

The End Times Victorious Living

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The Glory Of The Cross

The single answer for the glory of the cross must be found in the "Death of God." But not just in the "Death of God" but in "Death by God." God the Father sacrificed God the Son. The Father Himself made the soul of His only begotten Son an offering for sin. A Father with a throbbing heart took pleasure in beholding the stream of life – Divine life mixed with human life – issuing forth as a fountain to all His creation. It is a stream that cannot be quenched. Its glory can transform the darkest sinner and will ultimately transform a corrupted universe. Every visage of the flood of evil that issues from the angelic and human fall will be eternally vanquished and obliterated. "It is finished" (John 19:30b).

Mixing the Divine with the human must be understood as being void of the nature of sin. The human could become an offering to God for sin because it was perfect human with Divine blood. The Father Himself sanctified a human vessel that could bear all the fullness of His Holy Spirit. When the Son of God was dying on the cross, all the Godhead – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – were a part of that moment in time. The powers of all that God is came to bear in perfect redemption. God in Christ was redeeming the universe. If I may add again, "It is finished" (John 19:30b).

In the Garden of Gethsemane the Son of God already perfectly understood the events of the hours leading to the moment of His death. The Word of God said, "Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth" (John 18:44). The full anger of wickedness, the jealousy of false religions, the spitefulness of bankrupt human government, and the total expression of fallen angels and fallen men were going to fulfill their vengeance. If redemption was going to be complete, He had to pay for every manifested expression of sin. All of this fell upon Him in this garden of agony. Upon one human body, even perfect and without sin, would be transferred by the Father Himself the total guilt of transgressed holiness throughout the created world.

For a short period of time, as He prayed, He was riddled with fear from such a mountain of transferred guilt. He cried out under the wrath of His Father against all wickedness that was to fall on Him, the Father's only begotten Son. What a contradiction of, judgment — God Himself paying the price of the creature's sins. Utter brokenness gripped His overloaded Holy

frame. He cried, "... Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42). Immediately the Father dispatched an angel to strengthen Him. The description of His overwhelming state continues, "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44). The cells of His body could not hold back the sacrificial blood (Divine blood) that seeped from His sweat glands. Redemption had begun.

The Biblical principles of atonement demanded that He be betrayed by His own followers. One of His chosen twelve led the religious mob that came to arrest Him. There is no pain much greater than offended love. The Father's plan directed the way of the cross by allowing the worst of evil and blasphemy to accost the Lamb of God at every stop. From one of His twelve betraying Him with a kiss, to the holding dungeon of the High Priest, to the courtyard of mocking and beating, He pressed toward the tree.

A brutal beating was designed to render the victim almost lifeless. His sinless and disease-free body was ordained to suffer for every sickness that sin had brought on the human race. All disease and suffering is the work of sin. The Son of God was the Father's offering for the healing of His human temples, where His Holy Spirit would come to dwell.

He was riddled with those Roman whips. As the strong soldiers put their total strength into thrashing the Son of God, huge strips of flesh were torn and gashes exposed His tendons, ribs, and backbone. Isaiah said of this moment of sorrow, "*His visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men*" (Isaiah 52:14b). Many men of greater stature had already died at this stake. But, the Son of man chose His own moment of death.

All the way to the cross, He was designed to carry the weapon of death. If possible, the worst of brutality awaited His arrival at the designated site. Two criminals were prepared as His companions to hang on either flank. What a plan the Father had designed! His Son would die with those that needed Him most. As He lay prostrate upon the crude cross, they proceeded to drive great metal stakes into His hands and feet. His legs were cupped so that His only support was the stakes in His hands. Hanging in such a manner, His chest was so tightly drawn that every breath required Him to lift His body by His hands that were staked to the crossbar. Each breath was like death and each relief was torture. His overpowering thought was stated with trembling lips, "*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do*" (Luke 23:24a). One of those criminals could watch His love no longer and cried, "*Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom*" (Luke 23:42). His response was a kingdom expression, "*To day shalt thou be with me in paradise*" (Luke 23:43b).

God was dying and the earth let out its groans with an earthquake and darkness for three long hours. Even a Roman centurion watching and feeling the clamour of Heaven — declared, "*Truly this was the Son of God*" (Matthew 24:54). Priests in the temple were trying to celebrate sacrifices even in the fear that gripped Jerusalem.

Suddenly, an unseen hand ripped the great veil of the Holy of Holies as a new Priest was prepared to enter the great prototype in the heavens. He could only die because He chose to die as His Father's offering for sin. Before He would occupy the Holy of Holies, He quickly moved to Upper Sheol to finish His sermon to the First Testament saints.

When all was finished below, He walked right through death and did not leave a thing but grave-clothes. He appeared to those that loved and believed in Him. After His finishing works among His chosen, He ascended to take up the business of His Father. In a perfected human body, He is seated at His Father's right hand. All power is His, everything is on schedule, His End Times plan is in motion, and His arrival in the clouds must be expected at any moment. Until then, the whole earth will groan with each new sorrow and failure of human design. Until He appears, it is a must to live the life of Biblical faith. There is no time to play games of chance. Every unprepared day or hour is foolish or living.

"Look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28b). He wants to be your everything and meet every need until He has gathered you to be a part of His wedding day.

Beast From Hell

The consummate evil: A man so vile that he is called a beast and has the title of *blasphemy* for a name. He is seen on earth hurling blasphemies against God on His Heavenly throne and angrily hurling the same at the already raptured saints. He receives his power (inherent ability), his seat (political religions), and his great authority (permission) from the Dragon or Satan. Everything that he is, Satan equips him to be. The Bible describes only one type of person who can withstand his design, blinding deception, or convincing leadership. John the Revelator said, "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev13:8).

Please read carefully John's full description of this evil genius. *"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If any man have an ear, let him hear. He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity; he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints"* (Revelation 13:1-10).

Several things are extremely important concerning these Scriptures. John is on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea the Great Sea — where he is exiled to Patmos Island and sees this beast of a man arise from that same sea. As Daniel, Isaiah, Micah, etc. before him, John identified this man as a Middle Easterner coming to power in the same region where all prior

world empires previously existed. This Beast and his kingdom are the ultimate expression of all previous human kingdoms. For that reason, this beast was like a leopard (Grecian), his feet were as of a bear (Media-Persians), and his mouth was like a lion (Babylon). Daniel gave this same description in chapter 7 except the order was reversed. (We will discuss this later.)

