
LAST DAYS PROPHECY SEMINAR

LESSON THREE: “The Antichrist’s 7-Year Peace Covenant”

We know that from the very beginning, Satan has been nothing but an imitator of God and His Son, Jesus Christ. It started in heaven when Satan allowed pride to arise in his heart when he said to himself, *“I will ascend above the clouds, and I will be like the Most High”* (Isaiah 14:14).

Satan’s program of self-promotion, and ultimately self-destruction, will climax when he gives his power to the Antichrist 7 years prior to the return of Jesus Christ at the last trump to this earth. What can we expect from Satan and the Antichrist? They will imitate the soon-coming Prince of Peace Himself, Jesus Christ.

After the First Battle of Gog and Magog, the Antichrist will stand up on the world stage and promote a 7-year peace treaty. Revelation 13:11 tells us that he will look like a lamb, but speak like a dragon. In other words, he will appear to be good and will promote a worldwide peaceful agenda; however, once his world government has been established, he will begin to persecute the Christians. He will ultimately commit the abomination of desolation in the middle of the last 7 years when he will sit in Jerusalem on the Temple Mount and declare that he is as God. This will be the catalyst that unleashes the wrath of God being poured out on the earth for a period of 3 ½ years.

1. Daniel’s prophecy of 70 weeks.

A. By what authority do we say that Daniel’s vision of 70 weeks found in Daniel 9:24-27 is relevant to the time of the end, the Last Days?

1) Daniel 9:24

[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.”*

B. Notice all of the events that are contained in this prophecy:

- 1) 70 weeks are determined for your people.
- 2) 70 weeks are determined for your holy city (Jerusalem).
- 3) To finish the transgression.
- 4) To make an end of sins.
- 5) To make reconciliation for iniquity.
- 6) To bring in everlasting righteousness.
- 7) To seal up vision and prophecy.
- 8) And to anoint the Most Holy.

C. Some of the events can only take place in the Last Days.

- 1) For example, the promise to bring in everlasting righteousness and to anoint the Most Holy only happens when Jesus Christ returns at the 7th trump to establish His 1000 year kingdom of righteousness: The Millennial Reign.
- 2) The prophecy itself gives us the authority to use it when studying the Last Days.

D. Daniel 9:25-27

- [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.*
- [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.”*

E. The Church of God believes, and most theologians concur, that the first 69 weeks of Daniel’s vision were completed with the crucifixion of Jesus, and that the 70th week relates directly to Last Days.

- 1) The Church of God believes that there are 69 weeks (or 483 years) from the time that the command was given to rebuild Jerusalem and its walls, until the death of Jesus, thereby fulfilling the first part of Daniel’s vision.
- 2) The command to rebuild Jerusalem and its walls was given approximately 445 B.C. by King Artaxerxes to Nehemiah (Nehemiah 2:1,5,6).
 - a. When you add 483 years to 445 B.C. you arrive at the approximate year in which the Messiah, Jesus Christ, was crucified. This is in fulfillment of Daniel’s prophecy about the Messiah being “cut off”.
- 3) By what authority do we equate days or weeks with years?
 - a. In Ezekiel 4 God defines the punishment He has decreed upon Israel to Ezekiel. He tells him that he must lay on his left side 390 days for Israel and on his right side 40 days for the house of Judah.
 - b. Ezekiel 4:6b, *“...I have laid on you a day for each year.”*
 - c. Ezekiel laid on his side for a total of 430 days which represented 430 years of punishment decreed on Israel.
- 4) For more information on this subject, please refer to the Manual, V,H,33. “Daniel’s Vision of 70 Weeks.”

F. The period between the 69th and 70th week.

- 1) When Israel was not repentant after the first 70 years of captivity spent in Babylon (Jeremiah 29:10; Zechariah 1:3,4), God multiplied the remainder of their punishment (360 years) by 7 which resulted in 2,520 more years of punishment.
- 2) It should be noted that when King Nebuchadnezzar carried away the Israelites to Babylon, there were an estimated 70,000 Jews taken into captivity.
- 3) When permission was granted to return to Israel after 70 years in Babylon, only approximately 50,000 Jews (Nehemiah 7:66) were willing to leave the relative comfort of Babylon to endure a trip of 900 miles to return to Israel.
- 4) Leviticus 26:18,23,24, *“And after all this, if you do not obey Me, **then I will punish you seven times more for your sins...**[23] **“And if by these things you are not reformed by Me, but walk contrary to Me, [24] then I also will***

- walk contrary to you, and **I will punish you yet seven times for your sins.***"
- 5) What was Israel's punishment? Ezekiel 4:13, *"Then the LORD said, "So shall **the children of Israel eat their defiled bread among the Gentiles, where I will drive them.**"*
 - 6) God's punishment on Israel was to drive them out of their land into the nations where they would be forced to eat their bread among the Gentiles.
 - 7) The proof that this punishment is still in force today is that a large part of the natural Jews are still eating their bread in the Gentile nations around the world.
 - a. According to the Jewish Virtual Library (2006), there are approximately 13 million Jews worldwide.
 - b. Of the 13 million, 5.3 million live in Israel, 5.275 million live in the USA, and the balance live scattered around the world.
 - c. It is accurate to say that over ½ of all Jews in existence today are still living in the Gentile nations into which the Lord drove them thousands of years ago.
 - 8) Jesus confirmed this punishment in Luke 21:24, *"And they will fall by the edge of the sword, **and be led away captive into all nations.** And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."*
 - 9) The period between the 69th week and the 70th week is explained in detail in the Manual, V,H,33, b. "The Period Between the 69th and 70th Week."

