

The Middle East In Prophecy
Wednesday February 18, 2015
Part Nine

Why Israel?
Daniel's Vision of "The Seventy Weeks"

1 Someone recently asked me if I had a "bias" toward Israel and the Jews. My response
2 is, "Yes, I do." Why? Because God does. It's just really that simple. It was not I
3 who termed the Jews as "God's chosen people;" God Himself made that designation.
4

5 Think of it: there are roughly 195 nations in this world (the exact figure is tough to give
6 because the "line-up" of nations changes constantly.) Of all those nations, some of
7 which are massive (such as Russia - thousands of miles across it), little Israel (so small
8 you could place it within the shores of Lake Erie) is "the apple in God's eye."
9

1 Chron. 16:13 O ye seed of Israel his servant, ye children of Jacob, his chosen
ones.

10 Doesn't this seem arbitrary? Yes, it does indeed. Is this "chosen" depiction narrow?
11 Truly so. But the Word of God makes it abundantly clear (to those who accept the Bible
12 as "the total revealed mind of God to mankind" and accept it as literal truth) that God has
13 chosen one people over all the others in the world.
14

WHEN GOD MAKES A COMMITMENT, A PROMISE, HE KEEPS IT!

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17 He keeps His promise regardless of whether or not the contracting party involved is
18 faithful to their promise or not! If God changed His mind, He would no longer be
19 immutable ("changeless," as James writes) and therefore He would no longer be God.
20 We humans who can change our minds and break our promises as the drop of a hat are in
21 no position to judge the God of Creation. Your personal salvation would be "iffy" if
22 God changed His mind each time we stumble.
23

24 It is vital for each of us to understand that God set Israel aside from all other nations. He
25 is not prejudiced or biased. He honors faith (Hebrews 11:6 **But without faith it is**
26 **impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that**
27 **he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**) Such a pleasing man to God was

1 Abraham whom the Creator called out of Iraq 4,000 years ago to found a nation:
2

Genesis 12:1-9

Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: [2] And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: [3] And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. [4] So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. [5] And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

[6] And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem (the hill country of central Israel) unto the plain of Moreh (just southwest of the Sea of Galilee). And the Canaanite was then in the land. [7] And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him. [8] And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel (12 miles north of Jerusalem), and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord. [9] And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.

3 Abraham followed the Lord (not to the letter for he “dropped the ball a couple times”) but
4 to the extent that God was pleased with him:

5
6 Hebrews 11:8-10

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. [9] By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: [10] For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

7
8 This may help put God's call to Abraham in some perspective: Abraham was born only

1 about 400 years after the great flood (in Noah's day), which causes us to realize that the
2 world's population at the time of God's calling of him was quite small. In fact, Noah
3 died only 2 years before Abraham was born.
4

5 It is easy then to understand that there were not nations with established, defined borders
6 as such. At best there were only networks of "city-states." It was in such a colony that
7 Nimrod established a system of defensive alliances (including the Tower of Babel) in his
8 effort to cause a one-world order.
9

10 Speaking of Nimrod, he was born only about 250 years earlier than Abraham. Despite
11 God command to Noah's family after the flood to replenish the earth, it was Satan's goal
12 to compel the tribes of the earth to "come together" and conform to a centralized and
13 uniform system of religion, culture and economic geopolitical union.
14

15 All these city-state and tribal regions were involved in pagan religion - many gods
16 (polytheism). Among those city-states was a place called Ur (located in the Chaldean
17 section of the nation we know today as Iraq.) It was from this pagan place that God put
18 His call upon Abraham. The Creator gave Abraham A DIVINE COMMITMENT to
19 honor him in a special way if he obeyed "in faith" the call to leave Ur to some unknown
20 area (which we know today as Israel).
21

22 Why Abraham? 23

24 Did you ever stop to consider the possibility that Abraham was not the first one God
25 called? But perhaps the first one to obey the Lord? If others were called first, they did
26 not obey and now no one knows who they even were. But Abraham obeyed - incredible
27 story! He left a PAGAN world to establish a GODLY one. Are you beginning now to
28 get the picture?
29

30 So God made promises to Abraham:
31

32 **Genesis 12:2-3**

**And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy
name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: [3] And I will bless them that bless
thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth
be blessed.**

33
34 God committed to THOSE WHO BLESSED ABRAHAM AND THE JEWS that they
35 would be blessed. Does that sound discriminatory to you? Really? Get on the internet

1 and look up the social, medical, legal and educational blessings mankind has received
2 through the Jews through the centuries. No one single group of people has ever so
3 benefitted mankind as the Jews. Don't take my word for it; look it up!

