

Where are we in time?

7/26/2020

Sunday Morning

1. This morning we are taking a different route
  - a. God gives us an overview of time & we will look at it together
2. There is a frustration in believers that shouldn't be there
3. These are the most exciting days since Christ was on earth – but many believers don't see things that way
4. One of the first comprehensive looks at time is found in Daniel
5. Keep in mind that Israel is not only the center of the world, geographically, but the timekeeper of the world also
6. We start w/ a vague picture of kingdoms of the world (from Israel's perspective)

**Daniel 2:31** "You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome.

<sup>32</sup> "The head of that statue *was made* of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze,

<sup>33</sup> its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

<sup>34</sup> "You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.

<sup>35</sup> "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

7. Later Daniel is given a more detailed picture of time w/ Gabriel's help

Daniel 9:20 Now while I was speaking and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God in behalf of the holy mountain of my God,

V.21 while I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, came to me in my extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering.

V.22 He gave me instruction and talked with me and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding.

V.23 "At the beginning of your supplications the command was issued, and I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision.

V.24 "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, 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.

1. "Seventy weeks have been decreed"
  - a. Since this isn't a study of Daniel – I can't document everything I say – but you can check it out
  - b. "Seventy weeks" of sevens – it is talking about years = 490 years
  - c. What happens in that 490 years?
  
2. "to finish the transgression...make an end of sin...make atonement for iniquity...bring in everlasting righteousness...seal up vision and prophecy...anoint the most holy place"
  - a. In other words – from the signing of the decree to rebuild Jerusalem (445 B.C.) until time is over is 490 years @ a 360 days year

V.25 "So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

V.26 "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

1. "after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off"
  - a. Now Gabriel backs up & gives details
  - b. After the seven periods of time, each lasting 7 years, & after sixty-two periods of time, lasting 7 years each, the Messiah will be "cut off" (crucified)
  - c. That equals 483 years after **Nehemiah 2** (445B.C.)
    - i. Jewish years are 360 days
    - ii. Individuals who have calculated it out say; He was crucified on that exact day
    - iii. Sixty-nine periods of 7 years each are used up by the time Christ is crucified
  - d. Then Gabriel gives details to the last 7 year period **V.27**

V.27 "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

1. "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week"
  - a. So in the last 7 year period of time as we know it someone called "he" makes a contract w/ many for that last 7 year periods of time
  - b. Then time is no more time as we now know it
  - c. Why hasn't everything ended then, b/c that time has long past?
  - d. B/c of the Church age
  - e. God didn't reveal the Church age would exist & kept it a secret
 

**Ephesians 3:1** For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—  
<sup>2</sup> if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you;  
<sup>3</sup> that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.  
<sup>4</sup> By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,  
<sup>5</sup> which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;  
<sup>6</sup> *to be specific*, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,  
**V.9** and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;  
**Romans 16:25** 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 which has been kept secret for long ages past,
  - f. This leaves 7 years until the end of time dangling in the future
  - g. **Matthew 24** magnifies the topic to a higher resolution
  - h. Remember Daniel 9 gave the big picture of time
    - i. You can see where Matthew 24 intersects w/ Daniel 9

**Daniel 9:24** "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, 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*.

<sup>25</sup> "So you are to know and discern *that* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince *there will be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

<sup>26</sup> "Then after the sixty-two weeks \*the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end *will come* with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

- ii. \*Here is where the scene of Christ w/ His disciples in Matthew 24 fits
- iii. This took place shortly before His crucifixion

**Matthew 24:1** Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him.

V.2 And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down."

V.3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

V.4 And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you.

V.5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.

V.6 "You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end.

V.7 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.

V.8 "But all *these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs*.

1. "these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs"

- a. Global war is the beginning of birth pains
  - i. A little over 100 years ago WW1 ended
  - ii. The birth pains had started
    - 01. What do birth pains do? Increase!
- b. There is another portion of Scripture that makes it clear that signs of His coming will increase in intensity

**Revelation 3:10** 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

<sup>11</sup> 'I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

**Revelation 22:12** "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

V.9 "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.

V.10 "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.

V.11 "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.

V.12 "Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.

V.13 "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

V.14 "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

V.15 "Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

1. "when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet...understand"
  - a. Ok, by V.15 we know that the Church is no longer on earth
  - b. So we back up to V.9 to see if we might still be here

V.9 "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.

1. "they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations"
  - a. That is not likely us either

- i. It is true that Christians are being persecuted in China, N. Korea, Muslim countries
- ii. But this is referring to a global setting – “hated by all nations”
- iii. We may be hated but not persecuted – yet
- iv. But the verses tell us a lot about the climate of the day

V.10 "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.

V.11 "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.

V.12 "Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.

V.13 "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

1. Is the end close? Very close!
2. People have been saying that for thousands of years – right?
  - a. Since people have been saying that, does that mean that He really isn't coming back?

**2 Peter 3:3** Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts,

<sup>4</sup> and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

<sup>5</sup> For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God *the* heavens existed long ago and *the* earth was formed out of water and by water, <sup>6</sup> through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.

<sup>7</sup> But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

<sup>8</sup> But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

3. When is life going back to normal? There may not be a normal again!

4. But we have an assurance – Christ is coming for us
5. We are supposed to be living in such a way that people ask about the hope that we have

**1 Peter 3:15** but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

6. I'm fearful that some believers need not worry about people asking about your hope
7. What are you expecting from people?

**2 Timothy 3:1** But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

<sup>2</sup> For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

<sup>3</sup> unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

<sup>4</sup> treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

<sup>5</sup> holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

<sup>6</sup> For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses,

<sup>7</sup> always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

8. Instead of getting discouraged – Look up!

**Luke 21:28** "But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."