

End-times Revealed through Bible Prophecy Pt. 2

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Subtitle: The Rise of the Antichrist Pt. 2

We are journeying through a series of messages on the subject of End Times to gain understanding of certain events that will take place in the near future.

The ultimate event of End Times will be the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ. He is returning to earth soon to establish His literal Kingdom.

Last Sunday we spoke about the Rise of the Antichrist:

According to 2 Thessalonians 2:3&8, the antichrist will not be revealed and become known until after the departure of the church, also called the rapture.

We, the body of Christ, are the restraining force that is holding back the antichrist and his operation.

Various names of the antichrist:

- The prince (Daniel 9:26)
- Man of sin (2 Thess. 2:3)
- Son of perdition (2 Thess. 2:3)
- The lawless one (2 Thess. 2:9)
- **The antichrist** (1 John 2:18)
- The beast (Rev. 13:1)

- The antichrist is a rising charismatic political leader
- He is part of the one world government fraternity (Rev. 13:7)
- He will have the support of the false prophet who will be the leader of a one world religious system (Rev. 16:13–14, 9:20)
- Together, they will deceive multitudes of people through supernatural signs & lying wonders (Revelation 19:20)

Daniel's 70th 'Week' & the Rise of "the prince":

Daniel 9:23–26 (NKJV) ...consider the matter, and understand the vision: **24** "Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy. **25** "Know therefore and understand,

that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. 26 "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.

The archangel Gabriel spoke to prophet Daniel about a timeframe of 490 years relating to the Jewish people and to Jerusalem.

- Daniel's 'weeks' are not weeks of 7 days, but 'weeks' of 7 years
- 70 x 7's [weeks] of years totals 490 years

This timeframe of 490 years:

- Began with the command (by Persian ruler Artaxerxes) to rebuild Jerusalem
- It will end with the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ and the establishment of His Kingdom on the earth

This prophetic timeframe is divided into three segments of years:

a. 7 weeks	(7 x 7 years)	=	49 years
b. 62 weeks	(62 x 7 years)	=	434 years
c. <u>1 week</u>	<u>(1 x 7 years)</u>	=	<u>7 years</u>
			Total 490 years (of 360 days each)

Segments a & b (= 483 years) have already transpired uninterrupted:

- Began with Artaxerxes' command to rebuild Jerusalem (5 March 444 BC)
- Ended with the crucifixion of Jesus Christ (30 March 33 AD)

This leaves the last segment of 7 years (segment c.) still un-allocated.

- There is an 'intermission' (a gap) after segments a. & b.
- In other words, after 483 years have passed (69 weeks), God inserts a another time period called the "church age" or "the age of grace"
- **The "church age" was a mystery in the Old Testament, and was not spoken of, or explained, until apostle Paul began to teach it in his letters to the churches**

Ephesians 3:3–5 (NET) *That by revelation the divine secret was made known to me, as I wrote before briefly. 4 When reading this, you will be able to understand my insight into this secret of Christ. 5 Now **this secret was not disclosed to people in former generations** as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.*

- The “church age” began on the Day of Pentecost, and will end with the rapture of the church
- Once the “intermission” of the church age is completed, Daniel’s 70th week (7 years) will be launched, and thus shall 490 years be completed

Daniel’s 70th week = 7 years of the Great Tribulation

Daniel’s 70 weeks could be considered God’s clock for the Jewish people.

- The Jewish clock started ticking when Artaxerxes issued his decree
- It stopped ticking when Messiah was cut off, to make way for the church age
- Once the church age ends with the rapture of the church, the Jewish clock will start ticking again, to cycle through the last 7 years (Daniel’s 70th Week – the Great Tribulation period).

Daniel 9:26–27 (NKJV) 26 *“And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and **the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.** The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.”*

- Messiah (Jesus) was cut off (crucified) in 33 AD

Verse 26 ... *the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.*

- “The people” (Romans) destroyed the Jerusalem & the temple in 70 AD
- **“The prince who is to come” is the antichrist**
- When the Roman army destroyed the city & temple, there was still a prince to come some time after the destruction of the city & the temple

- The antichrist will appear after the church age and after the rapture of the church

Once the antichrist is revealed & identified after the church is raptured, he will:

- Broker a 7 year peace deal in the Middle East, specifically between Israel and its sworn enemies (vs. 27)
 - Break the agreement after 3 ½ years & stop temple sacrifices
 - Set up an image of himself in the (future) temple to be worshipped
- Antichrist will only operate during the 7 year Great Tribulation period
 - Antichrist is sometimes wrongly assumed to be a Jew, but scripture says he will be a prince from the (future) Roman empire
 - (There will be a revived version of the Roman Empire)
 - Antichrist will be:
 - Completely godless
 - Completely ruthless & merciless

Revelation 20:4 (NKJV) *And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw **the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands.** And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

- The antichrist and the false prophet duo will command the beheading of countless tribulation saints
- They will be defeated at the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:16, 19:20)
- They will be thrown into the lake of fire

Revelation 19:19–20 (NKJV) *And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. **20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.***

- Antichrist (with the assistance of the false prophet) will force the world population to:
 - Worship him & his image
 - Receive a “mark” on their right hand or on their forehead, of either:

- his “name” or
- the “number” of his name

Revelation 13:15–18 (NLT) *He was then permitted to give life to this statue so that it could speak. Then the statue of the beast commanded that anyone refusing to worship it must die. 16 He required everyone—small and great, rich and poor, free and slave—to be given a mark on the right hand or on the forehead. 17 And no one could buy or sell anything without that mark, which was either the name of the beast or the number representing his name. 18 Wisdom is needed here. Let the one with understanding solve the meaning of the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. His number is 666.*

- After the rapture, everyone will be forced to receive the mark of the beast
- Nobody will be able to buy or sell without the mark of the beast
- Those who resist & refuse the mark will be killed

Nobody should under-estimate:

- the level of sophistication of the Antichrist’s deception
- the level of utter control that Antichrist will exercise during his reign

Example of present-day Chinese Government’s control over population:

- China’s surveillance program of its population through:
 - security cameras (one CCTV camera for every 5.9 citizens)
 - AI-powered surveillance technology (facial recognition etc.)
 - 5 G network to facilitate the volume & speed of data
- China’s present-day “Social Credit System”
 - Good citizens will be rewarded
 - “Naughty” citizens will have points deducted
- Move towards a completely cashless society
- Smartphone initiated payments can be turned off remotely
- <https://time.com/5735411/china-surveillance-privacy-issue/>

Prayer for Salvation:

Dear God, I admit that I am a sinner and that I have broken your laws. I ask you to forgive me, and cleanse me from all my sins. Dear Lord Jesus, I believe that You died on the cross for my sins, and that You rose again from the dead. I now receive You as my Lord and as my Saviour. Please come

into my heart, and make me born again. I ask you to lead me and guide me, and help me to live for you, for the rest of my life. Amen.