

THE SEVENTIETH WEEK OF DANIEL: CHRIST? ...OR ANTICHRIST?

The 70 weeks prophecy which was brought to Daniel by the angel Gabriel is undoubtably one of the most important prophecies ever given unto man. Rightly understood, it reveals the promise and purpose of Christ to all generations.

Yet, in our generation, it has been twisted to hide the great promise of Christ and instead exalts a theological figure called "the antichrist."

*"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.**"* Daniel 9:24 KJV

As the 70 years of captivity were about to finish, Daniel was seeking God for understanding of what would come next. The angel Gabriel appeared to Daniel and began to tell him of another 490 years ("seventy weeks" of years) which were determined on the Jews and Jerusalem. Before these 490 years passed, the six things listed in bold type in the text above would be accomplished.

"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." Daniel 9:25 KJV

"The Messiah the Prince" is the subject of this entire prophecy. This verse gave the Jews understanding of the exact year the Messiah would appear in ministry. The 490 years would begin with a decree to "restore and to build Jerusalem." From the year of that decree until the Messiah appeared would be 483 years. We can prove the year the decree was given by subtracting 483 years from the year the Holy Ghost came upon Jesus of Nazareth at John's baptism. Every Jew was expecting their Messiah that year because they understood the prophecy, but they refused to believe Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ.

"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 thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined." Daniel 9:26 KJV

The "threescore and two weeks" plus the "seven weeks" in verse 25 actually marked the end of 69 weeks, or 483 years. When the Holy Ghost came upon Jesus at the Jordan River

the 70th week of this prophecy began. Jesus was crucified in the middle of this 70th week, which was when He was "cut off, but not for Himself." This verse does not introduce another prince to come. This entire prophecy is about the coming of "the Messiah the Prince." The "people of the prince that shall come" were the Jews, of whom John said, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not" John 1:11. The word "destroy" in this verse was translated from the Hebrew word "shâchath," which is defined by Strong's Hebrew dictionary as "to decay, that is, (causatively) ruin (literally or figuratively)," and should have been translated as "corrupt." The Jews "corrupted the city and the sanctuary" before Titus and the Romans could come in like "a flood" in 70 A.D.

"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 9:27 KJV

The purpose of this message is to show who the word "he" refers to in this verse. For eighteen centuries, from Christ until the late nineteenth century, great men of God understood the 70th week of Daniel's prophecy to be the ministry of Jesus Christ. Tertullian, Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Augustine and Eusebius all agreed this verse speaks of the ministry of Christ. Reformers such as John Wycliff, Martin Luther, and John Calvin agreed. Almost every commentary written before the twentieth century, including Matthew Henry, Adam Clarke, Jamieson Fausset and Brown, John Wesley and Albert Barnes taught the 70 weeks prophecy was fulfilled and finished in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

It was with the advent of the modern versions of the bible in the late nineteenth century that many began to pervert the simplicity of this prophecy, and give the 70th week to "The Antichrist" instead of "The Christ." To do so is a horrible error that blinds multitudes to the purpose of Jesus' death on the cross, and actually makes God out to be a liar. If the 70th week is about "The Antichrist" and "The Great Tribulation," then God's promise that Christ would come before 490 years "...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**" Daniel 9:24 was a lie. If these six things were not fulfilled in the ministry of Jesus Christ and His death on

the cross, we are, as Paul said, *"of all men most miserable"* 1 Corinthians 15:19; we are lost and perishing without hope.

There are two *"cunningly devised fables"* which have been created from the perverted view of Daniel 9:27. The first is the doctrine of "The Antichrist." The Apostle John is the only one who spoke of "antichrist" in the scriptures, but he never mentioned "The Antichrist." Jesus warned of the coming of *"great tribulation,"* but He did not mention anything at all similar to the modern doctrine of *"The Great Tribulation."* Both of these doctrines were created from the imaginations of men to explain Daniel 9:27, which begins with the words *"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week."* This cannot possibly speak of one called "The Antichrist," or a seven year "great tribulation." According to John there were *"many antichrists"* 1 John 2:18 with *"the spirit of antichrist"* 1 John 4:3, but never "The Antichrist." The word *"antichrist"* in the scriptures was never used in connection with a political figure or a world leader. Clearly John was speaking of false teachers, and false prophets, who were filling the churches at the end of the first century and perverting the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Great Tribulation? Or "The Great Tribulation?"

"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 shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before." Matthew 24:21-25

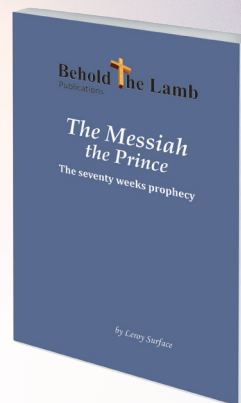
Jesus is the only one in the New Testament who spoke of *"great tribulation,"* but never "The Great Tribulation." His description is simple; great loss of life and the arising of false Christs and false prophets. This will take place during the sixth trumpet during the 3½ years before the second coming of Jesus to earth. Concerning the loss of life, 1/3 of all living will be slain worldwide Revelation 9:14-15, and 2/3 of the inhabitants of Israel will also perish Zechariah 13:8-9. Concerning the false Christs and the false prophets, they are even now making their voices heard in much of the church, preparing for that horrible day which is very near. Those who have been deceived by the lie have taken Daniel 9:27 as an outline and filled it out of their own imaginations. They have turned the time of *"great tribulation"* spoken of by Jesus into a great doctrinal fable called "The Great Tribulation." They have taken the ministry of Jesus in the 70th week and given it to an imaginary figure called "The Antichrist." They can tell you step by step what "The Antichrist" will do, and many have become very wealthy doing so with their many books and movies. They have given an erroneous explanation of what Gabriel described in 52 words, and of which Jesus spoke 98 words. They have given us a religious population that is more excited about the coming of "The Antichrist" than they are the return of Jesus Christ.

"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week..." The Messiah the Prince is the only one these words can possibly speak of. He did not "make a covenant," but He "confirmed the covenant" which God gave to Abraham, saying, *"...and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed"* Genesis 22:18. The Apostle Paul said Christ is that seed of Abraham Galatians 3:16.

"...and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease..." When Christ died in the exact middle of the 70th week, the veil in the temple was rent from top to bottom, indicating that God Himself had brought an end to the sacrifice system. The blood of Christ was shed once for our sin, and the scripture records, *"Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin."* Hebrews 10:18.

"...and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate..." Only days before His death on the cross Jesus spoke with broken heart to Jerusalem, *"...how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate"* Matthew 23:37-38. Jesus explained what desolation is in the next verse; *"For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord"* Matthew 23:39.

"...even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate" Daniel 9:27. The word "consummation" was translated from a Hebrew word which means "complete destruction." The same Hebrew word was translated "consumption" in both Isaiah 10:23 and Isaiah 28:22; *"I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts a consumption, even determined upon the whole earth."* This speaks of the time of *"great tribulation"* Matthew 24:21 of which Jesus forewarned, in which 2/3 of the "house of Israel" will perish Zechariah 13:8, but 1/3 will *"look unto Him whom they pierced"* Zechariah 12:10 and be saved just before Jesus Christ returns to destroy those who fight against Jerusalem.



FREE BOOK!
The Messiah the Prince
by Leroy Surface

To order, visit cochurch.org or write to:
Behold the Lamb • PO Box 750 • Porter, TX 77365

Behold the Lamb
cochurch.org