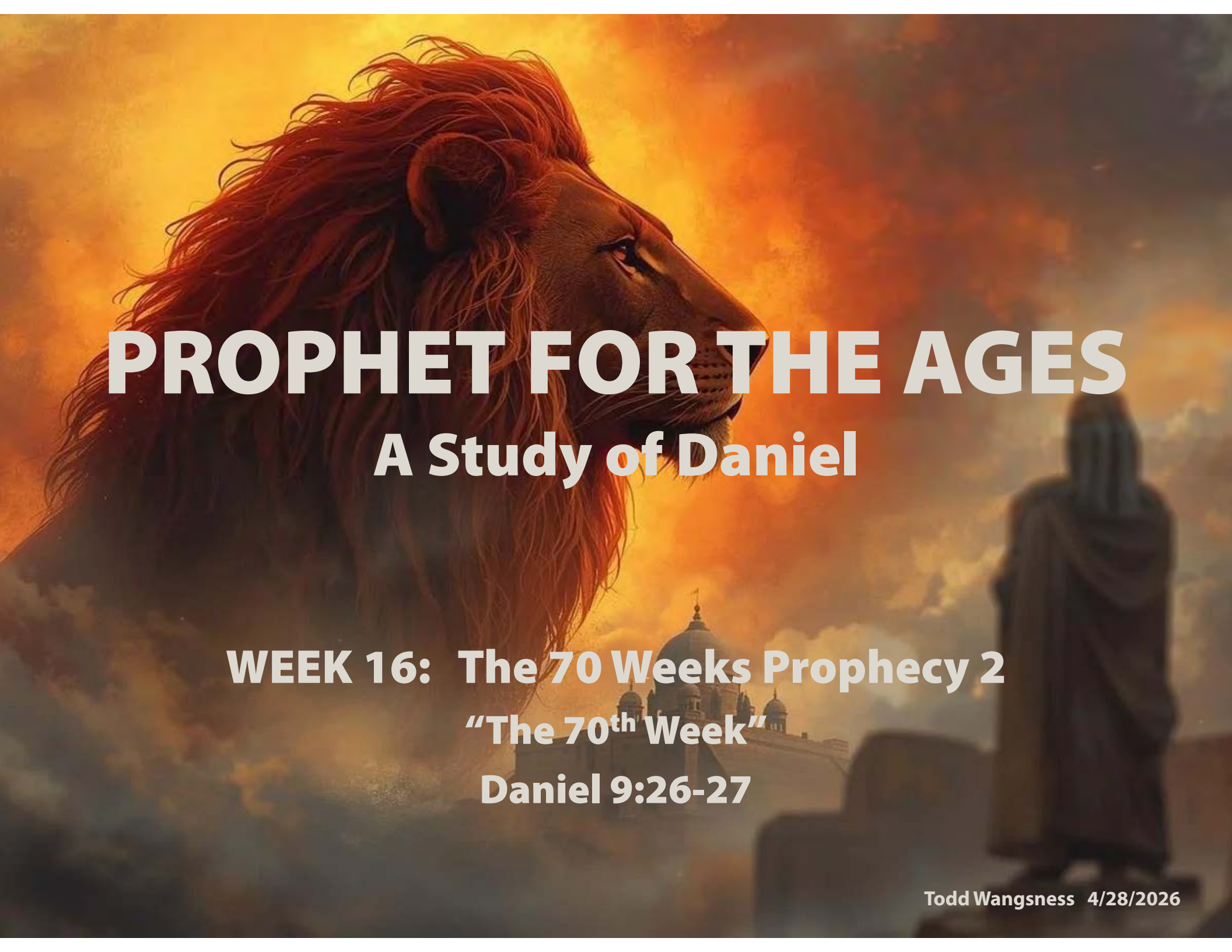




# **PROPHET FOR THE AGES**

## **A Study of Daniel**

**WEEK 16: The 70 Weeks Prophecy 2**  
**"The 70<sup>th</sup> Week"**  
**Daniel 9:26-27**

# Prophet for the Ages: The 70 Weeks Prophecy

## Daniel 9:26-27 Overview

- There are several views of this passage, namely, the Futurist, Historicist and Preterist Views, which we have previously discussed in earlier studies
- We will be discussing the Futurist View in this study
- Futurist View:
  - The first 69 weeks (483 years) run from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem to the time of Christ (His presentation as Messiah and death).
  - There is a gap (the current Church Age) between the 69th and 70th weeks.
  - The final 7 years refer to a future Tribulation period involving a covenant (possibly with Israel)
  - This covenant shall be broken midway by a ruler (often seen as the Antichrist), leading to temple desecration, halted sacrifices, and ultimate judgment.
  - The six goals in v. 24 find full fulfillment in Christ's return and kingdom.

