

Pentwater Bible Church

Revelation Message 18

December 24, 2023



The Vision of the White Horse by Philip J. De Loutherbourg Cir 1798

Daniel E. Woodhead – Pastor Teacher

Pentwater Bible Church

Revelation Message Eighteen

THE TRIBULATION BEGINS

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THE FIRST SEAL:

Revelation 6:1

¹And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, Come. ²And I saw, and behold, a white horse, and he that sat thereon had a bow; and there was given unto him a crown: and he came forth conquering, and to conquer (KJV).

The apostle John as speaking in this verse stating what he is seeing in God's Throne Room. The Lamb (Jesus) has taken the scroll and opens the first seal. One of the four living creatures, which are the Cherubim, says with a very loud voice COME! The word come is the Greek word *erchomai*; Strong's # 2064 and can mean either to come or go. It is signifying the cherubim's command to the horse to either come forth from where it is onto the world scene or to go forth into the world scene. Remember the scene is in heaven so the horse is in heaven but the event that gets activated on earth in time and space is different than what the heavenly scene depicts.

John then describes what he sees as a white horse departing with a rider who receives a crown and comes forth conquering, present tense and to conquer future tense. The present tense shows us his nature as a conqueror and his program, to conquer. Both of these are important to observe since we will examine who this individual is and what he is going to do. This is the coming world leader we call the Antichrist. This first seal brings him forth to lead and conquer the earth.

The bow is indicative of his armaments. The crown, which he receives, is a symbol of victory. It is the Greek word *stephanos*, Strong's # 4735 which is one that is given to a victor that has prevailed in some event such as in sports or war. This is not the diadema, which is indicative of deity or natural ruling authority. This is Strong's # 1238 and always refers to the crown that belongs to one who not earned but always had the title. One can attribute this to kings and queens who receive their crowns (diadema) and the Lord Jesus who has the diadema. (Revelation 19) This is also the name of the crown that Satan has as the "false" father in the unholy trinity. Satan claims kingship over our lives and as the ruling authority of the earth.

Just as God the Father, God the Son and the Holy Spirit represent the Holy Trinity, Satan, The Antichrist and the False Prophet represent the unholy trinity (Revelation 13). Satan should be viewed as the unholy father, the Antichrist as the unholy son and the false prophet as the unholy spirit. The Antichrist receives his sadistic supernatural power (crown) from Satan. Just as the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to call men to worship Christ the false prophet will have as his mission to call men to worship the Antichrist.

NAMES OF THE ANTICHRIST:

Scripture provides at least eleven names or descriptive terms for the one commonly called antichrist. Of the eleven in the following list six are found in the Old Testament and five are in the New Testament. He will be the epitome of a counterfeit and the most powerfully persuasive dictator the world has ever seen.

1. The Seed of Satan-Genesis 3:15
2. The Little Horn-Daniel 7:8
3. The King of Fierce Countenance- Daniel 8:23
4. The Prince That Shall Come-Daniel 9:26
5. The Desolator-Daniel 9:27
6. The Willful King-Daniel 11:36
7. The Man of Sin-II Thessalonians 2:3
8. The Son of Perdition-II Thessalonians 2:3
9. The Lawless One-II Thessalonians 2:8
10. The Antichrist- I John 2:22
11. The Beast-Revelation-Revelation 11:7

It is interesting to note that Paul gives three of the names in one chapter of one book out of all his writings. Paul was given special insight by Christ to communicate to us. The primary reason that the title Antichrist is so prevalent is that it is the most descriptive of the nature of his role. He will be against the Messiah.

THE ORIGIN OF THE ANTICHRIST:

Since he is a counterfeit Christ, he will have a natural birth and a supernatural birth.

The natural origin of Christ is that He was a product of a Jewish woman. The supernatural origin was the miraculous virgin birth by means of the power of the Holy Spirit. The result was the God-Man that we worship as Jesus of Nazareth that we know as the Messiah or Christ.

The Antichrist will not be a Jew. There are no passages that declare him as Jewish.

The Antichrist Will Be a Gentile:

The Scriptures teach his Gentile origin in three different ways.