Nebuchadnezzar's dream was similar. The great image he saw stood on its feet and progressed downward. No part of these kingdoms has ceased to exist, although they have regressed in value (gold, silver, brass, iron, clays mingled with iron) and increased in fragility. Babylon has exported its vile paganism to every corner of the globe and is today more influential than ever. Worldwide religion is pure paganism. The Medes and Persians have existed in different political forms and under varying names and exist today as Iran. The Grecian Kingdom was most noted for its intellectualism. One has only to read of Greek art, law, literature, architecture, etc. to see the endless presence of this World Empire. It was striking to see the mayor of Athens, Greece, walking through the battle zones of Baghdad, Iraq. Greece in an extremely reduced form exists today as a sovereign nation. The last great kingdom in this dream embodies all the viciousness, wealth, paganism, lust, greed, and filth of every part, past and present, of the Babylonians, Media-Persians, Grecians, and Romans all under the control of the ultimate Beast of a Despot and Dictator.

Satan Chooses His man

Prophetic history has not chosen this man: he will be the personal choice of Satan himself. Satan has his children his chosen family — just as God called the Jews. Satan will use them until he manifests the man of perdition to give the world his own demon-possessed messiah. Worldwide signs and Biblical fulfillment would suggest that Satan's children have already produced this individual and he is being readied for his fateful hours. "Son of Perdition" was the term used by Apostle Paul (II Thessalonians 2:3) when warning that Jesus Christ could not establish His kingdom until Satan had a chance to produce a counterfeit to the Master. These words, "son of perdition," clearly establish that he will be prepared for this hour by an evil design with utmost precision and Luciferian skill.

The worldwide rise of Satanism, occultic activity, and New Age networking is no accident. Satan has been given space by the Eternal God to prepare his last effort. He failed in the past but this time he plans for it to be different. This counterfeit master must be able to convince the world that he is the real deliverer and that he is the god of gods. His Antichrist must be the best Satan and all his demonic family can produce, train, and empower. "And all the world wondered after the beast" (Revelation 13:3). The Word of God is clear. Satan chooses him and gives him all of his characteristics, intelligence, and authority. He is Satan's man/god just as Jesus Christ is the Father's God/ Man.

Satan's Millennium Denies Final, Catastrophic Judgment

It's amazing to hear clergymen of the Evangelical and Charismatic ranks join the New Agers in calling for a New Millennium or Crystal Kingdom on the earth. Pat Robertson's book, The New Millennium Megatrends of the 90's, was described in his magazine with these words, "So, be forewarned, if you've already bought your Rapture robe, you probably won't want to buy this book." (The Christian American, January/February 1991, page II .) Pat is quoted as saying, "Christianity will flourish worldwide in the Millennium." (Ibid.) When you deny the Rapture and make no provision for the total judgment of this wicked world, how do you

promise a Christian Millennium? (My remarks are not a judgment of Rev. Robertson's personal faith, but rather his apparent Kingdom Dominion Theology.)

Satanically inspired New Agers, and Trilateralist Politicals are saying basically the same. Jose Arguelles has announced, "The Crystal Kingdom on the Earth" to begin no later than December 21, 2012. (The Crystal Papers, Jose Arguielles.) The Dragon engineers political talk of a New World Order as he manipulates mankind in preparation for the Antichrist. You must understand that all of this represents the elaborate design of Lucifer with his determination to create his millennium ruled by himself and his "Unholy Trinity."

The only thing this world is about to face is the final judgment. The Rapture is hated because it removes the overcomers of sin from judgment's danger and fixes the beginning of the darkest hour of God's wrath known to man. Jesus Christ described this hour, *For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall spew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect*" (Matthew 24:21-24). Nothing reveals the ruthlessness of Lucifer more than his use of the church and clergymen to prepare for his short last rule over humankind.

Daniel's Description Of Satan's Last Fling

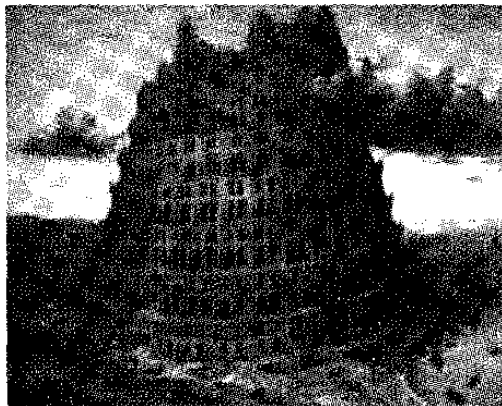
The Book of Daniel is the Book of Revelation's First Testament companion. Every truth in these two books synchronizes perfectly. The thirteenth chapter of the Book of Revelation describes the Antichrist with the words, "Leopard, Bear, and Lion all blended into an indescribable final Beast." This is reversed in Daniel because he spoke prophetically before the facts, while John sees the view historically after the facts.

Here's how Daniel describes the scene. *"Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it. After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns"* (Dan. 7:2-7).

Again, the last four major World Kingdoms are beautifully pictured. In prophecy, the first kingdom, Babylon, was politically in its death throes when Daniel received his vision. The next two are clearly the Media-Persian and Grecian kingdoms, followed by the Roman kingdom. The Roman era is the mystery kingdom existing in Christ's day, but surviving the centuries in broken form to emerge as the final political arm of Lucifer. This kingdom is not just the European Common Market. That represents parts of the old Roman era but clearly

still in a broken and imperfect form. The Dragon, Antichrist, and False Prophet (unholy trinity) will solidify the final stage, not appearing from a final stage of government, but creating their own.

In the Book of Revelation (the unveiling or making manifest), John painted a clear scene of this emerging One World Order that completes the Roman period. "*And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast*" (Revelation 17:12-13). The final ten kings, which fulfill the ten toes of Daniel chapter two (Nebuchadnezzar's dream) and the ten horns of Daniel chapter seven (beast with ten horns), are not an existing political entity when the Antichrist appears. They have no kingdom or authority until they receive it from this final world leader, The Holy Scripture clearly states, "which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast." It's important that we do not look to any existing political order or form as the fulfillment of the Roman World Empire. Once the Antichrist is on the scene, he will perfect that final stage of human governments.



"The Roman Period will be prophetically complete when Babylon becomes its center. Until then it is only iron or iron and clay awaiting the gold of Babylon to elevate it to Biblical fulfillment."

