

TOPIC: END TIMES 3 – The 70 Weeks, the Anti-Christ and Our Eternal Destiny

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Date: 18 Oct 2009

SUMMARY OF MESSAGE

Different views re details of End-Times. As a reminder:

- A) Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing.
- B) Do not be dogmatic about your views.
- C) Do not part fellowship just on this.
- D) Walk very close to God and serve Him.

1) THE 70 WEEKS FOR ISRAEL AND DANIEL'S 70TH WEEK

Daniel 9:24-26

24Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, 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.25Know 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**; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. 26And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, 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.

70 Weeks:

From rebuilding of Jerusalem to 2nd Coming of Christ

1 Week
(70th Week)

Daniel 9:24 : 70 weeks (= 70 x 7 years = 490 years) are determined for Your people (Israel) and Your Holy City (Jerusalem).

The 70 weeks are divided into 3 periods.

- The first 7 weeks of 49 years.
- The 62 weeks of 434 years
- The final 1 week of 7 years.

When did this 70 weeks kick off? Look at Ezra:

Ezra 1:1-2 - 1Now in the first year of **Cyrus** king of **Persia**, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a **proclamation** throughout all his kingdom, and also put it **in writing**, saying, Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to **build Him a house at Jerusalem** which is in Judah.

The 70 weeks determined for Israel started off with the issue of the command to rebuild the temple. As in Dan 9:25, we see 2 periods mentioned: 7 weeks and 62 weeks. The first period of 7 weeks was kicked off when the decree was issued. (Ezra 1:1-2) The Jews were asked to rebuild the temple. This temple is known as Zerubbabel's Temple. (The first temple built by Solomon was destroyed in 586BC when the Jews were exiled in the Babylonian captivity. Zerubbabel's temple was later reconstructed by Herod.)

The second period of 62 weeks (434 years) ended with the cutting off of the Messiah. This was what took place at Calvary: Jesus, the Messiah was crucified. He died and was resurrected. This was followed by the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in AD70, by the Romans. There is a difference between Luke 21 and Matt 24. In Luke 21, it was when Jesus was in the temple and He foretold the destruction of the temple, referring to the event in AD 70. When these signs happened, they were to flee to the mountains. This will be so again in Revelation 12. The destruction of the Temple in AD70 was to be a foretype of its final destruction in the end time. The age will be marked by wars and desolations.

We are left with the last week. The gap in between is taken up by the Church age. The stage is set for fulfillment with Israel becoming a nation in 1948. The Jews suffered under the Holocaust and will suffer again in Tribulation. These are typologies of things to happen. This last period of seven years is yet to be fulfilled. None of these things that will occur during the 7-year Tribulation Period has happened for Israel.

Why is God dealing with Israel for 490 weeks? It is because of their rebellion and idolatry. Lev 26:18 says, "And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins." Israel suffered the consequences of their idolatry, worshipping the created rather than the Creator. In spite of the 70 years of captivity under Babylon, Israel did not learn her lesson and remained rebellious. As a consequence, the punishment is now 7-fold, I,e, $7 \times 70 = 490$ years.

At this juncture, we need to know 3 things about God:

- a) God is loving and kind. With this comes compassion, grace and goodness.
- b) God is the God of justice. Everyone will receive justice.
- c) God is a righteous God. We need to know the goodness and severity of God.

Next, let's run through some things about the Anti-Christ.

2) THE ANTI-CHRIST

He is referred to as the man of sin; the anti-Christ; the son of perdition or the wicked one. The operation of the Anti-Christ is only during the one week of the 7-year Tribulation Period. After the battle of Gog and Magog of Ezekiel 38-39, he will be revealed at the start of the 7 years and released to work against Israel.

Daniel 9:27

Then he (anti-Christ) shall confirm a covenant with many for one week (7 years).

The word, 'confirm' means to ratify. It means the peace treaty might have already been signed earlier but the clock starts ticking when the peace treaty is confirmed.

Daniel 9:27

... but in the **middle of the week** he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. i.e. break the covenant and commit the abomination of desolation.

In the middle of the 7 years, the anti-Christ breaks the covenant and commits the abominable act of desecrating the temple. Has this happened before? Yes, Antiochus Epiphanes was a type of antichrist who desecrated the temple with abominable offerings. The following verses talk about the act of sacrilege that will happen in the future. Matthew 24:15, Dan 11:31,12:11, 2 Thess 2:4 & Rev 13.

