

Howards Corner

Thoughts on The Great Tribulation

These scriptures which are from Chapter 9 of Daniel are critical for understanding of the bible and the understanding of prophesy. This is one of many that must be read and understood to piece together what has been put together by God's word for us to know what has happened and what is to happen so we will know that God is in control, and He is bringing it all about by His plan.

The book of Daniel has been rejected by many denominations that came out of the Catholic Church or from other denominations which came out of the Catholic Church. They have rejected Daniel and do not teach it because if you believe Daniel, you will have no support for their belief of "Replacement Theology" which says the church has replaced Israel in God's plan. One of the reasons being given by these churches is that Daniel was written later because the book gives such detail that it could not be written during Daniel's life. They must have forgotten that God can and does see the future and He makes it happen according to His plan. Some more of man's thinking instead of trusting in the word and let it explain itself.

There are more scriptures in Daniel that are critical also. Chapter 2 and 7 also lay out the history of the "Age of the gentile nations" and how it will progress, and it is still in existence today but will be destroyed at Christ's return. Remember that Jesus referred to Daniel, so He believed the book of Daniel. So, man has just twisted the bible to meet their own reasonings. Therefore, the mainline denominations are so ignorant of scriptures –Daniel is not he only book left out of their teachings.

I will try to cover some of the other scriptures that are also critical at another time.

Now to the subject of The Tribulation period

The tribulation period is defined as the last 7 years of the nation Israel before the second return of Jesus the Messiah. It is mentioned in the writings of Daniel and spelled out as the missing seven years of chapter nine, or the time left after the rest of their 483 years (or seventy sevens which adds up to be 490 years) as a nation as given by the angel Gabriel. This is what he said.

Daniel Chapter 9

²⁴ "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place.

²⁵ "Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, 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. ²⁶ After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. ²⁷ He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

Let's sort out some of these scriptures.

Who was this word for?

Gabriel said there would be seventy sevens decreed for your people which are the nation of Israel and your Holy City which is Jerusalem. So, we know that the word was for Israel specifically.

What was the length of time decreed?

It is stated that there would be seventy sevens, so we need to understand seventy sevens of what-- days or months or years. It is obvious that it is not days that would end in 490 days and months would end in 490 months which would be 40.8 years. So, we are down to years which would be 490 years. These 490 years began when the decree went out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem.

There are different understandings of when this decree went out. It could have been when Cyrus issued a decree for those that wanted to go back and rebuild the city and the temple. There is another belief that in 455 B C there was a decree by Artaxerxes which would fit the time frame. There are concerns of the actual date

of Cyrus' decree because it is based on the Ptolemy calendar which we don't know about the accuracy. Ptolemy's calendar is not a part of scriptures but was a calculation of man later. It appears to me that the Cyrus decree fits the scriptures even though there is a question about the date. Remember in cases like this it is important to believe what scripture say even when we may not be able to give total evidence. Gabriel has told us what would happen and there is another 7 years left to be fulfilled.

We do know that the city and temple were rebuild in 49 weeks which is the first segment of 7 sevens then begins the 62 sevens until Jesus Christ is crucified and cut off. There is still 7 years which is the difference between the 483 years and the full 490 years. That final 7 years is a gap of time of unknown duration which was the time allotted for the church age. You must remember that bible prophecy is not always in chronological sequence and may have very long gaps of time before the final event. History helps us to sort out the meanings.

So, it is obvious that it has been 2500 + years since this writing so we can be assured that the number of years is much more than the total of 490. A lot of scripture has examples of prophesy that is talking about then current events but hidden in the words are things that were not fulfilled at that time but are intended for another future time or sometimes have double meaning. I could write on that subject for a very long time. I write that the word is veiled and is not understood by the human mind but was written in spiritual language and must be interpreted by spiritual wisdom. It is therefore essential that the Holy Spirit is in you so you can understand spiritual things.

At the end of the church age or shortly after the covenant confirmation with the anti-Christ will begin the 7 years and in the middle of the seven years the anti-Christ will set up the abomination that causes desolation and will declare himself as God. You will see this mentioned in Mathew as there was a command from Jesus for those in Jerusalem to flee from Jerusalem when this happens. This is not the fleeing that happened at the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in 70 AD but is the fleeing in the last 7 years in the middle of the seven years when the anti-Christ turns on Israel and sets up the abomination of desolation in the future temple. He also referred you back to Daniel. So, this is not only the writing in Daniel but is also spoken by Jesus to those at the tribulation time. For more read my writings on Matthew 24 and 25.

This final 7 years is to finish transgression (breaking of Law) and put an end to sin and atone for wickedness and to bring in everlasting righteousness and to seal up vision and prophesy and to anoint the most holy place.

This is then the return of Jesus Christ to complete the work He began at His first appearance to Israel. Sin will be removed from Israel and there will be no need for prophecy because it will all be fulfilled. He will then anoint the most holy place after the desolation has been removed and cleansed. He will then rule and reign for a thousand years and dwell with Israel and bring about righteousness.

