

THE RADICAL GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

*A Vision of Victory for the Church of the 21st
Century*

Orlando Mostert

Chapter 5: Countdown to the Coming of the King and His Kingdom

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KINGDOM VISION

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KINGDOM VISION

I present to you a whole new vision of the times in which we live. All your prophecy books and televangelists tell you that the rapture is any moment, the Antichrist will take over the world, the Kingdom of God will only come one day in the future.

Here is the alternative Kingdom Vision:

- Jesus is now Lord; He is now ruling in the heavenlies.
- We are in the Kingdom Age which means we have all power now over the power of Satan and our job now is to disciple the nations.
- The world system is now under judgment and will collapse; “Babylon” is falling.
- The Kingdom of God is spreading in power and glory until it will fill the earth.

World systems are collapsing ... but the Kingdom of God is rising. Nations will be discipled into the Kingdom of God, there are already more than 700 million charismatic evangelicals worldwide. Soon the glory of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. Get ready for a greater outpouring of God’s presence and power in his church:

The Kingdom Vision ... a vision of victory for the church of the 21 Century.

Orlando Mostert

June 2012

Chapter 5: Countdown to the Coming of the King and His Kingdom

INTRODUCTION

When John the Baptist appeared on the scene to announce “the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand” and Jesus came out of the wilderness and proclaimed at the start of His ministry “**the time is fulfilled**, the kingdom of God is at hand, repent ye and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:15) and when Paul said “When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son” (Gal. 4:4) they all knew of the scripture timelines I am about to explain to you from the Old Testament. The people of the day also knew of these timelines and so there was enormous excitement in Judea. It was common knowledge that the promise in Daniel that the Messiah would appear in 490 years time (the 70 weeks prophecy) was to be fulfilled in their time. Everyone was watching the clock and watching for signs of the Messiah’s appearance. Even John the Baptist was asked “are you the one?”

Because the prophecies of Ezekiel and Daniel were so explicit in their dates and times it is important we get them right. They tell us when Israel was to return to the land. They tell us when the Messiah was to appear and they tell us when the Kingdom of God was to appear on earth. By understanding these prophecies your faith will be greatly strengthened in the Word of God, you will also understand why we are now in the Kingdom Age and most of what the popular prophecy books have written over the last 40 years are totally wrong.

I am about to give you some historical background in the next three chapters to prophecies leading up to the appearance of Christ and the Kingdom. It is vitally important that you read and understand this historical section. Every popular prophetic book that has appeared out of America in the last 40 years is wrong about just about everything they write because they don’t ground prophecy in accurate fulfillment through history, especially the period from 604 BC to 70 AD. They therefore miss the entire Kingdom vision!

For example:

- They get the seven year tribulation wrong because they get the starting date and the ending date of the 70 week prophecy of Daniel wrong .
- They get the “end times” wrong because they don’t understand what happened from 33 AD to 70 AD. (We are not in the “end-times”, we are in the Kingdom Age, the “end-times” were from 33 AD to 70 AD)
- They get the 1948 return of Israel wrong because they don’t even try to do the Ezekiel 4:1-8 countdown of 390 years and 40 years to the return of Israel and thereby missing an incredibly accurate historical fulfillment of prophecy. (Every prophecy of Ezekiel and Isaiah relating to the return of Israel to their land was exactly fulfilled between 533 BC and 37 BC, not 1948).
- They get Gog and Armageddon wrong because they do not understand the historical and prophetic fulfillment of what happened between 37 BC and 70 AD with relation to the prophecies of Obadiah and Malachi regarding the Edomites. (There is no Russian invasion of Israel coming, that

is just a flat out misinterpretation of many scriptures and indicative of all the other prophetic interpretations they are wrong on.)

- The look for the Kingdom some time in the future when Daniel already told us exactly when the Kingdom was to appear on earth.
- They get the Antichrist wrong because they don’t understand the 1260 year prophecy of Daniel’s “little horn” and how it was historically fulfilled between 538 AD and 1798 AD.

Are you getting my drift? History is important! God controls time and nations and rulers, He sets the boundaries and times of nations. He does all things according to His plan worked out from before the foundation of the earth! He rules over all and He tells His secrets to his prophets and those who diligently seek him and not to casual enquirers. It is vitally important for you to understand the Lord’s dealings over time with the history of nations and rulers because once again like He did with the prophets of old, in our day He is raising up a prophetic company of anointed believers to do what He called Jeremiah and the other prophets to do in their time...

Jer. 1:5,10 *“Before I formed you in the belly I knew you and before you came out of the womb I sanctified you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations... I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to pluck up and break down and to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”*

Prophecy Ferment...

The excitement today about watching for the signs of the coming of the Lord and the coming of the

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Millennium when Christ the Kingdom of God is to be established on the earth is very similar to what was happening in Jesus day. Everyone was in expectation of the coming of the Messiah and His Kingdom which was about to be established in the earth. The difference is this...All the signs that they were looking at were truly fulfilled. The prophecy writers of today are taking those prophecies and trying to convince us they are still to be fulfilled. What did they see in Jesus day?

- As Ezekiel prophesied, Israel was to return to the land and rebuild the temple and possess the land again. It took 500 years but it happened as prophesied.
- Daniel prophesied the Kingdom of God would appear during the fourth great world empire (Rome) and it did.
- Daniel also prophesied that the Messiah would appear in 490 years time (the 70 weeks prophecy) and He did.

