THE PROPHECY SERIES **COUNTDOWN**

DANIEL'S SEVENTY WEEKS

Session Eight / March 28, 2007

- Here is the incredible scenario: A man who lived 600 years before Christ was in deep meditation before God about 3 o'clock one afternoon. Suddenly he is touched by someone, turns around, and there stand the great angel Gabriel. Gabriel gives this man, Daniel, a prophecy of SEVENTY WEEKS in which God clearly pinpoints the very day of Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. That entry took place precisely as Gabriel indicated – 483 YEARS LATER! To the exact moment Gabriel said it would happen.

- Part Two of the prophecy indicates clearly the events that will take place within a seven year period that will happen several thousand years after that!

- Only in God's Word, the Holy Bible (and in NO other alleged holy book) will you find such a prophecy.

- In addition to this syllabus, I have given you a five-page historical outline. Pages 1 and 2 are general history; pages 3-5 are specifically Jewish history. Let's go over this outline's most salient (relevant) points of interest to our study tonight:

H I S T O R I C A L O U T L I N E

1. On page one, you will find in the left-hand column the description of the time period, opening with the Paleolithic Period that goes back 14,000 years.

Some may protest that the earth is only 7,000 years old. Your pastor does not subscribe to that view for any number reasons - most of them archeological and/or historical. There is no teaching in the Bible that requires of us the belief that the earth is only 7,000 years old. This teaching was generated by Bishop James Ussher (1581 - 1656), a clergyman from Ireland. He believed that the first day of creation was

Sunday, October 23, 4004 BC. He believed that God spoke light into existence at 9 a.m. on that day. He taught that Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden on Monday, November 10, 4004 B.C. (This would have given our common ancestor precious little time in the Garden!) He further taught that the ark touched down on Mount Ararat on May 5, May 2348 B.C. - which was on a Wednesday!)

2. I call to your attention the Middle Bronze age (2200-1550 B.C.) in which Abraham makes his first appearance. The Patriarchs included Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and others.

3. In the Iron Age (the First Temple Age - 1200 - 586 B.C.) we see the coming of the Philistines from the Mediterranean Island of Crete (having to evacuate when Santorini exploded in volcanic fury)....we see the rise of the Israeli monarchy (Saul, David, Solomon, etc.) and finally the invasion of Israel three times by Nebuchadnezzar culminating in the destruction of the Great Temple in 586 B.C.

4. Jesus lived during the Second Temple Age (538 B.C. - 70 A.D.) This was the birth of Jesus (probably around 30 A.D.).

5. In the Byzantine Age, Christianity became the "state religion" under Constantine, the Roman Emperor.

6. The Early Moslem Age followed (640-1099 A.D.) followed by the Crusades.

7. Now go with me to page 3 of the historical outline to the Jewish History Outline. Daniel lived in the Babylonian Captivity (549-332 B.C. - the head of gold on the statue). But here he prophesied TO THE DAY the time when Christ would enter Jerusalem (the triumphant entry) which happened during the Roman Age - 63 B.C. - A.A. 330.

I show you this to emphasize the incredible prophecy (the first 69 weeks) that would come to pass - which is coupled with the 70th week *which is yet to come!* Friend, if the 69 week prophecy was so accurate, you can count on the 70th one yet to come.

<u>Daniel 9:20-27</u>

I went on praying and confessing my sin and the sins of my people, pleading with the Lord my God for Jerusalem, his holy mountain. [21] As I was praying, Gabriel, whom I had seen in the earlier vision, came swiftly to me at the time of the evening sacrifice. [22] He explained to me, "Daniel, I have come here to give you insight and understanding. [23] The moment you began praying, a command was given. I am here to tell you what it was, for God loves you very much. Now listen, so you can

understand the meaning of your vision.

[24] "A period of <u>seventy sets of seven</u> has been decreed for your people and your holy city to put down rebellion, to bring an end to sin, to atone for guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. [25] Now listen and understand! <u>Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven</u> will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times.

[26] "After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end. [27] He will make a treaty with the people for a period of <u>one set of seven</u>, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. Then as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the end that has been decreed is poured out on this defiler."

1. The grand old prophet Daniel was praying. As he prayed, Gabriel, the great angel, appeared to him to say, “God has sent me to you, Daniel, to give you understanding about what is going to happen to Israel.

