

“First Steps: Beginning with the End Times”

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Scripture

Daniel 9:24-27 (KJV)

“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 thereof 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.”

Introduction

A Prophecy Update -> First Steps

Importance of Knowing Prophecy

Importance of Watching for Signs

Matthew 24:42-45

“**Be on the alert**, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. For this reason, you also must be ready; for **the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.**”

Matthew 24:36-41

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; **so will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken; and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken; and one will be left.”**

Someone will say, “Yes, but you can know the month and the year!”

Five Non-Negotiables when Discussing End Times Prophecy

Christians may differ on interpreting various aspects of End-Times prophecy. We can debate over the timing of the Rapture, the literal Millennial Kingdom, whether the Tribulation is literal.

However, **there are 5 non-negotiable facts**, in my opinion:

1. Jesus Wins

Jesus is God	(John 1:1, John 1:14)
He said He would come again	(John 14:3; Revelation 22:20)
Angels confirmed that after the Ascension	(Acts 1:11)
Paul said, “Every knee will bow”	(Philippians 2:10)
Jesus will come in Glory and in Victory	(Revelation 19:11-21)

2. God is Sovereign and His Plan is Moving Forward -> Specifically with Israel

God is Omnipotent	(Psalm 115:3; Isaiah 55:11; Isaiah 46:10)
God is Omniscient	(Psalm 147:5; John 21:17; 1 John 3:20)
God is Never Surprised	(Psalm 139:4; Jeremiah 29:11)

3. Unbelievers should be Warned by Reading Prophecy

Jesus warned several cities	(Matthew 11:20-24)
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4. Believers should be Encouraged and Reassured by Reading Prophecy

Blessed are those that Read and Hear	(Revelation 1:3)
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5. There is an Eternal Destination: Heaven or Hell

Jesus said it clearly	(Matthew 25:34;41)
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God's Prophetic Plan for the Nations

Daniel 2:31-45 -> King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

"You, O king, were looking and behold, **there was a single great statue**; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. You continued looking until a **stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them**. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Earthly Kingdoms: Babylon-> Medo-Persia -> Greece -> Rome

"This was the dream; now we will tell its interpretation before the king. "You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. **You are the head of gold.**"

"After you there will arise **another kingdom inferior to you**, then **another third kingdom of bronze**, which will rule over all the earth.

"Then there **will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron**; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces. "In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, **it will be a divided kingdom**; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. "As the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. "And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.

The Divine Kingdom

"In the days of those kings **the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed**, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but **it will itself endure forever**. Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so, the dream is true; and its interpretation is trustworthy."

Daniel 8:15-26 -> Daniel has a Vision of a Ram and a Goat

"When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it; and behold, standing before me was one who looked like a man. And I heard the voice of a man between the banks of Ulai, and he called out and said, "**Gabriel**, give this man an understanding of the vision." So, he came near to where I was standing, and when he came, I was frightened and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Son of man, **understand that the vision pertains to the time of the end.**"

Now while he was talking with me, I sank into a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me and made me stand upright. He said, "**Behold, I am going to let you know what will occur at the final period of the indignation, for it pertains to the appointed time of the end.**"

The Ram's Identity

"The ram which you saw with the two horns represents the kings of Media and Persia.

The Goat

The shaggy goat represents the kingdom of Greece, and the large horn that is between his eyes is the first king. "The broken horn and the four horns that arose in its place represent four kingdoms which will arise from his nation, although not with his power.

"**In the latter period of their rule**, When the transgressors have run their course, **a king will arise, insolent and skilled in intrigue.** "**His power will be mighty, but not by his own power**, and he will destroy to an extraordinary degree and prosper and perform his will; He will destroy mighty men and the holy people.

"And through his shrewdness He will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; And he will magnify himself in his heart, and he will destroy many while they are at ease. **He will even oppose the Prince of princes**, but he will be broken without human agency.

"The vision of the evenings and mornings which has been told is true; But keep the vision secret, for **it pertains to many days in the future.**"

Daniel 9:24-27

"**Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city**, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.

"So, you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

"Then **after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing**, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

"And **he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week**, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

The Six Events in the Decree

- 1) Finish the Transgression → "**Restrain Israel's Sin**" → **Jesus confronts the Jews**

John 15:22

"If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, **but now they have no excuse for their sin.**"

- 2) Make an End of Sin → "To Finally **Judge** the Sin" → **Jesus accuses the Jews**

John 8:44-47

"**You are of your father the devil**, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. "But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. "Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? "He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason, you do not hear them, because **you are not of God.**"

- 3) Make Atonement for Iniquity → **Jesus dies on the Cross**
- 4) Bring in Everlasting Righteousness → **Israel will once again be God's People, Forever**
- 5) Seal up the Vision → **Future Revelation comes to Fruition**
- 6) Anoint the Most Holy Place → **The Everlasting Temple comes down from Heaven**

First 3 fulfilled in Jesus's Time → Last 3 to be fulfilled at His Second Coming

"So, you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be **seven weeks** and **sixty-two weeks**; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

"Weeks" are "Sevens" → Years, in this case, not our weeks of days...

