

In Isaiah Part 1, we saw how God judged both the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah, including the city of Jerusalem, for their departure from the Lord GOD and His ways. Both kingdoms sought the gods of the other nations instead of a relationship with their One True God, Jehovah. The first commandments of the Old Covenant say this: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing loving kindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments." (Exodus 20:2-6) God told Moses that the "people" would stray from Him, future to Moses' day, and that they would forsake the LORD their God, seek after other gods, and fall into idolatry. God's judgment upon them would come in the form of death or an eviction from the land of which He was giving to them. This is what God told Moses about the People, even before they entered the Promised Land: "Then men shall say, 'Because they forsook the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt, and they went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they have not known and whom He had not allotted to them. Therefore, the anger of the LORD burned against that land, to bring upon it every curse which is written in this book; and the LORD uprooted them from their land in anger and in fury and in great wrath, and cast them into another land, as it is this day.'" (Deuteronomy 29:25-28). These atrocities against the Lord GOD were committed for many years before God's judgment axe fell upon the people. God was longsuffering and patient with the nation of Israel. He tried everything to try to get them back into relationship with Himself, but alas, they would not. Finally, when there was nothing more that God hadn't done, the remaining Jews who were not killed by famine, disease, or by the Babylonian sword, were forced out of their land for 70 years and taken to the far-off land called Babylon.

Isaiah Part 2 addressed the judgment of the nations surrounding the nation of Israel. Most of these judgments came about because of these other nations' deeds against the LORD'S anointed People, the nation of Israel. First, God used the Assyrians to punish the Northern Kingdom of Israel for their idolatry. But, then, God called down judgment on the Assyrians for their part in destroying His people, Ephraim and Judah. Next, God used the Babylonians to be the correctional rod upon the people of the Southern Kingdom for their departure into idolatry. But, then, again, God judged the Babylonians for their part in removing His People from the land of Israel of which He had given to them. We saw that most of God's judgments on the Palestinians, the Moabites, the Syrians, the Egyptians, the Arabians, the Edomites, and those from Tyre (present day Lebanon) were literally fulfilled during or just after Isaiah's writing. Yet, some of these prophecies still have judgments against some of these nations that have not been fulfilled, but will be fulfilled, during the last days or in the day of the LORD, still future to us. The city of Babylon will play a huge part in the end-times' events just prior to the Messiah's second coming. Lastly, we see that even though God's judgment will fall on all these other

nations, there will be some from these other nations, who will be “saved.” We learned that some from Ethiopia, Lebanon, Palestine, Assyria, Egypt, and from the Islands of the Seas, will all have a place in the coming Millennial Kingdom, when the Messiah returns to earth and sets up His throne. And, at that time, “all” of Israel will also be “saved.” This is what Jeremiah 31:31-34 says about the nation of Israel, “ ‘Behold, days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,’ declares the LORD. ‘But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,’ declares the LORD, ‘I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God and they shall be My people. And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, “*Know the LORD,*” for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,’ declares the LORD, ‘for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.’”

Isaiah Part 3 will focus on the upcoming and future judgment of the peoples of the earth during the last days. We will also look at the people and condition of the earth during the Millennial Kingdom. The “last days,” as we will study them, will cover the return of Israel to the land a second time, the rapture of the church, the Great Tribulation (also called Daniel’s 70th week), Christ’s Second Coming that includes the salvation of Israel, and the coming Millennial Kingdom. In this section we will weave in and out of Isaiah and into some other eschatological passages of the Scripture so that we will have a complete Biblical picture of the “last days.” Please refer to the timeline on page 13 of Part 1.

This first week, our focal points will center on the return of the Israelites to their land a second time and the rapture of the church. The 70th week of Daniel will also be addressed. We will spend a little time on the rapture of the church because of the effect that millions of instantly missing Christian people will have on the Jewish population who remain on the earth.

Days 1 - 3 – The Return of the Nation of Israel to the Land of Israel a Second Time and the beginning of the 70th Week of Daniel

Almost 2000 years had elapsed between the time of the Diaspora (when the Israelites were evicted from their land a second time and their Temple destroyed) and May 14, 1948, when Israel was once again recognized by the world as a nation inhabiting her own land. Go back now and take another look at Isaiah 11:11-16.

Why would Isaiah feel the necessity to speak about a second return to the land when he has not yet even mentioned a first return to the land?

When was the first return to the land and what were the circumstances that caused them to leave their land the first time? Where had they been living before this first return?

