

DANIEL'S SEVENTY WEEKS

Daniel 9:24, "Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city..." Gabriel looks at God's Daytimer in heaven, and he sees that 70 weeks - or 70 periods of 7 years - or 490 years - are blocked off for the future of Daniel's people, Israel, and the holy city of Jerusalem.

And during that 490 years six promises will be fulfilled... "To finish the transgression," to *crush the serpent*. To end Satan's global revolt. "To make an end of sins," to *corral the sinner*, and stamp out sin. "To make reconciliation for iniquity," to *complete the sinner's pardon*. To establish a way where sinful man can be reconciled to a holy God. "To bring in everlasting righteousness," to *crown the Savior*. To see to it that the earth is finally governed in justice and truth and righteousness. "To seal up vision and prophecy," to *confirm the Scriptures*. "And to anoint the Most Holy," to *cleanse the sanctuary*, or temple.

As of today only one of the six promises has been fulfilled. On the cross, Jesus completed the sinner's pardon. But there's still time on the clock. Look closely at the prophecy.

Its starting point is the command "to restore and build Jerusalem". Nehemiah 2:1 tells us that decree was issued by the Persian king Artaxerxes on March 14, 445 BC. Verse 25 says from that command until "Messiah the Prince" will be 69 weeks, or 483 years, or 173,880 days. Keep in mind the calendar in Babylon consisted of a 360 day year. Consider too: 116 leap years, and the fact there's no year zero - start at March 14, 445 BC, count 173,880 days, and you arrive at April 6, 32 AD.

Incredibly that's the very day Jesus made His triumphant entry down the Mount of Olives into Jerusalem. We call it Palm Sunday. It was the only public demonstration Jesus ever orchestrated - and He did it to fulfill Daniel's prophecy. It was the day Messiah the Prince presented Himself to the nation Israel.

But there is a gap of an unspecified period of time between the 69th and 70th week. Verse 26 mentions two events that occur in that gap - Messiah is cut off, or crucified, which took place 4 days later - and the city and temple is destroyed, which took place 38 years later, at the hands of Rome. I believe we're still between the 69th and 70th week.

A final seven year period has still been allotted to fulfill the remainder of the prophecy. During the Great Tribulation God will punish the wicked, purify the Jews, and establish His kingdom in Israel.

In the interval God has opened the door of salvation to Gentiles. God stopped the clock so to speak, to allow Gentiles to be saved. But when the last Gentile comes to Jesus, God will again turn His attention toward the Jews.

According to verse 27, the final 7 year week begins when the king of the Revived Roman empire confirms a covenant with God's people Israel. In the middle of that week, at 3½ years, the antichrist puts an end to the temple sacrifices and offerings. In Matthew 24:15, Jesus calls this the "abomination of desolation". He uses the very same terminology Daniel uses here in chapter 9.

A LITTLE HORN, ROME, AND TODAY'S EUROPE

In 7:8 Daniel sees "a little horn" rising up amidst these ten horns. This little horn has "the eyes of a man and a mouth speaking pompous words". He uproots three of the ten horns. Most Bible students see this little horn with the blabber-mouth as the antichrist. He grabs the reins of the revived Roman empire of the last days.

I believe one of the most amazing developments of the last 50 years has been the unification of Europe. Not since the days of Rome has Europe been under one banner - not until today. The emergence of the European Community, with its common currency, and unified goals, and open borders is a modern miracle.

The EEC began in 1957 with the Treaty of Rome, and for the last 44 years has continued to push for one European, and even global, government. Slowly walls of national sovereignty are dropping, and will continue to do so in the days to come.

A few years ago, German Chancellor, Helmut

Kohl, stated, "War in Europe is only avoidable through European union, and for that reason, political unity is most important..." Ironically, European unification was Adolf Hitler's goal 60 years ago - of course, under the Nazi swastika - but what Hitler was unable to do through war the threat of war is about to accomplish. European unity is underway.