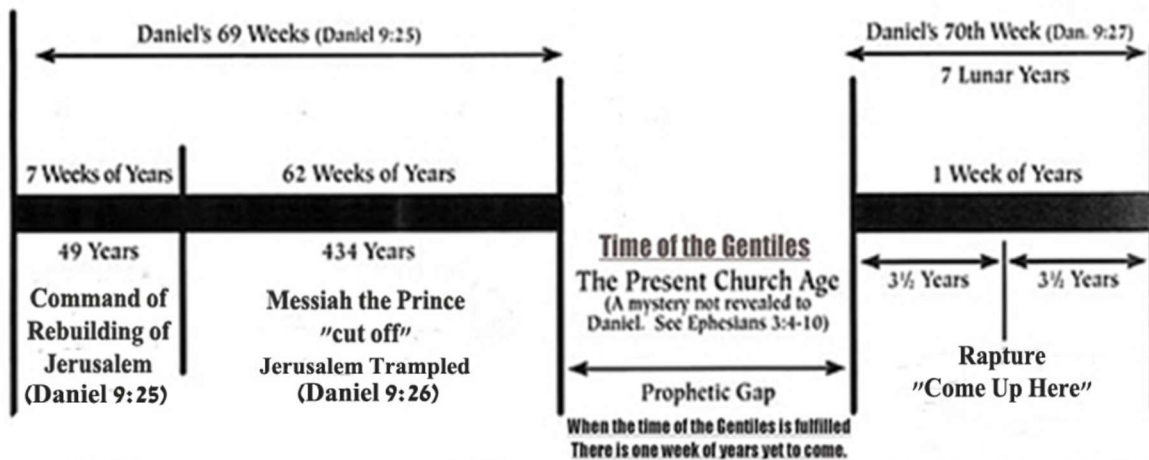
First Seven 7s (49 years) to **Restore and Rebuild Jerusalem**

Second Sixty-Two 7s (434 years) until the **Messiah is Cut Off**

483 Years total, Jesus's Crucifixion is in A.D. 30 (using 360-day years)

The time matches exactly with the Prophecy

DANIEL'S SEVENTY WEEKS (Daniel 9:24-27)



Issuing of the Decree to Return to Jerusalem by Artaxerxes (445 B.C.)

Ezra 1:1-3

"Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying: "Thus says **Cyrus king of Persia**, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him! Let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel; He is the God who is in Jerusalem."

Ezra 7:11-13

"Now this is the **copy of the decree which King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priest**, the scribe, learned in the words of the commandments of the LORD and His statutes to Israel: "Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect peace and now I have issued a decree that any of the people of Israel and their priests and the Levites in my kingdom who are willing to go to Jerusalem, may go with you."

Artaxerxes Reigns from 465 B.C. to 425 B.C.

Nehemiah 2:1-5

"It came about in the month Nisan, **in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes**, that wine was before him, and I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. So, the king said to me, "Why is your face sad though you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of heart." Then I was very much afraid. I said to the king, "Let the king live forever. Why should my face not be sad when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies desolate and its gates have been consumed by fire?" Then the king said to me, "What would you request?" So, I prayed to the God of heaven. I said to the king, "**If it please the king, and if your servant has found favor before you, send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it.**"

Messiah Cut Off and the City Destroyed

"Then **after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing**, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined."

Christ Crucified in A.D. 30 -> "Messiah will be cut off"

Jerusalem and the Temple Destroyed in A.D. 70 -> "destroy the city and the sanctuary"

Middle East Replete with Wars -> "even to the end there will be war"

Desolations are Determined -> Violations against God

Daniel's Last Week

"And **he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week**, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, **even until a complete destruction**, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

There must be a Middle East peace treaty...for one week -> a 7-year peace treaty

There must be a plan to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem...

The Temple will be rebuilt (estimates say it will take 18-months to rebuild – plans are in place)

"He" will make a firm covenant with the many – **Who is the "he" here?**

The Prince who is to come -> the AntiChrist

He will orchestrate the Peace Treaty but then turn against the Jews and commit an abomination against the Jewish religion -> **sacrifice a pig on the altar again, perhaps, like Antiochus Epiphanes II?**

Yet, God Continues to Protect Israel

History of expulsion and the Holocaust, yet in 1948: a Recognized "Nation" again

God, through the Archangel Michael, will Protect Israel

Daniel 12:1-5

"Now at that time Michael, **the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people**, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.