Each of the first three of the last World Empires existed in different forms and for considerable times until they finally centered in Babylon. It was at this point that they fulfilled the Biblical requirement to be a world kingdom of prophecy. Babylon is the acceptable capital for a One World Government

controlled by Satan.

Reverend G.H. Lang clarified this nearly a century ago. "Babylon had existed since the days of Nimrod (Gen 10:10), but the ups and downs of that state during those fifteen hundred years do not matter prophetically. It was when Nebuchadnezzar made Babylon the center of a world empire that the first kingdom of prophecy arose. The Medes and Persians had had an almost equally long history, but that is of no account prophetically. It was when Cyrus made Babylon the center of his rule that the second kingdom of prophecy appeared. The Grecian states had been fighting, developing, colonizing for long centuries before Alexander, but prophecy takes no account of this. It simply doesn't matter. It was when Alexander made Babylon his world-centre that the third kingdom of prophecy became present. It is thus with the fourth empire, as might surely be expected. The mutations of its long course are of small concern prophetically. The divine interpretation and the profound interest concentrate on the closing days, when Antichrist will make Babylon his capital." (The Histories And Prophecies Of Daniel, G.H. Lang, 1' edition 1940, quoted from first edition Conley & Schoettle, edition 1985, page 29.)

The Roman Period will be prophetically complete when Babylon becomes its center. Until then it is only iron or iron and clay awaiting the gold of Babylon to elevate it to Biblical fulfillment. It's interesting to note that the German leaders, especially Hitler, had already decided to make Babylon their headquarters when their conquest was finished. They spoke of

the Third Reich Kingdom lasting a thousand years.

Antichrist And Ultimate Religious Blasphemy

Nothing that the Antichrist does is more significant than his effort to duplicate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When the Dragon and his two beasts, the Antichrist and the False Prophet, are finished with their religious deception and their fringed presentation of Biblical Christianity, multiplied millions will be deceived beyond imagination. John describes it as the following, *"And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast"* (Revelation 13:3). This imitator will present Biblical and Christ-like imitations, religious experiences, supernatural miracles, and "double talk" theology with convincing skills. "The world wondered after the beast."

He will have the ability to exalt and magnify himself above every god, except Jehovah God, but will be able to speak marvelous things against Him. The Hebrew word used for "marvelous" means "to accomplish things beyond the bounds of human powers or expectation." Here are Daniel's words, *"And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done"* (Daniel 11:36).

This beast, Satan, will be apostate with a family background of either the Jewish or Christian faith. Some of Satan's vilest work has been with individuals from a Biblical heritage. Karl Marx, Charles Darwin, and Carl Jung are excellent examples. Daniel speaks to this fact. *"Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all"* (Daniel 11:37).

The prophet, Ezekiel, spoke pointedly to the same subject. "And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him" (Ezekiel 21:25-27). This great prophetic statement confirms the words of Daniel. Ezekiel adds a clear statement that this false prince will be disposed and the true king, "Whose right it is," will be given the kingdom.

The force of this new religion that blasphemes everything in the Holy Scripture is filling religious circles presently. Charismatic television ministers are leading personalities in this new deception. It looks real to undiscerning souls, it offers the perceived power of God, and it titillates the flesh. Daniel called this explosion of religious titillation and fleshy emotions "the god of forces." *"But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain"* (Daniel 11:38-39).

This Beast from Hell, with his false prophet (religious leader), will cause apostate church people to exclaim that the great revival is finally here. Already religious leaders who have rejected the Rapture and the Great Tribulation judgment, along with the separated holiness

lifestyle, are predicting a revival so great that the ball games and sports events will be closed. They speak of an awakening that sweeps the world into Christianity. This cannot happen unless God suspends His infallible Word and changes the course of our present direction.

Great Demon Powers To Aid Satan

Immediately after the Rapture of the Bride of Christ, a war will occur in the heavens. Michael and his angels will cast Lucifer and his angels down to the earth. *"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time"* (Revelation 12:7-9, 12).

There is literally an innumerable company of angels and one-third of them joined Satan. They have had some limited access to the earth since their fall. Now, they are cast out of the second heavens and restricted in their presence and activity to the earth. John said, *"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth."* Not only does Satan have his "unholy trinity," he has a multitude of powerful angels who are at his command. They are not limited to a bodily space or the natural laws of the earth. They are as powerful as the holy angels but totally debased and bent on destruction. Their service is to the Antichrist even as holy angels serve Jesus Christ.

The Antichrist will also have help from Hell. These are angels and fallen men who have been locked up in the region of the damned. Jude 6 states, *"And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day"* (Jude 1:6). In the original Greek, "reserved" means "to guard; to keep the eye on; to prevent from escaping." There is a company of fallen angels who are so vile and abhorrent that God will not loose them in the earth before the Rapture. At the "judgment of the great day" --- the Tribulation period --- God will turn them loose. They will unleash filth, perversion, and ungodliness greater than men can now imagine.

They have had centuries to fester in their hatred for God and His Christ- centered kingdom. It is their battle to break the hold of the great God, Jehovah, and enthrone their god, Lucifer. No energy must be spared or wasted. John describes this company. *"And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power" "And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. And they had a king over them, which is the*

angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon." "And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone" (Revelation 9:1-3, 6-11, 15-17).

Here are two groups of darkened spirits and depraved human souls. The first company is unnumbered, but the second is 200 million. They are the servants of the Antichrist and join in a worldwide attack. The Beast from Hell will man an army with destructive power. The world will become a wilderness.

Isaiah describes what will result from this legion of evil led by Satan's messiah, the Antichrist. *"Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth. And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake. The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many shall they be visited. Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously" (Isaiah 24:17-23).*

The Beast From Hell

Surely, such a picture is enough to warn the wicked and to excite the righteous. The great God does not send this dragon because he desires our destruction. Rather, wickedness is released to expose its vilest nature and to finish forever the debased schemes of godless men. The kingdom of Jesus Christ is waiting to fill the earth with righteousness as water covers the sea. Satan's last hour is the prelude of a cloudless eternity. Every believer ought to rejoice as judgment nears. The old saying is fitting, **"The darkest hour is just before the dawn."**

The Antichrist Is Rising

At this hour the Antichrist is rising; denial of his authenticity is filling the church world. At least 90% or more of the present church world does not believe in such a person. The seven years of God's final judgment of human government and religious organizations is being scorned and attacked. The secular world speaks of the old-fashion prophecies of the end times with more awareness than the professing church. Saving the earth has replaced the doctrines of the earth's groaning for God's cleansing and renewal. The apostate church believes she will establish the kingdom, not Jesus Christ. Worldliness has so captured the church membership that a bride ascending up in a Rapture to meet a holy Christ is troubling to consider. There are

undeniable evidences the Antichrist is waiting in the wings of time for his day in the sun. I cannot identify one great prophetic truth that is not in absolute readiness or within reach of that readiness. From the political, environmental, and religious Middle East to the very spirit of wickedness in the air, the world is marching toward judgment and Armageddon. There are few surprises in any news report or political event. It's all on a predestined progression to Biblical fulfillment. How does anyone with any knowledge of Holy Scripture not know that we will soon be at home or in the throes of tribulation? Soon, the righteous in Christ will be at home and the unprepared will be in the darkest hour of human history.