Please read Daniel 9:1-19 and Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10-14. Was this promise of return to the land in Jeremiah 29:10-14 for the first return or the second return or both returns?

When was the second return to the land and what were the circumstances that caused them to leave their land the second time? Where had they been living before this second return? (Daniel 9:26, Matthew 24:1-2.) Also, remember your history of Israel around the year 70 A.D.

Let's take a look at some specific markers given to the Prophet Daniel to write down for events that would occur for the nation of Israel still future to Isaiah's day. Please read Daniel 9:24-27. What are these markers?

Daniel speaks of 70 weeks here. He points out that there are 7 weeks and 62 weeks, markers for when specific things will occur for the nation of Israel. Seven weeks added to 62 weeks only adds up to 69 weeks, one week short of the 70 weeks decreed for the nation of Israel. Daniel is told that at 69 weeks, the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing. When should the Israelites have looked for the Messiah's first coming? Write down the most simple and obvious answer to this question just looking at the text.

What does it mean that the Messiah will be cut off?

These verses should have given the Jewish people the clues that they needed to recognize the Messiah when He came the first time. Sixty-nine weeks is 69 sevens or 69 heptads which can be understood to be 483 years. Therefore, the exact number of days from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince was 173,880 with 360 days being figured in the Jewish manner as one year. Figuring for all the changes in the calendar between the two dates, Sir Robert Anderson during the 19th century in his book, The Coming Prince, ascertained that the very day that Jesus rode a colt into Jerusalem and was hailed as king by the people was 173,880 days from the date of 444 or 445 B.C. (when Jerusalem was to be restored).ⁱⁱⁱ After the 69th heptad, the Messiah was to be cut off and indeed He was. He was cut off when He died on that cross for you and me. But, Daniel prophesied there were 70 weeks or 70 heptads that were decreed for the Jewish people and their holy city, Jerusalem, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy place. Where and when is the missing 70th week? Has this 70th week of Daniel happened yet?

Is there to be a space of time in-between the 69th week when the Messiah was cut-off and this 70th week of Daniel? Could this space of time be indicative of the time between Christ's first and second comings or indicative of the time between Christ being cut off from His Kingdom on earth and becoming the King of all kings on the earth during the Millennial Kingdom at the end of the age?

What is this indeterminate space of time?

Remember from our other studies, that the church-age was hidden from the Old Testament writers.

Please refresh your memory of the table of the Future Times for the Nation of Israel from Isaiah Part 1, Week 3, reprinted for you here.

Future Times for Nation of Israel (future to Isaiah's Day)
The Northern Kingdom will be taken captive by the Assyrians b/c of their disobedience & idolatry and dispersed throughout the conquered lands of the Assyrians. The Remnant, some of the N. Kingdom moves into the S. Kingdom preserving their tribes.
The S. Kingdom will be invaded by the Assyrians but not taken captive.
The Jews (the S. Kingdom) will be taken captive by the Babylonians b/c of their disobedience/idolatry; Solomon's original <u>temple</u> will be destroyed. The Jews will remain a nation in captivity.
The Remnant of God's people will return to their land after 70 years of Babylonian captivity; they will rebuild the <u>temple</u> to Jehovah (2 nd Temple).
Messiah will enter history the first time as the Suffering Servant to die for the peoples' sins.
God's people will be taken captive by Rome (70AD) & dispersed throughout the nations of the world. The 2 nd <u>temple</u> will be destroyed. The Jews will remain a nation during this dispersion.
God's people will return to their land a second time in 1948 but <u>not in faith*</u> ; they will rebuild the <u>temple</u> (the 3 rd <u>temple</u>) to Jehovah as soon as they can & will reinstate the sacrificial system. They will return to their land the second time <u>in faith</u> probably at the end of the Tribulation just prior to the second coming of Christ. This <u>in faith</u> return is the second return referred to in Isaiah 11. This could mean there will be another dispersion of the Jews from their land.
God's people are presently in the last days ; this time includes the time before the time of Jacob's Trouble through the Tribulation, the Second Coming of Christ, the Millennial Kingdom, and the New Creation.**
Messiah will enter into history the second time as the Conquering King & Judge. He will rid the earth of His enemies & reign over His Kingdom from His <u>Temple</u> (the 4 th temple) in Jerusalem for 1000 years.**
God's people will be present with Him forever; He will create a new heaven & earth.**

* from J.Vernon McGee's writings: looking like in 2021 as though they returned in faith

**These last three times overlap each other somewhat.

Obviously, the time of Israel's second return to the land has to occur before the 70th week of Daniel because they are in the land for the second time now and the 70th week of Daniel has not yet begun. There is no mention of how many years will pass between the Jews' second gathering in the land and the beginning of Daniel's 70th week.

