

Jesus The Messiah: Session 12: Inside the 70th Week of Daniel

(26b) And the people of the ruler who shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. And the end of it shall be with the flood, and ruins are determined, until the end shall be war. And he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week. (27) And in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the offering to cease, and on a corner of the altar desolating abominations, even until the end. And that which was decreed shall be poured on the desolator. (Daniel 9:26b-27)

1. Purposes of the 70th Week of Daniel in God's Plan

- Review of the 70th Week and its duration
- God's purpose with Israel.
- God's purpose with the nations.
- God's purpose with the Church.
- Neither mankind nor Satan will ever rule the Earth again. Once these 7 years are accomplished, only God will ever have the dominion again.

2. The Rise of Antichrist

2.1. Who is the Antichrist?

- The world-ruler who leads mankind's final rebellion
- He aggressively persecutes all who follow Christ Jesus or who are of Israel. He commits sacrilege by exalting himself above everything that

is called God.

- Energized by Satan and has authority to rule and to blaspheme for 42 months.
- The title is from the Greek *antichristos*, which means opposed to Christ or in Christ's stead: in other words a replacement for Christ.
- For now the manifestation of Antichrist is being restrained by something or someone. Christians debate the identity of the "Restrainer." Pretribulationism often sees this as the Presence of the Holy Spirit in the Church.

2.2. World-empires which persecute God's People.

2.2.1. Nebuchadnezzar's statue.

In Daniel 2, the prophet saw a vision of a statue with a head of gold, chest and arms of silver, loins and thighs of brass, legs of iron and the feet and toes of iron mixed with clay. In the days of the last kingdom, a stone "not made with human hands" would destroy it and become a mountain to fill the whole earth. The kingdoms are generally thought to be Babylon, Persia, Greece, but people argue about the fourth and lowest part of the statue. When this fourth part of the statue is seen, then we can know the stone will soon to come and destroy them.

2.2.2. The Beast with 7 heads and 10 horns.

In Daniel 7 the prophet had a vision of four beasts which represent four kings who would rule on the earth. The fourth beast was the most frightening, and it had ten horns. Another horn grew up out of this fourth beast and then plucked up three of the existing horns by the roots. Daniel was told that these horns are kings. (Horns are often symbols of strength in Scripture.) This new horn would subdue three kings and the saints would be given into his hand for three and a half times or years. However, the saints would then take rulership under the leadership of the Messiah, the Son of Man.

- In Revelation 12 this beast is persecuting the woman who has given birth to Christ (this is Israel) for 1,260 days.
- In Rev. 13 it is persecuting for 42 months and being worshipped.
- In Rev. 17 we learn that the 10 horns are kings who receive power with Antichrist and wage war against Christ. They give their authority to the Antichrist.

2.2.3. Who are the heads of the beast?

In Revelation 17, the heads are explained to be historical kings or empires which actively persecuted Israel. At the time John wrote Revelation, he is told that five had fallen and one then was. Commonly, people suggest these were Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia and Greece. The one then existing

would be Rome. The one who would come for a short space has been identified as the Roman Church, the Islamic Caliphate, or as Nazism. The Antichrist is the 8th in this series, but he is also portrayed as the entire beast because he represents all and is the culmination of all.

2.3 The False Prophet

The other evil beast-character in the end times drama is the False Prophet. His activities are described in Rev. 13.

- He looks like a lamb but speaks like a dragon - a brilliant description, indicating that he comes in a religious guise but speaks according to the words of a dragon, like the dragon that empowers Antichrist.
- Causes people to worship the first beast.
- Deceives people by doing great miracles.
- Causes people to receive the Mark of the Beast, a mark without which no one can buy or sell.

2.4. The Great Apostasy

Paul taught in 2 Thess. 2 that the Day of Christ could not come unless the apostasy occurred and the “man of sin” (Antichrist) was revealed.

2.5. The ethnicity of Antichrist

Most today think he is a Roman, and are expecting a revived Roman Empire to be what he commands. Others suggest a Muslim because of the language concerning the prince in Daniel 9, and an Assyrian, because of a number of prophecies.

2.6. The fate of Antichrist

The fate of the Antichrist is to be destroyed by the glory of Jesus at his return. He and the False Prophet will be thrown alive into the Lake of Fire when Satan is imprisoned at the beginning of the Millennium. Christ will destroy all those who oppressed with him.