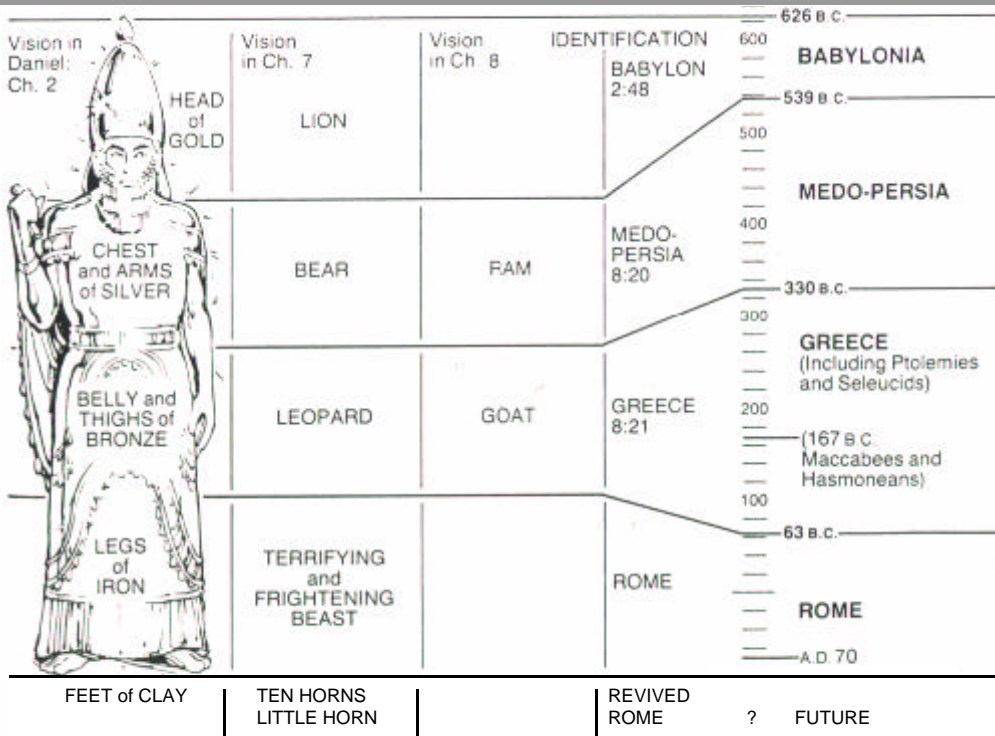
The only question becomes, who'll emerge as leader of this united Europe? Martin Garber, a former East German official commented after the collapse of communism, "Power is lying on the ground waiting to for somebody to pick it up." EEC official, Henry Speck, said, "We don't want another committee. We want a man of stature to hold the allegiance of the people... Send us a man whether he be God or a devil, send him." The nations of Europe are so desperate for a leader the people are set up to embrace Satan's last days villain, the antichrist - the little horn of Daniel 7.

Bible Scan - Daniel 7-12

Tape # SC54A

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THE FIVE WORLD GOVERNING EMPIRES IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL



Daniel sees four beasts rise up out of the sea. Each beast represents one of the four empires that have ruled the world from Daniel's time until today: the lion is *Babylon*, the bear is *Medo-Persia*, the leopard is *Greece*, and the "dreadful and terrible" beast is *Rome*.

It's interesting, these four kingdoms are the same succession of nations Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream in Daniel 2... But there's a difference...

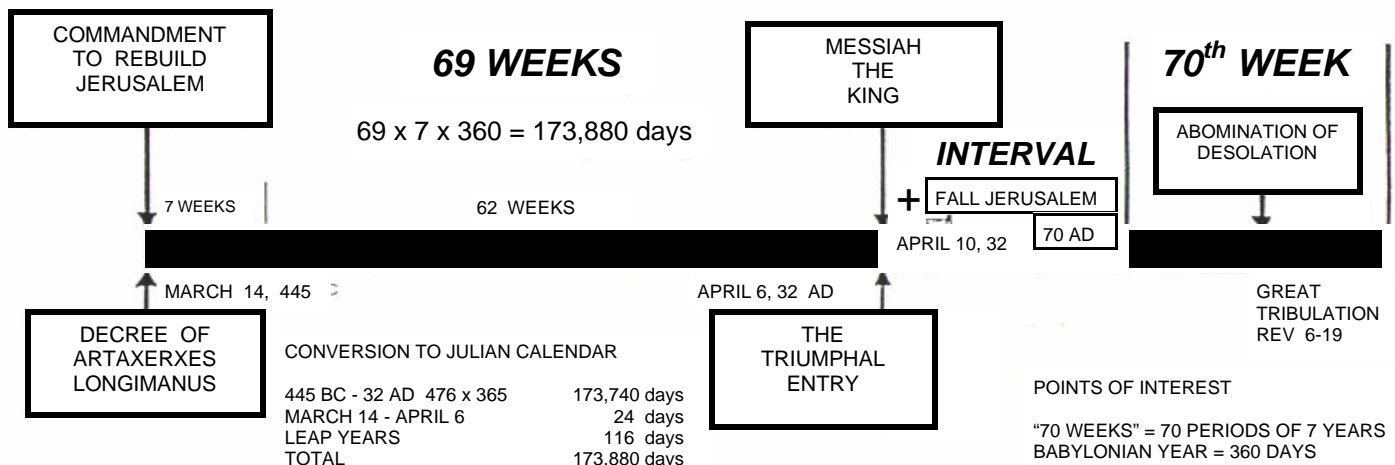
Nebuchadnezzar saw these kingdoms from man's point of view, and they looked like a metallic, polished, shiny image. Whereas God depicts human government as bestial and barbaric, as wild beasts, that frighten and consume and destroy. What a contrast! Apparently, God knows a little something about human nature.