While there are many Biblical signs of the Antichrist rising, let's deal with the most apparent. The environment and the deep consternation about global warming and its destruction of our world is a genuine issue. For anyone that doesn't understand Biblical creation and the Father's love for His world, there is reason for concern. If evolution and chance are the principles of our world's existence, disaster is in the making. Also, the food chain is filled with poison from chemicals and the overuse of the usable land has depleted the soil. Long ago, farmers forgot the requirement of a seventh year of rest for the fields. The food from such nutrient depleted farms is almost useless to the body.

The blood of unborn babies, along with a multitude of other wrongful deaths, which have filled our world, is screaming at God for justice. If God could hear the blood of one man, Cain, what is He hearing as I write? Storms, unprecedented earthquakes, and general weather patterns suggest that the natural world, created with the instinct of the Creator, is showing its own signs of exhaustion. It is really not strange that men who know nothing of Biblical principles are on a binge to rescue a sinking world system. Global warming is mostly a political issue for despairing environmentalists that see the decay of the earth but know nothing of the coming judgment and renewal.

The Bible clearly affirms that our earth would show the exact signs of decay and despair at the present point in prophetic fulfillment. As he gazed toward the end times, Apostle Paul said, "For we know that the whole creation (the created universe) groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body" (Romans 8:22-23). Every earthquake is a groan right out of the earth's system. The great storms, hurricanes, and tornadoes are evidence of a natural world travailing for the Creator to judge the sin that rocks the whole cosmos.

A perfect system to number and control the world commerce is practically in place right down to the poorest nation. Just a few years ago, only the fairly wealthy could own a computer. The present price is probably ten percent of what it was a few years ago. A vendor on a street corner in a third world country can now sell you his wares with a credit card from halfway around the globe. This system of control has to include a type of foolproof identification to protect the existence of that system. A valid card is no longer proof of a valid purchase. From fraud and theft to forging passports and driver licenses, etc. a crisis is already exploding.

The world commerce will soon demand some kind of physical identification to solve this serious problem. It's an Antichrist dream to rule the world and control every living person. The system of computer control is not the problem; neither is this system the Mark of the Beast. But, it is the method that he will need to effectively cause all men everywhere to

worship him and receive his mark. John prophesied by the Word of the Lord, "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six" (Revelation 13:16-18).

The One World Government is on a march to triumph. Almost every red-blooded American, Australian, English, etc. soul hates the loss of national identity. We argue about outsourcing or purchasing foreign made products, but we are the benefactors as well as the losers. Computers would still cost about \$3,000 plus, instead of around \$500 if it were not for globalization. This is true with at least half of everything we purchase.

Again, the idea is a perfect fulfillment of prophecy. There can be no control of a world system unless all the systems are married politically. A rebel government could short circuit the control of a mastermind and that will surely be one of the intriguing events of the seven years of tribulation. When you read Daniel chapter eleven, you see the wars that will arise from nationalistic struggles between the Antichrist and rebellious nations. World control will be a hot issue even in the midst of the Antichrist reign.

Couple all of these ideas—there are many more — and the Antichrist is probably alive and awaiting his moment for the devil's anointing. The Father is perfectly directing the process of Biblical fulfillment. Nothing can fail. As the world is prepared and the midnight hour arrives, the Son of God will gather His Bride out of a sick, sin-infested world and transfer us home. The Bridegroom will meet us in the great Bridal Chamber and the celebration of the ages will occur simultaneously with the seven years of the Antichrist's reign on earth. You will either be the Bride of Jesus Christ, the bride of the Antichrist, or die as a martyr. Seek the righteousness of Christ by the sacrifice of His Blood. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6).

Personality Of The Antichrist

The spirit of the Antichrist is saturating our world cultures in preparation for his personal appearance. When the cultures are totally prepared to the point that his coming will find immediate acceptance, the hour of wrath will begin. The Lord of the church is in perfect control. No plan of the spirit of the Antichrist can proceed except in complete harmony with the Lord's plan. The Father has reserved the time of the great Rapture and the Resurrection of the righteous dead for Himself, and He will give the word when that moment arrives.

Much of the church has no concept of the very person of the Antichrist. In fact, I get much mail denying that the Antichrist is an individual that will be revealed. That kind of spiritualization of Scripture is utterly deceiving and fits Satan's hidden plans. Apostle Paul and many other Bible writers left no doubt about a literal revelation of a man of sin. The apostle said, *"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God*

sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming" (11 Thessalonians 2:3-4; 2:7-8). These words are plain and must be interpreted literally unless you seek to manipulate Scripture. In fact, how can the Antichrist be cast into the Lake of Fire if he is not a person? "And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Revelation 19:20).

Confusion can arise with this great truth unless you understand the difference between the mystery of iniquity as mentioned by Apostle Paul and the revelation of this mystery in a person. Apostle Paul was showing us that this Antichrist spirit has plagued the church from the days of its beginning. You can certainly make a case for that same mystery of iniquity troubling the First Testament saints because it is clearly the word of the devil himself. Jesus identified this New Testament barrage of evil as beginning with John the Baptist. The Son of God said, *"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force" (Matthew 11:12).*

Later in Jesus' ministry, He spoke of this violence against the kingdom being revealed as a man that will stand in the holy place. He quoted an event in Daniel's prophecies that will occur in the middle of a Jewish week of years, which is seven years. Our Lord said, *"When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains" (Matt 24:15-16).* He identified this time as the Great Tribulation of which He gave John the Revelator a chronological picture in Revelation chapters 6 through 19.