2. Daniel reported that Gabriel appeared to him at the time for the evening oblation - or sacrifice, which would have been about 3 in the afternoon. The angel’s announcement to Daniel was that God was going to reveal several vital prophetic truths to him:

- The exact date when Messiah (Jesus) would triumphantly enter Jerusalem hundreds of years later

- Details of the 7 year tribulation period that would dramatically affect Israel

- All of these things would happen within a certain period of time - seventy weeks. <u>But we must be clear at the outset here that we are not talking seventy weeks of only seven days per week</u>.

- The time units given in Daniel 9:24-27 are interpreted as years, not weeks. So the proper explanation is that God revealed to Daniel seventy units of seven year periods of time - or a 490 year time.

The Hebrew word for “seven” is *shabua* and means a unit of measure. It would be comparable to our word *dozen*.

I particularly appreciate Dr. J. Vernon McGee's commentary on this passage: (Remember this prophecy is coming to Daniel while he is in exile in Babylon following King Nebuchadnezzar's overthrow of Israel completed in 587 B.C.)

"The Seventy Weeks, or the seventy sevens, answer two questions: *Israel's kingdom will not come immediately. The word for 'determined' means 'cutting off.' These seventy sevens are to be cut off. They concern the Jews, the people of Israel and they concern the holy city, Jerusalem. SIX THINGS ARE TO BE ACCOMPLISHED IN THOSE SEVENTY WEEKS - OR 490 YEARS.* ***SIXTY NINE OF THOSE 'WEEKS' HAVE ALREADY PASSED AND ONE 'WEEK' IS YET TO BE FULFILLED.***

1. To "finish the transgression" (verse 24). This refers to the transgression of Israel. The cross provided the redemption for sin – for the sin of the nation, but not all accepted it. Today the word has gone out to the ends of the earth that there is a redemption for mankind. But in that last 'week' we are told that God says, "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications...." Zech. 12:10 And in Zechariah 13:1: "In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness. This is yet to happen.

2. "To make an end of sins." (Verse 24) The national sins of Israel will come to an end at the second coming of Christ. They are just like any other nation. They are sinners as individuals and as a nation. They have made many mistakes as a nation (so have we), but God will make an end to that.

3. "To make reconciliation for iniquity." (Verse 24) During this period of Seventy Weeks, God has provided a redemption through the death and resurrection of Christ.

4. "And to bring in everlasting righteousness." (Verse 24) This refers to the return of Christ at the end of the 490 years to establish the kingdom.

5. "To seal up the vision and prophecy." (Verse 24) This means that all will be fulfilled which will vindicate this prophecy as well as all other prophecies in Scripture.

6. "To anoint the most Holy." (Verse 24) This refers to the anointment of the most holy of holies in the millennial temple about which Ezekiel spoke in his chapters 41-46.

(Through the Bible - J. Vernon McGee / Nelson Publishers / Commentary Proverbs through Malachi - page 585)

THE FIRST SEGMENT: THE FIRST 69 OF THE 70 WEEKS

1. This prophecy covers the years from the approval of Persian King Artaxerxes to the Jews to return to Israel from Babylonian exile to the death of Messiah in Jerusalem.

2. Artaxerxes gave Nehemiah the command to rebuild Jerusalem. We know the exact date historically when he gave that command. It was in the month of Nisan (March-April), the 20th year of Arataxerxes' rule, which makes the date 445 B.C. (See Nehemiah 2). THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF DANIEL'S 70 WEEK PROPHECY.

3. <u>It is very important to remember that in Daniel's reckoning (and the Jewish calendar) that a year contained 360 days, not 365.</u> This was Jewish tradition. Revelation 11:3 indicates that a 3 ½ year portion of the tribulation is 1260 days, based on a 360-day year. Daniel was correct in the year and, in fact, was accurate to the very day.

4. His 69 weeks from the time of the Persian's decree to Nehemiah until the time of Jesus' entry was 483 years (of 360-day) years. So in Daniel 9, well before it happened, Daniel said that in 483 years following (to the day) Messiah would triumphantly enter Jerusalem, the Holy City. Now since the decree to rebuild Jerusalem came in 445 B.C., when you add 483 years to that date you can see the projection puts us right into the adult years of Jesus' earthly life.

