Countdown in the Holy Land

By Adrian Rogers

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Main Scripture Text: Daniel 9:24

"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and 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 prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy."
DANIEL 9:24

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Introduction

Take your Bibles and turn to the prophet Daniel—Daniel chapter 9—and we're going to be studying there, in just a moment. But may I tell you, now, the eyes of the world are on the Middle East. As you know, the Iraqis have made an incursion into Kuwait, and seem to be poised, at this moment, to go into Saudi Arabia. We get 7.5% of our oil from the Iraqis. Now if they hold the ground that they've taken in Kuwait, they will control 20% of the earth's crude oil reserves. If they move on into Saudi Arabia, they will control 45% of the crude oil reserves in the world today.

And the interesting thing is that now the European Community—the Common Market, as it were—has said to the Iraqis: "You can't do that. We're going to place an embargo on you, and we're going to do it in cooperation with the United States, and, of all people, the Soviets." Things are changing, aren't they? And they're changing rapidly. Who would have ever thought that out of Europe would come such a unified voice, that they would say, "We are now going to be the strong arm to enforce peace in the Middle East"? Of course, we all know that, ultimately, Satan is superman, and is going to come out of a unified Europe. And through peace, he will destroy many; and the Israelis will see him as their friend and benefactor.

The chief players in this drama, however, are not the Iraqis, not the Kuwaiti, not the Saudi Arabians; but the chief players are those that we call the people Israel. It's all wrapped up in one little nation, which is the focal point of it all: the tiny state of Israel.

Now what is happening in the world today? Well, we may not know every detail. But my dear friend, God has given us a broad outline. God has given us a blueprint. God has given us an indicator that we can take the newspapers in one hand, and the Bible in the other hand, and we can know, to a great degree, what is going on in the world today. And we may know more than the President's security advisor. We may know more than Shevardnadze. We may know more than the intellectual top waters in the UN, because we know the Word of God. Now again, I say—and I've told you this before, when I preached on this particular passage—this is one of the most difficult to understand, and a little convoluted, but yet one of the most dramatic and incisive prophecies in all of the Bible—rightly understood, the prophecy that I'm going to share with you tonight.

I want you to begin reading with me, now, in the Book of *Daniel chapter 9 and verse 24*. Daniel has been praying, and he's been saying, "Lord, I want to know. I want to know, Lord, what you're up to. I want to know, Lord, what is the future of my people." Now my friend, *an understanding man prays, and a praying man gets understanding.* So God spoke to Daniel, and this is what God said to him, in Daniel 9 verse 24: *"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to*

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bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy" (Daniel 9:24). I'm going to stop reading there, but I'm going to read more in a moment.

But right away, we say, "Pastor, it's hard for me to get my mind on that. It's hard for me to get my fingertips on the pulse beat of that. I read it. I heard the words; but I don't know exactly what it means." Well, we're going to break it down a piece at a time. A long time ago somebody asked this question: "How do you eat an elephant?" "How do you eat an elephant?" And the answer, of course, is, "One bite at a time." Now what we're going to do with this *elephant* scripture here, this huge block of prophecy, we're going to look at it, piece by piece, one bite at a time. Now we're going to go down deep. We're going to stay down long, but I hope we'll not come up dry. If you'll pay attention, and listen, you're going to learn about what God is up to in the world today.

I. The Period

Now first of all, we're going to illiterate this with pictures. First of all, I want you to notice what I'm going to call *the period*. God is speaking of a specific period of time. And He says, in verse 24, *"Seventy weeks are determined"* (Daniel 9:24)—70 weeks. Now what does that mean? Well, it means 490 years. You say, "Well, why doesn't it say 490 years?" Well, actually, what it says is "seventy sevens"—"seventy heptads." You and I get the idea that a week is seven days. But in Bible times, they had weeks of years, as well as weeks of days. And the word literally does not mean, "seven days"; it just means, "seventy sevens." And it's obvious, as you look at the Scripture here, that he's not talking of 70 weeks of days, but 70 weeks of years, or 490 years. Here is a prophecy that spans 490 years. That is the period of time that God told Daniel He would begin and end his policy and his program with Israel.

