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Daniel 9:27 “God’s Prophetic Plan for Israel”

Intro. Tonight we will complete a study of this prophecy of the 70 “weeks” of Israel in prophecy. In our last message we learned that the prophecy actually had to do with 70 7-year time periods. We covered the first 69 of the 7-year prophetic time periods that took us up to the time when Jesus Christ was hailed as Israel’s prince, but was soon cut off when He was crucified. Some time after that, the prophecy warned of the time that Israel would once again face the destruction of their beloved city Jerusalem. That prophecy was fulfilled in 70 A.D. when the Roman General Titus overcame Jewish resistance and destroyed both the city and the temple. Jesus said in Luke 21:24 that “... Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.” So soon after their rejection of Jesus, God has set Israel aside, and focused primarily upon the building up of His church, made of both Jew and Gentile. Right now, there is a long parenthesis in God’s dealings with Israel.

That leaves one more 7-year time period in Israel’s prophetic history that clearly has not yet been fulfilled. One good reason for believing that this time period is still future is because in Mt. 24:15 Jesus refers to the “abomination of desolation” of Daniel’s prophecy as something yet future to His time. Events and conditions today suggest that it may not be much longer. Most conservative scholars believe that the 70th “week” is the same as the 7-year time period mentioned in the book of Revelation as the tribulation. Just as surely as the first 69 7-year time periods have come to pass, even so the last 7-year time period will come to pass. I believe v.27 may be fulfilled in our lifetime.

Let me explain why. Before this prophecy could have come to pass, Israel had to be restored to their land, and they had to become a nation once again. Well that happened in 1948, just over 70 years ago. Other conditions are being fulfilled that will lead to the fulfillment of Daniel’s 70th week. That means that Jesus could come again very soon! I believe the church age is about to come to a close, and God may soon renew His special dealings with His people Israel. Many scholars believe that the rapture of the church will take place just prior to this final 7-year time period. If so, I hope you are ready for the return of Christ.

Now let’s look into this prophecy and see what will happen in the days ahead. In so doing, I believe we will see signs that we are indeed getting close to the return of Christ. First of all, we see:

I. THE ANTICHRIST WILL ARISE

We read in v.26 that “the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.” The last part of that prophecy has already taken place. But notice the phrase “the prince who is to come.” That is a reference to the antichrist. We know from other prophecies that he will be empowered by Satan. He will have great oratorical abilities and even the ability to do miracles.

Who is the antichrist? Could he be alive today? Well we have a clue concerning the identity of the antichrist. He will not be a Korean. He will not be from China. You see, in v.26 we see a connection between the antichrist, and the people who destroyed Jerusalem and the temple. Thus, we may conclude that the antichrist will arise out of the people of the old Roman Empire.

He could be from Europe. He could even be an American, because most of our people descended from the people who made up the old Roman Empire. Well that narrows the field down to about 1 billion people, so that doesn't help much, but it does help some.

The main point that I want to make is this: just as Israel faced an anti-christ figure back in the days of Antiochus Epiphanies, even so they will face another who will be *the* antichrist. Those with discernment have been duly warned by this prophecy.

Now the second main thought is this:

II. THE ANTICHRIST WILL MAKE A COVENANT INVOLVING ISRAEL

In v.27 we read, "Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week...." The one who confirms the covenant is the "prince that shall come." This is not a reference to the Messiah but to the antichrist. As head of the revived Roman Empire, or a European confederacy, he shall negotiate and sign a treaty with Israel and her neighbors. I say this because he will confirm a covenant "with many." This will be a multi-nation treaty, involving many people, including Israel. That's because of the context, which is a prophecy concerning Israel ("your people" - v.24). By the way, some years ago Yasser Arafat called for an increased European presence in the ongoing peace talks in Israel.

Why will there be a covenant? What is the nature of this covenant? Well the stage is set for a covenant with Israel. Many of the Arab and Muslim nations are bent on destroying Israel, and driving them from their land. Iran is working on obtaining nuclear weapons. The world does not want nuclear war, and the antichrist will negotiate a peace treaty between Israel and her Arab neighbors. This is something that could take place soon, which could signal the beginning of the final 7-year time period before Jesus comes again.

Other Scriptures confirm this about the antichrist. Rev. 6:2 says that the Antichrist will have a bow and will go forth "conquering, and to conquer." It is interesting that he will have a bow but apparently no arrows. That seems to imply that he will conquer by peace. He will be unequaled as a statesman. He will apparently be able to negotiate the right things for Israel; security being on top of the list.

One of the likely benefits promised in the treaty is religious freedom for both Jews and Muslims, including a provision to rebuild the temple and even restore the practice of offering sacrifices. After all, it says in the middle of v.27, "He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering." The apostle Paul also indicates that the temple will be rebuilt. He says in 2 Thess. 2:4 that the antichrist "opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." I have read that certain religious Jews already have the plans and the materials ready once they obtain permission to rebuild the temple. Of course, one big problem to solve is the fact that the Muslim Dome of the Rock is on the temple mount. Either an agreement will be made to rebuild the Jewish temple close to the Muslim shrine, which seems most likely to me as part of the agreement, or that shrine will be leveled prior to this covenant agreement, probably by a natural disaster.