5. Daniel prophesied that the Messiah would come 173,880 days after Artaxerxes' decree (69 prophetic weeks x 7 - each week being a 7-year time span - and that gives you 483 years times 360 days = 173,880 days). Daniel said that 173,880 days following Artaxerxes' command to rebuild Jerusalem, the Messiah would enter the Holy City in triumph. The actual day of the Persian's decree was March 14, 445 B.C. History reminds us that Artaxerxes reigned from 465 to 425 B.C. He would have made his decree on the first of Nisan because that was the year of the computation of the reign of kings and festivals. The first of Nisan fell on March 14th that year, according to the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England. Therefore, when one predicts forward 173,880 days, Jesus should have come into the city of Jerusalem on April 6, A.D. 32. Zechariah told us in his 9thchapter that the time of Messiah would begin on the day He rode into the Holy City and was proclaimed king of the Jews.

6. Was Daniel accurate? Both Jesus and John the Baptist began their ministries during the 15th year of the reign of Tiberias Caesar. Luke 3 tells us that. We know that Tiberias began his reign in AD 14. OUR LORD BEGAN HIS MINISTRY THEN IN AD 29. We know that He continued His ministry for three years prior to the triumpant

entry into Jerusalem, which brings us up to AD 32. There can be no question about the accuracy of the year in Daniel's prophecy. Now in John 12:1 we learn that our Lord went to Bethany six days before the Passover. And we learn in John 12:12 that the triumphant entry was the very next day. Passover is always celebrated on the 14th Nisan, which was Thursday, April 10, AD 32 according to the Royal Observatory. So our Lord would have come to Bethany six days earlier, April 4th. Passover, the day our Lord died, was Thursday, April 10, AD 32. So our Lord would have come to Bethany six days earlier, April 4. The meal with Lazarus would have been a Sabbath (Saturday) meal, so our Lord entered Jerusalem on Sunday, April 6 AD 32

7. PROBLEM!!!!! From March 14, 445 BC to April 6, AD 32, is 477 years and 24 days. But we have to deduct ONE FULL YEAR from this accounting because time was not judged on the basis of: "Well, this is 1 BC so the next year will be '0.' There was no "0" gap there. Historically there is a year technically missing between 1 BC and 1 AD. Therefore one year must be deducted, now giving us 476 years and 24 days. Today we count 365 days in the Julian calendar. So we multiply 476 x 365 and that gives us 173,740 days - plus we add the 24 other days for a total of 173,764. Now Daniel is within 116 days of being on the nose with his prophecy. Not close enough! What are we forgetting? We must remember the fact of leap year every four years. So we add another 119 days to our total which gives us 173,883 days. Now we are OVER the exact total of days Daniel predicted by three days. But according to the Royal Observatory our year is about 1/128th of a day longer than the true solar year. So now we divide the time between Artaxerxe's decree and Jesus' entry into Jerusalem by 128 and that totals 3 days which we now deduct from our previous total, leaving us an exact total of 173,880 days. DANIEL'S PROPHECY WAS ACCURATE TO THE VERY DAY!

THE SEVENTIETH WEEK

So far we have discussed in the first 69 weeks those things which have already happened, giving total credibility to God's prophecy to Daniel. We may therefore rely on the prophecy of the seventieth week being just as accurate.

Daniel 9:25-27

Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times.

[26] "After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler will arise whose armies will

destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end. [27] He will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. Then as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the end that has been decreed is poured out on this defiler."

1. Verse 26 "The Anointed One shall be killed...." This is obviously referring to the crucifixion of Jesus. It appears that His work is done, that He failed. However, time has proven Calvary to be the fulcrum of the ages and that we come to God because of Jesus' death on the cross.

2. THE LAW OF DOUBLE REFERENCE This a law of hermeneutics (the way by which we study God's Word and understand it) that means there are short term and long term ramifications of the scripture in question.

- "A ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple...." (26) This certain was accomplished forty years after Jesus' death when the Romans swept through Israel, from Galilee in the north to Masada in the south, destroying everything in their path. Even the great Temple was destroyed, as Jesus said it would be (see Matthew 24 and 25). This is the short-term fulfillment of the prophecy.