II. The People

Second thing, second bite: Not only the period, but the people. Look again, in verse 24: *"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city"* (Daniel 9:24). Now this is a prophecy, therefore, that involves and revolves around Israel. It's very clear Daniel was a Hebrew. Daniel was a Jew. *The people* means, "the Jews." Now learn this, friend: that you will never understand Bible prophecy, unless you understand God is dealing with the Jews. The Jews are the people of destiny. They are God's outline, God's plan, and God's blueprint for what He's going to do in the world.

III. The Place

Now you've seen the period: 490 years. The people: the Jews. Now the place. Look again: *"And upon thy holy city"* (Daniel 9:24). Now that holy city is Jerusalem. It is,

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indeed, the Holy Land. Sometimes when we go to the Holy Land, they say, “Well, what’s any different from that piece of real estate than any other piece of real estate?” My dear friend, it is distinctly different, intrinsically different. God calls Jerusalem “the holy city.” There’s no more important city upon the face of the earth—not Washington, not Moscow, not Paris, not Tokyo, and not Madrid. My dear friend, the international hot spot in the last days is Jerusalem. And the tiny little nation Israel is the center of the world. It’s called the navel of the earth.

A. The Geographic Center

In Ezekiel chapter 5 and verse 5, God said, *“I have set it”*—talking of Israel—*“in the midst of the nations”* (Ezekiel 5:5). It is the confluence of three mighty continents: Africa, Asia, and Europe. It’s the hub of these continents. It’s a military and economic highway. It is the geographic center of the world.

B. The Revelation Center

It, my dear friend, is the revelation center of the world, because from that little nation we have Moses, the prophets, and the apostles.

C. The Spiritual Center

It’s the spiritual center of the world, because it is here that Jesus Christ the Messiah was born. It was here that He lived. It was here that He died, from this place that He ascended into Heaven. And one day, Jesus will come back again to Jerusalem, and His feet will stand upon the Mount of Olives, on the east of Jerusalem. It is the spiritual center of the world.

D. The Prophetic Center

Jerusalem, Israel is the prophetic center of the world. Now we Americans think everything revolves around America. But very little is said in the Bible, if anything, about America. But Israel is the only people and only country whose complete history is minutely foretold in the Scripture.

E. The Storm Center

Israel is the storm center of the world. The last great battle will be fought there, the battle of Armageddon. And what I have just described in the introduction of this message, and the incursion of the Iraqis into these other countries, are all the storm clouds that are beginning to gather for that great battle that the Bible calls Armageddon.

F. The Peace Center

But not only is Israel the storm center. Friend, it is the peace center. You say, “When will we have peace in the world?” When we have peace in Jerusalem. And that’s the reason we are told, as Christians, not only to pray, *“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven”* (Matthew 6:10), but to *“Pray for the peace of*

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Jerusalem" (Psalm 122:6). And *there will be no peace in Jerusalem until the Prince of Peace is recognized for who He is.*

G. The Glory Center

But may I tell you, dear friend, that this land and this people are the glory center. One of these days, the Lord Jesus is going to sit on the throne of His father, David. And Jesus is going to rule and to reign from Jerusalem, here upon the earth, for a thousand blessed years. And so here we see that the prophecy deals with the holy people and the holy city.

Now you're in the book of Daniel; just go to Zechariah here, for just a moment. And look with me, in Zechariah chapter 12. Just turn to the right just a few pages, and you'll find Zechariah chapter 12, verses 2 to 3. And listen to this scripture: *"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it"* (Zechariah 12:2–3). There's coming a time when the opinion of the peoples of this world are going to turn against Jerusalem. And they're going to gather against Jerusalem under the leadership of the Antichrist, who will come out of a reconstituted Roman Empire.

But notice again in Zechariah chapter 14, and look with me in verse 16. I love this wonderful promise: *"And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles"* (Zechariah 14:16). One day, Jerusalem will be the capital city of the world. It is the glory center of all of the world. Jesus is going to rule and reign from Jerusalem.

IV. The Purpose

Well, go back, if you will, to Daniel chapter 9, now, and put your marker there. We have seen the period: 490 years. We have seen the people: Daniel's people, the Jews, the people of destiny. And now, dear friend, we've seen the place. It all revolves around that city, that one piece of real estate that we call the holy city, that land that we call the Holy Land. Now what is the purpose? What is God going to do in these 490 years? Well, look in verse 24, and you'll see that God has in mind six wonderful blessings.

