

The Middle East: Prophecy Unfolding

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Bible Text: Daniel 9:24-27

Preached on: Sunday, May 15, 2011

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Take your Bibles and turn to Daniel, Daniel chapter nine verse 24.

And, by the way, on our website that is www.SermonAudio.com if you will put a right slash after that and type in centralbaptist, all of that one word together, you will come to the website that is just strictly Central Baptist and sermons that have taken place right here and either that our or radio broadcast and there are over 200 sermons on the book of Daniel from our radio broadcast which is a 15 minute Monday through Friday broadcast. And so you want to look particularly this passage in a little more depth, you can go that direction and find it.

Daniel chapter nine verse 24 through verse 27.

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.¹

Now shall we pray?

¹ Daniel 9:24-27.

Father, help us to rightly divide your Word. We don't want to mislead anyone in any way. And I pray, Father, that if there is one in this auditorium today who does not know that if they died today that heaven is their home, I pray that today would be the day that they would receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their almighty God and Savior. We ask this in Jesus Christ's precious and holy name. Amen.

We can only look at modern events through the microscope of scriptural truth concerning prophecy. If we look at events, be it Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Libya and what have you, we look at those present events as to what they mean or do not mean to us as a Christian according to the Word of God.

Our text tells of 70 weeks. These are actually 70 weeks of years, each day standing for a year. We find that he said seven weeks followed by 60 and two weeks which make 69 weeks. When the 69 weeks started was with Artaxerxes when he made the decree to rebuild Jerusalem.

At the end of the 69 weeks we are told two things would happen. One, Messiah would be cut off, that is, the Lord Jesus Christ. And, secondly, Jerusalem would fall. And the destruction of Jerusalem took place, a complete destruction under the Roman general Titus in AD 70.

Then there is one week or seven years that are left. The book of Jeremiah has referred to those seven years as the time of Jacob's trouble. Jesus Christ referred to it as tribulation. Either way we see that there is a coming seven year period upon this earth. The 70th week has not happened, but it will. And it will begin with an event. And that event is the confirming of a covenant with Israel by the antichrist.

Now what the world calls this one, I do not know. He is a world leader. He leads one of the European nations, one of those nations under the old Roman Empire.

Some have asked me do I believe it is the pope? No, I do not believe it is the pope, but I believe there is a strong possibility the leader of Israel, I mean of Italy could very well be the guy that is the leader, but nonetheless, he is a leader, a political and military leader. How they will refer to him I don't know. The Bible from heaven's view calls him a beast, son of perdition and antichrist.

Nonetheless, we view what is happening today in light of Bible prophecies. First, we must know about Israel and the beginning of the tribulation. At the beginning of that Tribulation there will be a coalition of nations that come against Israel. We find that in Ezekiel chapter 38 verses two through six where it says:

Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them

clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.²

Now in that passage in Ezekiel 38 Gog is the Russian leader. Magog is the land of Russia. Now it is interesting. Back in 1909 C I Scofield came out with what we call the Scofield Bible. He identified Russia as Gog, the land of Magog. They laughed him to scorn. They had just been defeated by a third rate power called Japan. And that could never be, they said. Now today there is no doubt. And Scofield came to that just by searching Scripture and knowing just by archaeology and other things this was the place.

Meschech is Moscow. Tubal is Tiboss. Ethiopia is Ethiopia. Libya is Libya. Persia is made up of old Iraq and Iran and even parts of northern Turkey could be included there. Togarmah is Turkey. Gomer is Germany. Both Germany and Turkey, it is mentioned, that they are... they are bringing their bands with them, of which we will see more a little bit later.

Now I want to say that already these nations are lining up one with another through their various agreements and treaties. Recently, the UN security council resolution number 1973 authorized the use of force in Libya on March the 17th, 2011. And, of course, we see that daily in our news about what is going on in Libya.

Germany and Russia both abstained that day from voting. Since then, Russia has condemned the attack of Libya in the strongest terms. When Germany, who is supposed to have strong ties with Israel also abstained, Benjamin Netanyahu, the prime minister of Israel contacted the German chancellor Merkel and expressed his disappointment in their abstention.

In response Merkel said, "How dare you? You are the one that has disappointed us. You haven't made a single step to advance peace," which, by the way, is a lie.

This conversation was confirmed by Israeli and German officials which reveals a deep conceptual rift between Berlin and Jerusalem.