# Prophet for the Ages: The 70 Weeks Prophecy

## Notable Quotes About Daniel 9:26-27

***"The time gap [between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> Week] is contemporaneous with the Church Age which was not revealed in the Old Testament, but has been revealed in the New Testament (Eph 3:2-9). One must postulate a future fulfillment during the Seventieth Week of Daniel 9:27 and this interpretation necessitates a 'time gap' which corresponds to the 'church age'."***

▪ John Walvoord

***"'He' must refer to 'the prince who is to come' in verse 26... the antichrist will 'make a firm covenant with the many for one week'... This then, demands a postponement of the seventieth week with a gap of time between the sixty-ninth and seventieth weeks of years. This verse tells us what will happen during the final week of years, which we believe to be a yet future seven year period often called the tribulation."***

▪ Thomas Ice

# Prophet for the Ages: The 70 Weeks Prophecy

## What happened after the Messiah was “cut off”?

**Dan 9:26b**      *“... 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.”*

- Titus destroyed the Temple in 70 AD
- Titus and his father, Vespasian, were Roman generals who besieged Jerusalem
  - They were neither kings nor princes at the time of the siege
- During the siege of Jerusalem, Caesar died and the Roman senate voted Vespasian in as the emperor and he returned to Rome
- The very day Titus and his troops broke through the walls of Jerusalem and destroyed the Temple, he had become a prince
- Another amazing testimony to the pin-point accuracy of Bible prophecy!

# Prophet for the Ages: The 70 Weeks Prophecy

## The End of the “Old Covenant”

- A few short years later, the Temple was destroyed in 70 AD ... Just as Jesus had foretold during His ministry
  - *Mat 24:1-2 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. 2 And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”*
- The book of Hebrews documented the transition from Old to New Covenant in advance
  - *Heb 8:8-13 He says: “... Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah ... I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people ... 13 In that He says, “A new covenant,” He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.*
  - Hebrews was written in approx 67 AD ... three years later, the temple was destroyed and the Old Covenant became ‘obsolete’

# Prophet for the Ages: The 70 Weeks Prophecy

## And then ... The Gap!

- **What Gabriel did not disclose to Daniel, was that there would be a long gap of time between the end of the 69th week and the start of the 70th week**
- **The Jews assumed the timeframe of the 70 Weeks prophecy was contiguous and uninterrupted**
  - **This is the primary reason they completely misunderstood Jesus' First Coming**
- **They were looking for a Prince that would come and deliver them from Roman tyranny**
  - **The Essenes called this the coming of "Messiah Ben David"**
- **They were NOT looking for the coming of a 'Suffering Servant'**
  - **The Essenes called this the coming of "Messiah Ben Joseph"**

# Prophet for the Ages: The 70 Weeks Prophecy

## Is there another example of a “Gap” in prophecy?

- Jesus' first recorded sermon
  - *Luk 4:16-19 So He came to Nazareth, ... He stood up to read ... “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” 20 Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”*
- He read everything in Isaiah 61:1-2 but stopped mid-sentence before the highlighted text in verse 2 below:
  - *Isa 61:2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, **and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn.***
- This was because His first coming was NOT as a Conquering King, but as a Suffering Servant!
- His coming as a Conquering King to exact vengeance would not occur for another 2000+ years!

# Prophet for the Ages: The 70 Weeks Prophecy

**You shall see Me no more ... !**

- Just before Jesus's Crucifixion, Jesus declared that He was no longer going to deal with Israel as a nation
  - *Mat 23:37-39 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 38 See! Your house is left to you desolate; 39 for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' "*
- Seven weeks later, the events of Acts 2 (Pentecost) occurred and the "Church Age" or "The Age of Grace" commenced
- We are still in the Age of Grace today!

# Prophet for the Ages: The 70 Weeks Prophecy

- **In 130 AD, the Bar-Kokhba Rebellion marked the last Jewish revolt**
  - **Two years later, in 132 AD, the revolt was crushed and Rome officially desolated Israel**
- **Israel ceased to exist as a nation and the Diaspora commenced**
- **Until ...**
  - **The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181 (II) adopted in November of 1947 (aka: The UN Partition Plan for Palestine)**
  - **Resolution 181 recommended the partitioning of the British Mandate of Palestine into two states: one Jewish and one Arab**
  - **It provided the international legal framework for the creation of Israel**
  - **The Jewish leadership in Palestine declared the establishment of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948**
  - **The declaration was made by David Ben-Gurion, who became Israel's first prime minister**
- **Israel was once again a nation after 1,816 years!**