A. To Finish the Transgression

Here is God's plan. Here is the purpose. Notice the purpose, now: *"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city,"*—number one—*"to finish the transgression"* (Daniel 9:24). Now what is the transgression? Notice it doesn't say *all* transgression, but *the* transgression. What is the great transgression? It is Israel's

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rejection of her Messiah. Israel has rejected her Messiah. One day, that rejection will be over. That's the first thing.

B. To Make an End of Sins

Now here's the second thing: to make an end of sins. Now sin cannot be dealt with, until Messiah is recognized. There is no way of forgiveness for Israel, or anyone else, apart from the Lamb of God. Turn with me to Romans chapter 11. Just keep your bookmark there, please, in Daniel 9, and turn with me to Romans chapter 11, and look with me in verses 26 and 27. And the Bible says, *"And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: for this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins"* (Romans 11:26–27).

C. To Make Reconciliation for Iniquity

My dear friend, the nation Israel is going to come to the Lord. They're going to finish the transgression, the rejection of Messiah. And when they finish the transgression, my dear friend, that will make an end of sins. And when sins have been made an end of—go back, if you will, to verse 24—*"and to make reconciliation for iniquity"* (Daniel 9:24). Do you see, when you recognize Jesus as Messiah, sins are forgiven? And when sins are forgiven, God and man are reconciled. And the Bible says, "Jesus, by the death of his cross, hath reconciled both God and man" (2 Corinthians 5:18–19). Jesus' death has always been sufficient, but it will never be efficient, as long as He is rejected.

D. To Bring In Everlasting Righteousness

And then, when there's reconciliation, what is the next thing? Everlasting righteousness. That's the fourth blessing. Notice, it says here: *"And to bring in everlasting righteousness"* (Daniel 9:24). Now what does he mean by that? Well, the Bible teaches, in Romans chapter 10, verse 4: *"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth"* (Romans 10:4). And dear friend, not only does God forgive our sins when we receive Him, not only are we reconciled; but, my dear friend, God makes us perfectly righteous in His sight, and the righteousness of God is fulfilled in those who trust Him. What a day that will be, when God visits His ancient people with righteousness!

E. To Seal Up the Vision and Prophecy

And then, *"To seal up the vision and [the] prophecy"* (Daniel 9:24), in verse 24, what does that mean? It means, "This is what I've been going about all of these years; this is what God has been up to." One of these days, my dear friend, God is going to put the last period upon the last sentence, upon the last paragraph, upon the last page, upon the last chapter, upon the last book of history; and, God will say, "Its done, it's done."

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Not one jot, nor one tittle, shall fail from the law till all be fulfilled (Matthew 5:18). You can rest in it, my dear friend. You can bank on it. *We used to say, "God said it, I believe it, and that settles it." God said it; that settles it, whether you believe it or not, my dear friend.* God is going to do it.

F. To Anoint the Most Holy

And then, what? Well, He's not finished yet: *"And to anoint the most holy"* (Daniel 9:24). Some say, "What does *the most holy* mean? Does that mean 'the most holy place,' or 'the most holy person'?" Yes. Huh, huh. The most holy person in the most holy place. And,

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Doth his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
—ISAAC WATTS

How many times have we prayed, "O Lord, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10)? Do you think Jesus Christ would have taught us to pray that prayer, had He not meant to fulfill it? No, my dear friend, He will be anointed as King of kings, and Lord of lords—the holy place, and the holy person, together. Now my dear friend, that's the purpose.

V. The Program

Now let's move on and talk about the program. How is He going to fulfill the purpose? Well, He's going to fulfill the purpose with a program. Now we begin in Daniel 9, verse 25, and here is the program—on through verse 27: *"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 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. 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 it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate"* (Daniel 9:25–27).

All of that is so clear I don't even see any reason to comment on it. So let's just go on to the next passage. I'm being facetious. All right, it looks like we'd never get anything out of that. But again, if we'll break it down, a piece at a time, a bite at a time,

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we will see the program.

A. The Commencement of the Count

Now notice God says that there are 490 years. All right, in order for this to make sense to us, we have to know, when does God's clock start ticking? And when does it stop ticking? When do we put the first mark on God's calendar? And when do we put the last period upon God's program?

