

REMNANT

Romans 11:5 "Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace." (which is yet to be called)

Dr. Charles Kriessman

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to all Jews in Israel. It is a plea for them to realize that the Lord Jesus Christ is their Redeemer and Messiah. If it becomes too late and the Rapture has come and gone, the prayer is for all Israel to respond to the everlasting gospel and be preserved until the Messiah brings you into the Kingdom. This book is for you.

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DEFINED TERMS

Abrahamic Covenant – An eternal unconditional set of promises given by God to Abraham in Genesis 12: 1-3. God gave Abraham and all his descendants the land which will become Israel forever, make the Jewish nation great, and bless those who bless Israel.

Abomination of Desolation – A mid-70th week event or forty-two months after the Antichrist signs a peace treaty with Israel; (Daniel 9:27). The daily sacrifice in the Temple will be replaced with a speaking image of Antichrist which will be commanded to be worshipped as God or be killed.

Accommodation – This is theological compromise. It is the departure from doctrinal truth and unity for some higher cause or purpose. When believers join in a ministry effort with either an unbeliever or another believer, who are in violation of obedience to God's words, that is accommodation.

Antichrist – Future leader of the world who makes a peace agreement with Israel then breaks it three and one-half years into the Tribulation. He meets his end when he is defeated at Armageddon by the Lord Jesus Christ when he and the false prophet are both cast into the Lake of Fire. (Revelation 19:20)

Antisemitism – Hatred for the Jewish people.

Apostasy – From “apostasia” meaning to depart (fall away) from. It is a deliberate and complete abandonment of faith once delivered to the saints, (Jude 3), and a rejection of God.

Church – Those saved between the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) and Pre-Tribulation Rapture. Includes saved Jews and saved Gentiles. Those saints from before Pentecost and after the Rapture belong to other sheepfolds (John 10:1). There are distinctions between groups of saints in history: Old Testament saints, Church saints, Tribulation saints, and Millennial saints.

Covenant – A solemn agreement between groups or individuals. God made covenant with Israel as well as with Abraham, Adam, Noah, Moses, and David. Usually divided into conditional and unconditional covenants.

Day of the Lord – The time in the future that includes the seven-year Tribulation (Daniel’s 70th week), and the entire one thousand year Millennium Kingdom.

Davidic Covenant – Found in 2 Samuel 7:12-17. This covenant reaffirms and extends God’s covenant with Abraham. It is unconditional and together with the Abrahamic covenant makes up the basis for Israel’s future existence, restoration, and the earthly kingdom.

Diaspora – The word means to scatter. The Diaspora of the Jews began for them in 70 A.D. (after several smaller ones), with the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem. The Jews were cast out of their land (Matthew 24:2; Mark 13:2, Luke 21:6), and scattered throughout the nations for 1900 years. The Nation of Israel in the modern, latter days was reborn in 1948.

Dispensation(s) – Divisions of human history into periods of time whereby God has made Himself known, and continues to make himself known, revealing his eternal program and purposes as pertaining to mankind upon the earth. Knowledge of God’s intentions enables one to know how to read and rightly divide the words of Truth. Dispensationalism distinguishes between Israel and the Church in God’s plan. In every dispensation, genuine, personal faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ is always the means of salvation and relationship to God.

Doctrine – Teachings, what is taught, instruction. What is taught in the Bible.

Election – From the Greek, “*Ekloge*,” meaning the picked out ones, chosen, selected, that which is chosen by God. The source of this choosing is God’s grace and not by the will of man.

Eschatological(y) – The study or science of last things; that is, end-time, latter-day events in connection with the current age. It is a word from the Greek, “*eschata*,” meaning the last things. It’s context the doctrine of end-time events is contained mostly in the books of Daniel and Revelation. In this book the end-time or eschatological Jewish remnant refers to the called out Jews in Revelation 12, the middle of Daniel’s 70th week. This book also

DEFINED TERMS

adheres to the futurist theory of time which literally interprets the Bible and foresees revelation prophecy as yet to be fulfilled.

Firman – A near eastern sovereign's edict. A grant or permit.