In a sense this fourth beast represents ancient Rome. But in another sense it looks to a future Rome.

Understand, two aspects of Bible prophecy... First, prophecy usually involves a dual-fulfillment. Many prophecies actually speak of both an immediate and future event of similar detail. Second, there are often hidden gaps of time in the fulfillment of a prophecy. Some prophecies are like looking at a mountain range from miles away. There might be several peaks separated by large valleys, but from a distance it all looks like a single peak.

According to Daniel's vision it's during the reign of this dreadful and terrible beast that the kingdoms of man are destroyed, and God establishes His kingdom. That obviously didn't happen during days of ancient Rome. That's why Bible students also see in this fourth beast a last days revival of the old Roman empire. In chapter 2 Nebuchadnezzar also saw a last days' kingdom. The image he saw had feet mixed with iron (which represented Rome). It was a fifth world-governing empire - a revived Rome. And it was at the point of the feet that the stone struck the image - or Messiah ended the rule of human government. Also in Nebuchadnezzar's vision the image he saw had ten toes. Here the beast has ten horns - 7:24 says the ten horns are ten kings. The Revived Rome of the last days will take the form of a ten nation confederacy.

TIMELINE FOR DANIEL'S SEVENTY WEEKS - CHAPTER 9:24-27



TWO BULLIES

When I was 10 years old my dad put a basketball hoop up in the backyard. I love basketball so it didn't take long for my persistent playing to pound the grass, and create a bare spot. Everywhere else the grass was lush, but not under that goal.

In the days following Alexander the Great the land of Israel also became a bare spot - due to the persistent pounding of two nations and their kings. The Seleucids of Syria, north of Israel, and the Ptolemies of Egypt, south of Israel, feuded for a century-and-a-half. And the middle ground between the two kings where the pounding and conflict took place was the land bridge called *Israel*. Daniel 11 records the battles back and forth between these two rival kingdoms, and it's effect on Israel.

ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

Daniel 11:31 tells us Antiochus IV of Syria stopped the Jewish sacrifices and erected the "abomination of desolation" - a statue of Zeus in the temple's inner sanctum.

Verse 32 records the Jews reaction. Some of the Jews will "be strong, and carry out great exploits" - a fitting description of the Maccabean priests who fought a guerrilla war that eventually ousted Antiochus. Under the leadership of these courageous priests, Israel gained her independence. The Maccabees reigned 100 years before the land was occupied by the Romans. All Daniel predicted in chapter 11 occurs between the Old and New Testaments - but remember Daniel himself is prophesying 375 years in advance.

Daniel 9:27 and Matthew 24:15 tell us "the abomination of desolation" will be repeated by the antichrist in the last days, at the midpoint of Daniel's 70th week.

Kings of the South

DANIEL 11 NORTH VS SOUTH

Kings of the North

EGYPT

Ptolemy I (v. 5)

Ptolemy II (v. 6)

Ptolemy III

Berenice

Antiochus II married Berenice. She was later murdered.

Ptolemy III invaded

and defeated Syria in revenge.

Sons of Seleucus II (Seleucus III and Antiochus III) push Egypt back.

Ptolemy IV

Ptolemy IV defeated Antiochus III at Battle of Raphia, 217 B.C. (vv. 11-12).

14 years later Antiochus returned to Egypt, supported by apostate Jews. Conquered Egypt, desolated Palestine (vv. 13-16).

Ptolemy V

Ptolemy V married Cleopatra. She supported her husband (v. 17).

Antiochus III invaded Aegean Sea. Stopped by the Romans, forced to return to Syria, murdered (vv. 18-19).

Poisoned by Heliodorus the tax collector. Heliodorus seized the throne (v. 21).

Ptolemy Philometor (v. 22)

Philometor tried to shake off Syrian domination. Failed (vv. 22-23).

Ptolemy Physcon (Euergetes) (vv. 26-27)

Antiochus invaded Egypt. Intrigued with Philometor (vv. 25-27). Despoiled Palestine (v. 28).

Antiochus invaded Egypt again. Stopped by Rome (vv. 29-30). Devastated Jerusalem (vv. 31-35).

SYRIA

Seleucus Nicator (v. 5)

Antiochus II (v. 6)

Seleucus II (v. 10)

ANTIOCHUS III (the Great)

Cleopatra Antiochus Epiphanes

Seleucus IV Philopator (v. 20)

ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES seized the throne (vv. 22-23).