Given the above abominable act to come, by the middle of the week, the third temple would have been rebuilt. Before the Anti-Christ is released to do his works, the Church has to be raptured.

4 More Raptures to come

a. The Church

Revelation 4:1

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

b. The Multitudes

Revelation 7:14

And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

c. The 144,000

Revelation 14:3

They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

At the height of the battle of Gog and Magog of Ez 39 where God would intervene, the eyes of the Jews will be opened. The 144,000 will be amongst these. They are the first fruits, the Messianic Jews who will reach out to Israel and to the world. The battle of Armageddon that will take months to prepare will be over in one hour. The battle of Gog and Magog will be over in one day.

d. The Two witnesses

Revelation 11:12

And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.

Some think that these witnesses will be raptured before the middle of the 7-year tribulation but this is not so. This would appear to be so if they follow the time sequence of Revelation but Revelation is not set in chronological order. During the last 3.5 years, these will be His witnesses to declare His power and glory till the last 4 days before the end of the tribulation period.

2 Thessalonians 2:3

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition.

As in the verse above, falling away comes and the man of perdition (anti-Christ) will be revealed. He cannot be revealed until his time.

2 Thessalonians 2:6

And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

The time for the anti-Christ is the 7-year Tribulation Period, no more and no less. He cannot be revealed during the Church period.

2 Thessalonians 2:8

And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

What's preventing him from being revealed?

2 Thessalonians 2:7

For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.

Notice it is the "HE", i.e. he is not the Holy Spirit. Why is this so? The Holy Spirit has to be here on earth throughout the 7-year Tribulation Period. He is the agent of salvation (John 3:3, 5, 16:8). God, in His mercy, will allow the gospel to be continually preached during the 7-year period.

The "he" is the Church – the overcomers. The Church is never the "She". This is in contrast to the Bride of Christ which according to Revelation 21:2, is the City of the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:9-10

9Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." 10And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.

No where in scriptures does it say that the CHURCH is the BRIDE OF CHRIST. Rather, in usage, we are LIKE the bride to the bridegroom.

This speaks of RELATIONSHIP with Christ as in Ephesians 5 where the parallel is drawn to the institution of marriage between husband and wife. The reference of bride is about RELATIONSHIP. It is NOT the IDENTITY of the Church.

Why? This is because the Church is the Body of Christ. Christ is the HEAD (HE) and we the church are the Body of Christ (HE). We cannot be having a head who is a "HE" and a body who is a "SHE".

Ephesians 4 speaks of the 5-fold gifts. The goal of the 5-fold gifts is that we may grow and become a perfect man. This is the identity of the Church, I,e, the Perfect Man. This must not be confused with the relationship of the church which is like a bride in submission to the bridegroom.

So, when the Church is taken out of the way, the Anti-Christ will be released to do his operations during the 7-year Tribulation Period. The verse below refers to the Anti-Christ.

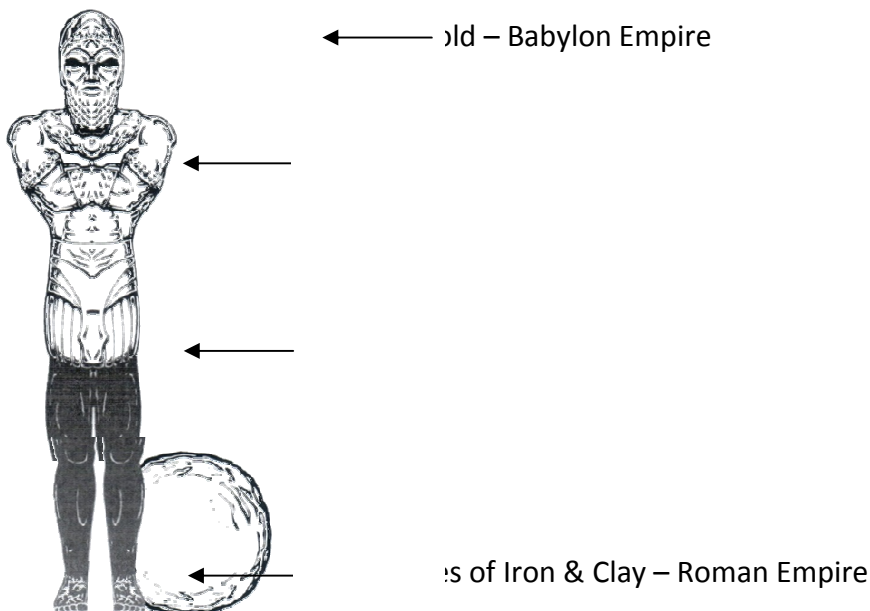
Revelation 6:1-2

1Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." 2And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

Here, the whole church in heaven watches the Lord Jesus opening the seals which result in the release of the Anti-Christ to do his works.

3) UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD POWERS OF DANIEL 2 & 7

The Ancient History of Daniel 2:



The Modern History of Daniel 7

Daniel 7:1-8

1In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream filled with visions while he was lying on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream in summary fashion.

2Daniel explained: "I was watching in my vision during the night as the four winds of the sky were stirring up the great sea.

3Then four large beasts came up from the sea; they were different from one another.

4The first one was like a lion with eagles' wings. As I watched, its wings were pulled off and it was lifted up from the ground. It was made to stand on two feet like a human being, and a human mind was given to it.

5Then a second beast appeared, like a bear.

It was raised up on one side, and there were

three ribs in its mouth between its teeth.

It was told, 'Get up and devour much flesh!'

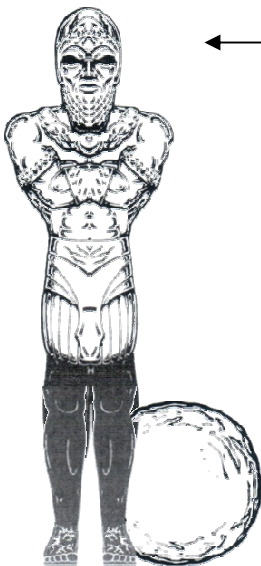
6After these things, as I was watching, another beast like a leopard appeared, with four bird-like wings on its back. This beast had four heads, and ruling authority was given to it.

7After these things, as I was watching in the night visions a fourth beast appeared – one dreadful, terrible, and very strong. It had two large rows of iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and anything that was left it trampled with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that came before it, and it had ten horns.

8As I was contemplating the horns, another horn –

a small one – came up between them, and three

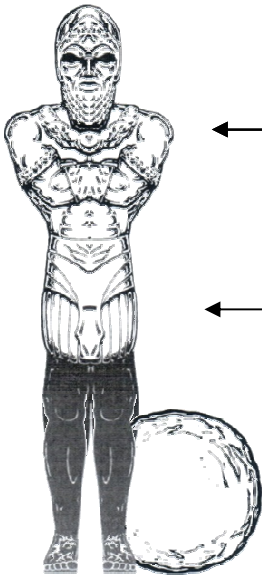
of the former horns were torn out by the roots to make room for it. This horn had eyes resembling human eyes and a mouth speaking arrogant things.



had eagle's wings ..

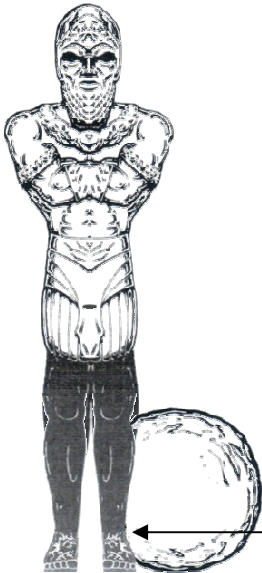
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under?

Looking at modern history, SP is suggesting that the lion refers to the British Empire while the eagle refers to US. That the wings were plucked off suggest the days of USA's supremacy have taken a turn. As for the young lions, these are the previous colonies of the British Empire which include countries like Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Singapore and USA. They are the allies who will challenge the confederation that is attacking Israel in the battle of Gog and Magog of Ezekiel 38-39.



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European Union

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This confederation started out as EEC, signed in treaty of Rome. From the common Euro to the political scene of having one president, the stage is set for the observance of one faith. Though there are seemingly more members now than before, the original ten founding members of the EU remain with the others standing in as observers.

Modern History of Daniel 7-8-11

Daniel 7:17 (NET)

These large beasts, which are four in number, represent four kings who will arise from the earth.

Daniel 8 - Greece (Goat) overpower Medo-Persia (Ram)

Daniel 8:8-9 (NET)

8The male goat acted even more arrogantly. But no sooner had the large horn become strong than it was broken, and there arose four conspicuous horns in its place, extending toward the four winds of the sky.