Modern day prophecy writers try to deny all these fulfilled prophecies by saying, no, all those things are still to happen in the future. I will prove to you by the historical record they are wrong.

But what allowed everyone in Jesus day to participate in these prophecy speculations was a remarkable happening about 200 years prior to this. Ptolemy the Pharaoh of Egypt was collecting manuscripts for the great library of Alexandria renowned though all the world as the greatest collection of books in the world and a great centre of learning. The Pharaoh invited 72 learned Hebrew scholars from Jerusalem to come to Alexandria and translate their scriptures into Greek from the Hebrew and place it in the Alexandria library. They performed this great undertaking and today we call it the Septuagint translation of the Old Testament. This had an enormous impact on the Jews of the time as well as the classical world of Greece and Rome. Hardly anybody at that time among the Jews either spoke or read Hebrew so they could not read the Hebrew scriptures. Around the world educated people spoke and read in Greek and in Jerusalem the people spoke Aramaic. So when the Old Testament was published in Greek and copies were made and distributed widely, scholars and common people for the first time had access to the great Hebrew scriptures and were fascinated by the prophets and their writings. The Greco-Roman world of that time was equally fascinated with prophecy. People made

special trips to temples and shrines that were known for prophecies, like at Delphi.

What they saw In the prophetic books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel and Ezekiel were clear indications of a great prophetic timeline in which God would send His people into captivity in Babylon but that they would return from this captivity to return to their land, take back the land to restore the city of Jerusalem and the nation of Israel and more importantly rebuild the temple. After this the Messiah would come and deliver His people and make Jerusalem the place from which the law would be proclaimed to all the world and all the great promises made to Abraham that through his seed all the nations would be blessed and the promises to David that his heir would reign forever; all these great prophecies and promises would be fulfilled.

This great prophetic narrative was not just general or hard to understand opaque utterances like at Delphi but contained explicit names, happenings and year time lines for their fulfillment. The intriguing part to all this for the people of Jesus' time was that a number of these prophesied events had already taken place with great accuracy and so the ones that were still to be fulfilled were fully expected to happen and keenly debated among the people. Especially since they could all read Greek and had access to the scriptures! I want to show you the great fulfillment of scriptural prophecy that was causing such excitement in Jesus' day and should even more so in our day.

Let me outline for you the great historical prophecies that we will cover over the next three chapters:

This Chapter: The Prophecies of the Coming of the King and His Kingdom

- Daniel gives an exact timeline for when the Kingdom of God was to appear on the earth, during the fourth great empire (Rome).
- Daniel also gives an exact timeline of when the Messiah was to appear, in 70 Weeks or 490 years time. We also research the time of Jesus birth and the start of his ministry in order to get an accurate dating for the beginning and end of the 490 year prophecy.

We look at the historical fulfillment of both of these prophecies.

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Chapter 6: The Return of Israel

We look at the historical fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecy of the miraculous return of Israel to the land and the resurrection of the valley of dry bones and see that it happened by 103 BC and not in 1948.

Chapter 7 The Invasion of Gog and Armageddon

We look at the historical fulfillment of Ezekiel 38 and 39 of the invasion of Gog into the land of Israel and show this is not a Russian invasion of Israel but happened historically in 37 BC and Gog was destroyed as prophesied by Ezekiel 39 in the battle of Armageddon in 70 AD.

Let's take a closer look at these prophecies and get a feel for the flow of prophetic history with dramatic milestones along the way leading up to the appearance of Messiah and the Kingdom of God on earth! But let's start with Isaiah and Jeremiah to get a feel for where Daniel and Ezekiel found themselves when they made their incredible prophecies.

Isaiah and Cyrus the Great

Isaiah made a startling personal prophecy. He predicted two hundred years before it happened that Judea would be taken into captivity by the Babylonians but that the Lord would raise up a great king named Cyrus who would set them free from their captivity (Isaiah 45). In 604 BC the Babylonians took the Kingdom of Judea in captivity and by 586 BC after two more campaigns had completely destroyed the city and the great temple that Solomon had built and taken the population of Judea into Babylon as servants and workers (among them Daniel, Ezekiel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego). When the Medes and Persians attacked and conquered Babylon in 538 BC they were led by their general named Cyrus. Their King at that time was Darius but later in 536 BC Cyrus became King over Babylon. Cyrus was shown the prophecy of Isaiah by the Jewish leaders and this prompted him to release them from their captivity to return to Jerusalem. Unfortunately life by this time in Babylon had become very comfortable and as freemen they could either stay in Babylon or return to a strange land now occupied by strangers. Most

decided to stay in Babylon and in 533 BC there was the start of the migration of small groups back to Israel to rebuild the land. The Bible tells us that only a remnant of about 42,000 eventually decided to go back to Israel. But that is how it has always been with the great moves of God! The Lord always uses a small remnant who are willing and obedient to move when He moves. The majority prefer the luxury of Babylon rather than the hardship of conquering territory for the Kingdom.

Jeremiah and the 70 year captivity...

Before the Babylonians took Judah in captivity the prophet Jeremiah warned them that the Lord is giving them into the hands of Babylon because of their sins...for his efforts he was thrown into prison. But he prophesied that their captivity would only last 70 years. During the captivity Daniel was reading the prophecy of Jeremiah and realized that the time for their release was at hand.

