

70-70-70: THE TIMES OF JERUSALEM

A. Can We Know When Jacob's Trouble Begins ?

Can we forecast the commencement year of the Time of Jacob's Trouble, the Apocalypse? I believe the answer is affirmative for a number of compelling reasons. The time is near, very near, even at the door.

Is there a prohibition to determining the dating of Daniel's 70 Weeks ? No, on the contrary, a calculation is demanded.

B. God's Plan for Israel

Chapter 9 of the Book of Daniel lays out God's specific plans for Daniel's people, Judah, the Southern Kingdom and His holy city, Jerusalem. Daniel is given skill and understanding of these times. The times are expressed in seventy periods of seven years, known as the 70 Weeks prophesy.

In the global perspective, the 70 Weeks prophesy lays out God's plans for saving Israel and all willing humanity. The global goal is worldwide salvation resulting in "everlasting righteousness".

Sixty-nine of those weeks are history culminating with the "cutting off" crucifixion of Jesus, the destruction of Jerusalem, destruction of the temple and dispersion of Judah into the nations. These events were prophesized by Daniel in Chapter 9 verse 26. They were completed 70 A.D.

C. The Enigma of the Church Age

The period intervening verse 26 and verse 27 is the parenthetical period called the Church Age. This age is represented by an enigma, a mystery, the Kingdom of God on earth, the indwelling of the believer by God's Holy Spirit. This age will end at "the fullness of the Gentiles". Romans 11:25 When the "fullness of the Gentiles" is come in, then verse 27 will become operational and the Church Age will end.

D. The Time of Jacob's Trouble

Verse 27 has a primary focus of saving Judah, national Israel. This salvation will be accomplished by their recognition of Yeshua, the Jewish Jesus, as their Messiah Savior.

Verse 27 states in part: "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week:" I want to focus on the first portion of this verse alone in this article because we are dealing with its beginning. As the reader may know, the author believes that "he" of verse 27 is God himself confirming Israel's salvation covenant which becomes operational as to the nation of Judah beginning at Daniel's 70th week. The author does not believe that "he" is the Antichrist, as taught by most prophesy scholars, because the Antichrist will not be permitted to trigger the event which "brings in everlasting righteousness". The Antichrist and Satan will not work for God's greater purpose of saving Israel. Satan would oppose Satan and be divided. Jesus taught this kingdom principle when the Pharisees accused him of being possessed by a devil. Matthew 12:24-26. We are to be looking for Jesus, not the Antichrist ! Take heed that no man deceive you! Matthew 24:4 Deception is the first and foremost end times sign.

E. Daniel Chapter 9 Demands the Counting of Days

God is an awesome mathematician. He tells us that it is wisdom to count. Revelation 13:18. The end of Daniel's 69th week could have been determined in Jesus' day. Sir Robert Anderson in his book titled "The Coming Prince" provided the first written proof for calculating of the day of Christ in Daniel 9.

Since Daniel's 69th week could have been counted and determined in the day of Christ, is it not reasonable to presume that God would provide a calculation for the 70th Week ? This would be contextually consistent. I argue that it is reasonable since Daniel 9 begs the counting of days.

We know that Daniel was a sealed book. This means that if you read Daniel superficially it will not speak its secrets because they are concealed until the time of the end. But, God does promise to reveal secrets to whom He chooses. It is the glory of God to conceal a matter and the honor of kings is to search out a matter. Proverbs 25:2. We know that God's unsealing has been progressive.

Are we in a time when God would permit His beloved to have "skill and understanding" of Daniel's 70th week. I believe we are in that day.

F. Jesus Announces He is the Messiah in the 69th Week

Luke 4:18 informs the reader that Jesus walked into the Temple and read from the Isaiah scroll. He read Chapter 61 verse 1 and the first half of verse 2. This occurred on the Feast of Atonement. It is highly probably that the verse 2 phrase the "acceptable year of the Lord" was an announcement of the Jubilee Year appearance of the Messiah. Jesus says in Luke 4:21 that He fulfilled the Isaiah verses that day. Jesus stopped short and did not read the second half 61:2 because that speaks to His second coming and is directly related to Daniel 9:27.

Jesus declared He was the Messiah at the beginning of His ministry 3 1/2 years prior to the "cutting off" crucifixion in Daniel 9:26. Does this mean that God will unseal Daniel 9:27 in advance of the "day of the vengeance of our God" or the commencement of Daniel's 70th Week ? Will God unseal verse 27 by providing a 3 1/2 year advance notice of the Time of Jacob's Trouble the beginning of the 70th Week ?

God is a God of warning, long suffering, that none should perish ! Time to get serious about our faith and proclaim the good news ! Today is the day of salvation ! Tomorrow may be too late.

G. The Time of the End: Is There Evidence in Daniel ?

Daniel uses the number 2,520 in Chapter 5. This number is derived from verse 25 in the words, "mene, mene, tekel, upharsin" which are units of measure (*gerah*) and represent a sum totaling 2,520. I recommend you read Dan Matson's article titled "2,520 years and Israel's regathering at <http://watchfortheday.org/2520.html>. For additional details see Mr. Matson article.

I will summarize a portion of Matson's article and charts dealing with the number 2,520. If you add 2,520 prophetic years (360 day year) to Judah's return from Babylon in 537 B.C. you arrive at the Year 1948, Israel's independence year. If you add 2,520 years to the date that Jerusalem was rebuilt in 518 B.C. you arrive at 1967, the year that Israel captured East Jerusalem in the 6-day War.

These two dates, and others included on Matson's chart, affirmatively suggest that Daniel's "time of the end" is in season. Jesus expects us to know the seasons and expect His visitation. Matthew 16:3. He demanded this of Judah because they appeared to be clueless at His first coming. Let us not be clueless.