9From one of them came a small horn. But it grew to be very big, toward the south and the east and toward the beautiful land.

Daniel 8:17-19 (NET)

17So he approached the place where I was standing. As he came, I felt terrified and fell flat on the ground. Then he said to me, “Understand, son of man, that the vision pertains to the time of the end.”
19Then he said, “I am going to inform you about what will happen in the latter time of wrath, for the vision pertains to the appointed time of the end.

After Alexandra the Great died, four sub-empires arose but two were more dominant than the others, namely the kings of the North and South. The north, in SP’s thinking, refers to Syria. As in Daniel 8, these things pertain to the time of the end. Following behind the heels of the Greek empire was the revived Roman empire. Revelation 13 gives a description of this hybrid beast.

Revelation 13:1-2

1Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his head a blasphemous name. 2Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.

With this hybrid beast playing a role in world power, the times ahead will not see a Russian or US world empire on the scene.

#4 WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE?

A. Before the Resurrection of Christ.

1. Body returns to dust / ash on earth whilst spirit and soul depart to their destined abode.

We are spirit beings that dwell in a physical body. We have a soul wherein is found the mind, emotion and the will. The dust is the real you that will be resurrected to form the new body.

2. Righteous dead go to paradise. Luke 16:19-31
3. Unrighteous dead go to:

Hades [Greek]

Sheol [Hebrew]

This is called the first death [separation] cf Revelation 20:14

B. At Christ’s Resurrection, He descended to paradise to lead the righteous dead up to Heaven.

Ephesians 4:8-10

8Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.” 9(Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

10He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

Psalms 68:18

You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men, even from the rebellious, that the LORD God might dwell there.

1 Peter 3:18-19; 22

18For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, 19by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison ...22who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

Hebrews 2:14-15

14Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who **had** the power of death, that is, the devil, 15and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Revelation 1:18

I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

This happened at the cross of Calvary. Col 2:14,15. Jesus disarmed principalities and powers. He stripped away these powers that Satan had. Notice that in Heb 2:14, Satan had (past tense) the power of death. With Christ's victory and resurrection, he has been stripped of this power. From the forgoing verses, with Christ ascension and leading captives with Him, and having the keys of Hades and of Death, we see that paradise is now empty.

C. After Christ's resurrection, the righteous dead go to Heaven.

Acts 7:59

And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

2 Corinthians 5:8

We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Philippians 1:23

For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

The resurrected body is not a totally new body but one that is changed.

D. At the rapture, the spirit-soul is united with their mortal / corrupt body-ash-dust which is then changed to an immortal-incorruptible body.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53

51Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

What that means is that we will be having our same DNA but be looking our best in the new body!

E. All who were raptured and rewarded to reign with Christ in the 1000 years are called blessed and holy.

F. The rest of the dead will be raised after the 1000 years for the Great White Throne Judgment and other judgments [books open].

CONCLUSION

Daniel 12:1-3

1At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book. 2And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.

We live here for a short time but how we live will affect our destiny. We think of Esther – she was there for such a time as was faced by her then. Because of her, two generations later, a man, Nehemiah, came into scene. These impacted the people in their times.

Romans 11:22

Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

We need to know the goodness and the severity of God. We will reap what we sow. The window of grace is now. If we miss it, there is no hope. Bottom line is that we need to be wise and arise with the fear of God.

Daniel 12:1-3

3Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.

Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

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QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Given that past prophecies have been fulfilled, share how you have been affected or inspired further in your faith and appreciation of Scripture. What application would you make from here?

2. God is loving. He is Just and He is also righteous. Share what you think our response should be in light of God's character.

3. Israel is a key feature in God's timeline of events. What happens to Israel has implications for the world. You may want to pause here for a moment and pray for Israel:

- that many will come to faith in Christ.
- that the 144,000 Jews will succeed well in their mission.
- Wisdom for the current leaders
- That what man proposed, God will intervene to dispose and bring His plans to pass.
- others

4. What do you think is the message of the rapture? What is God telling us? Matthew 25:1-13; 2 Peter 3; 1 Thess 5:1-11,23,24

5. This mortal body will be raised and immortalized. What is imperfect will be clothed with perfection, beauty and holiness. We will be like Him as we see Him as He is (1 John 3:2) Given that a wonderful future awaits us, how does this change your present lifestyle, mindsets and relationship with one another? 1 Peter 4:7-19.

6. Review and clarify messages heard over the last few Sundays regarding end-times.