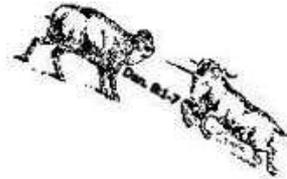
Daniel 9:2 "And in the first year of his reign (King Darius) I Daniel understood by the books the number of years whereof the word of Jehovah came to Jeremiah the prophet, for the accomplishing of the desolations of Jerusalem, even seventy years. And I set my face unto the Lord God to seek by prayer and supplications with fasting and sackcloth and ashes." What Daniel was reading is found in Jeremiah 29:10 "For thus saith Jehovah, after seventy years are accomplished for Babylon, I will visit you and perform my good word toward you in causing you to return to this place." Daniel as a youth was among the captives of the first group that Nebuchadnezzar had taken in captivity in 604 BC (Daniel 1:1-6) and knew with the takeover of Babylon by Darius the Mede in 538 BC that the time of release was at hand (especially with Cyrus set to take over from Darius and what Isaiah had prophesied about Cyrus!). So he set himself to serious intercessory prayer and spiritual warfare for the fulfillment of God's word to His people. The prophecy of Jeremiah of a seventy year captivity in Babylon was fulfilled when the people started returning in 533 BC after the decree of Cyrus.

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"These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth. But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever" (Daniel 7:17-18).



The Vision
Daniel 2:31-33

	4 KINGDOMS Daniel 2:37-45	4 BEASTS Daniel 7:1-7	Cross-reference
Head of Gold	BABYLON (Daniel 2:37-38)	 (Daniel 7:4)	Jeremiah 50:17, 4:13 48:40, 49:22, 50:29-30 51:27-29 Isaiah 13:17-19
Breast and Arms of Silver	MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE (Daniel 5:28)	 (Daniel 7:5)	Daniel 7:5, 8:3-4, 20 6:28, 11:1-2
Belly and Thighs of Brass	GRECIAN EMPIRE (Daniel 2:39b)	 (Daniel 7:6)	Daniel 7:6, 8:5-8, 21-23 10:20, 11:2-4
Legs of Iron	Two Legs (Dan. 2:33)		Dan. 8:8-12
Feet and Toes Part Iron & Clay	ROMAN EMPIRE	 (Daniel 7:7)	Daniel 7:17, 19, 23-24 Psalm 2:1-6

"And in the days of these kings (Romans) shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed" (Daniel 2:44)

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Daniel's Vision of Four Kingdoms

Daniel was also a captive in Babylon during this time of captivity and he like Ezekiel his fellow captive also had great visions and prophecies about the return of Israel to their land and the coming of the Messiah.

In Daniel chapters 2 and 7 it was revealed to Daniel that there would be four more Kingdoms before the Lord God would establish His eternal Kingdom on earth which would take place during the time of the fourth Kingdom. In Chapter 2 the story is told of King Nebuchadnezzar who had a terrible dream of a great statue whose head was gold, its chest and arms were silver and thighs brass and legs and feet were iron while the toes were iron and clay. Then a rock cut out from a mountain hit the image in its feet and it fell and the rock grew and filled the whole earth. The King's wise men could not help the King but Daniel received wisdom from God to interpret the dream. Later Daniel himself had a dream recorded in Chapter 7 of four great beasts that would rise in the earth and during the time of the fourth beast the saints of God would rise up to take and possess the Kingdom of God. An angel explained the vision to Daniel saying, "the four beasts you saw are four kings which shall arise out of the earth but the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever even forever and forever." (Daniel 7:17-18).

In both the dream and the vision the message is clear; there are to be four kingdoms until the Lord God sets up His Kingdom on earth and the saints take possession of that kingdom. All Biblical scholars agree on the four Kingdoms outlined in Chapter 2 and 7:

Babylon from 604 BC (ruled over Israel) is the head of gold and the winged lion.

Medo-Persia from 538 BC overthrew Babylon is the chest of silver and two arms and the bear.

Greece led by Alexander the Great in 336 BC overthrew the Persian Empire and is represented by the bronze thighs and the four headed beast (after Alexander died his empire was divided in four by his four generals).

Rome defeated Greece and from 62 BC controlled Israel, becoming the iron legs divided into the eastern and western empire and the terrible beast that devours the earth.

What both visions are very clear about are the fact of four more Kingdoms to rule over Israel starting with Babylon but the time of the fourth kingdom (Rome) the Lord God would set up His kingdom on earth with the coming of the Messiah. "And I saw ... one like the Son of Man (Jesus the Messiah) come with the clouds of heaven unto the Ancient of Days and they brought him near before him and there was given him dominion and glory that all people, nations and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." (Dan.7:13-14)

Daniel 2: 40,44 says, "And the fourth kingdom (Rome) shall be strong as iron ...and in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed...and it shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and it shall stand forever. "

So Daniel was told by the Lord that there was to be four kingdoms in succession until the setting up of God's Kingdom by the promised Messiah which is to occur during the time of the fourth kingdom. This period of time gave the remnant who returned to the land of Israel time to prepare the ground for the coming of the Messiah. Now what I am about to say is important because it has reference to God's call upon us today. In Revelations 18 there is a similar call from God to His people to come out of Babylon, "come out of her my people that you be not partakers of her sins and that you receive not of her plagues" (Rev.18:4). This will have great importance for us when we discuss the Kingdom strategy later in the book.