The Bible identifies this man of sin as an Assyrian. To prepare for this man's rise to his evil stardom, the ancient culture and religion of this forgotten nation, politically extinct for over twenty-six hundred years, is suddenly rising to be heard. An Assyrian from the ranks of this forgotten nation has identified the Assyrian people, the nations where they are now living, and expressing their call for a piece of Iraq where they were once a great Empire. Nineveh, where they had their capital, now called Mosul, Iraq, is returning from its lost identity.

The great despot of evil cannot come to his kingdom until the Rapture occurs. This is the single most important reason why his literal appearance is denied. To admit his personal appearance is to support the Pre-Tribulation Rapture. It is too plain in any literal interpretation of prophecy that the Rapture, the appearance of the Antichrist, and the seven dark years of God's and Christ's wrath are completely united. You cannot deny one without denying all three. That is certainly what confused End Time prophecy teachers normally do.

The Personality & Character of this Final Antichrist

There have been many Antichrists, but this final Antichrist is a sum total of them all. Satan will endow him with the totality of his own evil geniuses. His culture and character will be the final display of godlessness. Yet, while his character is godless, his passion will be religious. He will make evil beautiful and ornate in his twisted ability at deceiving human kind. Let me list a description of his character that I believe was inspired to my spirit to help

our present jaded world understand his developing presence in the world's culture. There are seven identifiable characteristics, which fit this future dictator. The spirit of these characteristics are presently being manifest and growing.

- The Antichrist spirit is in a rage against Jewish people and the Jewish nation and will never acknowledge their right to exist.
- This spirit claims sovereignty over Jerusalem and has a passion to possess the city for its own causes.
- Bible-believing Christians are despised equally with the hatred for the Jews.
- Worldwide "suicide brigades" are developing; and they are preparing to slaughter every expression of Orthodox Judaism or Biblical Christianity and any defense of either of them.
- The Antichrist hates the name of Jesus Christ and the blood sacrifice, which alone will be his final defeat. He hates anyone kin to Jesus by birth or by rebirth.
- This spirit hates the commandments of Holy Scripture, all Biblical righteousness, and every expression of the Infallible Word of God.
- This spirit is profoundly religious and is totally committed to promote an inclusive religious form and develop an Inclusive One World United Nations temple.

Let's Research These Seven Characteristics:

- **The Antichrist spirit is in a rage against Jewish people and the Jewish nation and will never acknowledge their right to exist:** Even the thoughts of Israel as a nation and the Jews as a distinct people create a rage among those under the sway of the Antichrist spirit. The Jews are hated because the favor of God is manifest in them, even in their sins. That does not mean God overlooks their sins, what it means is that God never forgets His promise. Even though they have been blessed financially, they have paid dearly for their transgressions. They have earned every sorrow that has befallen them. More importantly, God has a prophesied plan for them nationally and that plan cannot be disannulled.

Apostle Paul asked the question, "*Hath God cast away His people?*" (Romans 11: 1a). He answered that question with irrevocable truth. "*God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew.*" "*God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear*" "*Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.*" "*For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?*" "*And so all Israel shall be saved*" "*As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes*" (Rom 11:2a, 8b, 11 b, 15, 26a, 28).

Any person that attacks Israel, hates the Jews, dismisses them as no longer existing as a distinct people and nation, and denies their breathtaking future is a partner with the Antichrist. Such ideas are straight out of the character of the mystery of iniquity and the very doctrine of the coming man of sin and final dictator. When any man talks against Israel and teaches the false doctrine of replacement theology, they have cut themselves off from the grace of God. Look at this warning from the same text by the apostle to the Gentiles. He warned, "*Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his*

goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off" (Rom 11:22).

- **This spirit claims sovereignty over Jerusalem and has a passion to possess the city for its own causes:** Every religious institution that denies Israel's prophetic future also claims the right to the City of Jerusalem. The Catholic Church has a long history of teaching replacement theology and laying claim to Jerusalem. The Catholic Crusaders took the city from the Egyptians in A.D. 1099 and ruled it until A.D. 1187. They regained control from A.D. 1229 to A.D. 1239 and again from A.D. 1240 until A.D. 1244. Constantine's mother, Empress Helena, started pilgrimages to Jerusalem in A.D. 326 and this idea has never ceased to inspire religious people to see Jerusalem as the Holy City of all Christendom. Until this day, the Catholic Church has desired to become the possessor and master of Jerusalem. Without question, they consider themselves the international representative of the Christian faith and the rightful heir of this golden city, Jerusalem. They will certainly claim this right in the midst of the great wrath of seven years and install the false Christ in the rebuilt temple. His image will be on display in the temple for the world to worship.

The worshippers of Allah are passionate about Jerusalem and their right to this city. The present conflict between Israel and the Palestinians was started by a Jewish visit to the temple area by Ariel Sharon. Religious Arabs all over the world view Jerusalem as one of their holy Meccas. Saddam Hussein saw himself as the rightful heir of Nebuchadnezzar and long planned the day when he could enter Jerusalem as Nebuchadnezzar did and carry its treasures back to Babylon. The followers of Allah will never give up the idea of being sole possessors and the rightful owners of Jerusalem. This is the primary reason they will never officially say that Israel has the right to exist.

The Antichrist spirit has an unchangeable claim to Jerusalem. The slaughter of the Jews by suicide brigades will continue until they are defeated by the return of Jesus Christ to this city at His Second Coming to finish the Battle of Armageddon. Remember, the defeat of the Antichrist comes in Northern Israel as his army has gathered to descend on Jerusalem and make his final claim to this City of God. The Antichrist will flee after this defeat in the Valley of Megiddo to his capitol in Babylon, where he will be slain and cast into the Lake of Fire. Anyone that is inspired by the spirit of Antichrist sees Jerusalem as a city about which to be passionate.

- **Bible-believing Christians are despised equally with the hatred for the Jews:** Bible-believing Christians must prepare for the onslaught of hatred. While we hope for our Rapture to His presence, we must prepare to face a hostile world. Hatred for the Jews is at the same level as hatred for Bible-believing Christians and the Rapture of those saints to the Wedding Feast. The church world will be the greatest enemy to the saints of God as the ecumenical movement grows. It's impossible to be fundamental in doctrine and ecumenical in spirit. They are opposite to each other. The Bible-believing Christians will have enemies in many quarters. The spirit of the Antichrist will hate Bible believers with the same rage with which they hate the Jews.