Futurism – The orthodox view of eschatology. This is literal interpretation of literal events spanning the as yet to be fulfilled events of Revelation 6-20, and corresponding to the 70th week of Daniel.

Heptade – A sum or number of seven or groups of seven.

Heresy – From the Greek, "*hairesis*," meaning a denial of revealed truth, causing destructive opinions.

Imagination – A mental image that is not real to the senses; assumptions, suppositions, conjectures, guesses; lies.

Messiah – From the Hebrew, "*Mesiha*," which stands for the anointed one. Christ is the Greek word. Refers to the fact that Jesus Christ is the anointed of God, chosen to be the Lord and Saviour. The meaning for end-times is that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah and that he will appear in the end-time.

Metaphor – A figure of speech containing an implied comparison in which a word or phrase ordinarily and primarily used of one thing is applied to another.

Millennium – The thousand year reign of Christ on earth.

New Covenant – (Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:25; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Hebrews 8:8,13; 9:15; 12:24). The new covenant replaced the Mosaic covenant and is God's promise of blessing to mankind through the Lord Jesus Christ. Christians share the spiritual benefits through Christ. Israel is promised eternal restoration as the head of all nations, their land, and a renewal of their hearts to obey God.

Second Coming – Jesus Christ told His disciples that He would go away and come back again to gather His own. (John 14:3). For dispensationalists it will be a two-phase event. Christ will come in the air (1Thessolonians 4:16) at the Pre-Tribulation Rapture and then at the end of the seven year Tribulation. He will come back with His saints to establish the Millennial Kingdom (Rev. 20: 11-15)

Replacement Theology – Supersessionism says that God is finished with Israel and that the Church inherits the promises and blessings and fulfills the Covenants that were once Israel's.

Remnant – Many words in the Bible translate remnant. They also are translated, “the rest”, “remainder”, “survivors”, and “escaped”. It is a technical biblical term which in many passages looks to the distant future of a “remnant” of Jewish souls who will be converted and receive the covenant blessings. “As the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.” (Joel 2:32; Isaiah 11:11). “Remnant” is an important doctrine running through the Old Testament and the New Testament. It affirms that no matter the horrific apostasy of Israel and God's judgment in “the Day of the Lord,” a faithful Jewish remnant will exist to enter the Kingdom.

Secular – According to Webster; of or relating to the worldly or temporal. Not specifically religions, ecclesiastical, or clerical. Related to worldly things or definitions as separate from church or religious matters

Seignories – (san-ye-re,s). Noun, signifying power or authority of a feudal Lord; the territory over which a Lord holds jurisdiction. “Behold, I will stretch out mine hand upon the Philistines, and I will cut off the cherethims, and destroy the remnant of the sea cost.” (Ezekiel 25:26)

Theology – From the Greek words, “*theos*,” meaning God, and “*logos*” meaning discourse or study. Theology is the study of God which is accomplished through a systematic study of the doctrines of God, his proof of existence, knowability, person, attributes, names, works, decree, and government.

Theonomist – Person who believes Old Testament law is still in effect today and should be followed. They usually adhere to an amillennial view of the Bible. John 1:17.

Tribulation – Period of 7 years known as Daniel's 70th week, the purpose of which is to judge the unbelieving peoples and nations of the earth (2 Thessalonians 2:12). It will also be left to God to deal with the nation of Israel (Daniel 9:24), two-third of the Jews of Israel will be killed by the Antichrist, while one-third of the

DEFINED TERMS

Jews are preserved as the eschatological remnant (Zechariah 13:8,9).

SAMPLE PAGES

BIOGRAPHICAL PAGE

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INTRODUCTION

Let's get this out in the open and get this straight.

“Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.” (Romans 11:5)

There is no remnant in operation today, either Jewish or Christian. To state that there is such is in violation of God's rule for the remnant of Jews He has maintained throughout history.