For the Israelites who were to get out of Babylon in 533 BC there was a clear work ahead. Babylon had taken their land and given it to other people, had destroyed their city of Jerusalem and their great temple that Solomon had built. Their best young men had been drafted into the service of Babylon. Their Kings and mighty men were gone, their priests were gone, the Ark was gone, the anointing and blessing was gone. All was lost! While they were busy with this task the years would roll by and empires would rise and fall around them until the prophesied time for the Messiah to arrive would come.

The message for us today:

The Kingdom is not coming one day in the future! It has already come when Daniel prophesied it would

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come...during the time of the fourth empire Rome. It was established in 33 AD with the death and resurrection of Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church at the day of Pentecost. We are

still here 2000 years later and that rock cut out of the mountain is still growing until it fills the earth and that Kingdom will not last for "a thousand years" Millennium but it will last forever!

The "Revived" Roman Empire Hoax

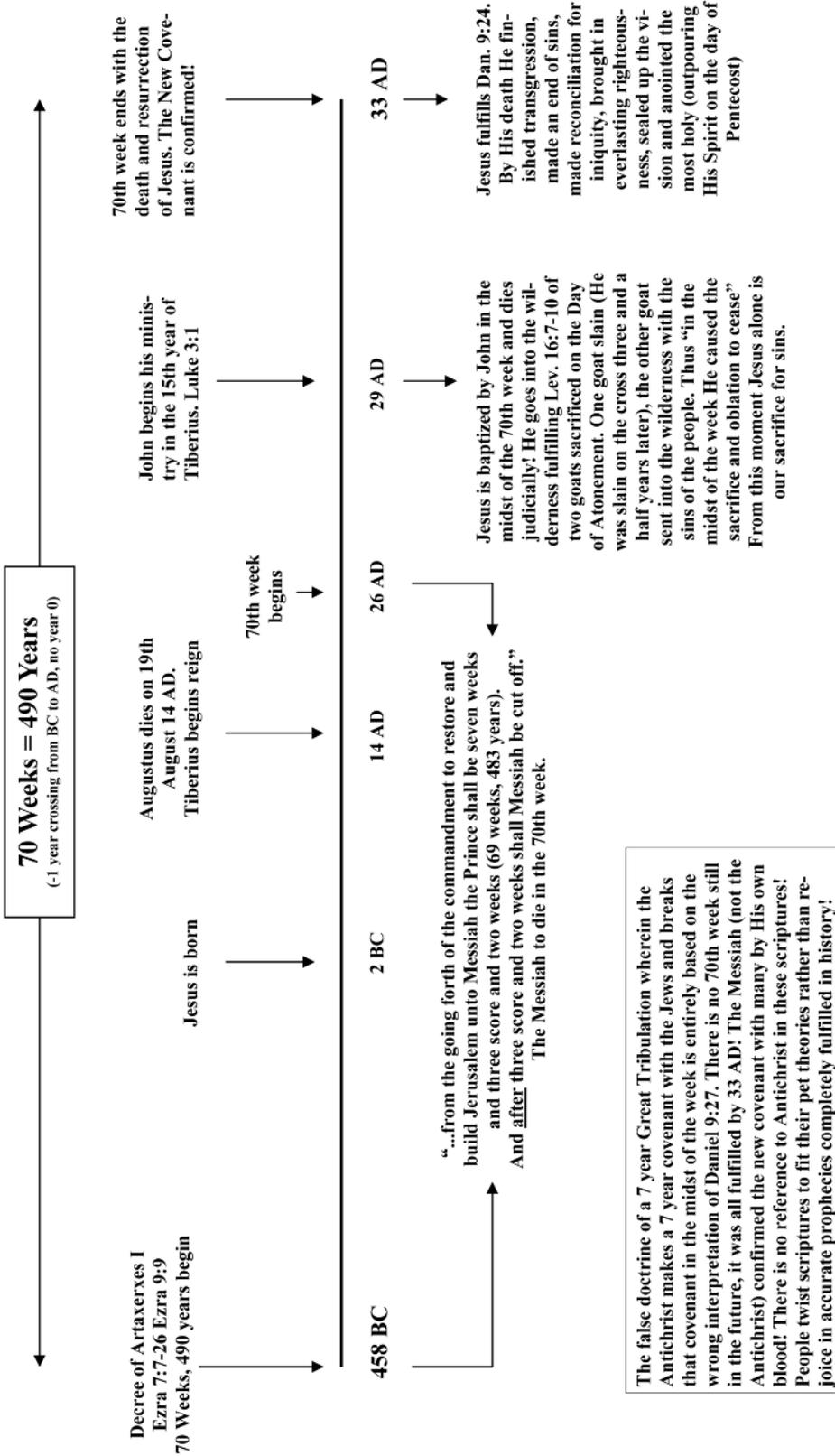
All the popular prophecy books talk about the Antichrist coming out of the "Revived Roman Empire". That is why you will read about the Antichrist coming out of the European Union which they suppose to be the fulfillment of Daniel's vision. They know from these prophecies also that it was during the time of this empire that the Kingdom of God was to be established upon the earth. But they are so committed to the false teaching that the Kingdom of God has not yet come that they will not acknowledge that in fact the fourth empire of Daniel was Rome and that the coming of Jesus during the time of the Roman empire did indeed begin the Kingdom of God on earth. That is why they desperately need the European Union to be a supposed "Revived Roman Empire" that is to rule the world!. Which means the Kingdom of God can be postponed to some future date for a thousand years.