Notice in v.27 that it evidently includes a 7-year timetable, for the prophecy says he will confirm the covenant "for one week." Perhaps if Israel or their Arab neighbors kept the terms of the treaty for the first 7 years, then they would agree to make other concessions.

It is clear from other Scriptures that Israel will think of the antichrist as a savior of sorts. They desperately want peace, and the antichrist will be the first political figure who will deliver it

to them, at least for a while. Jesus said in John 5:43, "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive."

I believe that conditions are right for this prophecy to come to pass. We are getting closer to the return of Jesus. Are you ready for His return?

Now let's move to the next main thought of this prophecy:

III. THE ANTICHRIST WILL BREAK THE COVENANT

V.27 goes on to say, "But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering..." Evidently, the first 3 1/2 years will be a time of relative peace and security for Israel. But then, the antichrist will cause the sacrifices to cease in the rebuilt temple. Antiochus Epiphanies did something similar, in taking away the sacrifices. History will once again repeat itself.

Notice what he will do in place of the temple worship. We read in the last of v.27, "And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate." Once again, the temple and Jerusalem will be made desolate due to "abominations." This word is used of false worship.¹ We know from other Scriptures that the antichrist will sit in the temple and proclaim to be a god, and demand that he be worshiped! (2 Th. 2:4; Rev. 13:4-7). In Mt. 24:15 Jesus said, "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place...." Such terrible idolatry will be forced upon them.

Of course, many Jews and others who are true believers will refuse to worship the antichrist. This will lead to a wave of persecution against Jews and Christians during the time period elsewhere called "the Great Tribulation," which lasts for 3 1/2 years.

One lesson from this is the fact that antichrist is a liar like the devil himself. He will not honor the covenant but break it. But we are to be true children of God, and be like God. We are to keep our covenants. We are to speak the truth, and not be dishonest. Do you honor the agreements you make, or are you like the devil and his antichrist? Do you break the agreements you make?

Finally, we see that:

IV. THE ANTICHRIST WILL BE DEFEATED BY THE TRUE CHRIST

In the last of v.27 we read, "Even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate." This is not fully dealt with here but is more clearly revealed in Daniel's other visions (7:11, 26, 27; 8:25; 11:45). The antichrist will commit abominations. He will persecute and murder many Jews and Christians. But his evil will not last long. Notice two main thoughts of the last part of this prophecy:

A. Antichrist Will Be Judged - Certainly history won't end with the Antichrist being worshiped. Idolatry and false worship is an abomination to God (Deut. 7:25-26; 12:31; 27:15; 29:17; 1 Pet. 4:3; Rev. 17:5). Such an abomination will be judged. Vs. 24 says that by the end of the 70th week, God will "finish the transgression, and ...make an end of sins..." Between those two phrases must come the destruction of the Antichrist. The desolation according to this passage will continue until the consummation pictured dramatically in Rev. 19:20, when the beast and the false prophet are cast into the lake of fire. This will take place when Jesus comes again.

¹ Jer. 32:34 says, "But they set their abominations in the house which is called by My name, to defile it." Also, Daniel 11:31 says, "... they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation."

By the way, there are other abominations mentioned in Scripture that bring the judgment of God, such as homosexuality (Lev. 18:22; 20:13), transgender practices (Deut. 22:5; cf. Prov. 3:32), dishonest scales (Prov. 11:1), lying lips (Prov. 12:22), pride (Prov. 16:5), and adultery (Ez. 22:11). Prov. 6:18-19 adds a few more, “Hands that shed innocent blood [an unborn baby is the most innocent], A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, ... And one who sows discord among brethren.” Now that America is increasingly embracing these abominations do you think we will escape the judgment of God?

When that takes place:

B. The Purposes of God Will Be Fulfilled - At last God’s people will be set free from sin and all earthly bondage! God will bring in everlasting righteousness, and... seal up the vision and prophecy, and ...anoint the most Holy” as stated in v.24. That is the initiation of the Millennial Kingdom. We know from other Scriptures that God’s purposes for Israel will not be completely fulfilled until the 2nd Coming of Christ, for it is then that Israel will in mass turn to Christ for salvation (Rom. 11:25-26).

Conclusion: We are living in the days when these prophecies could be fulfilled. Jesus is coming again soon. Are you ready for His return? Will you be among those who share in His victory? Don’t be among those who follow the antichrist and share in his judgment. Trust Christ as your Savior. Follow Him. Be one of His disciples.

Sources: H.A. Ironside, *Lectures on Daniel the Prophet* (Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers 1920); John MacArthur, Jr., *An Uncompromising Life* (Panorama City, CA: Word of Grace Communications, 1983); Larry Pierce, *Online Bible* [Ver. 5:30] (Ontario: onlinebible.net, 2017); John F. Walvoord, *Daniel The Key to Prophetic Revelation* (Chicago: The Moody Bible Institute, 1971); Leon Wood, *A Commentary on Daniel* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1973). Other sources listed in the footnotes. Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from *The New King James Version* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1982).

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