven (or 490) have been determined/carved out for Israel. What are the units? The context tells us. It's seventy units of seven years. Why is it years? The context of this passage is speaking of years – or 490 years. (One unit is seven years; 70 units equals 490 years) Daniel read about YEARS in the Jeremiah passages and Dan. 9:1-2 opens with years! And so, God has determined/carved out 490 years to accomplish these six goals for Israel.

History of Israel: The kingdom of Judah was carried away captive into exile in Babylon because of disobedience. They were worshipping other gods. AND, Lev. 25:1-4 is specifically to be noted. The Jewish people were told to let the land lie fallow for one year out of seven years. Re: the land it was a commandment to observe a SABBATICAL YEAR. In the Jewish calendar, the Sabbatical time measurement – one year every 7 years, was an important deciphering of time. Israel had disobeyed God's commandment in Lev. 25:1-4 for a total of 490 years.

GOD IS GIVING ISRAEL BACK THIS TIME THAT THEY HAD LOST! THIS IS INDEED RESTORATION!

For 490 years they'd disobeyed. And, for one year out of every 7 years that they disobeyed over the course of 490 years – they were to spend that time – 70 years – in exile.

How many years have been carved out for Israel? A total of 490 years. The six goals will bring Israel to the Millennial Kingdom – to RESTORATION – in 490 years! This prophecy anticipates the ENTIRE work of the Messiah. We're looking at Jesus' First and Second Comings in a 490 year time frame? BUT HOW are we calculating this? NOTE: calculations have been deciphered based on the Jewish calendar – 360 day years – and adding leap years to make the calendar a lunar/solar calendar.

Daniel 9:25 - *Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks...* We're given a specific timeframe in this part of the verse: from the command to the Jewish people to return to the land of Israel for the purpose of restoring the city of Jerusalem until Jesus is hailed as King/Prince/ruler at His triumphal entry into Jerusalem before His crucifixion. Gabriel is telling Daniel how many years will transpire from a certain time in Israel's history until Jesus' triumphal entry. *There shall be seven weeks* (49 years) *and sixty-two weeks* (434 years). Those weeks of years total 483 years (or 173,880 days according to the Jewish calendar). From the command to rebuild Jerusalem until Jesus' triumphal entry – there would be 483 years. The command given to the Jews to return to the land of Israel to rebuild Jerusalem was given in 444 BC by King Artaxerxes – the Persian King. We read this in Neh. 2:1-8. You need to know that the 483 years is divided into two time frames: *There shall be seven weeks = 49 years; AND Sixty-two weeks = 434 years.* So, after 49 years *The street^[c] shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.*

Dan. 9:26 - *And after the sixty-two weeks* (sixty-two years following 49 years) - Messiah the Prince would come. Therefore, 483 years have transpired bringing us to the time when Jesus entered Jerusalem at His triumphal entry when He was hailed as King/Prince/Ruler. At the triumphal entry Jesus fulfilled the timetable of Daniel 9:25 (483 years from the time of Artaxerxes' decree) and He also fulfilled the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9.

Luke tells us that on that day Jesus wept over Jerusalem. Luke 19:41-44 - *Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, ⁴² saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, ⁴⁴ and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."* In this your day – the day of the fulfillment of the 483 years...you missed the time of your visitation – the visitation of the Messiah as Prince. This is when the prophetic clock stopped!

Dan. 9:26 - *Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.*

Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself - "Cut off" – Jesus' crucifixion. "Not for Himself" – He died for us. *He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities. . . .* (Isa. 53:5)

And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. When was the Temple destroyed? 70 A.D. That's 37 years after 33 A.D. 33 A.D. was the 483 mark. What happened to the 490 years? We're already beyond 490 years!

Who is the prince who is to come? The antichrist. Who are the people who destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 A.D.? The Romans. This seems to indicate that the antichrist will come from a revived Roman empire. Rome isn't in power today. But, a revived form of it will be ruled over by the antichrist.

The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. No timeframe is given. What are we seeing? A GAP! We've noted 483 years. But God promised 490 years. A final seven-year period before the completion of the 490 years remains.