Russia has veto power on the UN security council. When this resolution was brought up they could have vetoed it and there would be no fighting going on right now in Libya. They could have torpedoed the intervention right then. But Russia has a great interest in seeing the West and particularly the United States involved in yet another Mideast conflict. The ongoing conflict in the Arab world causes a jump in energy prices for one. Russia is energy rich. And so it helps her.

During Kaddafi's last eight years, Libya has become a reliable and stable energy exporter. As a matter of fact, it is very strong to Italy.

² Ezekiel 38:2-6.

The state of instability in Libya eliminates oil and natural gas alternatives giving Russia a greater share in Europe. It affects Italy in particular.

Libya, after the European invasion that has taken place now, is more inclined—although they were already inclined with agreements with Russia—to follow Russia, Iran and support her more strongly than ever.

In our sermon back in February a 3500 hundred year old prophecy coming true in which we spoke of oil and gas being discovered in Israel which they planned to get started on. It is one of the largest ones in the world. We also find that they have a shale oil and that shale oil can produce as much as 55,000 barrels a day when it is up and running and they plan to start that by the end of 2011 in Israel which would open a door for Israel to become one of the great oil and gas suppliers and that would cut into the Russian coalition, into their buyers as well as into the prices.

At that point Italy and some of those coastal nations could forget about Libya, the Russian coalition and do business with Israel which can produce at a much less price per barrel of oil as well as for the natural gas.

Now why would Germany lock up with Russia? Why would she want to go with them? She is part of the European common market. She is part of those that want to have their democracy and a chance to have a capitalistic type of a society.

Well, the fact is she is land locked. Britain's navy is too great for her to counter. So she has begun to build an influence in central and eastern Europe. Those nations in central and eastern Europe would be able to assist her, that is Germany, as one of their bands against Israel when they come down against Israel at the beginning of the Tribulation period.

Why? Because Israel's being good to these other nations affects Germany's and eastern Europe's economy as well and they begin to lose.

Germany is presently working on Poland and the Czech Republic forming a strong trade alliance with them so that it is not totally Russian domination. And yet Germany maintains good relations with Russia.

That is why Russia did not veto the resolution. As long as the USA is involved in three fronts—Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya—then the US plans for central and eastern Europe is on hold. And Russia uses that window of opportunity to further her own plans.

Now you say, "Pastor, this sounds like a political speech."

No, it is not. What I am trying to show is here the Bible says a coalition is coming against Israel at the beginning of the Tribulation and you see how in front of us right now these things are forming. That is what I am wanting you to see.

What about this coalition coming down against Israel to start the war with Ethiopia and Libya and Russia and Persia and Germany and Turkey and Libya and the various bands with them? We need to know something. Remember that the Tribulation does not begin with the Rapture. However, the Rapture happens before the Tribulation begins. The Rapture is when every saved person, both those that are dead in the grave and those that are alive on the earth, are caught up to be with the Lord.

The Bible says, “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible.”³

Now some people believe that somewhere near the middle of the Tribulation there will be a Rapture. Some believe at the end of the Tribulation. Some believe at the end of the thousand years. I believe the Bible teaches the Rapture takes place before the Tribulation and we stand on that unapologetically.

But it takes place before the Tribulation. How much longer before the Tribulation? I don’t know.

Some say, “Well, pastor, do you think that it could happen a day before the Tribulation?”

Sure.

What I am saying about the Rapture is there is absolutely nothing that needs to happen in order for the Rapture to take place. It could take place today and it would not be based on whether you are religious, whether you are a good person, whether you have paid your taxes or anything else as to whether or not you would go to heaven. But it is rather based on the fact that you know Jesus Christ as personal Savior. You realize that you are a sinner and you need a Savior and Jesus Christ and him alone is that Savior.

That is where it is based.

Now we see it is not much longer, but when in our text verse 26.

“And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off.”⁴

Now that is after the seven weeks in the first verse, so it is 69 weeks.

“...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.”⁵

³ 1 Corinthians 15:52.

⁴ Daniel 9:26.

⁵ Ibid.

Now as you look at that passage at the end of the 483 years Messiah is cut off. Is there anything in that verse that indicates that it would be another 40 years before Jerusalem is leveled? No, there is nothing there, though we do know that it would happen. And it would happen before the 70th week.

The Rapture will not start that 70th week, but the confirming of a covenant will between the antichrist and Israel.

I want to take you back to Genesis chapter 41 verses 26 and 27 because you know the story of Joseph being cast into prison and a slave for 13 years after he is sold by his brothers into slavery. Prison and slavery, finally he is let out and he is let out to interpret he dreams of Pharaoh.