What will the land do for the Israelites once they return to it according to Ezekiel 36:8-15?

What will happen to the numbers of the Jews once they are back in the land according to Ezekiel 36:10?

What will happen to the former waste places and the former cities according to Ezekiel 36:10?

What will God cause the people of Israel to do to the land? (Ezekiel 36:12)

What will God not allow the land to do to the people anymore according to verse Ezekiel 36:12-15?

What will the LORD not allow the land to hear? (Ezekiel 36:15)

What will God do for the Israelites at a time after He returns them to the land according to Ezekiel 36:25-27?

What will the land produce for them at God's calling according to Ezekiel 36:29-30?

Have any of these signs been observed for the nation of Israel now that they have returned to the land a second time?

Obviously, the gathering of the nation of Israel in the land the second time has begun. The rains have returned to the land and it is very fertile once again. The former cities are being rebuilt and they are being occupied.

There are other verses in the Scripture that imply that the Israelites were to return to the land the second time in obedience and worship of Jehovah. Some of the Jews are doing this today. Some are becoming Messianic Jews who believe that Jesus is and was the Messiah for whom they had longed. But, the vast majority of Jews returning to the land are not returning to Him first. These verses make me think that the mass return to the land is still future during the Millennial Kingdom. At this time the whole of Israel as a nation will call on the "One Whom they have pierced" to come back and be their Savior and LORD. Nevertheless, we can see that the return of the Jews to the land this second time has at the least commenced. Their return to the land again is an absolute miracle for they have been scattered all over the world for almost 2000 years.

We know that during this present time, the true Believers in Christ as the Messiah, are still dwelling on the earth. Some of the Jews are in the land of Israel. Yet many of them still are dispersed among the lands of the nations of the world. There are many Gentiles who have been reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and there are many who have not yet heard His saving message of hope.

Days 4 and 5 – The Rapture of the Church and their Presence with the LORD Forever- Revelation, II Thessalonians 2, 1 Thessalonians 4

As I said earlier, the reason that the rapture of the Church is included here is because of the effect it will have on the Jewish people once the Church has been taken from this world. The presence of the Holy Spirit in the world will depart right along with the sudden disappearance of the Believers themselves. The first place we will look in the Scripture for evidence of the teaching concerning the rapture is in the book of Revelation. The first three chapters of Revelation focus on the church. After these initial chapters, the church abruptly disappears from the pages of Revelation. What can this disappearance of the Believers possibly mean? What could possibly happen after "this church age" is over? Could this mean that the time of the Gentiles is also over? Will the Jews take center-stage once again on the world scene since the church is "out of the way?" Will there be any new converts to Christianity at this time? Will there be a great number of Jews who will finally find their Messiah in Jesus Christ? If you would like to know more about Christ's wisdom for the Church age, please read Revelation 1-3.

Where will the true Believers be at the time of the Rapture? Will there be any church presence on the earth after this rapture? Where will the Jews be?

There are other places in Scripture that we find a defense for the doctrine of the Rapture. The explanation of what will take place at the Rapture is this: Christ Himself will come to take the "Believers in Christ" away from the earth and into His presence forever. The very time structure of Revelation gives evidence that this Rapture of the Believers in Christ, occurs prior to the Time of Jacob's Trouble, also referred to as the 70th week of Daniel or the Great Tribulation. The other Scriptures cited for this teaching concerning the Rapture are found in two of the letters that Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica. The word "rapture" is not found in the Bible, but the concept is found in several references. Paul uses the words "our gathering together to Him" in 2 Thessalonians 2:1 for this concept of the rapture.

Several things were bothering this church at Thessalonica over this teaching. One troubling matter involved the circulation of a false teaching that "the day of the LORD" had already come and they had missed it and were therefore doomed. Their other worry concerned their loved ones who were already dead. Paul wanted to accurately set the truth in their minds and their hearts so they would not despair, but hope.

Please read II Thessalonians 2:1-10.

Paul tells them in this passage that the man of perdition must come first before the end of the age, but the true Believers in Jesus Christ, will be taken out of this world prior to this man being revealed.