So let's state the obvious scriptural position plainly:

There is no Antichrist ruler coming to head up the European Union and rule the world! The EU in fact is falling apart. There is therefore also no future EU ruler making a pact of peace with Israel. The EU is also not going to invade Israel under its Antichrist ruler. The fourth world empire of Daniel's prophecy was indeed Rome. The Messiah appeared during this time in 29 AD to announce the Kingdom of God was at hand and in 33 AD upon His resurrection all power in heaven and on earth was given unto Him and that authority was transferred to His church to launch His Kingdom on earth and to disciple the nations into His Kingdom.

DANIEL'S 70 WEEKS—490 YEARS PROPHECY

Dan. 9:24-27 "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people..."



The false doctrine of a 7 year Great Tribulation wherein the Antichrist makes a 7 year covenant with the Jews and breaks that covenant in the midst of the week is entirely based on the wrong interpretation of Daniel 9:27. There is no 70th week still in the future, it was all fulfilled by 33 AD! The Messiah (not the Antichrist) confirmed the new covenant with many by His own blood! There is no reference to Antichrist in these scriptures! People twist scriptures to fit their pet theories rather than rejoice in accurate prophecies completely fulfilled in history!

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The 490 Year Countdown to the Messiah

INTRODUCTION

Daniel 9:24-27 contains one of the greatest prophecy fulfillments in the whole Bible. It gave a timetable for the coming of the Messiah. The Jews of Jesus day understood this prophecy and had worked out the dates and the expected arrival of the Messiah...which is why they asked John if he were the one. This prophecy stirred up the Zealots to rebel against Rome expecting a miraculous intervention from the Messiah to deliver them.

Unfortunately all the dispensational prophecy books coming out of America have twisted this prophecy to try to prove that the 70th week was not fulfilled and refers to the Antichrist making a 7 year covenant with the Jews during the 7 year Great Tribulation. This is a gross distortion of scripture and history as you will see. It is important for your understanding of the Kingdom Vision to understand this prophecy. There is no 7 year Tribulation in scripture nor a 7 year covenant between the Antichrist and the Jews. The 70th Week of Daniel's prophecy was finished in 33 AD

I want you to read the prophecy that the Angel Gabriel gave Daniel in Chapter 9:24-27 carefully and I am going to explain it to you. It is one of the most incredibly accurate and most important prophecies of the Bible. Because it is so important for your understanding of the Kingdom vision the Devil has made sure that every popular prophecy book out of America twists this important scripture so that the Church hopefully misses the Kingdom vision:

Vrs. 24: Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city; to finish the transgression, 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 the prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

Vrs. 25 Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto Messiah the Prince, shall be seven weeks and threescore and two weeks; the street shall be built again and the walls even in troublesome times.

Vrs. 26 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.

Vrs. 27 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 desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Now lets do a quick overview of these four verses to get the sweep of the prophecy and then I will give you the in-depth analysis of times, dates, people and happenings.

Vrs 24: Within a space of 490 years (70 weeks x 7 days a week = 490 days or years) six important things will be accomplished (further explained below).

Vrs 25 The starting date for this 490 year countdown will be when a decree is issued to rebuild Jerusalem. After 69 weeks from this decree, the Messiah will appear in the 70th week. The rebuilding of Jerusalem will be with much trials and tribulations.

Vrs 26 After the 69 week period and during the 70th week when Messiah is due to appear, He, the Messiah will die in the middle of that week but His death is not for Himself but for others. After Messiah's sacrifice there are coming a people (the Romans) who will destroy the rebuilt Jerusalem and the rebuilt temple and they will leave Jerusalem desolate.

Vrs 27 In the middle of the 70th week the Messiah confirms the New Covenant in His own blood and that means the end of animal sacrifices for sins in the Jerusalem temple. Because of the rejection of the people of Jerusalem of the Messiah and their ongoing abominations and rebellion against the Lord, He, Messiah will destroy the city and the temple.

Read the verses again and see if my simple outline above seems a reasonable inference from the words written in scripture. We will shortly prove it from the history of the times, but recognizing truth, first starts as a witness in your spirit by the Holy Spirit who will lead you into all truth!

The popular American prophecy books say no, my

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interpretation is wrong. This is how they read those 4 verses: Jesus the Messiah came before the end of the 69th week in fact during the 69th week and died at the end of the 69th week in 30 AD having begun His ministry in 27 AD. Then there is about a 2000 year break between the 69th week and the 70th week which begins the Great Tribulation. Verse 27 then describes how the Antichrist will make a pact with the Jews for 7 years, the Jews having rebuilt the temple and started animal sacrifices; the Antichrist (supposedly according to them the leader of the European Union!) then after three and a half years enters the new Jewish temple and declares himself to be God and stops the animal sacrifices. I kid you not, every prophecy book that describes the Antichrist making a pact with the Jews and breaking it in the middle of the 7 year Tribulation period automatically types in (Dan. 9:27) to prove their assertion! Do you see any of this in Daniel 9:27? I don't.!