2. **The 70th week.**

A. Let's take an in-depth look at Daniel 9:27.

- 1) Daniel 9:27, *"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."*

B. Let's break down this scripture line by line.

- 1) *"Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week..."*

Q: Who is the "he"?

A: He is the Antichrist.

Q: What is the "covenant"?

A: The covenant is a false peace treaty. Remember, Satan imitates God. Jesus Christ will come as the Prince of Peace, so Satan offers his imitation man of peace first to try and deceive the world.

Q: Who are the "many"?

A: The many represent the world. In other words, the Antichrist will confirm a worldwide peace covenant. Remember he has authority over the entire world (Rev. 13:7, *"...And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation."*)

Q: How long is "one week"?

A: One week represents 7 years.

- 2) *"...but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering..."*

Q: When is the "middle of the week"?

A: The end of the first 3 ½ years.

Q: How does the Antichrist bring “an end to sacrifice and offering”?

A: When the Antichrist stands on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem declaring that he is as God, God will usher in the Wrath Dispensation. Once the Wrath Dispensation begins, salvation will no longer be available to mankind (this doctrine will be expounded upon in Lesson Eight).

3) “...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.”

Q: What is the reference to “abominations” and “makes desolate”?

A: When the Antichrist stands on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and declares that he is as God, this is referred to as the “abomination of desolation.” The Antichrist’s actions are considered the ultimate abomination (definition: *an object of disgust or hatred*) before God and his actions bring about God’s wrath on the world resulting in desolation (definition: *to lay waste, come to nought*).

Q: What is the “consummation”?

A. The “consummation” is when Jesus Christ annihilates the Antichrist and his evil program at His 7th Trumpet return upon the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.

NOTE: The word “consummation” means *completion, destruction, to be utterly consumed*.

Q: Who is the “one who makes desolate”?

A: It is none other than the Antichrist. And, he will be destroyed when Jesus returns. Daniel 8:25b says “...but he shall be broken without humans means.” In other words, man will not destroy the Antichrist, Jesus Christ will.

Q: What does the phrase “which is determined” mean?

A: It simply means that God has planned to pour out His wrath on Satan and the wicked people on earth since the time of Creation when He promised to bruise the head of the serpent in Genesis 3:15. The word “determined” means *having firmness of purpose; resolute*.

3. How do we know it is a peace treaty that the Antichrist confirms for 7 years?

A. We have already established that the Antichrist will try and mimic Jesus Christ, the true Prince of Peace; however, other Scriptures support the conclusion that the Antichrist will gain power by peace, prosperity and deception.

B. The Antichrist will appear good and peaceable at first.

1) Revelation 13:11, “Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and ***he had two horns like a lamb*** and spoke like a dragon.”

a. Since many people will probably think that the First Battle of Gog and Magog is Armageddon, they will no doubt think that the Antichrist is Jesus—because he will look like a lamb.

b. Since many Christians today are taught that they will be raptured away to heaven before any Last Days’ prophecies take place, they will be confused and vulnerable to deception when they come face-to-face with the Antichrist.

c. Remember, II Thessalonians 2:3 talks about a great “falling away” when

the Antichrist is revealed.

2) Daniel 11:24, "**He shall enter peaceably**, even into the richest places of the province; and he shall do what his fathers have not done, nor his forefathers: he shall disperse among them the plunder, spoil, and riches; and he shall devise his plans against the strongholds, but only for a time."

a. The Antichrist will take the world stage after the First Battle of Gog and Magog when the world will be clamoring for peace.

C. It will appear to be a prosperous and peaceful time.

1) Daniel 8:24,25,26b

[24] "His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; he shall destroy fearfully, **and shall prosper and thrive**; he shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people.

[25] "Through his cunning **he shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule**; and he shall exalt himself in his heart. **He shall destroy many in their prosperity**. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without human means.

[26] "...Therefore seal up the vision, for it refers to many days in the future."

D. The Antichrist will deceive many with his plans for prosperity and promises of peace. He will appear to be the savior of the world. It will be a time of great deception and Revelations 13:7 says that all the world will follow him and he will rule over them with authority.

E. The Apostle Paul warns of this day of false peace in I Thessalonians 5:3, "**For when they say, 'Peace and safety!'**" **then sudden destruction comes upon them**, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape."

4. Conclusion

We have already established that Satan is an imitator of Yahweh God and His Son, Jesus Christ. Since we know that Jesus Christ is the true Prince of Peace, we can expect that Satan will try his hand at establishing worldwide peace before Jesus returns to this earth.

What can we look for next on the world stage? A peace agreement that involves Israel and the Arabs. If you follow world news at all you already know that President Barack Obama has made it part of his administration's agenda to pursue a peace plan involving Israel and its neighbors. And, it appears that even though Israel has a very conservative government in place, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has openly expressed his desire for the peace initiative to move forward.

Will there be a worldwide peace agreement before the return of Jesus Christ? The Church of God believes there will be; however, there are other events that must take place first. We will learn about them in our next session.