# Prophet for the Ages: The 70 Weeks Prophecy

## The Mystery of the Church

- On Pentecost in June 32 AD, the New Testament Age of Grace began
- *Romans 16:25-27* Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began 26 but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith— 27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.
- *Eph 3:1-13* For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles— 2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, 3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: 6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, 7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

# Prophet for the Ages: The 70 Weeks Prophecy

- The establishment of the Nation of Israel in 1948 is the key that unlocks MANY end-time prophecies in the bible
- At a specific future moment, the events of 1 Thessalonians 4 will occur where the Church is removed from this planet in an event we know as the Rapture of the Church
  - *1 Thes 4:16-17 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*
- It is only after the rapture that God will begin again to deal directly with Israel
- A short (*but undisclosed*) period of time after the Rapture, the 70<sup>th</sup> Week (Tribulation period) will commence

# Prophet for the Ages: The 70 Weeks Prophecy

## The 70<sup>th</sup> Week

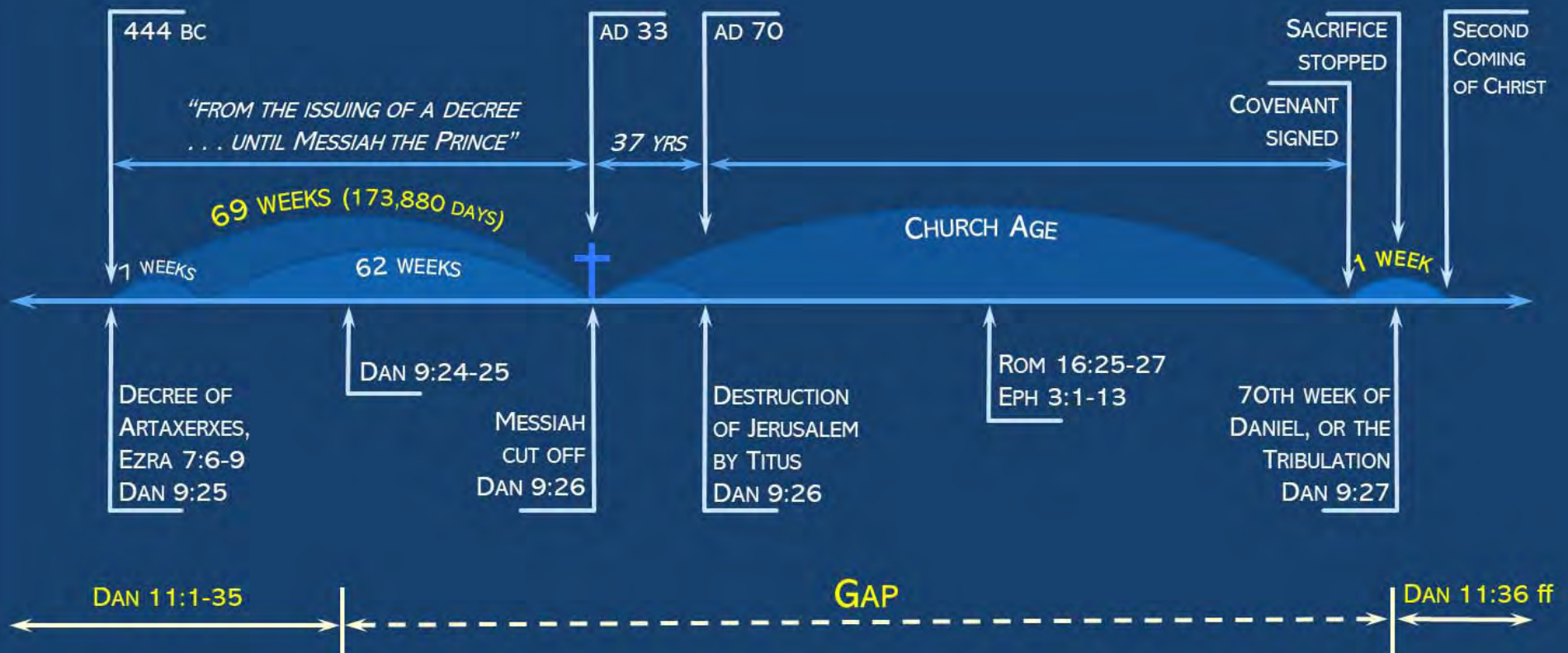
**Dan 9:27**     *Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."*

- Gabriel now reveals details about the final 70<sup>th</sup> Week of the prophecy
- At the start of the week (seven years), a coming prince (Antichrist) will establish a covenant that brings peace to the Levant
- The start of this Week marks the beginning of the tumultuous period of time known as the Great Tribulation or Jacob's Trouble
- Halfway through the tribulation (3-1/2 years or 1,260 days), the Antichrist will enter into the newly constructed Temple and commit the Abomination of Desolation, where he declares himself to be God and commands all people to worship him
- The last 3-1/2 years of the Tribulation is described in detail in the book of Revelation
- At the end of the seven year tribulation, Jesus returns in power and glory!