We are going to look at the historical fulfillment of the 490 year countdown to show all 70 weeks were fulfilled by 33 AD. But just for a moment look at verse 27 again. The "he" in verse 27, who does it refer to? Remember your school grammar class when the teacher said that "he" is a pronoun which refers to a subject noun that precedes it. Now look for a singular subject noun in verse 26 that the "he" in verse 27 could refer to. Obviously the only singular subject noun in verse 26 it could refer to is "the Messiah"! So does it not seem to you a reasonable interpretation that the "he" referred to in verse 27 is the Messiah who indeed confirmed the New Covenant with His death in the midst of the week causing the sacrifice and oblation to cease having any effect in the temple! Why twist this scripture out of all recognition to make it speak of the Antichrist and the Tribulation when it so obviously is talking about Jesus the Messiah? Why? Well the simple reason is because spectacular prophecies about a European leader as the Antichrist making a pact with Israel and Russia invading Israel sells prophecy books, in fact millions and millions of books. Lots of money has been made with this theory so its very difficult to say, "hey I was wrong"!

The Decree of Artaxerxes I The 490 year countdown begins

The angel Gabriel told Daniel that from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple, the 490 year

countdown to the Messiah was to be determined. But there were in fact three different decrees by three different Persian rulers as Ezra 6: 14 acknowledges:

"And the elders of the Jews builded and prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zachariah the son of Iddo. And they builded and finished it according to the commandment of the God of Israel and the decree of Cyrus and Darius and Artaxerxes the king of Persia."

So the choice of which decree and which date of the decree is important. Fortunately the history and dates and times of the Persian kings are well authenticated by historians so we can get an accurate date for the start of the decree to start our 490 year timeline.

King Cyrus issued a decree (recorded in 2 Chronicles 36:22) in 534 BC for the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem. But that would be too early as 490 years would run out in 44 BC. In 520 BC King Darius also issued a decree for the rebuilding of the Temple recorded in Ezra 6:1-12. But again that decree would also be too early as it would run out in 20 BC. Then in the 7th year of King Artaxerxes of Persia which is 458 BC (his father Xerxes 1 died in 465 BC), the King sent Ezra with a decree (Ezra 7:7-26). That this is the correct decree according the angel Gabriel is confirmed in Ezra 9:9 where Ezra confirms that this decree from Artaxerxes included, restoring the Temple, rebuilding the waste places of Jerusalem and rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem:

"For we are bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended loving kindness unto us in the sight of the Kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the ruins thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem." (Ezra 9:9)

The year of this decree from Artaxerxes in the hand of Ezra was 458 BC. Add 490 years to this and you come to 33 AD (subtract one year going from BC to AD as there is no year 0), the year Christ was crucified. This is the right starting date for the 70

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week prophecy. There are other dates which support this timeline.

When Did Jesus Begin His Ministry?

I ask this question because it is important to know this if we are saying that the 70 Week—490 year timeline ended in 33 AD because it means Jesus ended His ministry in 33 AD with His death and resurrection. Since His ministry lasted about three and a half years, it would mean that He must have started His ministry in 29 AD. Is there any other corroborating evidence we can give to substantiate this date? Fortunately history and scripture help us out here.

Luke 1:36 tells us that John's mother was five or six months pregnant with him when Mary conceived Jesus by the Holy Spirit. So John was about 6 months older than Jesus. John was from a priestly family and would begin his ministry at the age of 30 just as Jesus also began His ministry about the age of 30. Luke 3:1 says very clearly that John began his prophetic ministry "in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar" which is easy to determine from history.

Augustus (Octavian) began his reign on 19 August 43 BC when he was first appointed as consul of Rome. He died precisely 56 years later on 19 August 14 AD. Roman historians made special note of this strange coincidence in their writings making it one of the most well known dates of classical times. Tiberius (his successor) reign therefore began in 14 AD. Shortly after Tiberius reign began, coins were minted with double dates on them; 1st year of Tiberius and 45th year after the battle of Actium (Sept. 2, 31 BC). Roman historians of the time often dated their history according to the "Actium Era" which began in September 31 BC. Although Augustus made Tiberius co-consul for several years before his death, Tiberius did not dare to claim that his reign started while Augustus was still alive and neither did any historians of the time. So both John and Jesus began their ministries sometime in 29 AD. Jesus finished His about three and a half years later on April 3 of 33 AD.

So from the prophecy of Daniel 9 we have the following timeline:

Seven Weeks 458 BC – 409 BC

Sixty-Two Weeks 409 BC – 26 AD

"and after three score and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off" Dan. 9: 26. This means that after the 69th week, during the 70th week Messiah would be "cut off".

One Week 26 AD – 33 AD

But this timeline raises an interesting objection: Daniel 9:26 says that Messiah is to die after the 69th week, which means in the 70th week. Daniel 9:27 clarifies this even further and says that "*in the midst of the week He shall cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease.*" I have already said that this does not refer to Antichrist but to the atoning work of Jesus who through His sacrifice made the sacrifice of animals in the Temple no longer necessary for the forgiveness of sins. But the "midst of the week" would be 29 AD when Jesus began His ministry, so what did Jesus do at the beginning of His ministry that would cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease? Get ready for revelation!

The Day of Atonement and the 2 Goats

In Hebrews 9:11-12 we read:

"But Christ being come a High Priest of the good things to come, by a greater and more perfect Tabernacle not made with hands, that is to say not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the Holy Place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

We know of the Passover lamb that was slain during the feast of Passover which also typified the sacrifice of Christ on the cross for our sins, becoming the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. But here the writer of Hebrews is referring to the Day of Atonement that occurs during the Feast of Tabernacles when once a year, on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), the High Priest enters into the Holy of Holies to offer up the blood of a slain goat for the sins of the people. This is described in Lev. 16: 7-10:

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“And he shall take the two goats and shall present them before the Lord at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And Aaron shall cast lots on the two goats; one lot for the Lord and the other lot for Azazel. And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the Lord’s lot fell and offer him for a sin offering. But the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the Lord to make an atonement with him and let him go to Azazel in the wilderness... (vrs 21) and Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat and shall confess over him all the iniquities of the people of Israel and all their transgressions and all their sins and he shall put them on the head of the goat and send him away into the wilderness...”