The first thing to remember is this prophesy is for the nation of Israel and Jerusalem. It is not the gentile nations or the Church of Jesus Christ. As of this time we still have gentile nations, and we have the church which have ruled over the people of Israel to varying degrees since they were destroyed by Rome and sent throughout the world. The nation of Israel was removed from being a nation in 70 A D along with the temple and Jerusalem because they committed the great sin of rejecting their Messiah Jesus and were scattered into all the world.

Even though the time frame of 490 years is given to Israel it will affect the "Age of the Gentiles" because the gentile nations will be destroyed at the end of tribulation period of seven years as described in the book of Revelation at the second coming of Christ Jesus.

The nation of Israel was once again established as a nation in 1948 because of the recognition of Israel as a nation by the United Nations. This was foretold in Isaiah 66: 8. This is a major historical event for the people of Israel and word of warning to the church and to the world of gentile nations, but few really understand the importance of this event. Israel is however still to some degree under influence from the gentile nations primarily by the United Nations and by the surrounding enemy nations and do not have a temple to worship in. They have been in their new nation for 74 years (at this writing in 2022) so this is not yet the last seven years so we are waiting on another event that will start the last 7 years.

Something will trigger the start of the last 7 years for the nation Israel. It appears to be the anti-Christ confirming a covenant with the many for seven years. If the covenant is with many then it seems to be logical that it involves more than just Israel but with many nations possibly with the United Nations. It is possibly the agreement for Israel to build their temple and start sacrifices again will be the

agreement, but it is not yet clear. The anti-Christ is the “ruler to come”. This ruler’s people are the ones that destroyed the city and the sanctuary. From this it is widely believed that he will be from the Roman Empire.

The thing you must remember is that the Roman empire had two legs and ten toes (read in Daniel chapter 2 about the statue of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream). This division came about when the Roman empire was separated when Constantine moved the east kingdom to Constantinople so there are therefore an Eastern empire and a Western empire. The Roman empire (or as I call it the fourth gentile kingdom) has never been dissolved but has continued in different forms. The western church moving forward through the Catholic church and riding the back of the kings of Europe and the eastern church, were riding the backs of the rulers of the east. So, the church and the ruling government were attached so the Roman empire has never ceased to exist but not by boundaries we would be able to always see on map.

The one thing we do know is that there must be a temple operating on the Mosaic Law with sacrifices and offerings because the anti-Christ put a stop to these sacrifices and offerings in the middle of the seven-year covenant. When this happens, the covenant is broken and the abomination that causes desolation is set up in the temple. Until the end that is decreed is poured out on him. The decree is that at Jesus’ second coming Satan will be bound for a thousand year in the abyss so he cannot deceive the world for those thousand years, but the anti-Christ along with the false profit will be thrown into the lake of fire.

When this abomination is set up and he declares himself to be God this becomes the Great Tribulation which will last three- and one-half years. There has already been tremendous evil and destruction before, but it was happening to the rest of the world and not to Israel for they have been protected from those events. This is seen in revelation with the breaking of the seals. This writing is not a teaching on Revelation, so I only mention a few things here. Please read Revelation for the first seals until the middle of the seven years.

At the middle of tribulation, the anti-Christ turns then on the Nation Israel and begins to try to destroy Israel. That has been his plan all along. They will kill two thirds of Israel and one third will survive until the return of Jesus to rescue them. It has always been Israel that God is focused on in the tribulation. I believe there were 5 reasons for the tribulation period.

They are:

1- The judgement of the nations

2- The judgement of the anti-Christ and the false prophet and Satan

3- To finish the Judgement of Israel for not keeping the covenant with God and to restore the remnant with a new heart with no desire to live unrighteous before God. The remnant has been put through a fiery trial with no way out but destruction. The remnant then "look on the one they have pierced and mourn for Him as an only son". Check it out in Zachariah.

4- To set up the kingdom age with Jesus Christ as the King of Kings which will last for 1000 years, and peace will be on the earth finally and there will be no more wars and evil for Jesus Christ will rule with a rod of iron and any wrong will be crushed immediately.

5- There is another undelaying reason. God has always said that I do these things to bring Glory to my name so that the nations will know from then on that I am the Lord and God of all things, and they will give me the glory.

I will stop at this point because I want to elaborate on these five points, and it will take a while to cover all the scriptures that explain these points. I have concluded that too much covered at one time makes it hard for people to stay focused. So, I will cover the five points at another time.

I pray that this starts to convince you that it is imperative that you believe the scriptures and not what others have told you or for that matter what the churches have told you because many mistakes have been made by church leaders of the past and in most denominations the errors have not been corrected even today.

I pray that the Lord open your mind and spirit to receive new understanding.

With Love

Howard