When Paul penned Romans 11:5, he was referring to the remnant that was being preserved before the scattering after 70 A.D. It also refers to Chapter 11 as being Israel's future as God calls them out and restores the future of Israel in the coming kingdom. As for there being a Jewish remnant during the Church Age is not in view here. What is in view is the preserving and calling out of the remnant of Jews in the Tribulation and after the Tribulation. As to why there is no called out remnant present today between the Diaspora and the Tribulation will be dealt with in a later chapter.

This book is about the remnant, the eschatological, Jewish remnant which will be found in Revelation 12:17 as keeping God's revelation in the Tribulation “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. Besides the accepted meaning of obeying, this and many other passages containing the command of keeping God's words, echo the truth of the Great Commission that

requires all believers to receive, preserve and obey God's oral and written revelation. ¹

The history of the Jewish remnant will be explored through the Scriptures. The thread of the remnant is found in the earliest Scriptures but is developed in certain Old Testament books such as Daniel and Isaiah. Remnant is translated by several Hebrew root words which is covered in the abstract.

Some Bible passages do not contain remnant terminology but is revealed through related concepts. One of these will be expounded in this book.

Perhaps it is needed to be realized that there is a strict doctrine of the remnant.

"Except the Lord of hosts had left us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom and we should have been like unto Gomorrah." (Isaiah 1:9)

That is to say Israel would have been no more, just like Sodom and Gomorrah. God destroyed them around 1868 B.C and there hasn't been anything found of them since. Not that there has been any lack for trying. They are gone, wiped out, and the same was in store many times for Israel except that God watches out for them for His own sake.

So, the doctrine of the remnant, or the salvation of Israel as stated in the Dake Bible, page 427 says:

"The doctrine of the remnant of men saved always refers to Judah and the other tribes of Israel, never to Gentiles or the Church. It expresses the idea that God is under obligation to all Israel to save a remnant of them, so as to preserve their

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seed to fulfill with them eventually, the Covenants made with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David to whom He promised an eternal seed and to the seed an eternal land. (Genesis 12:1-3, 7; 13:14-17; 15:18-21; 17:2-8,19; 21:12; 22:17-18; 26:3-4; 28: 3-4, 13-15; 2 Samuel 7).

Many times God predicted the deliverance and preservation of a remnant of the 12 tribes and their final and eternal restoration under their Messiah, (Isaiah 1:9, 10: 20-22; 11:10-12, 16; 38:31-32; 46:3; Jeremiah 23:3; 31:7, 39:9; 40:11; Ezekiel 6:8-10, Joel 2:32; Micah 2:12, 5:3-8; Zephaniah 2: 7-9; 3:13; Zechariah 8:6-12; Romans 9:27;11:5; Revelation 12:17). According to Isaiah 1:9, a prediction was made that a very small remnant would be saved in the coming destruction of Judah and Jerusalem; otherwise, Israel would have been totally destroyed like Sodom and Gomorrah."

Jewish Apostasy (Isaiah 1:10; Deuteronomy 32:32)

There is a connection between Jewish apostasy and the Jewish remnant. The apostasy of Israel can be framed in all the times the nation fell flat on its face before God. God would proclaim Himself to the Israelites; they would delight in that and there would be a period of peace. Then the Israelites would forget about God, turn to Baal worship, and continually worship idols of surrounding heathen nations. The anger of God would come to the surface and He would send enemies against them, be they Syrians, Philistines, or whoever. The Israelites would realize their helpless state, cry out to God and repent of their

apostasy and be bailed out by God. This would repeat over and over again until the Diaspora, after which we now find Israel back in their nation once again. However, they are in an apostate condition again, being blinded to their Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

“For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.” (Romans 11:25)

The ending of the unbelief in Israel and the fullness of the Gentiles are future events and the former is dependent on the latter. As of now, the blindness of unbelief envelops Israel along with liberalism and their apostasy. They can expect to be cut off soon and cannot be saved until end time events are played out.

So what are the reasons that Israel has fallen so many times as recorded in the Old Testament, and suffered the Diaspora, only to be given back the land temporarily, and are now on the verge of having it taken away from them again? Israel will again be held accountable and their future will again hinge upon a faithful remnant for their continuance. Why?

