

The Prophecy of the Two Princes of Peace

INTRODUCTION

A. Secular history – What was the most powerful empire in history – How do you determine it (by territory or time?)? – Egypt, Assyria, Babylon ---- Cyrus (**Persia**), Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar (**Roman** – till 1453 in E), Mohammed (**Arab** = 632-900), Genghis Khan (**Mongol** – world's largest contiguous land empire), Napoleon, **Britain**, Hitler, Khrushchev, Mao Tse Tung

B. Biblical history – God has not divided up history into equal periods of time (not even close!!)

1. Scripture's major periods in history

- God dealing with the world (~ 2000 years = till Abram (ca. 2000 B.C.)
- God dealing with one nation (~ 2000 years) = till Jesus' death (A.D. 30)
- God dealing with the Church (~ 2000 years so far)
- God dealing with the world (~ 1007 years – Tribulation and Millennium)

2. Scripture's major persons in history – Christ and Antichrist:

3. Scripture's major passage for history – perhaps the most important prophecy in all of Scripture – certainly most important prophecy in Daniel – Why?

- It gives a time line for the coming of Christ and Antichrist – 2 most powerful persons in world history!! Its called “the Prophecy of the 70 Weeks” (Dan 9:24-27).
- It's “the backbone of prophecy” (as Edward Denny says). Alva McClain says: “Apart from an understanding of the details of the Seventy Weeks of Daniel, all attempts to interpret New Testament prophecy must fail in large measure.” (*Daniel's Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks*, 6f)

I. The major prediction of Israel's history (70 “weeks” = 7 weeks + 62 weeks + 1 week)

A. The duration of Israel's history (2 possibilities – (a) weeks of days or (b) weeks or years) – the word “weeks” usually implies days

(1) 70 weeks of days (in Dan 10:2 “weeks” is literally “weeks of days”)

a. Its commencement (445 B.C. = the decree to rebuild Jerusalem [**Dan 9:24**] see **that on next page**)
b. Its contents (too much for just 1 yr+) 1) the **6 good things** in v 24, 2) the coming and cutting off of Messiah (vv 25, 26), 3) the destruction of city and temple (v. 26), and 4) the making of a covenant for a week and then breaking the covenant in the middle of the week (**So, one must ask: could all of this be accomplished in 70 literal weeks = 1 yr & 18 wks?**)

(2) 70 weeks of years (v. 1; Jer 25:11-12; 2 Chr 36:21) What was on Daniel's mind was 70 **years** of captivity. a. Bible “weeks” (Heb. *shabua* – lit., “sevened”) = heptads (“feast of weeks” – Ex 34:22; Dt 16:10,16; 2 Chr 8:13 – cf. “dozen,” “decade”) – **CONTEXT shows what is meant in each passage**
1) Weeks of **days** – Dan 10:2 “In those days I Daniel was mourning 3 **full** weeks.” “full” = *yom* (“day”) – Dan 10:3 “3 **whole** weeks were fulfilled.” (“whole” = *yom* pl > days > lit, “days’ weeks” or “weeks of days”)

2) Weeks of **years** – “7 years” – e.g., Jacob serving 7 years to marry Rachel is referred to as serving **a week for a wife** (Gen 29:18,20,27,28).

b. Bible months & days – Bible months had 30 days each.
1) Genesis – 5 months (Gen 7:11 = 17th of 2nd mo & 8:4 = 17th of 7th mo) is the same as **150 days** (Gen 7:24 & 8:3)
2) Revelation – 42 months (Rev 13:4-7) = 1260 days (Rev 12:6)
3) Bible – 30-day months and 360-day years

B. The discontinuity in Israel's history – “He” in Daniel 9:27 could refer to Messiah or to “the prince that shall come” – no if it's Christ, large gap if it's Antichrist. Which fits best the **context**?

(1) No gap (i.e., the “he” is **Christ**) – reasons this is **not** the case:

- a. Usually the antecedent nearer the pronoun is the one intended.
- b. “He” is related to the people destroying the city and the sanctuary (i.e., the Romans in A.D. 70) – so “he” can't be Christ, because Israel certainly didn't destroy either one.
- c. Christ spoke of a yet future fulfillment of Daniel 9 (Mt 24:15).
- d. The ideas of an end in overflowing, war unto the end, and a strict determination of desolations (v. 26) **before** week 70 seem to require a gap after week 69.
- e. Sacrifices and oblations (v. 27) continued long after Christ.
- f. **Jesus** never broke a 7-year covenant with Israel.