4
5 God loves every nation, every person. But someone had to be chosen to embody the
6 lineage of His intended blessings. **DON'T GET MAD AT ABRAHAM OR THE JEWS**
7 **– FOR IF GOD HAD NOT CHOSEN SOMEONE, SOMEWHERE, SOMETIME, THEN**
8 **NOBODY WOULD EVER BE THE BENEFACTOR OF AN ALL ENCOMPASSING**
9 **LOVE WITH WHICH GOD BLESSES US ALL. You know....God did not HAVE to**
10 **choose anybody.....**

11
12 By now it should come into focus why the Jews are hounded from pillar to post by the
13 satanic opposition from Hell. God is not opposed or biased against Arab nations or the
14 Palestinians - or anyone else for that matter. God has offered even the enemies of Israel
15 His merciful love. There are many Christians in the Muslim nations, many of them
16 suffering pain, deprivation even awful deaths. Why?

17
**BECAUSE THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD ARE AFFLICTED WITH A
DEMONIC MADNESS THAT DESPISES THE FACT THAT GOD HAS CHOSEN
A NATION (ISRAEL) TO DEMONSTRATE HIS OMNIPOTENCE.**

18 Again, let's establish some of the biblical foundation upon which we make our claims of
19 the Jews being God's chosen people and Israel His chosen nation:

20
21 Deut. 7:6-7

22 **For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen**
23 **thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of**
24 **the earth. [7] The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye**
25 **were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:**

26
27 One of the ways God has shown us the reality of His covenant with Israel is through
28 fulfilled prophecy. Israel is truly the barometer by which we qualify what He is doing in
29 the world in "end time" days.

30 THE SEVENTY-WEEKS PROPHECY

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32
33 And so we come to one of the most amazing prophecies anywhere in the Bible, revealed
34 to mankind through the prophet Daniel. Daniel had been taken captive around 600 B.C.

1 by the invading Babylonian army, led by King Nebuchadnezzar. Young Daniel was soon
2 recognized as an unusual man of wisdom and integrity and made one of the rulers in the
3 kingdom. When Babylon fell to the Persians about 540 B.C., Daniel was retained by the
4 new rulers as a major counselor. Indeed it was Daniel's prophecy to regent King
5 Belshazzar of Babylon that happened the very night the great city fell to the Medo-Persian
6 coalition. Now years had gone by, and Daniel was growing older. In Daniel 9 we read
7 of the great man praying for Israel, acknowledging the nation's sins against God and
8 asking for His mercy.

9
10 His prayer was powerful: Daniel 9:3-19

11 **And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with**
12 **fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes: [4] And I prayed unto the Lord my God, and**
13 **made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the**
14 **covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his**
15 **commandments; [5] We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done**
16 **wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy**
17 **judgments: [6] Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which**
18 **spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of**
19 **the land. [7] O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of**
20 **faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and**
21 **unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither**
22 **thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against**
23 **thee. [8] O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and**
24 **to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee. [9] To the Lord our God belong**
25 **mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him; [10] Neither have**
26 **we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us**
27 **by his servants the prophets. [11] Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by**
28 **departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us,**
29 **and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have**
30 **sinned against him. [12] And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against**
31 **us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for**
32 **under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem. [13]**
33 **As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our**
34 **prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and**
35 **understand thy truth. [14] Therefore hath the Lord watched upon the evil, and**
36 **brought it upon us: for the Lord our God is righteous in all his works which he**
37 **doeth: for we obeyed not his voice. [15] And now, O Lord our God, that hast**
38 **brought thy people forth out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and hast**
39 **gotten thee renown, as at this day; we have sinned, we have done wickedly.**

40 **[16] O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and**

1 thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for
2 our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become
3 a reproach to all that are about us. [17] Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer
4 of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary
5 that is desolate, for the Lord's sake. [18] O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open
6 thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for
7 we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy
8 great mercies. [19] O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer
9 not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy
10 name.