Jesus was not only our sin offering on the cross entering into the heavenly tabernacle with His own blood, but at the start of His ministry He was baptized by John and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him anointing Him for battle and immediately He was led into the wilderness to confront Satan. Paul describes our own baptism in water as signifying our death and rising in newness of life in the Spirit (Rom. 6:3-4). So judicially Jesus died at His baptism, as we do, and then he died physically three and a half years later on the cross thereby fulfilling the Old Testament type of Lev. 16. Of the two goats, one goat sacrificed on Yom Kippur for sin, the other goat sent into the wilderness to Satan (Azazel) bearing the sins of the people. Jesus came not just to save us from our sins but also to destroy all the works of the devil thereby fulfilling the type of the two goats on the Day of Atonement.

I have written in “Azazel” where your Bible says “scapegoat” because in actual fact in the original Hebrew “Azazel” is written there. Bible scholars agree that this is a proper name used here in the original text. This name is found in the ancient book of Enoch which was widely read in Jesus’ time and in fact Jude in his epistle quotes from this book. Eerdman’s Bible Dictionary says of 1st Enoch:

“Portions of the work were well known in Christian circles. 1 En.1:9 is quoted explicitly in Jude vv.14-15. The work was accepted as scripture in various early Christian writings. (e.g. Barn.16:5; Clement of Alexandria *Ecl. ii*; Irenaeus, *Adv. Haer. iv. 16:2*)”

Here are some of the things Enoch has to say about Azazel:

8:1-3 “And Azazel taught men to make swords and knives and shields and breastplates and made known to them the metals of the earth and the art of working them and bracelets and ornaments ...and the beautifying of the eyelids ...and there arose much godlessness and fornication and they were led astray and became corrupt in all their ways.”

10:4-8 “...and the Lord said to Raphael, Bind Azazel hand and foot and cast him into the darkness; and make an opening in the dessert which is in Dudael and cast him therein ...and cover him with darkness...and on the day of the great judgment he shall be cast into the fire...the whole earth has been corrupted through the works taught by Azazel; to him ascribe all sin.”

Jesus went into the dessert under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, confronted Satan there, defeated him and proceeded to destroy his works throughout His ministry. He has given to us the same authority! Jesus fulfilled Daniel 9:26,27; He died judicially in the waters of Baptism in the midst of the week and died physically on the cross at the end of the week in 33 AD fulfilling the requirements of the 2 goats of Leviticus 16. One slain, the other sent into the wilderness on the day of Atonement!

The Fulfillment of Dan. 9:24

So we can see that by the end of the 70th week of Daniel’s prophecy in 33 AD when Jesus was crucified, the outcomes prophesied by Gabriel in Dan. 9:24 were all fulfilled:

He “finished the transgressions” and made “an end to sin” by His sacrificial death and shed blood (1 John 2:2; 3:5).

He made “reconciliations for iniquity” (Heb. 2:17; 2 Cor. 5:18; Rom. 5:10).

By His obedience were “many made righteous” (Rom. 5:19; 2 Cor. 5:21).

He “sealed up the vision and prophecy” by ending the dispensation of law that came through the visions and prophecy of the Old Testament prophets by fulfilling the law (Math. 5:17; Heb. 8:13).

To “anoint the most holy” refers to the anointing of

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the Holy Spirit on Jesus at His baptism (Acts 10:38; Luke 4:18). And then on the Day of Pentecost He poured out His Holy Spirit on the 120 in the upper room anointing them with power.

The Desolation of Jerusalem : Dan.9:26,27

Gabriel tells Daniel (vrs,26) that, *“the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary...and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.”* When Gabriel talks of a “prince” that is to come this is not the Antichrist but Rome and its armies that in 70 AD destroyed both the city and the sanctuary fulfilling this prophecy. Not only were the city and the sanctuary to be rebuilt but they would be destroyed again by a future empire to come.

In vrs. 27 Gabriel reveals who would be the judge to bring about the desolation of the rebuilt Temple and city of Jerusalem...it would be the Messiah Himself!...*“and for the overspreading of abominations he (Messiah) shall make desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.”*

In Math 23:36,38, Jesus spoke judgment out over Jerusalem and its inhabitants saying, *“Verily I say unto you all these things shall come upon this generation...Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem... behold your house is left unto you desolate”.*

That generation experienced the utter desolation of Jerusalem when the armies of Rome in 70 AD destroyed the city and the Temple. Josephus tells us that over 1,100,000 people were killed in that slaughter.

The 70 Week Prophecy has been fulfilled!