Now the Bible says here that there is a starting time. What is the commencement of the count? Look in the first part of verse 25: *"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem…"* (Daniel 9:25). All right, God's clock started ticking, when God gave a command to restore and build Jerusalem.

Now when was this? Well, you remember that it was Nehemiah who restored and built Jerusalem. And you can find this in Nehemiah chapter 2, verse 1. And in verse 5, you'll find out that it was under Artaxerxes; Artaxerxes, the king, gave Nehemiah the command to restore and build Jerusalem. Now thankfully, we know exactly when that was, because it is dated for us. And even the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, volume two, page 660, says it was in the year 445 B.C. And the Bible tells us, in Nehemiah chapter 2, it was in the month of Nisan. Now that's very important, because we know not only the year, but we know the month when it began. Nisan is the first month of the Jewish year. And remember that this is regulated by the paschal moon, so we can be very precise. On what we call the Julian calendar, the command to the restore and build Jerusalem was March the 14th, 445 B.C. That's the commencement of the count.

B. The Construction of the City

Now the second thing, here in the program, is going to be the construction of the city. Look again, in verse 25, if you will. He says, *"From the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times"* (Daniel 9:25). Now what he is saying is this: the city is going to be rebuilt in seven weeks. That's seven weeks of years. Forty-nine years and Jerusalem would be rebuilt. It happened exactly as God said it would happen. It literally happened, and, in 49 years, they rebuilt the city, and the wall, even in troublous times. If you read the Book of Nehemiah, you'll know that the devil did all he could do to stop it, but he could not stop it.

C. The Coming of the Christ

So you see the commencement of the count. You see the construction of the city. And then, you see the coming of the Christ. Look again, in verse 25: *"Know therefore and*

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understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks"—that's the period of time to build the city—*"and threescore and two weeks"* (Daniel 9:25).

Now what is the *"threescore and two weeks"*? Well, threescore is 60, plus two, is 62, plus the seven that it took to build the city. You add all of those together, and multiply by seven, and you have 483 years. Now this might sound a little convoluted, but 62 weeks is 434 years, seven weeks is 49 years. Add them together: 483 years. Four hundred and eighty-three years, meaning what? From the time that the commandment was given to restore and build Jerusalem under the Messiah the Prince will be 483 years.

Now a prophetic year is not 365 days. A year, in Bible prophecy, is 360 days. Incidentally, that's the reason we have 360 degrees in a circle: 360 days. For example, we know this from the Book of Revelation: that 3 1/2 years is 1,260 days. Three hundred and sixty days is a prophetic year.

Now pay attention. We said, from the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem, to the time that the Messiah would come, would be 483 years, and 483 years of 360 days. Now I hope I didn't lose you. But if you multiply 483 times 360, that gives you 173,880 days. Keep that in mind. Stay with me. Jesus, the Messiah, began His public ministry in A.D. 29. You say, "How can you be so sure?" The Bible tells us, in Luke chapter 3 and verse 1: *"Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar"* (Luke 3:1). That date, my dear friend, is preserved in history. We know that's when Jesus began His public ministry. And we know that, three Passovers later, Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Do you remember when Jesus came riding on a donkey? And the people threw the palm branches in His way? Three Passovers later. Again, we know exactly when that Passover was. We don't have to guess. Because, dear friend, we get our date from the paschal moon. And the chronologists and astronomers tell us that the day was April the 6th, A.D. 32, when Jesus went into Jerusalem.

Now the prophet Daniel said, "We'll tell you when we're going to start; and 483 years later will be Messiah the Prince." My dear friend, if you were to start it, and count it, it would be exactly 173,880 days from March the 14th, 445 B.C., when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on that donkey.

It's one of the most incredible things in all of the Bible. Exactly. That's the reason, when Jesus was riding across that Kidron Valley, and up through that Golden Gate, He was weeping copious tears, and He said, *"If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day"* (Luke 19:42). It had been prophesied, for centuries, down to the minutest hour. My dear friend, as I said in the introduction of this message, and at the close of the message this morning, Jesus came on time; He died on time; He was buried on time; He rose on time; and He is coming on time. You can just bank on it.