Daniel is in play !

H. The Number 70, 70, 70: The Key to Timing of Israel's Salvation

A discussion of biblical mathematics is beyond the scope of this article. I am going to focus on God's repeating use of 70 years regarding Judah and Jerusalem because I believe that this is a key which offers evidence of a compelling divine pattern in support for determining the beginning Year of Daniel's 70th Week.

God has acted on Judah and Jerusalem three times in the context of 70-year periods. We are now in the third period of 70-years pattern.

1. *Babylon and 70 Years*

God exiled Judah to Babylon because Judah disobeyed God's command to give the land its Sabbath rest. God sent Judah to Babylon for training and let His land rest. Jeremiah

prophesized this 70-year exile. Jeremiah was the scroll that Daniel was reading in Daniel's 9th chapter. God exiled His disobedient people from Jerusalem for 70 years.

2. First Coming of Messiah and 70 Years

On, or about 1 B.C., the Jewish Messiah was born. On, or about 33 A.D. He was "cut off" by crucifixion followed by resurrection. The Church Age began, but the religious leadership of the nation of Judah continued in unbelief until 70 A.D. when God judged them, ending with the destruction of Jerusalem and Temple. Judah was given 70 years to hear the word of God, to find her Messiah. Judah failed and was dispersed.

3. Nation Born in A Day and 70 Years

On November 27, 1947, the United Nations voted to approve the partition of Palestine providing for a Jewish national homeland. When the Palestine British Mandate occupation ended on May 14, 1948, Israel declared its national independence. This fulfilled Isaiah 66:8 as the nation was born in a day. Should we expect God to take some action in the 70th year ?

During the last 66 years, the land of Israel has blossomed and budded and has become an agricultural wonder. It is a land flowing in milk and honey. This fruitfulness is a sign that Judah will produce fruit spiritually during the Time of Jacob's Trouble.

4. Pieces of the 70 Year Puzzle

What has God been trying to accomplish with Israel ? From the day God called Abram, God had a plan to save humanity. He chose Abram from which to build a nation and deliver His Word to the world. Israel's honor was to tell the world about God and His salvation.

God has used the 70-Year time to teach and train His covenant people to be an obedient people, living right lives before the world causing the world to be drawn to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Seventy years in Babylon, seventy years at the Messiah's first coming and now what happens seventy years after Judah has been restored to the land?

The 70 years in Babylon should have taught them that they needed to observe the Sabbath rest for the land, for Jerusalem. Their physical removal from the land was intended to cause them to desire God's city and His mountain, both of which were desolate for the Lord's sake. God was trying to teach them about the sacredness of His Sabbath because He was going to send them the Messiah, the Lord of the Sabbath. Absence makes the heart grow fond of remembrance. The exile should have produced zeal for God and drawn them to God.

About 500 years later, God sent the Jewish Messiah. However, because they had not learned the lessons, the teachings of God, their hearts were hard and they were blind to their Messiah. They did not want the Messiah of Isaiah 53, the suffering servant. They turned a blind eye to Him, choosing only to look for another one, who would end the Roman occupation of Judea. Judah crucified her Messiah. God judged them with a spiritual blindness. Romans 11:25. Today, Judah, the nation of Israel, is still blind.

In 1948 Israel became a nation of Jews. God restored His covenant people to a portion of His original land grant. This return of His people to the land was an act of God's grace. The land began to bloom, bud and produce a wonderful agricultural harvest. This blossoming land as prophesized by Isaiah 27:6, is a shadow of the coming spiritual blossoming, budding and spiritual fruit production coming to Israel during the Time of Jacob's Trouble when God will remove Israel's blindness and Israel will see their Messiah. Zechariah 12:10 says, "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."

5. 1948 Israel's National Independence Plus 70 Years

The Year 1948 plus 70 prophetic years brings us to the Year 2017. Seventy prophetic years is 69 solar years. Solar years use the 365-day measurement. Prophetic years use the 360-day measurement. The 2,520 year count was based on 360-day prophetic years, so 2017 maintains this 360-day prophetic year calculation.

Is 2017 within a Jubilee Year ? When one considers the importance of Israel's capture of East Jerusalem in 1967 and the signing of the Balfour Declaration in 1917, fifty years earlier, one might wonder if these noteworthy events occurred in Jubilee years. The successive years 1917, 1967 and 2017 are separated by 50 years each suggesting a possible Jubilee connection. No one is certain of the Jubilee year calculation. God knows. I see a pattern in the 50-year increments between Balfour, Jerusalem and a potential event in 2017.

I expect that Daniel's 70th Week may come on a feast date in a Jubilee year, perhaps the Feast of Atonement 2017. The Jubilee year always commences on the Feast of Atonement unlike all other years which begin on the Feast of Trumpets.

I. Date Setting and the Rapture

This author subscribes to pre-tribulational dispensational pre-millennialism. This means that he believes that Jesus is coming back in the first installment of his second coming for the "catching away" rapture event which will be followed by the second installment return 7-years later at the end of the 70th Week on the "Day of the Lord".

The believers must be removed at the "fullness of the Gentiles" before the restoration of Israel's spiritual sight. Romans 11:25. When their blindness ends, the Church Age will end and Daniel's 70th Week will begin.

Could it be that the "catching away" rapture event would occur on the Feast of Trumpets 10 days before the beginning of the Time of Jacob's Trouble in a Jubilee Year on the Feast of Atonement in 2017 ? Jesus ascended 10 days prior to the Feast of Pentecost. Is there a connection ? We shall see.

Wherefore encourage each other with these speculations.

In Christ, Greg