

Revelation #17
2022

November 13,

Series Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon

Today's Message: The Prophetic Clock: Countdown to the Second Coming of Christ

Before we launch into Revelation 6, which we believe to be “Daniel’s 70th week”, or the 7 years of the Great Tribulation, which precedes the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, I want to take a look at the Prophetic Clock predicted so vividly through the vision given to Daniel by the angel Gabriel (Daniel 9:20-22).

We will look at Daniel’s 70 weeks, the intervening time between the 69th week of Daniel’s vision and the 70th week, and the 70th week, which unfolds in Revelation 6-19.

- I. The Prophetic Clock: Daniel’s 70 weeks
 - II. The Intervening Time Between the 69th and 70th week: The Church age
 - III. The 70th week, which begins in Revelation 6
-
- I. The Prophetic Clock: Daniel’s 70 weeks
 - A. Daniel 9:24-27
 1. Daniel’s vision of 70 weeks, or 70 sevens, are divided into three sequential time periods
 - a) Seven sevens
 - b) Sixty-two sevens
 - c) And a final seven
 2. After the seven sevens (7 weeks) and the 62 sevens (62 weeks) Daniel learns that “Messiah (the Anointed One) will be cut off.”
 - a) During that intervening time between the 69th week and the 70th week many events unfold, but three key events are specifically stated in Daniel 9:26:
 - (1) Messiah cut off
 - (2) Jerusalem and the Temple are destroyed
 - (3) War and desolation will continue to the end
 3. Then the final seven, or the 70th week, the Antichrist will make and break a covenant with Israel.

- a) We see that described in Daniel 9:27
 - (1) He will confirm a covenant (peace treaty for one seven)
 - (2) Then, he will break the covenant in the middle of the seven
 - (a) He will cut off sacrifice and offering
 - (b) And set up the “abomination that causes desolation” until the end of the seven.
- b) The 70th week, or final seven in Revelation
 - (1) Revelation 6-11: The first half of the Tribulation
 - (a) The two witnesses preach with unrestrained zeal and perform many miracles (Rev. 11:3-6)
 - (b) Then at the end of the 42 months (or 1,260 days) the beast will arise out of the Abyss and attack and kill the witnesses.
 - (2) Revelation 12-19: The Second half of the Tribulation begins the Great Tribulation
 - (a) The Beast will consolidate his rule over the world!
 - (b) Then, at the end of his 42 month totalitarian rule he will be destroyed just prior to the return of Christ and His 1,000 year rule and reign on the earth!
 - (3) Revelation 6-19 corresponds with Daniel's 70th week.

B. Daniel's 70 weeks is the Prophetic Clock of Scripture

1. Daniel 9:24-26 speaks of “70 weeks”; “7 weeks” and “62 weeks”.
2. We will look at the time period of the “7 weeks” and “62 weeks” equalling “69 weeks”.
3. In the Bible these “weeks” are prophetic “weeks”. A prophetic “week” is 7 years.
4. The first “7 weeks” mentioned in Daniel 9:25 and is 49 years. These 49 years are the 49 Biblical years it took to “rebuild Jerusalem: the walls and the city. The walls actually took 52 days (Neh. 6:15).
5. A Biblical year or prophetic year in Jewish reckoning is 360 days.
6. The “62 weeks” is 434 biblical, or prophetic years. Combine the 7 weeks and the 62 weeks and you arrive at 483 years, or 173,880 days.
7. Key 1: Daniel's vision was given to him in about 522 B.C., which was the first year of the reign of Darius (Daniel 9:1). The temple was completed by 516 B.C. (Ezra 6:15).

8. Key 2: Daniel tells us when God's countdown to the coming Messiah the Prince begins. He tells us plainly, the countdown begins when "from the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem" (Daniel 9:25).
9. **When was the decree actually issued?** Nisan 2nd or 3rd 445 B.C.
10. The story is found in Nehemiah 2. Nehemiah is in agony over the news of the ruined condition of Jerusalem. The temple is complete but the city is in ruin. However, there is good news! Nehemiah 2:8 tells us that the king made the decree to rebuild Jerusalem. We learn from Nehemiah 2:1 that it is the 20th year of King Artaxerxes. Artaxerxes became king in 465 B.C. So, Nehemiah 2:1, and Nehemiah 2:8 occur in the month of Nisan, 445 B.C. When calculated (by geniuses with greater minds than mine) it comes to Nisan 2 or 3 in 445 B.C., or March 16 or 17.
 - a) The rebuilding of the wall and the city took exactly 49 years. It was completed in time for the Feast of Tabernacles in the seventh month of the year 396 B.C.
11. So, Daniel's vision came to him in 522 B.C., and the decree was issued 77 years later in Nisan 445 B.C.
12. **When does the second part of the vision of Daniel 9:25 occur?** When Jesus enters Jerusalem "seated on a donkey's colt" (John 12:15)
13. The prophetic clock for Daniel's 69 weeks begins "from the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem" (Da. 9:25), and is completed when, as stated, "the Messiah the Prince" appears.
 - a) Daniel 9:25: "Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One (Messiah), the Ruler, comes, there will be 'seven sevens' and 'sixty-two sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble."
14. So, from Nisan 2 or 3, 445 B.C. we count forward 483 prophetic years (which is the seven weeks and the 62 weeks, or 69 weeks total, or 483 biblical/ prophetic years) and we arrive at a precise point in time.
15. Many bible students prefer converting the 483 biblical years into days. These years equal 173,880 days.
16. The precise day, when adding 173,880 from Nisan 2 or 3, 445 B.C. comes to Nisan 9, 32 A.D., the day on which Jesus rides into Jerusalem. This would be 5 days before Passover, which began at dusk on Nisan 14.
17. **Jesus controlled every event in His ministry in order to fulfill Scripture!**
18. This is critical to our understanding because we must believe that He left nothing to chance. Several points can be made about this truth, but one especially stands out as we consider the remarkable prophetic fulfillment of Jesus' triumphal entry. Namely, that until this day Jesus would not allow himself to be publicly

