

## **God's Plan for the Ages - Part 3**

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### I. Introduction.

- A. The beast and the false prophet will be thrown in the Lake of Fire. (Revelation 19:20; 20:10)
- B. In order for Christ to set up his kingdom, the revelation of the Counterfeit Christ, the great apostasy, and the existence of the Temple have to be at work. (1 Thessalonians 2:4)
- C. God is concerned with the Jews, the Gentiles, and the Church.

### II. The Jews.

- A. Abraham was born some time after the flood (ca. 2000 BC).
  - 1. God made a sturdy people out of the descendents of Abraham.
  - 2. All the families of the earth were to be blessed through this line. (Genesis 12)
  - 3. The Old testament saints caught this Jewish calling.(Deuteronomy 2:24-25; Joshua 4:24; 1 Samuel 7:46; 1 Kings 8:43; 2 Kings 19:19; Jeremiah 22:29)
  - 4. God was to also bless all the descendents of Abraham through his singular seed, Christ the savior. (Galatians 3:16)
- B. God anticipated that the Jews would not carry out his plan of blessing the world by proclaiming His name—there was a blessing for doing it and a curse for not doing it. The Jews have been scattered today for disobedience and are not counted among the nations being the only unabsorbed nationality in human history. (Deuteronomy; Numbers 23:9)
- C. God will bring the remnant of Jews back the “second” time. The second time was in 1948. Scripture makes no provision for a third time. (Isaiah 11:11)
- D. The Jews failed to evangelize the world and they were taken into captivity for seventy years. (Jeremiah)
  - 1. Daniel reading in Jeremiah determined that the seventy years was up while in captivity. However, the angel Gabriel spoke of weeks which can be translated seven or a group of sevens. The angel said that there would be seventy times seven years before the kingdom would be set up again. (Daniel 9:24)
  - 2. From the end of the captivity it would be 490 years before Christ would come. These seven seventies were not to run consecutively though being divided into three groups of weeks: 62 weeks, 7 weeks, and 1 week. There would be a gap between the last two groups.

3. Sir Robert Anderson determined that the timing was correct between the rebuilding of the temple and Palm Sunday when Messiah was to be cut off and the city would be destroyed following (the 62 and 7 weeks).

4. The last week (seven years) picks up when the successor to the Jews—the counterfeit Christ—makes a covenant with the Jews. He will break the covenant half way through. There is a gap in the timeline between the first part of the 490 years and the last 7 years (between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> week). It is a parenthesis.

E. The reason for the gap.

1. Christ in reading Isaiah stopped short because he was only referring to his first coming. Judgment was to be delayed. (Isaiah 61; Luke 4)

2. God stopped the clock in order to make way for the church age.

F. The returns: one was under Ezra and Nehemiah and the other was in 1948. (Isaiah 11:11)

G. The seventieth week of Daniel is the key to prophetic truth for modern understanding.

1. The covenant will be broke half way through this period.

2. It is very likely that someone like this can exist today.

3. In regards to Christ’s return we need to pay attention to events described in the Bible and to current events (eg. the ten confederacy kingdom).

4. In the end we are to look for the reestablishment of the Temple and the counterfeit Christ rising in it. (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)

5. One of the reasons the Jews fought so hard for Israel in the last century is for the third Temple. Some Jews think that the Temple will be able to be built because the current Muslim establishment there will suffer from an earthquake affected by a fault that goes directly underneath.

6. The counterfeit Christ who proclaims himself to be God must be done through the cooperation with the Jews. The world will see some of the greatest warfare ever seen in the last half of the seven years.

H. God’s objective: the nation of Israel is to accept Jesus Christ as Messiah. (Luke 13; Zechariah 13:6)

1. The book of Jonah can be read allegorically as a history of the Jews if you substitute “Jonah” with “the Jews.” When the Jews were on the right track the sea was calm.

III. The Church.

A. A great apostasy must occur within the church at the end. (1 Thessalonians 2)

B. The body of Christ is composed of wheat and tares and will be that way until the end of day. (Ephesians 1:22-23; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Matthew 13:24-30)

C. We are not to uproot the tares because the wheat will be pulled up early with it.

D. An element of the church early on fell away doctrinally and morally.

1. The last remnant of the organized church will be under the leadership of one impressive man. (Revelations 11:13)

2. It would be very easy to follow a leader who could perform all sorts of miraculous signs.

3. The image of the Gentiles ends as it begins—with the worshipping of the image. The ecclesiastical deputy of the counterfeit Christ will push for this worship.

4. Distinction will be made in those days between those who are in allegiance to the Lamb and those who are in allegiance to the Beast.

**Application questions.**

1. What are the signs to be aware of that will precede the coming of Christ?

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2. Explain the division of years that will take place before Christ's return. Where is the parenthesis? What is its purpose?

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3. What will become of the church? Why with a knowledge of the fact that it is composed of both wheat and tares are we not supposed to remove the tares? What is your personal reaction to this teaching?

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