"**Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.**" Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. "But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase."

Israel is the Centre of the World

Ezekiel 5:5

"Thus says the Lord GOD, 'This is Jerusalem; **I have set her at the center of the nations**, with lands around her.'"

The Final Rebellion Confederacy

Ezekiel 38:1-6

"And the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the **land of Magog**, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal. **"I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out**, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them splendidly attired, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them wielding swords; Persia, Ethiopia and Put with them, all of them with shield and helmet; Gomer with all its troops; Beth-togarmah from the remote parts of the north with all its troops-- many peoples with you."

Magog / Rosh ->

Russian and the Russian Chief heads the rebellion

Meshech and Tubal ->

Western Turkey

Persia ->

Iran

Ethiopia ->

Ethiopia

Put ->	Libya
Gomer ->	Armenia
Beth-Togarmah ->	Eastern Turkey

All Nations will come against Israel...led by the people from the North

They will Attack the Unsuspecting for Profit

Ezekiel 38:10-13

"Thus says the Lord GOD, "It will come about on that day, that thoughts will come into your mind, and you will devise an evil plan, and you will say, 'I will go up against **the land of unwallled villages**. I will go against **those who are at rest, that live securely, all of them living without walls and having no bars or gates, to capture spoil and to seize plunder**, to turn your hand against the waste places which are now inhabited, and against the people who are gathered from the nations, who have acquired cattle and goods, who live at the center of the world.' "**Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish** with all its villages will say to you, 'Have you come to capture spoil? Have you assembled your company to seize plunder, to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to capture great spoil?'"

Israel will be surprised...living at rest, securely, without walls, bars or gates...

The Confederacy attacks for spoil -> vast wealth and mineral resources in Israel...

Sheba ->	Yemen
Dedan ->	Saudi Arabia
Tarshish ->	Spain?

Ezekiel 38:18-23

"It will come about on that day, when Gog comes against the land of Israel," declares the Lord GOD, "that **My fury will mount up in My anger. "In My zeal and in My blazing wrath I declare that on that day there will surely be a great earthquake in the land of Israel.** "The fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all the creeping things that creep on the earth, and all the men who are on the face of the earth will shake at My presence; the mountains also will be thrown down, the steep pathways will collapse, and every wall will fall to the ground. "I will call for a sword against him on all My mountains," declares the Lord GOD.

"**Every man's sword will be against his brother.** "With pestilence and with blood I will enter into judgment with him; and I will rain on him and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, with hailstones, fire and brimstone. "**I will magnify Myself, sanctify Myself, and make Myself known in the sight of many nations; and they will know that I am the LORD."**

All the warring armies are shaken by an earthquake and will begin to kill each other...friendly fire dooms them...

Why Does God Do This?

So that they will **KNOW** that He is the Lord...

He said He would do it a few chapters earlier...

Ezekiel 36:22-32

"Therefore, say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "**It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went.**" I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD," declares the Lord GOD, "when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight.

For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. **Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean;** I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

Moreover, **I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;** and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.**

"You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so, you will be My people, and I will be your God. Moreover, I will save you from all your uncleanness; and I will call for the grain and multiply it, and I will not bring a famine on you. I will multiply the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field, so that you will not receive again the disgrace of famine among the nations. Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and your abominations. **"I am not doing this for your sake," declares the Lord GOD."**

Israel Will Be God's People again (reversing Hosea 1:9)

Hosea 1:9 - "You are not My people and I am not your God."

- God does it for Himself -> **His Holy Name**
- Sprinkle Clean water on you...**True Redemption**
- New Heart and New Spirit -> **New Covenant in Jesus**
- Land I gave your forefathers -> **They Will Fill the Promised Land**
- Not Because they Deserve it -> **Because they are Chosen**

What Does this Future Mean for us?

God is Faithful about His Promises

Faithful to Modern Israel:

Israel's Six Day War -> June 5th to 10th 1967

<https://ffoz.org/discover/messiah-magazine/miracles-of-the-six-day-war.html>

- "We will wipe Israel off the map"
- Arabs were shouting "Death to Israel" -> over 20K Arabs perished, only 1K from Israel
- The war INCREASED the territory held by Israel, they now own all the mountains
- Stories of Arabs killing each other while Jews were in their bunkers

Daniel 12:1-3

"Now at that time Michael, **the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people**, will arise. And **there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time**; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book will be rescued.

"Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. "Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

Revelation 21-22 -> Israel is God's Chosen Future Home (Ezekiel 40-48; Isaiah 65-55)

Faithful to Us:

Romans 8 -> Nothing can separate us from Him who loves us

Hebrews 13:5-6

"He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?"

Prayer

Benediction