

The Time of Jacob's Trouble
Jeremiah 30:1-7 / Revelation 5-16
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There are major prophecies yet to be fulfilled regarding God's judgments.

I. Jeremiah is commanded to compile the oracles God has pronounced to encourage Israel and Judah. (v. 1-3)

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)

II. But God warns: the time of Jacob's trouble (the 7 year tribulation period) will be unprecedented in human history. (v. 4-7)

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.

"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. (Matthew 24:3-13)

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14)

"Behold, I am coming soon!" (Revelation 22:12a)

"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

"Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'" (Mark 13:32-37).

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore, encourage one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)

III. The Church has not replaced Israel in God's program, Israel has been set aside for a period of time.

I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, and in this way all Israel will be saved. (Romans 11:24-25)

They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—*Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.* (1 Thessalonians 1:9b-10)

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:9)

1. “to finish the transgression” lit. “the rebellion”

A Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob,’ declares the Lord. (Isaiah 59:20)

2. “to make an end of sin”

...and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, ‘The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob. This is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.’ (Rom. 11:26-27)

3. “to make atonement for iniquity”

“...they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son.” (Zechariah 12:10b)

“‘for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,’ declares the Lord, ‘for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.’ (Jeremiah 31:34b)

- a. The provision for Israel's atonement was made at Christ's first advent.
- b. The application of the atonement will be made at Christ's second advent.

4. “to bring in everlasting righteousness”

We will look more closely at this purpose next week.

5. “to seal up vision and prophecy

“In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is the name by which she will be called: the Lord is our righteousness.” (Jeremiah 33:16)

6. “and to anoint the most holy place.”

“As for you, son of man, describe the temple to the house of Israel . . . its entire area on the top of the mountain all around shall be most holy.” (Ezek. 43:10a, 12b)

IV. The prophecy of Daniel 9 confirms the details and timeline of Jacob’s trouble. (Daniel 9:25-27)

Seven sevens is 49 years during which the city of Jerusalem was rebuilt during Nehemiah’s time starting on March 5, 444 BC with the decree of Artaxerxes.

Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. (Nehemiah 4:17-18)

The 483 years (the total of 69 sevens) discussed here is, in fact, the very day of Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem March 30, 33 AD when He publicly presented Himself to the people as their Messiah just as prophesied.