- **Worldwide "suicide brigades" are developing; and they are preparing to slaughter every expression of Orthodox Judaism or Biblical Christianity and any defense of either of them:** Suicide brigades will be responsible for the darkest deeds manifested against society for the rest of Gentile history. From now until the Seven Years of Wrath are complete, the entire world police forces will be required to concentrate on these demon possessed devotees. Listening to a newscast of the secular media a few days ago, they gave a description of a suicide bomber. They stated that the person would appear to be in a stupor. That is a perfect description of a demon-possessed devotee to the demon god, Allah. It is demonic possession, clear and simple. This is one way that billions of souls will die in the short period of seven years. Do not expect these suicide brigades to wait for the Rapture to begin their reign of terror. If Jesus tarries a few more years, we are going to think that the Seven Years of Wrath have already begun.
- **The Antichrist hates the name of Jesus Christ, and the blood sacrifice, which alone will be his final defeat. He hates anyone kin to Jesus by birth or by rebirth:** The blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ and its one and only redemptive grace is out of favor in this closing hour. The church is full of psychology and user-friendly schemes, so who needs to be transformed. This is probably the greatest tool of the Antichrist. Apostle Paul said, *"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world"* (Galatians 6:14). A Bible-believing minister will preach the Gospel of the cross primarily, constantly, consistently, and with great joy. Psychology is a lie from the Antichrist. To start with, it does not work. It is a bandage on a wound that needs to be cleansed and stitched. The church world has never preached such insanity in two thousand years until this dark hour of the Antichrist spirit.

The new music of the contemporary world is sensual, full of flesh, and absent of the bloody cross. Even the occasional mention of His grace is filled with a giddy and light emotion. The Antichrist is writing the new lyrics and providing the new tempo. The listeners are stripped of their passion for the cross and their separation from the world.

- **This spirit hates the commandments of Holy Scripture, all Biblical righteousness, and every expression of the Infallible Word of God:** This Antichrist spirit does not just attack holiness; it hates holiness. The Ten Commandments are off limits to this new spirit of cheap grace. Ministers are preaching the cheapest font, of the gospel in church history. Once a person claims that Jesus is accepted, there is almost no standard of Biblical lifestyle expected. Some even dare to suggest that a believer is forgiven of their future sins at the same time that they are forgiven of past and present sins. Responsibility to live by the Word of God is practically non-existent.

The Infallible Word is presently a multiple list of Bible translations from which to pick and choose. Nothing preserved the church from error as faithfully as a Bible that was absolute and perfect. The great revivals of righteousness were each built on great anointed preaching by the Godly preachers that had a voice of steel. The Kingdom of God is waiting for those great voices to sound again.

- **This spirit is profoundly religious and is totally committed to promote an inclusive religious form and develop an inclusive One World United Nations temple:** The new church world will soon introduce the United Nations Inclusive Church. The Antichrist is religious to the core of all his character. Nothing is more deceiving than his character of religion. He (or his spirit's manifesting his character) can talk about Christianity as though it is the greatest religion in the world. He can also do the same for any other religion. When he discusses religious ideas of any religion of the world, he can do it with a language of deception to deceive the very elect. The Son of God stated clearly that the Antichrist spirit would be able to convince almost the total world. Jesus Christ stated, *"And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christ's, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect"* (Matt 24:22-24).

I believe these seven characteristics clearly describe what we see developing on a worldwide basis. It would behoove you to search everything about your church life and your concept of the Christian experience to see if there are characteristics of this deception in your faith concepts. These deceiving ideas have slowly overwhelmed most of today's churches until the average church member is comfortable in an Antichrist church. If there are no great overwhelming sermons on the power of the blood, its sanctifying and flesh crucifying authority, and your desperate need to claim the blood every hour, you need a Bible-centered church. If your church knows nothing about the Rapture and the coming Great Tribulation, you need a Bible-centered church.

The worst pastors are the suave ones that are sugary sweet and personality plus, but never get in the pulpit and break out with Holy Ghost authority about the blood and against sin. Flattering preachers are the best change agents in the Antichrist army. Daniel warns us that the character of the Antichrist would corrupt others by flattery. Listen to the Holy Ghost, *"And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits"* (Daniel 11:32).

Conclusion

These characteristics are close to complete in the world's cultures. The Antichrist spirit has been so incorporated in the daily news, the schools, and college textbooks that his appearance will hardly make a stir. The church world no longer sets their standard by the absolute Bible, but by popular opinions. We are near the point that the only hindrance to his worldwide acceptance is for Jesus to descend into the midair and snatch the saints up to Himself. The word Rapture comes from the Greek word *harpazo*, which is used by Apostle Paul and actually means to "snatch out and up and to deliver from danger:" You must be "sitting on ready" to go when He appears.

Seventy Weeks Of Daniel

The greatest proof of Jehovah God and His perfect Holy Bible is found in the thousand of fulfilled prophecies. The Bible is literally loaded with history written hundreds and thousands of years in advance. Not one of these prophecies has ever been broken. Every prediction made concerning the first coming of Jesus was fulfilled to the letter. It is amazing to witness a Roman soldier disobey his assigned order to break the legs of each of the three individuals hanging on the crosses. When he came to Jesus and found Him dead, the soldier changed a Roman order and pierced His side instead of breaking His legs (bones). Two prophecies were fulfilled by this act of disobedience. There is no possible way this brutal soldier knew he was acting out the perfect Word of God.

Future prophecies will be fulfilled in the same perfect order. When we surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, we live under a pre-ordained, completed schedule for eternity. Certainly, there are variables within the Father's plan, which allow for human decisions. We are not robots and the Father has allowed for our human will, but His "kingdom standeth sure" and He will accomplish His perfect design on schedule. It appears that the heavenly Architect has always allowed men to have a perimeter in which they can act out human will, but has fixed that perimeter with His sovereignty to assure the perfect future which He has planned. A study of Biblical dispensations shows how beautifully He has designed it all.

Dispensationalism

There is no reliable defense against the truth of Biblical dispensationalism. God has dealt with specific segments of individuals in different manners from the Garden of Eden to the present. For almost two thousand years God provided witness to the pre-Noahic generations. After the flood, He chose Abraham and taught him faith as a pathway to God while He prepared the Jewish race to receive His laws. Beginning with Moses, He taught them those laws and provided the many types of sacrifices, each to find fulfillment in His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. The church was born at Pentecost and brings us to the present as we await the climax of His chosen nation out of the Jews and Gentiles. Again, this is called His church. While opinions vary, the accepted view identifies 6 different dispensations from Adam to present.