Biblical Typology

Biblical Imagery

Nature of the Times of the Gentiles.

The closest Biblical typology we have for the Antichrist is Antiochus Epiphanies, a Gentile. In term of biblical imagery, we see him rising out of the “sea.” (Revelation 13:1-10; Revelation 17:15) The sea is used symbolically of Gentile nations. The strongest key to his nationality is found in the Times of the Gentiles. It is outside (contrary to) the narrative of the Times of the Gentiles that a Jew would head up the final world throne. This individual must be a Gentile.

HE WILL BE OF ROMAN ORIGIN:

Daniel 9:26–27

²⁶And after the threescore and two weeks shall the anointed one be cut off, and shall have nothing; 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 even unto the end shall be war; desolations are determined. ²⁷And he shall make a firm covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation

to cease; and upon the wing of abominations shall come one that maketh desolate; and even unto the full end, and that determined, shall wrath be poured out upon the desolate (ASV, 1901).

The person that makes the seven-year covenant with Israel is the Antichrist. Hebrew grammar dictates that the nearest antecedent to the he (a third masculine singular) is the prince that shall come. Verse 26 lets us know that the prince that shall come is the same nationality of the people who will destroy the city and the Sanctuary. (Written cir. 520 B.C.) So future from then is the Roman invasion of Jerusalem by Titus Vespasian in A.D. 70. The Antichrist is a Gentile of Roman origin. The proper logical syllogism then would be:

1. The he who makes a covenant and the prince that shall come are the same person.
2. They both have a reference to the Antichrist
3. The Antichrist is of the same nationality as the people who destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple.
4. The Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in A.D. 70.
5. The Antichrist then will be of Roman origin.

HIS SUPERNATURAL ORIGIN:

The supernatural origin of Antichrist is by means of a counterfeit virgin conception. The supernatural origin is found in Genesis 3:15.

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel (ASV, 1901).

This verse gives the first prophecy of the coming of the Messiah. It also speaks to the coming of Antichrist. There are two pairs listed here.

Enmity between Satan and the woman

The second pair is the seeds of the Woman and the seed of Satan.

The first satanic enmity with woman is shown in Genesis six where demons intermarry with human women attempting to stop the Messiah from coming. A worldwide flood stopped this attempt. It is important to note though that the second pair is the enmity between Satan's seed and the woman's seed. Women do not have the seed for procreation, men do. However, since Jesus was born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14) the expression her seed represents a miraculous conception.

The reference in this verse to Satan's seed implies a supernatural, miraculous conception too. From this passage then it can be deduced that Satan will someday impregnate a Roman woman who will give birth to Satan's seed who is going to be the Antichrist. The woman might not be a virgin because Scripture does not affirm this but he will be conceived through supernatural means. Consider II Thessalonians 2:8-9.

II Thessalonians 2:8-9

⁸And then shall be revealed the lawless one, whom the Lord Jesus shall slay with the breath of his mouth, and bring to nought by the manifestation of his coming; ⁹[even

he], whose coming is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders (KJV).

The Greek word translated working is *energeo*, which means to energize. So, then the coming of Antichrist will be brought about by the energizing of Satan. The counterfeit Son of the unholy Trinity will be brought about by a counterfeit virgin conception.

A time is coming when the events of Genesis six will be repeated. The fallen anointed Cherub Satan will impregnate a Roman woman to give birth to Satan's son. The product of this conception will be a counterfeit god-man.

THE CHARACTER AND THE RISE OF THE ANTICHRIST:

The Antichrist will have access to the satanic and demonic realm. He will accept the offer of Satan that Jesus refused (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:1-13; Luke 4:1-13; Genesis 3:6; 1 John 2:16). When he accepts Satan's offer of all the kingdoms of the world it will mark the beginning of his rise to political power and world domination (Daniel 11:38-39; Revelation 13:2). The Church may be here to see his rise. We do not know when the rapture will occur. It can happen anytime, before the Tribulation starts and that is sometime before the signing of the seven-year covenant with Israel. The rise to power is described in two passages. The first is Daniel 8:23-25)

Daniel 8:23–25

²³And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. ²⁴And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper and do his pleasure; and he shall destroy the mighty ones and the holy people. ²⁵And through his policy he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and in their security shall he destroy many: he shall also stand up against the prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand (ASV, 1901).

