

PROPHETIC TRUTHS FOR TODAY

Unveiling the End-Time Events

by

John E. Dahlin

Copyright © 1961

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

THE COMING GREAT CRISIS OF THE WORLD

ALL WHO deal carefully with Bible Prophecy will understand that *the Jewish nation is God's reliable clock*. It is therefore understandable that Jesus would refer to this truth by pointing to the fig tree as a reflector of God's purposes relative to the nation Israel. The Book of Daniel, often referred to as the backbone of prophecy, reveals that 70 year-weeks, or a total of 490 years, were cut out as a block from history and allocated to God's covenant people. When the 70 year-weeks have run their entire course, then the nation of Israel will be restored, the Messiah will have come, and the golden age will be realized; in other words, the kingdom period will have come.

The 70 year-weeks are divided into three periods.

First, there are seven years, or seven times seven, which makes 49 years. During this time the streets and the wall of Jerusalem were to be rebuilt and the complete restoration accomplished.

The second division consists of 62 year-weeks, or sixty times seven, which adds up to 434 years. At the close of this period, according to Daniel, the Prince (Messiah) will be cut off and have nothing. This was indeed an amazing prediction pointing to Christ's rejection and death. The 62 year-weeks, which followed the seven, expired at the time Christ rode into Jerusalem. The chronology of these years is precise.

This, then, leaves *one week or seven years unaccounted for*. Unquestionably God touched the pendulum of His clock (Israel) and it stopped dispensationally. I realize that some students feel that such a break between the sixty-ninth and the seventieth week is arbitrary and untenable. In other words, they say it is an invention of man.

But I am convinced a much greater problem would be to account for the seventieth week in past history. Let us remember Christ said, "**Behold your house is left unto you desolate**" (Luke 13:35).

The official break came when the responsible leadership of that nation rejected their Messiah. We have now a period of unreckoned time, a great parenthesis, during which God is "**taking out a people for His name**" (Acts 15:14).

When the present age ends, which is correctly designated as *the dispensation of grace*, then God will return to deal directly with Israel, and allow the seven years, or the seventieth week, in Daniel's prophecy, to run their course until the final part of this prophecy is fulfilled. This week, the seventieth, will follow immediately the event which Paul designates as "**the fullness of the Gentiles**" (Romans 11:25). In other words, the Rapture brings to an end the Church Age.

Six things must come upon Daniel's people and Jerusalem. They are as follows:

- (1) **To finish the transgression**
- (2) **To make an end of sin**
- (3) **To cover iniquity**
- (4) **To bring in the righteousness of the ages**
- (5) **To seal the vision and the prophet**
- (6) **To anoint the Most Holy**

It seems clear in the light of prophecy that God is about ready to touch the pendulum of His clock (Israel) and introduce the final week of Daniel's prophecy. The fig tree has begun to bud, and this is an infallible indicator that the latter-days are at hand. Only the presence of the Church on earth keeps the final week of Daniel's prophecy from being officially introduced.

A SPECIFIC TRIBULATION PERIOD

Not so few writers have tried to establish the point that there has always been tribulation on earth, and hence no specific period will come; that is, one which is completely different from tribulation in general. Such conclusions definitely contradict Daniel and Christ, both of whom point to an extraordinary, or specific period of tribulation.

Notice what Daniel says, "**There shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that same time**" (Daniel 12:1). Our Lord states it in almost identical words, "**Then there shall be great tribulation such as hath not been from the beginning of the world until now, nor shall ever be**" (Matthew 24:21).

Jeremiah had predicted such a period, "**That day is so great that none is like it; it is even the time of Jacob's trouble**" (Jeremiah 30:7). Jacob is mentioned because the descendants of the old patriarch will be involved.

- Mark gives the same period an emphasis in the words "**that tribulation**" (Mark 13:24).
- In Revelation it is called, "**the hour of temptation**" (Revelation 3:10).
- Peter designates it as "**the fiery trial**" (I Peter 4:12).

The final reference to it is in these words, "**The great day of His wrath has come**" (Revelation 6:17). And also the "**wine of the wrath of God**" (Revelation 14:10).

Prophetic students are in general agreement that the Great Tribulation is synonymous with the Seventieth Week of Daniel's prophecy.

SATAN'S CHIEF INSTRUMENTS IN THE PERIOD

From both Daniel and Revelation it is clearly presented that the political Antichrist, and the false prophet, will be Satan's chief lieutenants, both of whom will be energized by him for their diabolical work on earth in the period.

The political Antichrist

Or the world ruler, is the first beast portrayed in Revelation, chapter 13. He rises out of the sea, and this obviously means the Gentile nations, which emerge out of the area which once constituted the old Roman Empire. The beast is identical with the "**little horn**" of Daniel, chapter 9.

Notice that he rises out of *the ten-kingdom confederacy of the latter days*. His rise will be phenomenal. The world conditions will be such that a man of destiny is sorely needed to attempt to pull things together. We read, "**And all the world wondered after the beast**" (Revelation 13:30). Antichrist is out for conquest and will be satisfied only with absolute rule. Prophetic Scripture reveals that in the end-time various confederacies will converge in the strategic area of the Middle East. Antichrist will move against the forces that seem to challenge his dictatorship. The meeting of these mighty forces, represented by the various confederacies of the end-time will lead to the battle of the nations, and the Armageddon.