acknowledged as King. He always walked away or commanded ones to keep quiet. Why? His “hour” had not yet come.

19. But now, at his coming into Jerusalem on a donkey’s colt, 483 years to the day since the start of God’s prophetic countdown in 445 B.C. Jesus allows the crowd to hail Him as the King, and the beginning of the week of Passover!

a) John 12:13-15

20. No wonder He wept while looking over Jerusalem in Luke 9:41-42, lamenting the fact that the people did not see the salvation that had come on “this day”. “This day” which had been put in motion by God’s will according to the vision He gave Daniel. Yet, many in the time of Jesus’ incarnation were actually prepared, looking for the consolation of Israel (i.e., Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, Simeon and Anna the prophetess to name a few!). Even the well trained Magi from the “east” came looking for the long expected Messiah!

21. How about you?

a) God has told us plainly that Jesus is coming soon. Are you looking for the second coming of the Messiah?

b) Revelation 4 and 5 teach us that the Lamb is ready to take the scroll, which is the title and deed to the earth.

(1) 1 Thessalonians 4 and 5 describe the snatching away of the church, the Rapture, just before the Tribulation begins. There will be no signs preceding this event!

II. The Intervening time between Daniel's 69th and 70th week: The Church Age

A. The time period demonstrated in Daniel 9:26-27, and finalized in Daniel 12:4

1. Daniel 12:4: “But you Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go to and fro to increase in knowledge.”

B. The Mystery of the Church revealed to Paul found in Ephesians 3:2-12

1. The intervening church age was hidden from the OT prophets but has been revealed to the apostles and prophets of the Lord Jesus Christ.

a) Since Christ’s death, burial, resurrection and ascension the gospel has been preached to the Gentiles

(1) That they are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. (3:6)

2. The intervening time between the 69 and 70th week means salvation to the Gentiles in the world.

3. But God is not finished with the Jewish people. When the 70th week comes all the promises made to the Jew will be fulfilled perfectly!

a) Romans 11:23-24 teach us that then the Lord will graft back into the olive tree its natural branches!

III. The 70th week

- A. God is not done with the Jewish person. God is not done with Israel.
 - 1. God promises to restore Israel in Jeremiah 30
 - a) 30:11: "For I am with you and will save you, declares the Lord. `Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you...'"
 - 2. When the full number of the Gentiles have come in (Romans 11:25), God will once again turn His attention to Israel, and Jacob will return with a full heart of repentance and belief to God (Romans 11:26).
 - a) And then the millennium! Christ's 1,000 year reign will begin!
- B. The tribulation (the first 3 ½ years) will give way to the Great Tribulation
 - 1. It will be a terrible time of judgment unlike any that has ever come upon the world.
 - a) See Matthew 24:21
 - 2. A time of distress, chaos, tyranny and blood.
- C. But, the end of the Great Tribulation will mark the fulfillment of Daniel 9:24
 - 1. Christ will take His rightful place on the throne of David and will rule and reign in righteousness for 1,000 years.

IV. Application

- A. Are you looking forward to the end?
 - 1. Why should you be sad? Why should you be depressed?
 - 2. He has timed everything, every event in History. Today is the day of salvation! Come to Him! If He is tugging at your heart, that's the Holy Spirit saying, "Come!"
 - 3. Romans 15:4 says to you, "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."
 - 4. Jesus is coming to put an end to all sin and all the things that cause sin. All His people will be saved! Israel will be saved!
 - 5. We are saved not because we are good and merit His salvation! We are saved because God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive in Christ!
 - 6. Renew your commitment to God today by coming wholeheartedly to Christ! God is rich in mercy and invites you to come to Him today!