(2) A major gap (the “he” is Antichrist) – almost 2,000 years after A.D. 70

- a. The gap – Between the 69th and the 70th weeks is the gap called the Church Age.
- b. Other gaps – Other Bible passages have gaps or intervals of time – some not immediately apparent– cf. Hos 3:4-5; 5:14-15; Zec 9:9-10; Mt 23:37-39; Lk 4:18-19; 1 Pet 1:11).
 - 1) Genesis 16:16-17:1 contains a 1-verse / 13-year gap between Abraham being 86 (Gen. 16:16) and his being 99 (Gen 17:1).
 - 2) Revelation 12:5-6 – Note the 3 events with 2 gaps: (a) Jesus' birth (estimated to be about 4 B.C. – “She brought forth a man child”), (b) Jesus' Ascension (ca. A.D. 30 or 32 – “and her child was caught up unto God”), and (c) Israel during a future 7-year Tribulation (“and the woman fled into the wilderness” – so far this is almost 2,000 years after the Ascension).

C. Time specifics – Sir Robert Anderson *in The Coming Prince* calculated the details:

1. **The start of the 70 weeks** (King Artaxerxes' decree – March 14, 445 B.C.)
2. **The stop of 69 weeks** – the Triumphal Entry (A.D. April 6, A.D. 32 – using solar (365.25/year) or scriptural (360/year) days?)
3. **The start of the 70th week** – The only question, then, is when this occurs. 3 options:
 - (a) Right after the Rapture – but presumes all is in place prophetically
 - (b) The middle of the Tribulation – but dates Jesus' return
 - (c) After an indefinite interval following the Rapture – This seems to be best.

II. The major pacifications in Israel's history

A. The lasting peace of Christ (v. 24) – **Some of the 6 things in v 24 are hard to define; some seem to overlap:**

1. **At Calvary & at His 2nd coming** – ending Israel's disobedience, ending (**sealing**) her sin, and making reconciliation (atonement) for iniquity – **this last item seemingly should come 1st (at Jesus' 1st coming – at Calvary)**

2. **At His 2nd Coming** – bringing in righteousness of ages (the Millennium), fulfilling (**sealing up**) [same Hebrew word as earlier] vision and prophecy, and anointing the most Holy (the consecration of the millennial temple Holy of Holies [Ezekiel 41-44] OR the crowning of Christ)

B. The limited peace of Antichrist (v. 27):

1. **He makes the peace** – 1st 3.5 years of the coming Tribulation (pacification)
2. **He breaks the peace** – 2nd 3.5 years of the coming Tribulation (persecution) – referred to by Jesus (Mt 24:15; Mk 13:14; Lk 21:20) and Paul (2 Thes 2:4) as “the abomination of desolation” – This does not mean the abomination of something that is already desolate; it's actually an abomination that causes desolation (one could say “desolating sacrilege” = RSV). “He shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. (Dan 7:24-25)

CONCLUSION

A. The people in these periods of predicted time (Israel)

1. “7 weeks” = the construction weeks (from Artaxerxes’ royal decree to rebuild Jerusalem until it was finished)

2. “62 weeks” = the countdown weeks (from the completion of the re-building of Jerusalem to the Jews’ acknowledgment of their Messiah – Jews SHOULD have been expecting their Messiah just about exactly when He came – “the fullness of time” [Gal 4:4]).

3. The gap = the chasm in God’s special dealings with Israel. Now, in this now almost-2,000-year interim with Israel, God is calling out (saving) Jews and Gentiles, forming them into the Body of Christ (the Church); when the Church is complete, God will remove the living believers from earth (in the Rapture) before the Tribulation begins and the Antichrist is revealed. The time gap began with

a. Messiah’s death (“cut off ... but not for himself” – v. 26) and was followed by

b. Jerusalem’s destruction by the Romans (“the people of the prince that shall come” – v. 26) 4. “1 week” (v. 27) = the covenant week (the coming Tribulation)