The ecclesiastical Antichrist

In Revelation 13, the second beast of the end-time is identified. He rises out of the earth (land), which unquestionably is Israel's land. The first beast is *a political power*; the second is *a religious leader*. The first is *a Gentile*; the second is *a Jew*. This one is the personal Antichrist. He has two horns, an imitation of the priestly and kingly authority of Christ. Clearly he must be the one of whom our Lord spoke, "**Another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive**" (John 5:43). Paul refers to him as "**the man of sin . . . the son of perdition**" (II Thessalonians 2:3).

Furthermore, he is *the very embodiment of the religious apostasy of the end-time*. In his final blasphemous activity, he will seat himself in the temple of God and demand worship. This apostate leader will make an image of the first beast and he gives breath to it so that it can speak. It is self evident that this person will head the delusions of the latter-days, and according to Paul, they will engulf the earth in the final period of the tribulation. No one can imagine the horrors of that time when Satan rules the earth, aided by his two chief lieutenants, Antichrist and the false prophet.

THE CHARACTER OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION

It is during the last half of the seven years that the full fury of Antichrist will be manifested on the earth. First of all, Revelation 12 points out a climactic intensification of the period of the great tribulation, for we read,

“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought, and prevailed not, neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and the angels were cast out with him” (Revelation 12:7-9).

Here, then, we see the final three and one-half year period begins, and it is confirmed in the words, **“For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time”** (Revelation 12:12).

Not only will Satan come down personally in order to inflict horrors upon mankind, but we read also, **“And he opened the bottomless pit and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit; And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth, and unto them was given power as the scorpions of the earth have power . . .”** (Revelation 9:2, 3).

In other words, the prison house of fallen angels will be opened and these beings will do their dreadful work in tormenting the inhabitants of the earth. We have Spiritism in our time; nearly all of it is fake; however. But in that day the real thing will be experienced. Demon power will be exercised such as the earth has never witnessed in any previous age.

Moreover, the Holy Spirit will be gone from the earth, particularly in His present manner of operation. God has said, **“My Spirit will not always strive with men”** (Genesis 6:3). According to Paul’s Second Letter to the Thessalonians, it is the Holy Spirit who now restraineth; in other words, He keeps the evil forces from flooding the earth as an avalanche. **“Until he be taken out of the way”** (II Thessalonians 2:7), the flood-gates cannot open.

But when the Holy Spirit, the Restrainer, is removed, **“then shall the wicked one be revealed”** who is the Antichrist, **“Whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders”** (II Thessalonians 2:9).

By these words we understand that the Holy Spirit will not strive or woo as He does in our age of grace. Indeed, multitudes will become the victims of the delusions of those days.

Again, Antichrist will demand that all men display the mark of the beast. It must be displayed either in the forehead or in the palm of the hand. **“No man might buy or sell, save he that hath the mark of the beast, or the number of his name”** (Revelation 13-17). He will cause the small and great to have this mark of identification.

It will be impossible, I take it, for people to obtain coal or fuel oil and groceries unless the person conforms to Antichrist. Essential items will not be delivered unless people accept the mark of the beast. It will be total regimentation, you see. Freedom will be completely gone in those frightful days of tyranny.

Antichrist represents the very capstone or finality in the historical forms of dictatorships which have inflicted mankind in human history.

THE JEWISH NATION WILL BE CAUGHT IN THIS VISE

It is clear from Daniel, chapter 9, that at the beginning of the Seventieth Week, Antichrist will make a covenant with the Jewish people. Not with all of them, for there will be a remnant of godly Jews who will not accept this one (indicated by the expression “**with many**”), hence a remnant will never yield to the pressures of Antichrist. But through this covenant that he will make with many, a temple will be built, perhaps on the very site where the Mosque of Omar stands today. He will permit the Jews to establish and resume their religious rituals and sacrifices, which are, of course, an abomination in God’s sight.

Notice, in the middle of the week Antichrist will break that covenant, and the result will be the final tribulation for the Jews (See Daniel 7 and Revelation 13). And for a detailed account of this terrible period of suffering for the Jews, it will profit us to read Zechariah, chapter 14.

A miraculous deliverance will be realized for the remnant in that Christ will return from glory and end this carnage and suffering. From Revelation we read that the earth will be depopulated by one-third. This unprecedented loss of life is suggestive of nuclear war, and the devastation released through the utilization of 50 or 100 megaton bombs. Man is moving towards this climactic event.

The Great Tribulation will end with the mighty power of Christ manifested. The Lord will intervene when all hope is gone for the Jews, and in a moment He will crush Antichrist and his forces. This brings to an end the last Great War. Gentile governmental powers will cease to function any more, for “**the Times of the Gentiles**” will have been completed (Luke 21:24).

One has to be very unrealistic in his thinking not to see that the stage is being set for the final catastrophic drama, and the events set forth in Scripture relative to that distinct period, The Great Tribulation.

The world is being rapidly conditioned for the last massive onslaught by Satan. People are headed either for the Tribulation or the Rapture. With regard to the believers, we have a blessed assurance in these words, “**Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man**” (Luke 21:36). This is the great hope of the believers, namely “**Our gathering together unto him**” (II Thessalonians 2:1). But for the unsaved, we read, “**For as a snare it shall come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth**” (Luke 21:35).

The world’s zero hour is rapidly approaching.

~ end of chapter 13 ~

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/>