- But there is yet a fulfillment of this prophecy to come. Antichrist will be the ruler who comes. (Verse 27) He will make a pact with Israel which he honors for 3 ½ years. Then he turns violently so that the people see who he truly is. He will destroy the worship in Israel and he himself will become the object of worship - as stimulated by the False Prophet

- This period in the 7 year Tribulation will be so terrible that if Christ did not return, everyone would perish. But, thankfully, Christ DOES return and we saints return with Him to reign for a thousand years.

ONCE AGAIN WE SEE THE CREDIBILITY OF SCRIPTURE AS REVEALED BY FULFILLED PROPHECY. AND YET THERE IS STILL SO MUCH TO BE ACCOMPLISHED IN GOD'S TIMETABLE. THE NEXT EVENT TO HAPPEN WILL BE THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH.

Next Wednesday night, April 4, 2007: WHEN THE NATIONS MEET THE SON OF GOD

HISTORICAL OUTLINE

PERIOD	MAJOR EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS
Paleolithic ?-12000 B.C.	Early societies of hungers-gatherers living in caves and open sites. Stone tools.
Mesolithic 12000 – 8000 B.C.	Transition to cereal gathering and permanent settlements.
Neolithic 8000 – 4500 B.C.	Agriculture based on domestication of plants and animals. Invention of pottery; long distance trade. Fortified towns in Jericho.
Chalcolithic 4500 – 3200 B.C.	Invention of metal work, intensive use of copper. Economy based on herds. Impressive art. Large towns in Anatolia (Turkey).
Early Bronze 3200 – 2200 B.C.	Network of towns throughout the ancient Near East. Kingdoms in Egypt and Mesopotamia (Iraq). Canaanites in Syria and Canaan.
Middle Bronze 2200 – 1550 B.C.	Period of the Patriarchs of Israel. Fortified towns throughout the region.
Late Bronze 1500 – 1200 B.C.	Canaan ruled by Egyptian empire. Apex of Canaanite culture. Israelites in Egypt. Exodus.
First Temple (Iron Age) 1200 – 586 B.C.	Settlement of Israelites in Canaan. Philistines in coastal plain. Establishment of Israelite monarchy. David, Solomon and the Prophets. Old Testament written. Destruction of the Temple and Kingdom by Babylon.
Second Temple 538 B.C. – 70 A.D.	Return from Babylonian exile. Ezra and Nehemiah. The Hasmonean dynasty (Maccabees). King Herod. JESUS AND THE BIRTH OF CHRISTIANITY. Destruction of the second temple by the Romans.
Roman 70 – 324 A.D.	Entire eastern Mediterranean under Roman Empire.
Byzantine 324 – 640 A.D.	Christianity becomes state religion. Constantinople capital of the Roman empire (Istanbul). Arab conquest of Syria-Palestine. Byzantine rule continues in Asia Minor, Cyprus and Greece.
Early Moslem 640 – 1099 A.D.	Moslem empire centers around Damascus (Umayyad Dynasty), then around Baghdad (Abbasid Dynasty).

Crusader 1099 – 1291 A.D.	European-Christian thrust in the Orient, establishment of Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem.
Mameluke 1291 – 1519 A.D.	Conquest of Syria-Palestine by Moslems of Egypt. Period of decline.
Ottoman (Turkish) 1519 – 1917 A.D.	Ottoman conquest and rule. The entire eastern Mediterranean again under one empire centered around Istanbul. Decline continues.
British Mandate 1917 – 1948 A.D.	Conquest of Palestine by the British. Major developments amid growing political unrest. World War II, Holocaust.
Israel 1948 A.D.	Israel is declared a nation May 14, 1948. (Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones fulfilled.)

THE CONQUERORS OF ISRAEL OVER THE CENTURIES

THE JEWS (2000-587 B.C.)

1900 B.C. Abraham, the patriarch, enters Palestine, then known as Canaan, for it was controlled by the Amorites and Canaanites.
1630 B.C. Jacob moves patriarchal family to Egypt to be with Joseph.
1250 B.C. Joshua and the Israelites re-enter the land of Canaan.
1025 B.C. Saul crowned Israel's first king
1004 B.C. David ascends to the throne
965 B.C. Solomon succeeds David as King
920 B.C. Israel divided into Northern and Southern tribes.
721 B.C. Assyrians capture Samaria, capital of Northern tribes; captives taken.