The next dispensation (seventh) will be the Millennium, a thousand year reign of Jesus Christ on earth. Both the Jews and the church have distinct and different parts to play in this millennial period. Literal interpretation of Scripture never allows any blurring of these two distinct and different people. Nothing confuses Holy Scripture worse than trying to merge the church as a "called out" body of believers with Israel as a nation. Both have an incredible future, but a very different one.

Israel's Future

The seventy weeks of Daniel are an outline of Israel's future from that time until the millennial. This revelation is recorded in Daniel chapter nine and is one of the most breathtaking prophecies in Holy Scripture. The details and dates cannot be viewed as less than spectacular. Read these specifics very carefully before we proceed.

“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to

bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself; and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end therefore shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week; and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.” (Daniel 9:24-27).

Only a supernatural revelation would dare lay out the minute details that had to be fulfilled perfectly or all of it would be in doubt. Jesus Christ Himself confirmed this prophecy in Matthew 24:15 and detailed the last week of this seventy weeks. He divided it in half and then confirmed the event characterizing the middle of this last week of seven years. Jesus stated, “*When ye therefore see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place (whoso readeth, let him understand)*” (Matthew 24:15). This perfectly settles the fact of a literal seven years and that it is future.

The words of Jesus Christ shatter anyone's denial of this great prophecy. Again, notice that Jesus accepted this prophecy as literal and confirmed its absolute future fulfillment. The only way to treat Bible prophecy is to treat it as Jesus did. It is literal with a Biblical definition of all types and symbols. Do not spiritualize any part of Holy Writ. God said what He meant and we'll have no trouble understanding it if we read and study the Word in that fashion. When you see a symbol or type used in Scripture, let the use of that symbol or type be interpreted by how it is used in all other Biblical settings. God does not confuse His symbols and types. When we see a beast, we are dealing with a character, not an appearance. When we see seven consecutive things that denote a particular subject, it shows the complete presentation of the matter. Seven churches represent the church in its total picture and dispensation. Seven spirits are the Holy Spirit and all His functions and person. Interpret these types and symbols literally after you identify their use and meaning.

The Seventy Weeks Of Daniel Understood

These four verses as they are presented detail the entire history of Israel from Babylonian captivity until their entrance into the Kingdom of Jesus Christ at the end of the last week of seven years. There is no question but that the 70 weeks as named in this prophecy were 70 weeks of years or 70 X 7 years. This was a concept clearly known to the Hebrew mind as a manner of designing time periods. Jacob served two seven-year weeks for his wives, Leah and Rachel. The Scripture accounts the second seven years as following, “*Fulfill her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years.*” (Gen 29:27)

Israel was just finishing a 70-year period of captivity because of their backsliding and disobedient lifestyle. It is amazing to learn that this 70 years of bondage was a result of ignoring God's Sabbaths of rest for the land they had been given by Jehovah God. Jeremiah has prophesied this as recorded: “*And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall*

of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof. And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they ere servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia: To fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths; for as long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbaths, to fulfill threescore and ten years” (2 Chron 36:19-21).

Stealing from God the tithe or disobeying His commandments for the Sabbath or the Lord's Day in our New Testament brings the exact results today as it did to Israel. Holy things or Holy Commandments are ignored at your peril and destruction. You do not break God's commandments; you break yourself on God's commandments. His laws are indestructible.

The Panoramic View

As Israel was completing these 70 years of judgment, Daniel received this picture of the future. They were finishing a 70-year period. The Holy Spirit gave Daniel a 7 X 70 year view to bring Israel's history (in advance) to the end of sin and the beginning of everlasting righteousness for His chosen people. The first verse places the entire 70 years in a panoramic view. This verse shows no mention of a period between the 69th week and the 70th week. Israel would be cut off and of no Biblical account in this indefinite period.

Notice the promises contained in this verse:

- To finish the transgression.
- To make an end of sin.
- To make reconciliation for iniquity.
- To bring in everlasting righteousness.
- To seal up (finish) the vision and prophecy.
- To anoint the most Holy.

There is no question but that this shows God's final plan for His stubborn chosen family. The business of a redemptive sacrifice was Jewish as well as the final act of anointing Jesus Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. In spite of Israel's rocky history and equally rocky future (as seen by Daniel) God was not abandoning His people. He would accomplish His purpose in them and bless the world with the fruit of their loins. Just as they provided the skin tent for the first tabernacle and built the elaborate temple for His shekinah in Jerusalem, so Mary, a Jewish maiden, would provide a flesh body for the Eternal "Word." Nothing can destroy God's final plan.

The First Sixty-Nine Weeks of Years

The first period is divided by adding 7 weeks of years to 62 weeks of years or 62 and 7 X 7. This identifies the first period of 483 years. The period will begin with a decree to rebuild Jerusalem. Such a decree was made at the request of Nehemiah, who was the cupbearer of King Artaxerxes. The request is stated as following, *“Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven, And I said unto the king, if it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Tudah, unto the city of my fathers’ sepulchers, that I may build it. And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him) For how long shall thy journey be? And when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time. Moreover I said unto the king, If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may*

convey me over till I come into Judah; And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me" (Nehemiah 2:4-8).

Earlier decrees were made. They were to build the temple, but not the walls of the city Jerusalem. The length of a year as calculated by the Jews was 360 days. That made the actual period between the decree and the end of 69 weeks of years a total of 173,880 days.

History states that the decree of Artaxerxes was made on March 14, 445 B.C.

Zechariah prophesied of a certain sign that would fix the exact occasion that the 69 X 7 years would be finished. He declared, "*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass" (Zechariah 9:9).*

Jesus would be declared the King of the Jews. That event occurred on Nisan the 10th, four days before He was crucified. Chuck Missler stated, "**On several occasions in the New Testament when they attempted to take Jesus as a king, He invariably declined, 'Mine hour is not yet come.' Then one day He arranged it.**" (Chuck Missler, *The Seventy Weeks of Daniel*, p.5.) That very day thousands of His followers cried, "*Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven and glory in the highest" (Luke 19:38).* 173,880 days were fulfilled. The prophecy was exact. Sixty-nine weeks of years were completed. One 7 weeks of years was yet future.

Please notice one important fact that would accompany this entire spectacular fulfillment. The rebuilding of these walls would be accomplished, but it would not be easy. Troublesome times would be the lot of those given this task. History certainly proves the correctness of that revelation by Daniel. Nehemiah's account of the period gives an excellent picture.