11
12 Why such a passionate prayer from this great man of God? Prior to the Babylonian
13 invasion (now years gone by), Jeremiah the prophet had prophesied that the restoration of
14 Israel would begin for Jerusalem in 70 years (Jeremiah 25:22-12; 29:10-14). The 70
15 years were about up and still there was no indication of the promised return and
16 restoration. You can see why the great elder statesman Daniel was concerned. And so
17 he prayed that passionate prayer to God. To the main effect: "Oh God, have you at long
18 last forsaken your people?" God would respond in a powerful way.

19
20 As Daniel prayed, the angel Gabriel appeared to him and gave him a vision of Israel's
21 future:

22
23 Daniel 9:21-27

24 Yea, while I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in
25 the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of
26 the evening oblation. [22] And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O
27 Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. [23] At the
28 beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to
29 shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and
30 consider the vision. [24] Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon
31 thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make
32 reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up
33 the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. [25] Know therefore and
34 understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build
35 Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two
36 weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. [26] And
37 after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the
38 people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the
39 end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are
40 determined. [27] And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in

1 **the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for**
2 **the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the**
3 **consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.**
4

5 This strange prophecy is a most significant one regarding the Messiah (Jesus' arrival on
6 the Triumphal Road) in Jerusalem. As Daniel prayed, the angel Gabriel appeared to him
7 and gave him a divine revelation of Israel's future.

8 9 The Division of the 70 Weeks

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11 In verse 24, Gabriel stated that "seventy sevens are decreed for your people. A
12 prophetic week is generally seven years. So the 70 weeks are really 490 years.

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The Hebrew word for week, *shabuwa*, literally means seven. We have this in other places in Scripture. For example: when Jacob was looking for a wife, he was tricked into marrying Leah (Rachel's older sister). Jacob was then told he would have to work one week (*shabuwa*) which was really seven years. This story is found in Genesis 29.

14 While the Jews were held captive in Babylon for the 70 years prophesied by Jeremiah, the
15 punishment (the withholding of Messiah) was for another 490 years. The Jews were
16 allowed back in the land of Israel but Jesus' entry into Jerusalem would not take place for
17 centuries. The underlying factor of this prophecy is that Israel was given 490 years to
18 deal with the sin of the nation and prepare for the coming of Messiah. The prophecy
19 would start with the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. THE PRINCE - JESUS
20 - WOULD COME EXACTLY 483 YEARS (69 WEEKS) AFTER THE COMMAND
21 WAS GIVEN. Then Messiah would be "cut off" or killed for others. After the 69
22 weeks, Messiah would be killed and Jerusalem and the temple would again be destroyed
23 (by the Romans in 70 A.D.) and made desolate. There would be wars and desolations of
24 Jerusalem for an unspecified period of time and then the end would come.

25
26 What is the 70th week (seven years)? The coming Tribulation. Now note the prophecy
27 is divided 69 weeks plus one week = 70 weeks. Why?

28 29 **Daniel 9:25**

30 **Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment**
31 **to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks,**
32 **and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in**

1 **troubled times.** This particular segment of the prophecy involves 69 weeks or 483
2 years. Artaxerxes, the ruler of the Medo-Persian Empire, gave Nehemiah the command
3 to return to Israel from Babylon (Iraq), which was part of the Medo-Persian Empire, to
4 rebuild Jerusalem. We know the exact date historically when Artaxerxes gave that
5 command. It was in the month of Nisan, the 20th year of Artaxerxes' rule, which makes
6 the date 445 B.C. (Nehemiah 2) THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF DANIEL'S 70
7 WEEK PROPHECY.
8

NOTE: It is very important to remember that in Daniel's lifetime, a year contained 360 days, not 365. This was Jewish tradition. Revelation 11:3 indicates that a 3 ½ year portion of the tribulation is 1260 days, based on a 360-day year.