And in verse 26 it says:

The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years: the dream is one. And the seven thin and ill favoured kine that came up after them are seven years; and the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind shall be seven years of famine.⁶

Now, if you have listened to various Bible expositors who preach quite often on prophetic subjects you have heard them speak of the seven years of tribulation being represented by the seven lean years in Egypt. And I don't disagree with that. However, for what does the seven good years represent before those seven bad years? Could it be that the Lord is showing us something in prophecy which could happen after the Rapture? Could a leader arise in the European sector who causes craft to prosper as the book of Daniel tells us that he would do? And he causes it to prosper. He connects his 10 nations with Israel and becomes a strong alliance and he is so well trusted and believed that at the end of those seven good years people are relieved.

Well, those people talked about a Tribulation, about a Rapture. It has happened. Well, where is all this tribulation? Where is all this trouble? We have watched movies and everything and none of it has happened.

And they are deceived with a great delusion. And then this world leader confirms a covenant with Israel, especially with Libya in the Russian coalition now, Italy and her coalition can confirm a covenant with Israel particularly with access to the gas and the oil.

Let me read to you from Ezekiel 38 verses 11 through 13 when Russia and her coalition comes against Israel.

And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates, To take a spoil, and to take a

⁶ Genesis 41:26-27.

prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land. Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?⁷

What is happening there?

Well, the coalition of the antichrist says to the Russian coalition, “What are you guys doing? You shouldn’t be doing that.”

Now we said earlier Russia has protested in strongest terms about the invasion of Libya. However, have they done anything militarily about it? No. And that is what this group with antichrist. They are not doing anything about the Russians and their coalition. We find plainly from the Word of God as you read Ezekiel 38 and 39 God does the destruction. Antichrist will take credit for it. Israel is not the land of unwallled villages right now. Those of you that travelled with me to Israel you have been there. You have seen those walls. You remember being in Bethlehem with me when the guy was there trying to tell us, “Tell your leaders to put the pressure on to tear these walls down.”

We have a problem there in Israel with walls because they have to protect themselves. There is the iron dome project that is able to knock down many of those incoming rockets that come in daily.

Now to take down those walls, to take down that defense, there needs to be a reason to trust this world leader in order to remove the walls and the defenses. Whatever happens before the confirming of the covenant in that time gives them that security.

And that leads us to about, well, what about Egypt? What about Gaza today? Lebanon, Syria, Jordan? Because we don’t see any of those in Bible prophecy as a threat to Israel during the tribulation. We don’t see them as part of the Russian coalition.

When the Muslim Brotherhood reared its head in Egypt our president demanded and forced out Hosni Mubarak to the consternation of Saudi Arabia. Yet when Iran’s leader was voted out he refused to leave and kept control of the country. And the president did very little to oppose him.

Egypt’s leading contender for president in election is ElBaradei. He is a member of the Muslim Brotherhood. He went on record at the Al Watan newspaper which is an Arab language newspaper. He said, “If Israel attacks Gaza, we would declare war against the Zionist regime.”

⁷ Ezekiel 38:11-13.

Now, in case you didn't know, our own president authorized the sale of two billion dollars worth of military supplies to Egypt just before the protests took over. This very well could fall into the hands of the Muslim Brotherhood. The president had threatened to cut off the supplies if the Brotherhood was not recognized. But isn't it interesting that we have had to be pushed to do anything in Libya?

The Muslim Brotherhood is active in Syria, Lebanon, Gaza as well as Jordan, although Jordan doesn't seem to have quite the problem.

Let me read you this about Jordan.

"Underscoring the chilled relations between Israel Jordan since his ascension to the throne in 1999, King Abdulla II on Wednesday," now this is near the end of April, "welcomed Cairo's Fatah-Hamas reconciliation. The king's remarks publicized in a royal court document were made during a meeting with Fatah and Hamas emissaries who came to express their appreciation for Abdulla's support for their aspirations.

"Jordan will continue to support you politically and economically during the next stage until reaching establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian national soil,' the king said.

"Now Abdulla's reference to a Palestinian state on Palestinian soil marks a notable departure from his family's long held position and underscores the chill that has been fostered in relations between Hashemite monarchs and Israel since his ascension to the throne.

"The truth is that Jordan is Palestine and Palestine is Jordan,' his father King Hussein said in 1981.

"Palestine and Transjordan are one,' his grandfather and namesake King Abdulla I told the Arab League in Cairo in 1948.

"We are the government of Palestine, the army of Palestine and the refugees of Palestine,' Jordanian prime minister Hazza' al-Majali said in 1959.