As you can see the entire 70 week, 490 year prophecy of Daniel 9:24-27 has been accurately and completely fulfilled in exact times and dates. It was also exactly fulfilled as to Old Testament types fulfilled in the ministry of Jesus ending the 490 years exactly at His crucifixion in 33 AD. There is no need to twist the scripture of Dan.9:27 to try and find an Antichrist there when it clearly speaks of the

Messiah! There is no need to twist the years and dates to come up with a mysterious 2000 year gap between the 69th week and the 70th week. There is,

therefore, no scripture in the Bible that speaks of a 7 year tribulation period. Read any American prophecy book and Dan. 9:27 is the only scripture that they cite when referring to a 7 year Great Tribulation!. There is no scripture, therefore, that speaks of a pact by the Antichrist with the Jews for 7 years and then broken in the midst of the 7 years. There is, therefore, no scripture in the Bible that speaks of rebuilding of the Jewish temple sometime in the future so that animal sacrifices can be restored so that the Antichrist can appear in that temple and stop the sacrifices! It has all been fulfilled already!

Explanatory Note:

I have seen the dates used by the Dispensationalists to try to get 69 weeks or 483 years to the end of Jesus ministry so that they can have a 70th week left over for the Antichrist and the Great Tribulation. They use a starting date of 445 BC as the decree to Nehemiah and the end date as 30 AD for the crucifixion of Jesus. But since 445 BC to 30 AD does not equal 483 years they decided to use a shorter 360 day year! This is an incredible twisting of scripture just to save an unscriptural teaching!

Firstly you have to then start the ministry of Jesus in 27 AD which contradicts Luke 3:1 which indicates He started 15 years after Tiberius started his reign. Then you have to use a year system that nobody used at that time. How were the Jews supposed to work out the 70 weeks dates using a 360 day year when they did not use such a year system. Everyone at that time used a 365 day year system which is why Julius Caesar changed the calendar in 46 BC to reflect this common knowledge. The other calendar method the Jews used was the Lunar calendar of 357 days but would then add in an intercalary period to make up the 365 days so the seasons would not get out of sync.

As for the decree to Nehemiah in 445 BC, that had nothing to do with building the city, or the temple as they had all been built already by Ezra by the time he got there. All he did was to repair the walls which had fallen in disrepair.

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There is no Antichrist pact with the Jews!

Church, beware of false teachers and false prophets in our midst! Their purpose is to get your eyes off of Jesus and His Lordship over all the earth and to get it onto the devil and his works. Dan. 9:24-27 is an incredible prophecy sent from heaven by the mouth of an Archangel to the Church for our edification. It is speaking of our Lord the Messiah and what He would accomplish. **It is not speaking of the Antichrist!** It says to us that the Lord is in control of history and He decides who rules and for how long! He came to make a new covenant with us...not some supposed Antichrist making a covenant with the Jews. It says He caused the sacrifice and oblation to cease when He became our sacrifice for sin...not some supposed Antichrist causing sacrifices to cease in a future Jewish temple. We are already in the Kingdom Age!

There is no 7 year Great Tribulation

As you can see from the accurate fulfillment of the 490 year prophecy of the Angel Gabriel to Daniel... all 70 Weeks or 490 years have been fulfilled in history!

That means there is no “one week tribulation” period or 7 year tribulation period still to be completed 2000 years after the other 69 weeks were fulfilled.

The entire purpose of these false prophecies and false teachings is to convince you that Satan wins out over the church. The church needs to be protected from Satan and therefore needs to be Raptured out before Satan takes over the world. This defeatist propaganda implies of course that it is not the Kingdom of God that will spread to cover the earth but the Antichrist world empire. That means the Great Commission of Christ to disciple the nations into the Kingdom of God is “Mission Impossible” but try your best.

If you are going to get the vision of the Kingdom of God and participate with the Lord in this great work then you need to be in a fellowship where the leadership at least believes and preaches the victory of the church over all the works of Satan.

Watch out for those who preach about the Kingdom of God but do not actually believe that His Kingdom has come!

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The Birth of Jesus

Jesus was born in 2 BC making Him 30 years old when He began His ministry in 29 AD. (When going from BC to AD you subtract one year as there is no year "0") If He had begun His ministry in 27 AD as the prophecy writers try to claim in order to get a future "70th week" tribulation period to fit into their timeline then Jesus would have been only 28. The age of 30 is when the scripture says He was when He started his ministry and also the accepted age in that day when Rabbi's were allowed to begin to teach.

The date of His birth can be ascertained from both historical records as well as astronomical signs.

Luke 2:1 says, "And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world would be taxed" Luke is referring to Joseph and Mary having to return to Bethlehem to be "taxed" which is where and when Jesus was born. Actually the Greek word used here "apographe" actually means "enrolled" or "registered". What happened was that on 5 February 2 BC the Roman Senate decided to award Augustus the title of "Pater Patriae" or "Father of the Country". This was Augustus's 25th anniversary since he was proclaimed "Augustus" on January 16th of 27 BC. (he came to the throne on 19 August 43 BC). When the Roman Senate passed this bill they made a proclamation throughout the entire Roman Empire that everyone should register their approval of this bill and swear an oath of allegiance to Augustus.

The Jewish historian of that era Josephus wrote about this in his book "Antiquities of the Jews" chapter 17, "When therefore the whole Jewish nation took an oath to be faithful to Caesar and to the interests of the king (King Herod)...above six thousand Pharisees refused to swear." History records this event as 2 BC.

There were also very important astronomical conjunctions at this time that were considered highly significant to the astrologers of the time and would have caught the attention of the magi from the east. Jupiter and Mars were very important symbolically to these people and on 26 August 2 BV Mars and Jupiter were in conjunction and by 25 December 2 BC the planet Jupiter would be stationary over Bethlehem. Jesus was not born on 25 December but the Magi could have arrived on that date to bring their gifts to the future King of kings!