How is this man of perdition described in II Thessalonians 2:3-10? How will the Jews know him? Has this man showed up on the world scene yet? A type of this man of perdition showed up during the time of Greek world domination in a ruler named Antiochus Epiphanes (see Daniel 8). But, he was not the man Paul was speaking of here as the man of perdition. Paul spoke after the fall of the Greeks from world domination.

The answer is no. This man has not shown up yet. When he does show up, the time of Jacob's Trouble or the seven-year Tribulation Period will start the clock ticking. What or who keeps this man of perdition from being revealed until "his" time?

Who is the Restrainer?

How is the Holy Spirit's presence revealed to the world today?

Please read I Thessalonians 4:13-18. Paul knew that the Thessalonians were also worried about their loved ones who had already died. He wanted to put their minds at ease concerning their loved ones who had "fallen asleep."

What does "fallen asleep" mean?

What happens to a Believing Saint when his physical body dies?

Paul wanted the Believers in the church at Thessalonica to know that the spirit of a Believing Saint goes to be with the LORD immediately after death. But at the Rapture, Christ will resurrect the already-dead-Believing-Saint's body from the grave (transform the old body into a new body) and join that new body with the spirit of the Believing Saint.

The Believers who are "raptured" at this point will be before the throne of God and in His presence forever and for the scene in Revelation 4-5. They will not be on this earth during the Tribulation time. The Jewish people who are still alive after the rapture and before this time of Jacob's trouble will likely go through at least some of this tribulation period. After the man of perdition comes on the scene, the suffering of the Jewish people will worsen. It will be a time like no other.

What is decreed for the Jewish people and their holy city during the 70th week of Daniel? Return to the 70 weeks passage in Daniel 9 to answer this question.

Next week we will study what the Bible says concerning the period of time called the Great Tribulation. Remember that we are weaving in and out of Isaiah 24-27 using other eschatological passages of Scripture to build us a timeline so that we can better understand the meaning of the "end times," and particularly get a grasp of how chapters 24 through 27 fit into this time period.

ⁱ Sir Robert Anderson, *The Coming Prince*, Grand Rapids, MI, Kregel Classics, 1957, pp. 278-279.

ⁱⁱ Randall Price and Thomas Ice, *Seventy Weeks of Daniel*, *The Popular Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy*, Eugene, OR, Harvest House Publishers, 2004, pp. 356-360.

TIME BEFORE DANIEL (TBD)

Adam to Noah	The Flood	Shem to Abram >>Nation of Israel	Israel Captive in Egypt	Israel Desert	Israel in the Land						Israel in Captivity
					Judges	Kings & Prophets					
-God made Man on day 6 -11 sinful generations -God sorry made Man; wiped out entire population of Man except for Noah/3 sons & wives		-Earth repopulated by Shem, Ham, Japeth -Tower of Babel <u>Shem</u> - mid-east & far-east <u>Ham</u> - Africa <u>Japeth</u> - Europe -Abram descendant of Shem -God calls Abram; makes covenant w/ him - Genesis 12 -God covenants again w/ Abram -> Abraham; promises the seed, the nation, the land - Genesis 15 -God covenants w/ Isaac - Genesis 26 -God covenants w/ Jacob -> Israel -12 sons (70 souls) go to Egypt	-430 years from the time of covenant to Abraham -400 years actually in captivity -God remembers His people -raises Moses up as liberator -exodus from Egypt	40 yrs of testing in desert; 1st group does not go into land; Moses given law sacrificial system & the tabernacle instructions; after 40 years 2nd grp goes into possess the land	400 yrs. under government of the judges; time when every body does their own thing; intro of idolatry & homosexuality	Kingdom United - Saul, David, Solomon	Kingdom Divided - Jeroboam N. Kingdom; Rehoboam - S. Kingdom	Israel (N. Kingdom) - worshipped idols - taken captive by Assyrians Judah (S. Kingdom) - worshipped Jehovah -> then idols	Isaiah	King Josiah	Daniel
									prophesied before NK taken into captivity; accurately predicted NK captivity & SK captivity to Babylon; during reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, & Hezekiah Isaiah 1:1,	Small revival in the kingdom when Josiah was king; boy king; did away with the idol altars, sacrifices, & those who worshiped idols - read @ Kings 22:1-23:15 This is the small revival that Daniel was brought up under	-captive in first seige of Jerusalem - to Babylon - became 2nd in command under Nebuchadnezzar & 3rd in command under Medo-Persian rulers -Daniel 7 takes place during reign of last king of Babylon before the takeover by the Medo-Persians

TIME AFTER DANIEL (TAD)