"Palestine is Jordan and Jordan is Palestine. There is one people and one land with one history and one and the same fate,' Prince Hassan, brother of King Hussein told the Jordanian national assembly in 1970."

In other words, until King Abdulla II took over Jordan, Jordan has in these years since 1948 considered themselves to be Palestine. Why the change?

Now what are some possible scenarios? In Egypt is the Answan Dam. It is very well built. It would take nuclear explosions or whatever God would do in nature to take that out immediately, what is happening with the Mississippi River would seem like kid's play, child's play and not very much at all compared to what it would do to Egypt. Egypt,

if that happens, will not be able to do anything to anyone for years to come. They will be impotent.

There are bombs right now in Syrian care that is being passed through Iran and to be quite honest with you Russia is keeping the UN from making that a public report. There is a battle going on right now for that. But nonetheless, bombs in the Syrian care, if released, could level the city of Damascus which many believe Isaiah 17 is referring to because what Isaiah 17 describes has never happened in history as of yet.

And then finally there is some uprising in western European countries because the Muslims in their country are trying to impose Sharia law. Russia has control of oil prices of energy in their coalition driving prices up, making living much harder.

And so if Israel has control of gas and oil and could supply them, due to less price and not have people in their countries that are burning their buildings and killing their people, they will be glad to eliminate the threat the Muslims pose in their countries in a hurry.

And, of course, right yet Israel is not in that production, but everything is set to go.

We can only make these possibilities based on actual viable prophecy of what we do know. We know those other countries of Egypt, Gaza, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan are not seen in any way, no way are they seen affecting Israel in the Tribulation. And Israel has its walls down. For some reason that has happened. They are no longer a threat when Russia comes.

Is it not interesting that Israel has been asked to recognize the Palestinians as a Jewish state and all Israel has demanded is that they recognize them as a Jewish state, but the Palestinians won't do that. There is nothing immoral or wrong with saying ... to sign a peace covenant they must recognize us as a Jewish state. And they won't do it.

It is interesting to me in the Bower Report of May fourth it says, "If you need more evidence of hate being spread throughout the mosques in the Middle East, consider this, these comments from the imam of Jerusalem's Al Aqsa mosque. 'Today the dogs of the west are rejoicing at killing one of the lions of Islam. We say to them from Al Aqsa mosque, from the heart of the caliphate which Allah willing is soon to come. Dogs should not rejoice at the killing of lions. A country of dogs will always remain a country of dogs while the lion remains a lion even after it is killed. We say to Obama, you said yourself that you personally gave the order to kill Muslims. Note that the day will soon come when you will find yourself hanging from the gallows next to little Bush.'"

You wonder why anyone thinks something good can come from giving extremists a state like that.

When Europe feels the effect on their pocketbooks long enough, a covenant will be set up with the European leader in the Tribulation who will be able to do what everybody has

wondered how it would happen and that is set a covenant up with Israel with their walls down for seven years.

Now I am not here today to tell you that all this that you see here going on today, these movements that they call a democracy movement, I am not talking about that so much today, although I don't believe that it is a democracy movement in all these protests in all these Mideast countries. They want to impose Islamic law, not democracy. But why I am bringing all this out is to say Jesus Christ is coming soon.

Are you ready? If you are saved, whatever you are going to do, you had better be about the business right now. And we could go on with many Bible prophecies of violence, the increase of natural disasters, the things that we have seen in China. But, my friends, the very next thing on the agenda of God according to the Bible is the Rapture. It could take place "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump."⁸

And, my friend, the people caught up, they are not caught up because of how good a Christian they are. They are caught up because they are Christians, because they are saved. Not because they were born in a Christian home, not because they are basically good, not because there was a day they said, "Oh, Jesus, save me," but there was a day they realized they were sinners, realizing that Jesus Christ shed his blood on the cross for their sin, for all their sin. They were willing for Christ to take their sin away to cleanse them. And they called upon him for everlasting life.

You see, too many today in our Baptist churches say this prayer. It will say save you. Then you can go out and live like you want to.

My friend, if that is the way you got saved and there was no idea of Christ taking your sin from you, I can tell you on the authority of God's Word that you will be left behind and hell is your eternity unless you turn to him.

And he says, "Whosoever will, let him come and take of the water of life freely," but you have got to take of that water. The day of the Rapture is near. And, my friend, I ask you the question. Are you 100 percent sure that if you died today heaven is your home?

Let's bow our heads please.

⁸ 1 Corinthians 15:52.