We find reasons for Israel's falling as a nation in the book of Hosea.² There was a famine in the land for God's words. The words and their meanings were not getting into the hearts of the people and were nearly sealed off to the children. It is a far cry from the days of the Scripture readings by Ezra and the Levites to the people. "So they read in the book in the Law of God distinctly, and gave the sense,

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and caused them to understand the reading. (Nehemiah 8:8). Because there is no knowledge of God and His words, it leads to a total rejection of His knowledge. This degeneration causes swearing, lying, killing and stealing, as well as adultery and bloody violence. They lost their priesthood and all spiritual contact with their God. Idolatry increased along with the worship of idols.

The recurrent theme of Jewish apostasy shows up again and again throughout the book of Judges. Judges 2:11; "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim." This is the result of the lack of knowledge of God in the land and in their hearts. It will follow that idol worship will return, God turns His back on them, they are enslaved, then they cry out of deliverance.

"And they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, which brought them out of the Land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the Lord to anger." (Judges 2:12)

They leave the high station of the worship of God and openly commit spiritual adultery as they enter the second phase of their apostasy. They get to the point of severe foolishness by inquiring of dead idols for their counsel.

"My people ask counsel at their stocks," (Hosea 4:12)

"...shall I fall down to the stock of a tree?" (Isaiah 44:19)

"Saying to a stock, thou art my father; and to a stone, thou hast brought me forth." (Jeremiah 2:27)

This is the lowest of the forms of worship for the Israelites. It has degraded to a worship of trees and stones, and the utter contempt of calling them their father when they had rejected the Father in Heaven who had begotten them.

This leads to the next phase of apostasy where pride has risen in their hearts, sin has prevailed and pride goeth before their destruction.

“And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face; therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity; Judah also shall fall with them.”
(Hosea 5:5)

What did Israel have to be so full of pride about? Why were they so puffed up with themselves?

Hosea 5.5 states:

“And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face; therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity; Judah also shall fall with them.”

All of Israel eventually turned their backs to God, and did not even consider returning to Him or seeking Him. Pride caused Israel to not obey God and it set Israel up for destruction. “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.” So we see pride bringing in apostasy and operating within its confines.

Another factor leading to apostasy is instability of character or double mindedness. Failing to learn more knowledge of God for spiritual growth, committing spiritual adultery, and being full of pride will contribute to instability in God’s people where they need to be always strong and firm in the Lord. There will be no goodness, kindness, or

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mercy in God's people since they have blocked God's goodness, kindness, and mercy from working through them.

Because of all this confusion, God's people will offer to God things that he does not desire and cannot use. This disobedience is sin and treachery to the Almighty. It will lead to a mixing with the world.

"Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake, not turned."
(Hosea 7:8).

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world." (1 John 2:15)

Corruption and deep apostasy will take over a nation and a people as an immoral soul is entrenched. This will, over time, in combination with all the other gradual stages, stir God to move on excessive sin. This sinning will seem to go on for a long time, but God takes notice.

"They have deeply corrupted themselves, as in the days of Gibeah: therefore, he will remember their iniquity, he will visit their sins."
(Hosea 9:9).

In the final stages of apostasy the Church will be worldly and true believers will be shunned as strange.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."
(2 Timothy 4:3-4)

“For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, then, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. (2 Peter 2:21)

Times of the Gentiles

Finally, it has to happen.

“And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.” Luke 21:24

Israel was so deep in its apostasy that God acted. The Ten Tribes of Israel and then Judah gave up on God, and God gave up on them. The same was true of the Jews in 70 A.D.

“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient:” (Romans 1:28)

Thus, filled with all unrighteousness they are actively doing all the works of the flesh, (Romans 1:29-31). There is an understanding that these things are worthy of death and yet they do them anyway. The times of the Gentiles begin with Nebuchadnezzar’s conquest of Judah . It is roughly 605 B.C. that the first wave of Israelites are taken into captivity, Daniel included. Jerusalem is thus introduced to the trodding down of the Gentiles between the Babylonian captivity until the end of the Tribulation period and the glorious coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is significant to realize that in our present day we are still in the time of the Gentiles. When

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Christ is crucified and cut off the sixty-ninth week of Daniel's prophecy ends. The prophetic clock of Israel stopped for Israel, and will not resume until the Tribulation begins. This happens when the Antichrist signs a covenant with Israel for 1 week (7 years) and Israel's prophetic clock starts again.