Babylonian Empire	Medo-Persian Empire	Greek Empire		Roman Empire	
		United	Divided	Roman Empire	Revised Roman Empire
-captive in first seige of Jerusalem - to Babylon - became 2nd in command under Nebuchadnezzar & 3rd in command under Medo-Persian rulers -Daniel 7 takes place during reign of last king of Babylon before the takeover by the Medo-Persians	-captive in first seige of Jerusalem - to Babylon - became 2nd in command under Nebuchadnezzar & 3rd in command under Medo-Persian rulers -Daniel 7 takes place during reign of last king of Babylon before the takeover by the Medo-Persians	<u>third beast</u> like a leopard Dan. 2 - belly & & thighs of bronze-Greek 3rd king of bronze that will rule over all the earth	<u>third beast</u> the beast had 4 wings of a bird on its back; also had 4 heads and dominion was given to it - empire of Alexander the Great divided between his four generals: selucids - Syria Ptolemies - Egypt, Lysimachus - Thrace & Bithynia Cassander - Macedonia	<u>fourth beast</u> dreadful & terrifying extremely strong had large iron teeth devoured & crushed & trampled down the remainder with its feet different than all beast before it Daniel 2 - the legs of iron its feet partly of iron & partly of clay- Rome; strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes & shatters all things; it will crush & break all the other empires into pieces; toes & feet of clay & iron-kingdom strong & brittle; will not adhere to one another	<u>fourth beast</u> had 10 horsn - another horn: little horn - pulled out 3 of former 10 horns by roots; had eyes of a man & mouth boasting - fourth beast slain & its body destroyed & given to the burning fire -the other 7 beasts domain taken away, but life given for appointed time -interpretation: horn & 10 horsn, 3 horns fell= little horn will wage war w/ the saints & overpower them until Ancient of Days came & judgmt passes in favor of saints & saints too possession of kingdom; fourth beast will be a 4th king. on earth; differ than other kingdoms; will devour the whole earth & tread it down & crush it; 10 horns: out of LH kingdom 10 kings will arise & another will arise after them & he will be different & subdue 3 kings; will speak out agst Most High; wear down saints; try to alter time & law; saints given to him for time, times & 1/2 time

Why study? Many of Daniels prophecies have come true - so the rest will have fulfillment also; end times will be fulfilled - Israel will be back in the land & all this will happen; the time of Jacob's trouble will be as no other time.

the four beasts are four kings who will arise from the earth, but the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom & possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come

Daniel 2:31-35 the dream; Daniel 2:36-45 the interpretation

Daniel 8:1-14 ram, goat, magnified goat = Antiochus Epiphanes -> type for future antichrist 2300 days

DANIEL'S SEVENTY WEEKS

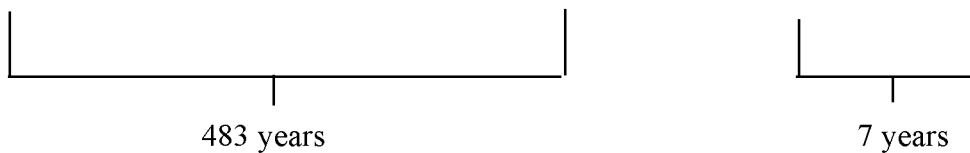
Daniel 9:24-27

Daniel unlocks the mysteries of God's prophetic plan for the nations & Israel.

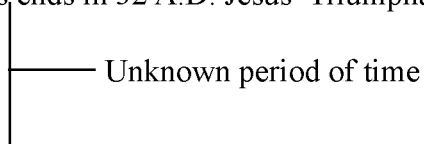
Six goals for Israel

- (1) to finish the transgression,
 - (2) to make an end of sins,
 - (3) to make atonement for iniquity,
 - (4) to bring in everlasting righteousness,
 - (5) to seal up vision & prophecy &
 - (6) to anoint the most holy place.
-

7 weeks or 7 sevens + 62 weeks or 62 sevens = 69 weeks or 69 sevens + 1 week or 1 seven = 70 weeks or 70 sevens



7 weeks starts in 445 B.C. Artaxerxes' decree to Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem
 69 weeks ends in 32 A.D. Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem + after this the Messiah cut off



70th week of Daniel begins w/ the Tribulation

Servitude of Nation begins with Nebuchadnezzar's first seige on Jerusalem

DANIEL'S SEVENTY WEEKS
Daniel 9:24-27

Daniel unlocks the mysteries of God's prophetic plan for the nations & Israel.

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