The king of fierce countenance is Antichrist and he will be able to understand dark sentences or the occult. He will have Satan behind him and this is the occult. His power will be mighty but not by himself, that is by Satan. He will have access to a tremendous amount of power from Satan. He will seek to destroy the Holy People (the Jews) with his supernatural power. It will be characterized by craftiness and deceit. This will be just like Adolph Hitler. He will lull the world into a false sense of security. He will for a time prosper and be successful in his goals. Then he shall magnify himself in his heart and this will lead to his declaration of his deity. (II Thessalonians 2:3-4; Revelation 13:3-9) He will stand against the prince of princes, the Messiah and then truly he will be ANTI-CHRIST.

The second passage is Daniel 11:36-39.

Daniel 11:36–39

³⁶And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods; and he shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished; for that which is determined shall be done. ³⁷Neither shall he regard the gods of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall magnify himself above all. ³⁸But in

*his place shall he honor the god of fortresses; and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honor with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.
39And he shall deal with the strongest fortresses by the help of a foreign god: whosoever acknowledgeth him he will increase with glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for a price (ASV, 1901).*

Daniel here describes him as a willful king, characterized by self-exultation above all men and self-deification by magnifying himself above even God. By deifying himself he will put himself above all humanity. He won't desire the love of women and therefore be inhuman toward women. The enmity of Satan against womanhood continues through Satan's seed. He will be under the total control of Satan. He will honor the god of fortresses, which is Satan. His policy will be "might makes right." Then will the help of this foreign god, Satan he will take over the strongest defenses in the world appearing invulnerable. Those who give over themselves to his authority will be given status and authority in his kingdom. (Revelation 13:17-18; 666) He will divide territory he has conquered among those who will be loyal to him and confess him to be god.

One of his capabilities will be superb oratory skill while misleading the masses. Consider the following admonitions from the apostle Peter and the Lord's brother Jude regarding false teachers and how they persuade.

II Peter 2:18

For, uttering great swelling [words] of vanity, they entice in the lusts of the flesh, by lasciviousness, those who are just escaping from them that live in error (KJV);

Jude 1:16

These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their lusts (and their mouth speaketh great swelling [words]), showing respect of persons for the sake of advantage (KJV).

This will be his chief satanic enablement. He will be able to sway the masses with "great swelling words." Ian Kershaw in his biography of Adolph Hitler provided the following quote of his appraisal of Hitler's oratory skills.

"Hitler's frequently demonstrated diffidence and unease in dealings with individuals contrasted diametrically with his self-confident mastery in exploiting the emotions of his listeners in the theatrical setting of a major speech. He needed the orgasmic excitement which only the ecstatic masses could give him." Hitler himself quipped that "I must have a crowd to speak. In a small intimate circle, I never know what to say." He used "great swelling words."

Hitler is an example of the power the Antichrist will have to sway the masses and convince the world that his antichrist message is to be followed. Hitler possessed a manner of speaking to large masses of people that absolutely captured their imaginations and stimulated within them a tremendously powerful emotion. "When Hitler was elated, his normal halting awkward style was transformed into a magical flow of words, delivered with spellbinding effect. On these occasions it was as though Hitler himself was listening to the extraneous intelligence, which had temporarily, taken over his soul ... The strange transformation ... would later be described by others who saw this Luciferic possession take place yet more concretely as Hitler rose step by step to the very pinnacle of power. 'Listen to Hitler and one suddenly has a vision of one who will lead mankind to glory', Gregor Strasser, a defected Nazi, recounted twenty years later. A light

appears in a dark window. A gentleman with a comic mustache turns into an Archangel. Then the Archangel flies away and there is Hitler sitting down bathed in sweat with glassy eyes.

