

Introduction to Daniel's 70th Week

Welcome to the study of the Book of Revelation from the mindset of a Hebrew. This is Volume 3, Daniel's 70th week. In this study, we will primarily be covering Revelation chapters 6-19. This passage of Scripture is all about the finale of God's fierce *wrath* against sin and unrepentant sinners of Mankind. This period of time has commonly been called the "Tribulation."

The verses in Revelation chapters 1 through 3 were the discussion of Volume 1 of this study. In them, we examined the letters to the seven churches of Asia Minor, God's love letters to His Bride the Church. In Volume 2, chapters 4-5 and 20-22 were covered. In these chapters, we looked at "heaven" through the eyes of John, the Revelator, who was a Jew. In between chapters 5 and 20, in Volume 3, we will see God's *wrath* upon sin unleashed on the earth and the earth dwellers, the Nation of Israel taking front and center on the world's stage, a huge harvest of souls for the Kingdom of God from the earth, Christ's second coming with His saints, and the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom on earth.

My husband just returned from watching the movie, "Dunkirk" on the big IMAX screen. He came home with such admiration for the British for working so diligently together to get their 400,000 troops out of Dunkirk, France where they were trapped by the German army during WWII. Churchill sent out the call to all those in England who had any kind of boat. Their orders were to navigate the 35 miles across the English Channel to Dunkirk and rescue as many of the troops as they could fit in their boats. Many Englishmen answered the call to take their small boats across the English Channel to Dunkirk, doing what they believed was right. At this same time, the German air force continued to bomb all Allied ships including all the Red Cross ships that had wounded on board. As soon as the Germans realized that the troops were being rescued in small boats, the small boats became targets as well. Jeff said to me something that was very sobering. He said if evil rose up again in this generation (like the anti-Christ is going to do) like Hitler did in Germany in WWII, he wasn't sure there would be a sufficient number of quality people necessary who would answer the call to do what's right. This is a sad commentary on the culture of today.

I heard this from our Pastor John's mouth the weekend of August 6, and 7, "everyone matters to God!" In fact, it is written out on the sermon notes on the handouts we fill in the blanks each week.

God loves everyone!

Do you mean all of those in the country of Turkey who are Muslims? **YES**

Do you mean all those who took part in the Nazi war machine during WWII? **YES**

Do you mean those who flew the two airplanes into the Twin Towers on 9/11? **YES**

Do you mean all those who will not make it through the Tribulation? **YES**

Do you mean Saul of Tarsus who became Paul, the bondservant of Christ Jesus? **YES**

Do you mean you and me? **YES**

Do you really believe God loves every body? I have a difficult time getting my head around “every body,” and also that He knows each one of us, and each one of us is different from everyone else. Do you really think that each and every human being on the planet matters to God? I want you to really ponder on, contemplate, deliberate, and mull over this. This is important! Your final answer will guide the path you take now and in the future.

It doesn't matter how large the crowd is, He is ruthlessly interested in each individual, even you!

Sinners! We are all sinners!

This is what Paul wrote in his letter to the **Romans 5:8**, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” The Scripture continues on to say in **Romans 5:9**, “Much more then having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from *the wrath of God* through Him.” His desire for all of us is that we might recognize Him for who He is and ask Him to be our Savior, to forgive us of our sin, and to escape the *wrath of God*. This is what **Ezekiel 18:23** quotes God as saying, “Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked?” declares the Lord GOD, “rather than that he should turn from his ways and live?” And again in **Ezekiel 18:32**, “For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies, declares the Lord GOD. Therefore, repent and live.”

What is *the wrath of God*? Do you remember from our first study in this series we discerned God as holy and Man as not holy? Man is riddled with sin. Obviously, there is a great chasm between who God is and who we are. Oh, yes, we have been made in the likeness of God, but we are also sinners in our natural bent, disobedient, and hostile towards God. We can always blame Eve for eating of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil when she was told not to do so, but, in reality, we all came from Adam and Eve's union anyway. Thus we carry the sin gene and we pass it on to the future generations, whether we want to pass it on or not. God is holy. He cannot be in the presence of sin. Mankind is sinful. Therefore, sinful Man cannot stand in the presence of Holy God. God will consume a sinful man if that man comes into His presence without the covering of Jesus' blood. *God's wrath* is *His wrath* against sin. God hates the sin, but He loves the sinner. Those who have not partaken or who “willfully” do not partake of God's salvation through His Son Jesus Christ, will be resurrected one day, and judged for their sins and thrown into the Lake of Fire for all eternity. This is not an easy message to bring, is it? Some might say, “that's just cruel.” That isn't the way God is at all. He's love and mercy and forgiving and nurturing. Yes, these are all true attributes of God, but He is also **El Qanna**, **Esh Okla**, a Jealous God, and an All Consuming Fire. Jonathan Edwards, a pastor and an evangelist during the time of our country's formation and the Great Awakening (1730-1755), preached a message that continues to put the scare in me every time I hear its title spoken: “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.” It was Edward's desire, through his vivid imagery of Hell, to “wake people up” to the reality of Hell. Edwards believed that without devotion