9 The 69 weeks from the time of the Persian's decree to Nehemiah was 483 years of 360-
10 day years. So in Daniel 9, Daniel said there would someday come a command from a
11 foreign king to return to Palestine and to rebuild Jerusalem. Furthermore, Daniel said, in
12 483 years following that (to the day) Messiah would triumphantly enter Jerusalem, the
13 Holy City. Now SINCE THE DECREE TO REBUILD JERUSALEM CAME IN 445
14 B.C., ADD 483 YEARS TO THAT AND YOU CAN SEE THE PROJECTION PUTS
15 US RIGHT INTO THE ADULT YEARS OF CHRIST'S EARTHLY LIFE.
16

17 But, hang on - the prophecy is more detailed than even this:
18

19 Daniel prophesied that the Messiah would come 173,880 days after Artaxerxes' decree
20 (69 prophetic weeks x 7 - each week being a 7-year span - which gives you 483 years
21 times 360 days, equaling 173,880 days following the Persian's command to rebuild
22 Jerusalem). Daniel prophesied that 173,880 days following that command, Messiah
23 would enter the Holy City in triumph. The actual day of Artaxerxes' decree was March
24 14, 445 B.C. History reminds us that Artaxerxes reigned from 465 to 425 B.C. He
25 would have made his decree on the first of Nisan because that was the yefar of the
26 computation of the reign of kings and festivals. The first of Nisan fell on March 14th of
27 that year, according to the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England. Therefore, if you
28 predict forward 173,880 days, Jesus should have come into the city of Jerusalem on April
29 6, AD 32. Zechariah told us in his 9th chapter that the time of Messiah would begin on
30 the day that Messiah rose into the Holy City and was proclaimed King by the Jews.
31

32 WAS DANIEL RIGHT? WAS HE ACCURATE? Both Jesus and John the Baptist
33 began their ministries during the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar. Luke 3:1 tells
34 us that. We know that Tiberius began his reign in AD 14. Our Lord then began His

1 ministry in AD 29. We know that He continued His ministry for 3 years prior to His
2 triumphant entry. Now we are up to AD 32. There can be no question about the
3 accuracy of Daniel's prophecy.
4

5 Now in John 12:1 we learn that our Lord went to Bethany six days before the Passover.
6 And we learn in John 12:12 that the triumphant entry was the very next day. Passover is
7 always celebrated on the 14th Nisan, which was Thursday, April 10, AD 32, according to
8 the Royal Observatory. Passover, the day our Lord was crucified, was THURSDAY,
9 APRIL 10, AD 32. So our Lord would have come to Bethany (atop the Mount of
10 Olives) six days earlier, April 4. The meal with Lazarus would have been a Sabbath
11 (Saturday) meal; so our Lord entered Jerusalem on Sunday April 6, AD 32. Now if
12 Daniel's prophecy is accurate, there should have been 173,880 days between Artaxerxes'
13 decree in 445 BC and Jesus' triumphant entry. CAN THE BIBLE REALLY BE THAT
14 ACCURATE?
15

16 From March 14, 445 BC to April 6, AD 32, is 477 years and 24 days. But we have to
17 deduct one full year because time was not judged on the basis of, "Well, this is 1 BC and
18 the next year will be '0'." There was no '0' year. Historically, there is a year technically
19 missing between 1 BC and 1 AD. There a year must be deducted, now giving us 476
20 years and 24 days. Today we count 365 days in the Julian calendar. So we multiply 476
21 x 365 and that gives us 173,740 days, plus we add 24 other days for a total of 173,883.
22 So now Daniel is within 116 days of being "smack on the nose". Not close enough!
23 What are we forgetting?
24

25 We must remember the fact of leap year every four years. From Artaxerxes' decree to
26 Jesus' triumphal entry there were 119 leap years....so we add another 119 days to our
27 total, which gives us 173,883 days. Now we are three days over. But according to the
28 Royal Observatory our year is about 1/128th of a day longer than the true solar year. So
29 now we divide the time between Artaxerxes' decree and Jesus' entry into Jerusalem by
30 128 and we have three days....which we now deduct from our previous total, leaving us an
31 exact total of 173,880 days.....! DANIEL HIT IT DEAD CENTER!
32

33 WHAT ABOUT THE 70TH WEEK?

34
35 Jesus' crucifixion stopped the prophetic 70 weeks after "week 69". The 70th week will
36 come when Christ Jesus raptures His church from the earth and the 7 year tribulation
37 period will begin.
38

39
40 NEXT WEEK: DIVINE RECKONINGS! YOU AND I ARE THERE!