In the book, *Satan and the Swastika*, Francis King says: " Hitler's public appearances, particularly those associated with the Nazi Party's Nuremberg rallies, were excellent examples of this sort of magical ceremony. The fanfares, military marches, and Wagnerian music, all emphasized the idea of German military glory. The mass swastika banners in black, white and red, filled the consciousness of the participants in the rally with national socialist ideology. The ballet-like precision of the movement of the uniformed party members, all acting in unison, evoked from the unconscious, principles of war and violence. These were used by the ancients and symbolized as Mars (an occultic symbol). And the prime ritual of the rallies - Hitler clasping to other banners, the 'blood banner' carried in the Munich Putsch of 1923 - was a quasi-magical ceremony designed to link up with minds of living Nazis with the archetypal images symbolized by the dead national socialist heroes of the past. The religio-magical aspects of the rallies were emphasized by the fact that their high points were reached after dusk and took place in a 'Cathedral of Light' - an open space surrounded by pillars of light coming from electric searchlights pointed upwards to the sky. If a modern ritual magician of the utmost expertise had designed a ritual intended to 'invoke Mars' he could not have come up with anything more effective than the ceremonies used at Nuremberg, which, were all designed by master architect Albert Speer.

Author Dusty Sklar, has pointed out that Hitler's suicide happened at the night of April 30/May 1, 1945 which is Walpurgis Night, a pagan spring festival, the narrator continues: "With Hitler gone, it was as if a spell had been broken". Then Joachim von Ribbentrop's infamous statement of his continued subservience to Hitler at the Nuremberg Trials ("Even with all I know, if in this cell Hitler should come to me and say 'Do this!', I would still do it.") is taken as final evidence of Hitler's "occult power".

So, the Antichrist will be Satan -controlled and Satan energized who will set out to conquer the world. The first seal demonstrates the beginning of his conquest. He does not gain full control until the middle of the Great Tribulation. This then is the first of the four horsemen of the apocalypse.

THE FUTURE COVENANT WITH ANTICHRIST

While Daniel 9:27 presents the covenant that begins the Great Tribulation from man's perspective, Isaiah 28:14–23 views the covenant from God's perspective.

Isaiah 28:14-15

¹⁴Wherefore hear the word of Jehovah, ye scoffers, that rule this people that is in Jerusalem: ¹⁵Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us; for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves (ASV, 1901)

Verse 14 reveals God's viewpoint of "the many" who enter the covenant, He considers them "scoffers," or mockers rather than serious leaders. Verse 15 provides God's viewpoint of them and of the covenant itself. It is obvious why God calls the leaders "scoffers." It is because the leaders of Israel will enter into this covenant in order to obtain security and to escape the "overflowing scourge." They know who the Antichrist is, but think this covenant will make them immune from what is coming on the world. The figure of a flood, used symbolically here,

represents a military invasion. Hence, the leaders of Israel will believe that by entering the covenant, they will be protected from any invasion and believe the Antichrist's lies. However, God declares that this is not a covenant of life, but a "*covenant with death*." It is not a covenant of heaven, but a covenant of hell. Rather than gaining security, they will receive a large measure of insecurity.

The beginning of the Great Tribulation starts with the signing of a seven-year covenant between "the Antichrist," the future world leader, and the Jewish nation. This prophecy has been called the backbone of Bible prophecy because it carves a 490-year period within the "Times of the Gentiles" and refers to a segment of the time when Jerusalem will be dominated by Gentile forces. The passage is Daniel 9:24-27 is connected to Isaiah 28:14-22. The passage given by the angel Gabriel to Daniel provides some clarity regarding the length of various stages of Jewish history, and those leading up to the signing of the seven-year covenant between the Jewish nation and the Antichrist:

Daniel 9:24–27

²⁴Seventy weeks are decreed upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy. ²⁵Know therefore and discern, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the anointed one, the prince, shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: it shall be built again, with street and moat, even in troublous times. ²⁶And after the threescore and two weeks shall the anointed one be cut off, and shall have nothing: 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 even unto the end shall be war; desolations are determined. ²⁷And he shall make a firm covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease; and upon the wing of abominations shall come one that maketh desolate; and even unto the full end, and that determined, shall wrath be poured out upon the desolate (ASV, 1901).