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D. **The Crucifixion of the Christ**

Now there is the coming of the Messiah. But then, this prophecy goes on. In verse 26, there's the crucifixion of the Christ. Look in verse 26, and see what God told Daniel. He says then, "Messiah shall be cut off" (Daniel 9:26). Now It's hard for the Jews to believe in a crucified Messiah. They ought to read their prophet, Daniel: "The Messiah shall be cut off." What do you mean, "cut off"? Well, it refers to capital punishment. Read Isaiah 53, verse 8, when it speaks of the death of Christ, and it says, "*He was cut off out of the land of the living"* (Isaiah 53:8).

The prophet Daniel saw the coming of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, as He presented Himself to Israel on that Palm Sunday. And He looked past that to the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ. But notice how much God told Daniel. The Bible says that He the Messiah shall be cut off, *"but not for himself"* (Daniel 9:26). It was not because of His sins that He died, but for my sins and your sins. *"He had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth"* (Isaiah 53:10). *"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all"* (Isaiah 53:6)—Isaiah 53, verse 6. Daniel saw that hundreds of years before Jesus Christ came: the Messiah would die. He would be cut off out of the land of the living, Isaiah tells us. But not for Himself. It was my sin, your sin, that nailed Him to the tree.

E. **The Conquest of the City**

But now, the countdown continues. Not only do you see, dear friend, the construction of the city; and then, the coming of the Christ; and then, the crucifixion of the Christ; but you see the conquest of the city. Notice, again, what Daniel prophesied: And then, he said, Messiah shall *"be cut off, but not for himself:"*—verse 26 now, watch it—*"and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city"* (Daniel 9:26). *"The prince that shall come"* is not Jesus—he's the Antichrist. *"And the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city."* Who destroyed Jerusalem? The Romans. The Romans. And out of a revived Roman Empire, there is another prince that will come—the black prince—the Antichrist. Daniel prophesied that the Romans would destroy Jerusalem.

And incidentally, if you'll go home today, and read your paper, you'll see that the decree from the Common Market came from Rome, that said, "We're going to put an embargo on the Iraqis." Out of Rome. And the European Community is now being run from Rome. True, there is a revolving chairmanship, but you're seeing the predominance, now, of Rome here. And Daniel prophesied that Jerusalem would be destroyed. Jesus not only wept, because they didn't recognize Him; but Jesus, knowing this prophecy, and Himself being God, He wept, because He knew of that temple *"there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down"* (Luke 21:6)—

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Luke chapter 21 and verse 6. And as Jesus prophesied, even those stones were pried apart by the looters seeking the gold of that temple.

And if you'd go today to the temple mount, and travel to Israel, as many of us have traveled in the Holy Land, you'll find a monument of this temple, and the ruins of that temple, and the ruins of this temple. But at the ruins of the greatest temple ever built, the temple of Jehovah, you'll find not one stone—not one—upon another. Exactly as Daniel prophesied, and Jesus confirmed, in verse 26: that a Roman would come, and he would destroy the city.

Now play close attention: *"After threescore and two weeks,"*—verse 26—*"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;"*—that's the temple—*"and the end thereof shall be with a flood,"*—this does not speak of a flood of water. The Bible says, *"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him"* (Isaiah 59:19)—*"and unto the end of the war desolations are determined"* (Daniel 9:26).

Now this may be rendered this way: "And unto the end, wars and desolations are determined." The people asked the Lord Jesus, "Jesus, what will be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the age?" And Jesus said that unto the end, wars and desolations are determined. There will be *"wars and rumors of wars…but the end is not yet"* (Matthew 24:3–6).

It's amazing what Jesus prophesied, and what Daniel prophesied. You would have thought of all of these years, after 2,000 years, that some way, somehow, somebody would've figured out a way that we could live in peace on this war-torn world. But Daniel said what Jesus said: that there will be *"wars and rumors of wars."*

Now my dear friend, we said that there are 490 years. But when Messiah was cut off, when Jesus was crucified, the clock stopped ticking for Israel. God called a time out. And God stopped dealing with Israel as a nation. And He just simply said that there's going to be a period of time known as the times of the Gentiles. And so we got to 483 years, the Messiah came, they crucified the Messiah, and God said, "All right now, the clock stops ticking for Israel."