3. Events of the 70th Week

3.1 The beginning of the 70th Week

The 70th Week is thought to begin when the Antichrist makes an agreement with Israel and many nations, meant to last 7 years. As we read in Daniel 9, *And he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week.* God rebukes Israel for doing this in Isaiah 28, quoting them as saying,

“We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid

ourselves... And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.” (Isa. 28:15, 18)

3.2 The first half of the week

The first 3.5 years of the 7 are often considered to be years of peace and prosperity but it is not at all certain that this is the case. It would seem that Israel is allowed to prosper, at any rate, but the Antichrist wages war against his neighbors. He is often identified with Daniel 11’s “King of the North.” This king will fight against the “King of the South.”

3.3 The Third Temple and the Abomination of Desolation

A number of prophecies either state or assume that the Temple is standing while Antichrist is at work. This is necessary so that he can defile the Temple halfway through the seven years. Antichrist commits an *abomination of desolation* - a disgusting thing or idol that profanes the Temple. This was done around 170 B.C. by Antiochus Epiphanes, who placed an idol in the Temple. Antiochus’ acts led to the celebration of Hanukkah. However, Jesus spoke of a future abomination of desolation.

And in the midst of the week (seven) he shall cause the sacrifice and the offering to cease, and on a corner of the altar desolating abominations, even until the end. (Dan. 9:27)

When you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee into the mountains... For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the

world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. (Matt. 24: 15-16, 21)

[He] opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. (2 Thess. 2:4)

And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, "Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship in it. But the court which is outside the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty-two months." (Rev. 11:1-2)

3.4 The Great Tribulation / Time of Jacob's Trouble

Halfway through the seven years, Antichrist commits the Abomination of Desolation. Jesus said this begins the time known as the Great Tribulation.

Tribulation is the Greek word *thlipsis*, meaning "pressure." Jesus said in Matthew 24:22,

And unless those days should be shortened, there would be no flesh be saved, but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

The Old Testament calls this the "Time of Jacob's Trouble." God allows this terrible, final persecution in order to bring the beloved nation back to himself.

Ask now, and see whether a man does travail with child? Why do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. (Jer. 30:6-7)

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince who stands for the children of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time your people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the

book.... And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him who lives for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished. (Daniel 12:1, 7)

Revelation picks up this theme and timing in several places. For example,

And when the dragon saw that he was cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.... And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, who keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Rev. 12:13-14, 17)

3.5 Two Witnesses

During the reign of the Antichrist, God utilizes two witnesses with a powerful prophetic ministry to release judgments. There is much speculation about their identity. Ultimately they are killed by Antichrist, then resurrected by God. Revelation 11:3-7 says,

And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man wishes to hurt them, fire proceeds out of their mouth, and devours their enemies: and if any man wishes to hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

3.6 Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls

The structure of the Book of Revelation includes the release of a series of judgments. The judgments of God seem to be contained in what are called the seals, the trumpets and the bowls. Revelation 5 shows Christ beginning to open a scroll which contains seven seals. This imagery is meant to show Christ taking possession of the world system. As He opens the seals, judgments are released and important events set in motion.

- SEAL 1 - white horse; conquest (Antichrist - 70th week begins?)
- SEAL 2 - red horse; war
- SEAL 3 - rider on black horse; famine
- SEAL 4 - rider on green horse; death and Hell
- SEAL 5 - persecution and martyrdom
- SEAL 6 - cosmic signs
- SEAL 7 - silence, followed by the trumpet judgments
- TRUMPET 1 - hail and fire
- TRUMPET 2 - burning mountain
- TRUMPET 3 - star on the waters
- TRUMPET 4 - darkness
- TRUMPET 5 - locusts from the pit
- TRUMPET 6 - army of horsemen
- TRUMPET 7 - worship in Heaven; preparation for the bowls
- BOWL 1 - sores
- BOWL 2 - judgment of the sea
- BOWL 3 - judgment of rivers
- BOWL 4 - heat
- BOWL 5 - darkness and pain
- BOWL 6 - Euphrates dried, armies of Earth gathered
- BOWL 7 - massive earthquake and hail; followed by return of Christ

3.7 Possible Correspondence with Matthew 24

Matthew 24:5	False Christs	Seal 1	White Horse; conqueror
Matthew 24:6	Wars and rumors	Seal 2	Red horse; war
Matthew 24:7	Famines	Seal 3	Black horse;

Matthew 24:7	Pestilence	Seal 4	famine Green horse; death
Matthew 24:9	Persecution	Seal 5	Martyrdom
Matthew 24:29	Cosmic signs	Seal 6	Cosmic signs