Daniel has been reading the book of Jeremiah as well as the book of Isaiah. He sees that the length of the Babylonian captivity is going to be only seventy years, and is due to expire. So, he starts thinking, mistakenly, that the long-awaited Messianic kingdom will follow soon. Part of Daniel's prayer shows he knows that Israel has to confess her national sins before the Messiah is going to come to set up His kingdom. Following the prayer, the angel Gabriel comes to make a correction to Daniel's assumption about when the kingdom would begin. Gabriel tells Daniel that the kingdom is going to be set up after this concept he introduces called, "the Seventy-Sevens."

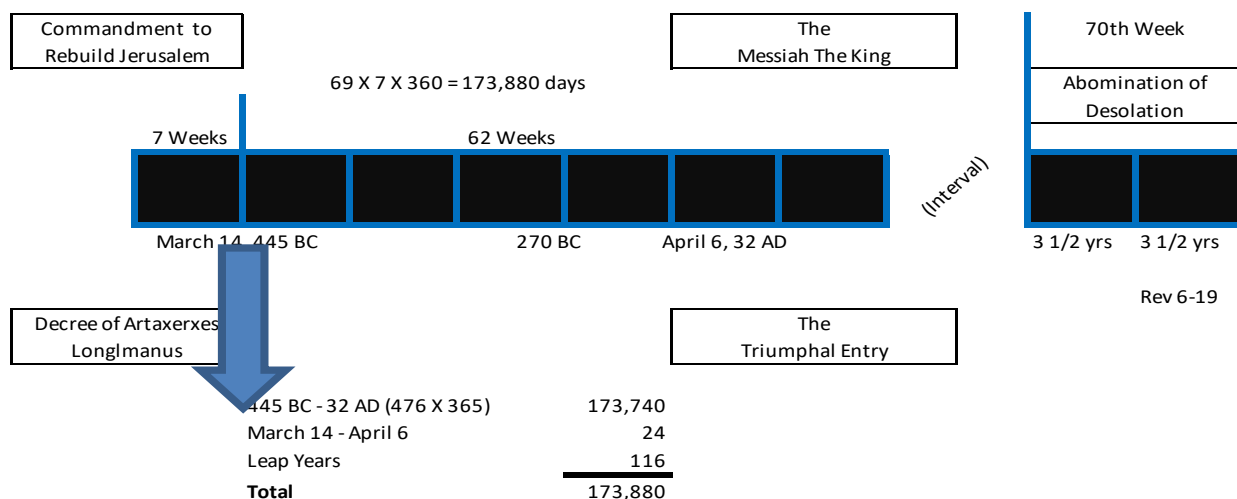
In verse 24, the English word translated as "*weeks*" in Hebrew is *shavuim* (Strong's H7620). The English translators translated it as "*weeks*," possibly because a week has seven days. It is a mistranslation. It should be translated as "*seventy-sevens*," not "*seventy weeks*." *Shavuim* refers to "seven of something," much like we refer to a "*few*" as referring to 3 of something. So, in this passage it refers to 490 years. The purpose of the 490 years is to accomplish six things:

1. To Finish the Transgression. The first purpose of the 490 years is to bring the Jewish people's sin, their "transgression", under control so that they will no longer reject their Messiah. In the New Testament Paul tells us this same thing in Romans 11:26.

2. To Make an End of Sins. The second purpose of the 490 years is to make an end of sins (in the plural), which means to prevent the Jews from sinning or “missing the mark” in their daily life.
3. To Make Reconciliation for Iniquity. This third purpose called “reconciliation” here actually means “atonement” in the Hebrew language (Strong’s H3722). This is the means by which the sinning will stop. So, this program of the Seventy-Sevens will remove the national sin of rejecting the Messiah, stop their daily sinning, and “turn off” the sin nature of the Jews so they are not even inclined to sin.
4. To Bring in an Age of Righteousness. The fourth purpose of these seventy-sevens is to bring in the Kingdom age, which is what the Hebrew word translated as “everlasting” (H5769) means. Other Old Testament passages that give us this same information are Isaiah 1:26; 11:2-5; 32:17; Jeremiah 23:5-6; and 33:15-18. Daniel thought it would happen right away. But Gabriel corrected him and told him it will be another 490 years, and this gives a starting point from which to start counting the years. The beginning point is not right after the end of the seventy years of captivity. It will actually occur after seventy sevens of years or 490 years.
5. To Cause a Cessation of Prophecy. This particular issue addresses the final fulfillment of both oral and written prophecy. To cause a cessation of prophecy actually means to stop the oral prophecies, such as those of Elijah or Elisha, and the written prophecies, such as those of Isaiah and Jeremiah. The Bible is “a closed” canon, so to speak, and this is what it addressed to here. There will not be any more prophetic writings in the Bible.
6. To Anoint the Most Holy Place. This final purpose of the seventy-sevens is to anoint a most Holy Place. This will take place in the fourth temple or the Temple of the Messianic Kingdom, which will be built by the Lord Himself. It will be the Millennial Temple that will last for 1,000 years.