to Christ, one would end up in the eternal fires of Hell. Underlying all this, humanity has been given the opportunity to mend their ways and return to Christ by humbling themselves, telling God they are sinners, and they are in need of the Savior from their sin that He provided for them in Christ Jesus.¹

Although, I don't agree on every point of Jonathan Edwards theology, I do believe that we should all be aware (and scared) of *El Qanna, Esh Okla*, our Jealous God and All-Consuming Fire, He who has the keys to "death and Hades" in **Revelation 1:18**. We, as Believers in Jesus Christ, will not undergo His Consuming Fire, *His wrath against sin*, because we have the forgiveness of our sins in our Savior Jesus Christ's shed blood on the cross and we will not be on this earth when God unleashes this fierce *wrath on the earth* and the *earth dwellers*. However, we are still on this earth and as long as we are here, we continue to sin on a daily basis and we need to keep that slate clean. We need to carry on in our lives as though He is coming back at any moment and that every moment in this life counts. We should strive to keep our thoughts, and our actions, and our speech pure. In addition, our hearts should literally break for those who do not know Him as Lord and Savior. This knowledge should spur us on and make us all the more vigilant to get the message out to all Mankind, including and especially all of our family members and friends.

Before we enter into this last volume of study into the book of Revelation. I would like you to read again this description of Jesus Christ in Revelation 1:12-18. It is written here below in order for you to mark it up in anyway that helps you to retain the content. Pay attention. This picture of Jesus is terribly important to know for this study on Daniel's 70th Week.

"Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow, and His eyes were like a flame of fire. His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace and His voice was like the sound of many waters. In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength. When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, 'Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and

¹ Wikipedia, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," August 6, 2017, 11:24 a.m.

the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.”

Those seven golden lampstands are representative of the Seven Spirits of God, the Holy Spirit. They are never to be extinguished. They are to burn forever with the pure olive oil that fuels their fire. Jesus was pressed out on the cross, just like those olives were pressed out to give the olive oil for those lamps. Each of the seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3 were given a lampstand. On each of those seven lampstands, there were seven more lamps. In effect, each of the churches, were given the Holy Spirit. He would be their guiding light and God’s presence in their midst.

Across Jesus’ chest was a golden sash. This sash was probably the pattern God gave to Moses to present to Oholiab and Bezelel in the days after escaping Egypt, when they were fashioning garments for the high priest. This breastplate represented the 12 tribes of Israel in its 12 different stones set into the breastplate.

The white hair like wool reminds us of God’s eternal nature. He has always been. He is, right now. He will always be. He does not change. Also, He holds all wisdom and knowledge in His person. His ways are always right. His ways are always best. We do not know everything. We need to be obedient to Him. We need to choose life by our obedience to Him even when it doesn’t make any sense. If we love Him truly, we will obey Him.

Lastly, His eyes were like a flame of fire and His feet were like burnished bronze caused to glow in a fire. Bronze is the metal used to signify judgment as it is purified in the fire. My friends, my fellow brethren, and my sisters in Christ, Jesus is coming back the second time as the King, yes, but also as the *Shophet Tsaddiq* the Righteous Judge of all the earth. His judgment will be final. His justice will be quick once He begins to judge. And His justice will be fair and righteous. Get your brain wrapped around this image of the Christ. He is worthy. He is the only One who is worthy to open the book of Revelation 4 and 5 and to break its seals. He came as the *Ga-al*, the Kinsman Redeemer. He paid the purchase price for His Bride. Only He is worthy to open the scroll that is the title deed for this earth.

So, pay attention!

Wake up! Live with understanding rather than fear!

Our King is coming, the Judge of all the earth!

Choose life! Choose obedience to God!

Be equipped! Be prepared! Be strengthened! Be diligent!

Persevere! Know in detail the things that will surely come to pass!

Make disciples of all Nations!

Peggy Grinstead

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