F. **The Calling of the Church**

Now we have an undetermined period of time known as *wars and desolations of wars*. When will that time end? When will the time of the Gentiles end? The Bible says, *"Blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in"* (Romans 11:25). What is "the fullness of the Gentiles"? Well, I believe it has reference, among other things, to the completion of the Body of Christ. I believe there's a number known to God alone that will make the bride complete. That will make the building called

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the Church complete. And the last brick in the building will be put in place. The last member of the Body will be in place. The last part of the bride will be complete. And then, the trumpet will sound. Could it be that in this service tonight the last soul will be saved before Jesus comes?

And God looks down from Heaven, and sees a 14-year-old boy come down this aisle, and God says, "That's it. Uh huh, that's the one." I am waiting—we don't know what it will take, when it will be, when the fullness of the Gentiles comes in. But I'm telling you, when Jesus comes, His church will be complete, His bride will be complete.

We're living in a time known as the Church Age, where God called *time out* for Israel. The Old Testament prophets didn't see the Church. They didn't understand the Church. Even Daniel doesn't mention the Church here. He just mentions wars and desolations. For the Bible tells us, in the book of Ephesians, that the Church was a mystery revealed in the last days. And so here we see, dear friend, the calling of the Church, in the last part of verse 26.

G. **The Completion of the Count**

And look in verse 27: you'll see the completion of the count. Notice, in verse 27: *"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week"* (Daniel 9:27). That's the missing week. We've had 483 years. But now, 490 years are about to be completed. Who is going to confirm the covenant? Does it refer to Messiah the Prince?

Oh, no, not Messiah the Prince. It refers to Antichrist the prince—*"the prince that shall come."* Read it: *"The people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city"* (Daniel 9:26). But the prince that will come will *"confirm the covenant with many for one week"* (Daniel 9:27). What does that mean? In plain English, it means that, when the Antichrist comes, he is going to make a league, a seven-year treaty, with the nation Israel. This Antichrist is going to come out of a revived Roman Empire, and he's going to say to a beleaguered Israel, "I will protect you. I will make a covenant of peace with you." And do you know what the nation Israel will do? They will say "Hallelujah! Praise God! At last, we're at peace!"

But the Bible says, concerning the Antichrist, in Daniel chapter 8, verse 25: *"By peace shall destroy many"* (Daniel 8:25). He will make a covenant with many, but by peace, he will destroy many. He will come as the greatest benefactor that the Jews have ever known. Jesus Christ said, *"I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive"* (John 5:43). That was a prophecy of the Lord Jesus. They will believe this apostate; they will believe this beast; and, they will believe this pervert, this man of sin, who claims to be God on earth: the Antichrist. And when they do, dear friend, they make a covenant with the Antichrist. In the middle of that seven-year period, the Antichrist is going to move into the temple of

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God, “showing himself that he is God” (2 Thessalonians 2:4).

Notice, if you will, in verse 27: *“And he”*—the prince that shall come, the Antichrist—*“shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week”*—after 3 1/2 years—*“he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease”* (Daniel 9:27). Did you know that the little Jewish boys, Hasidic Jews, right now, are studying how to make sacrifices—animal sacrifices? Did you know that they have gotten the Leviticus tools to sacrifice with? They’re training these young Jewish boys how to wear the robes, and all of the Old Testament sacrifices. They want to begin to sacrifice again as they did in the Old Testament. And this ruler out of Europe is going to say, “That’s all right. If you want to do that, you may do that. And you will have my protection.” And he’ll make a seven-year treaty.

But in the middle of that seven years, in the midst of the week, after 3 1/2 years—the Bible calls it, in Revelation 12, verse 14: *“a time, and times, and half a time”* (Revelation 12:14), or 42 months, or 1,260 days, it’s all the same period of time—3 1/2 years, when the Jews are sacrificing, back in their Old Testament worship, then this devil in the flesh is going to come into the temple of God, and say, “Hold it. Put away that claptrap. If you want to worship something, if you’re looking for a God to worship, I’m the one.” And the Bible says, in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, verse 4, *“He as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God”* (2 Thessalonians 2:4).