The following chart shows a time line that begins on March 14, 445 B.C. when the command given to rebuild Jerusalem came from Artaxerxes Longimanus.

The Seventy Weeks of Daniel 9



Source: Daniel E. Woodhead

We see where the first seven-week period of 49 years elapses. The first sub-division begins with Nehemiah returning to Jerusalem to rebuild the city in very difficult times as the book of Nehemiah recounts the events. It took forty-nine years to finish, or one “seven”. The second subdivision immediately begins after the first seven ends. There is no particular sign for the second sub-division to begin or to start. There is no break between them.

Adding the first seven “sevens” (49 years) to the next segment of sixty-two “sevens” (434 years) give us a total of 483 years that will elapse from the decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus to the coming of Messiah the Prince. We remember in the gospels that Jesus would not allow the population of Jerusalem to declare Him the Mashiach Nagid, the Messiah the Prince, or the Messiah the King until the day we call “Palm Sunday.” Every time they got close to Him to praise Him, He left, or disappeared. He could not let them do that for He knew that the title of King or Prince could only be used on a specific day.

This segment of 62 weeks runs to April 6, 32 A.D. That is the date Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a colt on Palm Sunday, also called “His Triumphal Entry”. The people were praising Him and singing Hosanna, saying, “*Blessed [be] the King that cometh in the name of the Lord.*” The prophecy is very exact. It works out to be 173,880 days. So, the first 483 years of the total 490 years came to an end with the first coming of the Messiah.

There is a break in time between the 69th and 70th week. We are not told how long this break period will last. Prior to the break in time, the second subdivision finishes up with the Messiah’s first coming and the interlude of time begins. At the end of this interlude, the last 7 years or the 70th “sevens” will have a recognizable starting point. This last subdivision begins with the signing of a covenant between the Antichrist (called “the prince” in Daniel 9:26) and the Jews. It is the signing of that covenant that ends the interlude and begins the 7-year Great Tribulation. The church is born between 69th and the 70th sevens.

THE COVENANT WITH THE ANTICHRIST- THE STARTING POINT FOR THE 70TH WEEK.

In Daniel 9:27, the covenant is stated to be with “*the many,*” not with just “many.” This is the leadership of Israel who will be empowered to sign this covenant. The covenant is being made for the seven years. At that time, the leaders of Israel do not realize that it will only be for seven years, which is the length of the Great Tribulation.

Daniel 9:27

²⁷And he shall make a firm covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease; and upon the wing of abominations shall come one that maketh desolate; and even unto the full end, and that determined, shall wrath be poured out upon the desolate (ASV, 1901).

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Verse 16 speaks of who refuse to enter into the covenant:

Isaiah 28:16

¹⁶Therefore thus says the Lord Jehovah, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner-stone of sure foundation: he that believes shall not be in haste (ASV, 1901).