THE BABYLONIANS (605 - 562 B.C.)

587 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, sacks Jerusalem and takes Judah captive.

THE PERSIANS (549 - 332 B.C.)

439 B.C. Cyrus, king who conquered Babylon, decrees that Jewish captives may return to Israel.

THE GREEKS (332 - 167 B.C.)

334 B.C. Alexander the Great vanquishes Palestine. After his death, the Ptolemies and Seleucids rule.
175 B.C. The Seleucid king Antiochus IV Epiphanes desecrated the temple altar by offering a pig on it.

THE HASMONEANS (MACCABEES) (167-63B.C.)

167 B.C. The aged priest Mattathias and his sons revolt against the Seleucids and give nearly 100 years of peace to Palestine.

THE ROMANS (63 B.C. - A.D. 330)

63 B.C. Roman Emperor Pompey conquers Palestine
40 B.C. Parthians capture the land from Rome in a surprise attack
39 B.C. Herod the Great expels the Parthians, reigns until 4 B.C. Jesus is born during this time.
30 A.D. Approximate date of Jesus' crucifixion.
66 A.D. Jewish zealots revolt against Rome
70 A.D. Jerusalem sacked and burned by Roman General Titus
73 A.D. Masada, the last zealot stronghold, falls to the Romans
132 A.D. Under Bar Kokhba, the Jews revolt a second time unsuccessfully

THE BYZANTINES (313 - 634)

313 A.D. Constantine issues the Edict of Milan, bringing freedom of worship to all religions. Constantinople (Byzantium) made capital of the Eastern half of Roman Empire. Christianity flourishes.

614 A.D. Persians retake Palestine. 33,877 people killed. Christian churches destroyed.

THE ARABS (634 - 1099)

632 A.D. Mohammed, the prophet born in Mecca in 570, dies but his religion spreads over the Arab world.

1009 A.D. Al-Hakim, the mad Fatimid Caliph, begins persecution of Christians and Jews in the Holy Land. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre among the 30,000 Christian buildings destroyed.

THE CRUSADERS (1099-1291)

1099 A.D. Jerusalem captured by the Crusaders

1187 A.D. Saladin routs the Christian Crusaders at the Horns of Hattin in Galilee. Christian influence is gone from Palestine.

1263 A.D. Mameluke Sultan Baybars of Egypt continues to capture remaining Crusader strongholds.

THE MAMELUKES (1291-1517)

1291 A.D. Acre, the last Christian bastion of the Crusader period falls to the Moslems. The land becomes a backwater province of Damascus.

1400 A.D. Mongol invasion is only partially successful and the Egyptian Mamelukes again regain control of Palestine until they they are destroyed in 1517 by the Ottoman army of Selim I.

THE TURKS (1517-1917)

1517 A.D. Turkish Ottoman Empire begins 400 year control of Palestine.

1799 A.D. Napoleon unsuccessfully attempts to make Palestine part of his growing empire.

1917 A.D. Jerusalem liberated from the Turks by the Allies of World War I under General Allenby.

THE JEWS (1917 –

1917 A.D. The Balfour Declaration recognizes the historic connection between the Jewish people and Palestine, pledges support for a national home for the Jews.

1922 A.D. The League of Nations confirms the British Mandate over Palestine.

1947 A.D. The United Nations partitions Palestine between Israel and Jordan.

1948 A.D. On May 14, the State of Israel is established, the British withdraw, Israeli-Arab war begins. War ends July 18.

1956 A.D. Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal. On July 26, Israel attacks and occupies nearly all the Sinai but later withdraws to 1949 armistice lines.

1967 A.D. Egyptian President Nasser closes the Gulf of Aquabah to Israeli shipping. The Six-Day War, a blitzkrieg attack by Israeli air and ground units results in capturing the Sinai, the Golan Heights, the West Bank and all of Jerusalem.

1973 A.D. Surprise attack by Egypt and Syria catches Israel off guard on Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement. Some territory on the Sinai lost; some territory on the Golan Heights expanded.

1979 A.D. In March, the Camp David Peace Accord is signed between Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

THE STRIFE CONTINUES TO THIS DAY