That’s what Jesus was talking about, when He said, *“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation…in the holy place… flee into the mountains…”*—get out of there—*“…for then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be”* (Matthew 24:15–16, 21). And this megalomaniac, this *Satan’s superman*, this devil in the human flesh, will “show himself that he is God” (2 Thessalonians 2:4). Satan has always said, *“I will be like the most High”* (Isaiah 14:14); *“I will exalt my throne above the stars of God”* (Isaiah 14:13). When Jesus Christ was here on Earth, He could say, *“He that hath seen me hath seen the Father”* (John 14:9). When Antichrist comes, he’ll be able to say the same thing: “He that hath seen me hath seen my father.” He will be Satan incarnate, the man of sin. And he will make a covenant with many (Daniel 9:27), and they’ll say, “Peace at last.” But through peace, he’ll destroy many (Daniel 8:25). And in the middle of that week—3 1/2 years—he himself will come into the temple of God, *“shewing himself that he is God”* (2 Thessalonians 2:4), *“and cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease”* (Daniel 9:27).

And the Bible says, *“And for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate”* (Daniel 9:27), in Daniel 9 verse 27. Did you read that? *“The overspreading of abominations.”* Now you understand what Jesus meant, in Matthew 24, when He spoke of *“the abomination of desolation”* (Matthew 24:15). That’s what He’s talking about. Jesus said, “When you see that, get out of Jerusalem…*For then shall be great*

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tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matthew 24:15–21)—Matthew 24, verse 21. The Antichrist is going to double-cross Israel, and unleash his satanic fury on God's chosen people. Daniel chapter 12 and verse 1 tells us about it: *"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book*" (Daniel 12:1). I wish I had more time to talk about that.

H. **The Consummation of the Count**

But let's talk, last of all, and show you what else Daniel saw. Not only did he see the completion of the count, and the final seven years as the clock starts to tick again—and, by the way, we said that the clock started ticking, to begin, with the command to restore and build Jerusalem. And then, we said it stopped ticking after 483 years, with the crucifixion of Jesus. When will it start ticking again? With the rapture of the Church. When the Church is taken out, then it's *time-in* again for Israel. We're living in a parenthetical time called the Church age, the mystery that was hid from the prophets. And when the Church is taken out, at that moment, God's prophetic clock begins to tick for those final seven years. And the great tribulation will be seven years in length. The last 3 1/2 years will be a time of unmentionable horror.

Well, how does it all end? Well, thank God, we know. Look in the last part of verse 27, Daniel 9—and the Bible says, *"Until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured out upon the desolate"* (Daniel 9:27)—or "the desolator." Don't think that Satan is going to win. The Bible says there's coming a consummation. Jesus is going to consummate all things. He put everything into action, and He's going to put everything into conclusion. He was there in the commencement. He will be there in the consummation. We call the Antichrist, 666. But dear friend, I want to tell you, 777's going to take care of him, when Jesus comes, not for His saints, but this time, with His saints, after the tribulation period. And He shall come with the armies in Heaven. And He shall come with a sharp two-edged sword that goes out of His mouth, which is His Word (Revelation 1:16).

In the Garden of Gethsemane, when they came to take Jesus, they came with sticks, and staves, and swords, a great host, a great army, to take Jesus to crucify Him. Jesus turned, and said, "*Who seek ye?*" The Bible says, *"They went backward, and fell to the ground"* (John 18:4–6). Just His breath, His words. Then Jesus allowed them up, and allowed them to handcuff Him. Dear friend, there you have in miniature—Judas, who represents the Antichrist; all of those soldiers that represent the forces at Armageddon. This time, Jesus will come; and, the Bible says, *"And out of his mouth*

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goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations" (Revelation 19:15).

You say, "What's the battle of Armageddon going to be like? Is it going to be jets, and lasers, and napalm, and atomic bombs?" It may start that way. But friend, when Jesus comes, He'll win that war with a word—just a word. He will speak—and the Lord that spoke them into existence, will speak them into oblivion. That's the battle of Armageddon. And that consummation will be poured out upon the desolate.

Conclusion

Friend, I want to tell you something. We have a lot of Satanism in the world today. A lot of people, for whatever reason, are following Satan. But don't follow a loser. He is a consummate loser.

Have faith in God, He's on His throne.
Have faith in God, He watches o'er His own.
He cannot fail, He must prevail.
Have faith in God, have faith in God.

—B. B. McKinney

Friend, if it has been this way, thus far, and every scripture thus far has been minutely fulfilled, you can bank on the rest of it.

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