# Prophet for the Ages: The 70 Weeks Prophecy

## THE SEVENTY WEEKS OF YEARS

DANIEL 9:24-27



# Prophet for the Ages: The 70 Weeks Prophecy

- **Make no mistake ... Israel is currently an apostate nation in rebellion against God**
  - Sometimes, it seems the evangelical church forgets this fact
  - We should love Israel because God loves Israel, but recognize they are currently in a state of rebellion against God
  - They are His chosen people, but the Church is His Bride
- **However, as we've discussed in Romans 9-11 last summer, God is NOT done with them as a nation**
  - It is only after Jesus removes His Bride from the time of "Jacob's Trouble", that He will again deal directly with the people of Israel
- **The Two Witnesses will prophecy for 3-1/2 years to the people of Israel**
- **The 144,000 mentioned in the book of Revelation will be Jewish evangelists to the Nation of Israel**
- **Israel will return to God after tremendous persecution and punishment during the Tribulation where it appears 2/3 of the Jews will perish**
- **God's Will cannot be thwarted**

# Prophet for the Ages: The 70 Weeks Prophecy

## Differing Views on the 70 Weeks Prophecy

- There are differing views of which Decree kicked off the 70 Weeks Prophecy
  - Some maintain the 1<sup>st</sup> Decree of Cyrus in 538 BC should be used
- Some believe that solar years of 365-1/4 days/year should be used instead of prophetic years of 360 days/year
- No precise record of the exact date of Artaxerxes decree to Nehemiah exists. March 18 in 445 BC appears to be an educated guess.
- Some believe that the end date of the 69 Weeks should be Jesus birth, others maintain it is His baptism

# Prophet for the Ages: The 70 Weeks Prophecy

## Differing Views on the 70 Weeks Prophecy (cont.)

- **Preterists (heretics in my view!) believe that the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD fulfilled all of the 70 Weeks prophecy and the vast majority of the book of Revelation is historic**
  - They believe Nero was the Antichrist
  - Hmm ... It doesn't feel much like the Millennial Age to me right now! 😊
- **However, it is inescapable that the timeframe of the 70 Weeks prophecy is amazingly accurate**
- **God knows what was the exact start date and end date**
  - We can rest assured He accomplished everything EXACTLY on schedule!

# Prophet for the Ages: The 70 Weeks Prophecy

## Some Jewish Rabbis recognize the timeframe of the 69 Weeks has passed

- Some Jewish Rabbis recognize the timeframe of events described by the first 69 Weeks of the prophecy have come and gone without the Messiah they were expecting appearing

*“These times (the first 69 Weeks) were over long ago.”*

■ Rabbi Moses Abraham Levi

*“... all we need is to do Teshuva until Messiah comes, for all the predestined dates for the redemption have already passed.”*

■ Talmud: Sanhedrin 97b

*“All the time limits for redemption (the coming of the Messiah) have passed and the matter now depends only on repentance and good deeds.”*

■ Rabbi Rabb

# Prophet for the Ages: The 70 Weeks Prophecy

## Questions To Ponder

- Do you think the Church Age (Age of Grace) started with Pentecost (immediately after Jesus's crucifixion (32 AD) or with the destruction of the Temple (70 AD)?
- Preterists believe that Nero fulfilled the prophecy described by Gabriel in Dan 9
  - Can you cite any reasons why Nero may not have fulfilled this prophecy?
    - *Rev 19:11-21; 2 The 2:3-4, 8*
- Are Old-Testament believers considered part of Jesus' bride (the Church)?
  - NT Church as "Bride of Christ": *Eph 5:22-32, 2 Cor 11:2, Rev 19:6-9, Rev 21:9-22:5*
  - Israel as "Wife of Jehovah": *Jer 3:1-25, Isa 54:1-17, Hos 1:2 – 3:5*
- Are "tribulation saints" considered part of the Bride of Christ?

# Prophet for the Ages: The 70 Weeks Prophecy

## Questions To Ponder (cont.)

- What can we “do” to ensure we are included in the Bride of Christ (the Church)?
  - *Mat 7:21-23 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven ... 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’*
  - *2 Pet 1:3-11 His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ ... 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*