Jesus the Messiah, the Anointed One, entered the city of Jerusalem right on schedule at the conclusion of the 7 weeks plus 62 weeks – at the conclusion of the 69 weeks – the 483 years. Jesus offered Himself as Messiah, as King to a nation that had been told for centuries of His coming. But, according to God's plan of redemption – Jesus had to die! He laid His own life down. *John 10:17-18 - I lay down My life that I may take it again. ¹⁸No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.* And, on that cross, Jesus fulfilled the prophecy Gabriel gave to Daniel: God would finish transgression in the future for Israel, through Jesus' death on the cross. His death would provide for bringing an end to sin, and for making atonement for wickedness.

And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. In 70 A.D., 37 years following Jesus' crucifixion, the Roman General Titus led his army against Jerusalem. The Romans broke down the walls of Jerusalem and entered the city like a flood, destroying the city and the Temple. According to the Jewish Historian, Josephus, 1.1 million Jewish people and 97,000 were taken captive and enslaved.

Where are we in God's timetable? We are between the 69th week of Daniel's prophecy and the 70th week of Daniel's prophecy. God carved out 490 years for Israel – for their restoration. The prophetic clock – moving into the future – stopped. While many individual Jewish people came to faith in Jesus at His first coming, Israel as a nation rejected their Messiah. The Church was birthed, comprised of Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus. And we remain in the gap – between the 69th and 70th week. Almost 2,000 years has transpired.

Dan. 9:27 - *Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week (7 years); but in the middle of the week (after 3.5 years), he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.* Before the Messiah Jesus returns in triumph at the end of the 490 years, the antichrist will rise. We see the rise of the prince who is to come (Dan. 9:26). The antichrist will reveal himself and make a covenant/an agreement with Israel for one week/seven years. This covenant launches the seven years of Tribulation/the time of Jacob's trouble (Jer. 30:7), the 70th week of Daniel! The peace treaty with Israel remains in place but is broken after 3.5 years.

And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate (Dan. 9:27b).

In the middle of the seven years of Tribulation, the antichrist will put an end to the sacrificial system and will set up what is known as the “abomination of desolation” (Dan. 12:11). He will set himself up in the temple to be worshiped (II Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:14-15). The antichrist, empowered by Satan, then goes after the Jewish remnant (Jewish believers) that is carried into the wilderness (Petra which is in Edom - perhaps). Satan attempts to go after the remnant and is stopped (Rev. 12: 15-17).

Israel has been labeled as God’s prophetic time clock. God has given us a countdown re: His return. The countdown revolves around Israel and their restoration. It began ticking in 444 BC when King Artaxerxes issued a decree allowing the Jewish people in Babylon to return to their land in Israel. The clock continued to tick until directly after Messiah the Prince,” Jesus, rode into Jerusalem and the people hailed Him as King on Lamb Selection Day/Palm Sunday. The 70th week of Daniel’s prophecy is yet to be fulfilled – in the future. Theologically a prophetic postponement has occurred. This prophetic postponement is a pause in Israel’s NATIONAL restoration under the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-37). Has Israel been restored as a nation? Has all Israel been saved? Not yet! The 70th week must be in the future. There is a GAP in the Messianic program for Israel. God will not restore Israel as a nation until the end of the 70th week of Daniel – the end of the Tribulation. There must be a Tribulation – it is primarily for the purging of the nation of Israel. And, during that time, God will pour down judgment upon an evil world that has rebelled against Him.

It is important to remember that the Jewish people were the ones looking for the Messiah. The Messianic prophecies were originally directed to Israel as a nation. There is now a gap. Where’s the Church in Daniel’s 70 week prophecy? The Church is in the gap between the 69th and 70th week. The Tribulation is the 70th week of Daniel’s prophecy. God will restore Israel (the 1/3 of the Jewish population left) at the end of the Tribulation.

QUESTIONS

Any V8 moments? Any issues/challenges?

For whom is the 70 week prophecy of Daniel?

Where is the Church in this prophecy?

Do you understand the 70th week as occurring in the future?

How does this impact the world? Read Romans 11:15!

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Look up the Scriptural references in your handout for this week

Read next week’s handout when you receive it