If you have questions on tonight's study email Pastor Sandy - sandyadams@calvarychapel.org
For back issues of Bible Scan study guides: www.calvarychapelstonemountain.com/biblescan.htm

Calvary Chapel Announcements - April 1, 2001 - Spring Break-Aways: High School, April 2-3; Middle School, April 4-5 - Easter Services: 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 AM (no PM service) - Passover Seder, Sunday PM, April 8 - Good Friday Service, April 13, 7:30 PM - Next Bible Scan - April 22 - Hosea 1-14

"... for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies." - Daniel 9:18

Bible Scan
Memory Verse

THE KEY TO SPIRITUAL WARFARE

In chapter 10, Daniel fasted and prayed for 3 weeks, but according to verse 12 God heard his prayer the very first day – so why the delay in the answer? The angel says in verse 13, "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia." Obviously, this angel is not talking about Cyrus, the literal king of Persia. A human king would be no match for an angelic creature. Single angels have been known to wipe out entire human armies. Apparently, this prince of Persia was some sort of demonic entity with jurisdiction over the pagan nation of Persia.

When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, his last offer was the kingdoms of this world. Those kingdoms belong to Satan, and apparently he has demons assigned to keep them in darkness. The demons are organized, and positioned. At times I think the demon over America is having a field day.

When God's messenger came to Daniel he was confronted by the Prince of Persia, and called for reinforcements. An angelic slugfest took place over the message God sent to Daniel, and on the 21st day the good guys, God's original messenger and Michael, prevailed.

We don't see it, but it's possible that right now spiritual forces are slugging it out over you - wrestling for your attention. Demons are trying to thwart and distract. Angels want to communicate truth and comfort.

And here's the provocative point. The spiritual battle lasted 21 days- the same amount of time Daniel prayed. If Daniel stopped praying on Day 3, or Day 20 – would the angel have broke free and arrived on Day 21? Perhaps not. Prayer is a key to spiritual warfare.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES: SPEED AND SMARTS

Daniel 12:4, "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end;" Daniel is given two signs of the end times.

Think about travel. From Daniel until the middle of the 1800s no one ever traveled faster than horseback. For 2300 years the speed of human movements remained the same. Now think of the changes that have taken place in the last 150 years – today, rockets top 24,000 mph.

And think of what's happened to our knowledge. From Noah's time until the mid 1800s - 4300 years - the cumulative knowledge of mankind doubled. Over the next 100 years - 1850 to 1950 - it doubled again. Now in the 21st century our collective knowledge is doubling every 2 to 3 years. Today, just by pressing a few buttons on a computer, you can duplicate the life's work of an engineer living prior to 1955. It's amazing, two signs we're living in the last days before Jesus returns is *speed and smarts*.

Devotion Box - A Way to Pray

In 9:1-19 Daniel prays one of the most heartfelt prayers of repentance in all the Scripture. This is what it means to have a broken and contrite spirit. If you're seeking God's forgiveness I encourage you to model Daniel's prayer.

In verse 4 Daniel calls God "great and awesome" – which requires this confession. But He's also *merciful and faithful* – which inspires this confession. God's holiness secures my debt. But it's God's love that secures my pardon!

Verse 5, "we have sinned". There's no cover-up here. It's all in the open.

Verse 8-9, shame belongs to us – but mercy and forgiveness belongs to God. Once a fireman was explaining to a first grade class what to do in case of a fire. "First, you go to the door and feel if it's hot. Second, you drop to your knees. Does anyone know why you drop to your knees?" A little boy answered, "Sure, to ask God to get you out of the mess you're in."

Hey, maybe the mess you're in tonight is the direct result of your sin and stubbornness. Guys, the only true way out is to drop to your knees.

In verse 17, Daniel asks God to "cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate." He looks forward to the Jews returning to their homeland, and rebuilding their temple and the city of Jerusalem. He prays for a new start!

And I love how Daniel prays in verse 18, "we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies." Daniel's appeal to be heard and heeded is not because of his *righteous deeds*, but God's *great mercies*. Guys, I hope you understand this once and for all - God hears our prayers, and chooses to bless - not *because of us*, but *in spite of us*. We should never come to God on the basis of *our merit*, but of *His mercy*.

Finally, notice the exclamation points in verse 19 – there are three of them - "O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name." Daniel didn't *say* prayers – he *prayed* prayers. His prayers were passionate pleas. It's said, "The prayer God answers comes not from the *roof of your mouth*, but from the *root of your heart*." Always put an exclamation point in your prayer!