Two Messiahs, The True And The False

The third verse in the revelation by the Holy Spirit documents the struggle that would follow the crucifixion of the true Messiah. After the 69 (62+7) weeks of years were finished, the Messiah would be cut off (crucified). Notice, this occurred not on the exact day, but after the period so designed. He was declared the king on the designated day, but crucified (cut off) four days later. God's Word cannot be altered, not even a part of a letter. His death was not an act for Himself, but a sacrificial act on behalf of others. Daniel probably did not understand this concept of a vicarious death by the Messiah. That idea was foreign to the Jewish mind and still is to this day. The Holy Spirit spoke the perfect words to convey the truth. Such Messianic revelations being spoken in this totally Jewish book only serve to show its perfection. They were looking for a king to conquer and establish a kingdom, but God sent His Son to die or to be "cut off."

A very interesting part of this verse is the picture of the future Antichrist or AntiMessiah. The Romans who came to Jerusalem approximately 38 years after the crucifixion were identified as the people of the "**Prince that should come.**" Without doubt this vast Roman empire, which ruled the world, would at some future date produce the antiMessiah. He is also called

the Assyrian in numerous locations. One of the next events to watch for is the unity that will develop between the European superstate and the country of Iraq. This unity would be one of the most incredible moves toward the future formation of a true Roman Empire. The Roman Army, as it existed in 70 A.D., ravaged the city of Jerusalem and destroyed the temple. As Jesus had told His disciples that not one stone was left upon another. This verse indicates that the destruction would last right down until the end. The Jewish people have endured a perpetual flood of sorrow for over 1900 years. A true Christian should weep over these sorrows and pray for the great day of peace to come.

The Last Seven Years And The "Deceivers Covenant" (Daniel 9:27)

It is beautiful to see how clearly this last week of years is separated from the first 69. The words of the previous verse (26) plainly predict the Roman destruction 38-39 years after the conclusion of that first period. The statement, a "flood," was used symbolically of sorrows and consternation and the words, "wars and desolations are determined," show that a considerable time was clearly the focus.

As this verse is seen in its future fulfillment, the prince from the previous verse ("Prince that should come") will be on the scene. He will have already established himself as the false "**messiah**" and made a covenant with the Jewish nation. He is in the driver's seat and is apparently performing the Jewish expectation for the true Messiah. I believe this prince will give tremendous aid to Israel in the defeat of the Russian horde, along with her allies. Whatever is left of the Northern Confederation will probably transfer their allegiance to the prince whom we recognize as the Antichrist. John states that he arises out of the sea, which prophetically represents a Middle Eastern personality, an Assyrian as mentioned above and, likely, an Assyrian Jew.

Whoever this incredible personality is, his love affair with the Jewish nation will be short lived. Within three and one-half years his powers will be consolidated. The One World religious coalition will decide it is time to end the separatist idea of the Orthodox Jewish worship. The Antichrist/Messiah must be worshipped and Jewish sacrifices are cancelled. The false prophet (the false anointing is already spreading the word) will have the image of the "World Messiah" placed on the altar in the temple. The Jewish nation will suddenly reel in utter dismay. They have been deceived; he is not a Messiah, he is an imposter. All hell is unleashed on the Jewish people; anti-semitism reaches a new level.

Jacob's Trouble

Words do not describe the horror for the Jews during the last 42 months. The only bright side of this period is the hope that begins to dawn for their souls. While two-thirds of all Israel shall die, the one-third left shall be turned to the Lord. Zechariah told of this slaughter, "*And It shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God*" (Zechariah 13:8-9).

In the two verses below, Zechariah declared that the Jewish nation would finally recognize the true Messiah as Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. These two statements are

breathhtaking. *“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as on that is in bitterness for his firstborn”* (Zechariah 12:10).

In the original Textus Receptus Hebrew there are two Hebrew characters that were never translated to English. These two characters follow the word "me" or "upon me". They are the aleph and the tav, or the first and last characters in the Hebrew alphabet. It would read **“and they shall look upon me** (the aleph and the tav, or the beginning and ending) **whom they have pierced.”** This was not a faulty translation, but rather a case where the Holy Ghost placed these two letters in the margin to be understood on that glorious day when Israel turns to the Lord.

The other verse states, *“And he shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends”* (Zechariah 13:6). To assist this great spiritual awakening, the Lord Jesus seals 144,000 Jews in the first half of this week of years. *“Saying Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of Israel”* (Revelation 7:3-4).

Israel's greatest hour begins to dawn during the last 42 months. Out of their darkest hour and by great tribulation, an indestructible nation of people humbles themselves. They finally accept that indeed Jesus Christ was their Messiah and they shall mourn for Him *“as one mourneth after his only son.”*

What an incredible awakening! Apostle Paul prophesied this profoundly. *“For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in, and so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins”* (Romans 11:25- 27).

The Seven Years: Jews, Gentiles and The Church

I am giving you this picture of the last week of years only from the Jewish perspective. It actually has three parts. The apostate church led by the false prophet, along with the tribulation saints, etc., is a story in itself. The judgement of the ungodly and the Antichrist crowd presents a different and equally intriguing picture. All three stories, of course, occur simultaneously. Please remember, God always deals with the Jews, the unbelieving Gentiles, and the church of God, each individually. As you study end time events always watch and do not confuse God's dispensational program for each of them.

The Book Of Daniel

It adds tremendous power to the book of Daniel when you understand how many enemies this book has endured. It was translated to Greek (285- 270 B.C.) long before the major fulfillment of the 70 weeks. Also, the discovery of the entire book in the caves of Qumran serves to authenticate its author, Daniel, and the book itself. Randall Price, who has done a thorough

book on this subject, personally answered a question for me at our PreTribulation Study Conference concerning the Qumran manuscripts. My question was, "Which text does the Qumran manuscript support, the Alexandrian or the Textus Receptus?" His answer was, as I had supposed, "The Textus Receptus."

Conclusion

This prophecy will be fulfilled perfectly. The stage is being set. At times certain events seem to slow the process. The murder of Rabin or other shattering events does not take the Lord God by surprise. We are like a grand auditorium of a multiplied host watching the performance on stage. The Lord God, our director, has given us a prophetic foretaste to whet our appetites. Keep your heart tuned, your loins girded with truth and your lights burning. The only event that restrains the Antichrist is "only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way" (2 Thessalonians 2:7). The Bride of Christ will be gone shortly!

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