From this verse God is saying that He knows that there will be a segment of Jews, as there were in Daniel 9:27, who will refuse to have anything to do with this covenant. They will not enter into it quickly, nor identify themselves with it. They are probably pressured by the other leaders to quickly sign this agreement. They are in direct contrast with the nobles who are relying on insecure refuge and a false ground of confidence. The Lord lets them know who is the one sure rock, or "*stone*," on which complete dependence may be placed. He declares that Jehovah has laid in Zion "*a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner-stone of sure foundation*" already. Jesus is "*a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation*." The imagery is drawn from the practice of Oriental kings, and even Solomon, who used foundation-stones of enormous size and weight at the corners of buildings. Some of those uncovered at the corners of Solomon's temple and Herod's extension are more than thirty-eight feet long, and weigh over a hundred tons. But the reference is not to a simple stone of the temple as Israel's true refuge. Rather, Jesus Himself is the "*stone*." This is also the reference to Christ by the writers of the New Testament, and appropriately describes Christ's efficacy (Romans 9:33; Ephesians 2:20; I Peter 2:6-8).

Then, in verses 17-22, the same three results are found as in Daniel 9:27. First, in verses 17-18, the covenant is broken followed by the military invasions they hoped to escape:

Isaiah 28:17-18

¹⁷And I will make justice the line, and righteousness the plummet; and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding-place. And your covenant with death shall be annulled, ¹⁸and your agreement with Sheol shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it (ASV, 1901).

Plus, in verses 19-20, massive grief will fall upon the Jewish people:

Isaiah 28:19–20

¹⁹As often as it passes through, it shall take you; for morning by morning shall it pass through, by day and by night: and it shall be nought but terror to understand the message. ²⁰For the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it; and the covering narrower than that he can wrap himself in it (ASV, 1901).

Rather than having security, they will have insecurity. This insecurity is pictured as tremendous mortification, or humiliation and shame, and is illustrated in two ways. First, it is like a man trying to stretch himself out on a bed that is too short for him. Second, it is like a man trying to wrap himself up in a blanket to protect himself from the cold, but the blanket is too small to cover all of his body. In place of comfort, there will be discomfort. In place of security there will be insecurity.

The third result is the wrath of God, emphasized in verses 21–22:

Isaiah 28:21–22

²¹For Jehovah will rise up as in mount Perazim, he will be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon; that he may do his work, his strange work, and bring to pass the act, his strange act. ²²Now therefore be ye not scoffers, lest your bonds be made strong; for a decree of destruction have I heard from the Lord, Jehovah of hosts, upon the whole earth (ASV, 1901).

In verse 21, the Lord names two geographical sites where His might was evident in the battles King David fought there. Mount Perazim is mentioned in Isaiah 28:21, apparently near “Baal-Perazim, the “Baal of Breaches, where David defeated the Philistines. From the context of II Samuel 5:20, this battleground was evidently located in the Valley of Rephaim, southwest of Jerusalem” (Elwell & Beitzel, “Perazim, Mount,” 1988, 1641). “This victory is connected with another over the same nation in the valley of Gibeon (I Chronicles 14:13–16). Now, however, God was to be on the side of the enemies of His people, who were to suffer as the Philistines had suffered in the olden times.

Two of the Old Testament phrases for the Great Tribulation are given in verse 21, and they are “*his strange work*” and “*his strange act.*” This punishment of His own people by the sword of foreigners was “*strange work*” on God’s part, meaning a strange act. But it was their strange conduct which caused God’s strange action. They had become, as it were, Philistines” (Spence-Jones, 1910, 450-451). These two phrases are unusual because of the latter phrase in verse 22, “*for a decree of destruction have I heard from the Lord, Jehovah of hosts, upon the whole earth.*” This decree is issued in heaven because of the covenant that is signed on earth. It is “*strange*” in that it calls for the destruction of the whole earth. This decree of destruction is the same as the seven-sealed scroll of Revelation chapter five, which the Lord Jesus opens one seal at a time in chapter six. In Revelation chapter six, there is massive destruction of the earth causing the death of nearly two billion people with the breaking of these seals. But this decree of destruction will be issued only when the covenant is signed. So then, the same point made in Daniel 9:27 is made by Isaiah. The Great Tribulation begins with the signing of the seven-year covenant between the leaders of Israel and the Antichrist. Once that covenant is signed, the Great Tribulation begins, and a decree of destruction is issued by God Himself. One can only imagine Isaiah’s thoughts as the Lord revealed these far future events to him. All because Jesus opens the scroll with seal #1!

NEXT WEEK: REVELATION MSG. XIX

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

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