"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease,." (Daniel 9:27).

There is a great space of time during the 69th week of Daniel, after 33 A.D. roughly, and the seventieth week of Daniel, which will be fulfilled after the Church is raptured. The Church age began at Pentecost (yes, Pentecost) and will end with the meeting with Christ in the air at the Rapture.

"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them (the dead in Christ) in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air:" (1 Thessalonians 4:17)

At that time (Pentecost), saw the coming of the Holy Spirit and He created the Church by baptizing believers into the body of Christ.

"For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one spirit.": (1 Corinthians 12:13)

"Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision,...bond or free; but Christ is all, and in all." (Colossians 3:11)

The Church age is running its course within the times of the Gentiles, up to the Rapture. This present church age was not seen in the Old Testament. At the close of the church age there will be seen:

“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming?” (2 Peter 3:3-4)

After the Rapture of the Church, the Antichrist will arise and will then antagonize the Tribulation saints and also directly with the nation of Israel along with the rest of the Gentile nations. He will form his global government, the Beast, and Israel will be able to rebuild the Temple and a resurgence of pre-exilic sacrifices and offerings will be re-established.

The new Jewish resurgent religious community along with the global apostate church will help out the Antichrist with his worldwide global ambitions. The apostate, fallen church, is the institutional worldly church that is present on earth after the true Christian church, the true body of Christ, is snatched up by Christ at the Rapture.

The Jews are still in Jerusalem midway through the Tribulation, and have their temple, but are under Gentile rule,

“But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles; and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.” (Revelation 11:2)

The apostate church will be destroyed right at the mid tribulation point. After that will come

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intense persecution by the Antichrist of the Jewish nation because many of the Jews will refuse to worship and Antichrist as their Messiah. Two-thirds of the Jewish population in Israel will be destroyed, one-third will be shepherded to safety as the holy remnant and preserved, and the Antichrist and his armies will be destroyed by Christ at the battle of Armageddon."

"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image, these both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone."
(Revelation 19:20)

With the destruction of the Antichrist and his minions by a triumphant Christ Jesus, the times of the Gentiles come to an end.

Literal Interpretation of Prophecy

We have seen that the great apostasy of Israel led to the captivity first of the Ten Tribes of Israel and then the Babylonian Captivity of Judah. The treading down of the city of Jerusalem by the Gentiles triggered the beginning of the times of the Gentiles and the rise of the Gentile empires which paved the way for the gospel to go out to the Gentiles and end times prophecies to come through the prophet Daniel.

Since we will be discussing empires and prophecy, a clear understanding of how Scripture as it applies to prophecy needs to be interpreted.

Many years ago David L. Cooper set out what he called the Golden Rule of Interpretation: "When

the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense: therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal, meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truth, indicate clearly otherwise.”³

Unless otherwise indicated, this book and its author take the position that the Bible is best interpreted and understood literally and dispensationally.

“And I said unto the angel that talked with me, what be these? And he answered me, these are the horns which have scattered Juda, Israel, and Jerusalem. (Zechariah 1:19)

The Gentile Empires – Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream

We have just left the explanation of the times of the Gentiles. The word Gentile designates all the non-Jewish people and nations of the world. This is the period in time that is God’s program of rule and salvation for the Gentile nations.

Daniel was to interpret the prophetic dream God had given the Babylonian King, thus saving a multitude of magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and the Chaldeans from being slain. The decree had already gone forth that the wise men should be slain along with Daniel and his fellows. God brought the dream to Daniel’s understanding for the sake of all the people living then even up to today for God’s understanding of the history of the world to be understood.

The dream is given in Daniel 2:31-33:

“Thou, O King, sawest, and behold a great image. This great mage, whose brightness was

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excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.

This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay."

The interpretation of the dream and the image is given to us in Daniel 2:38-43. The King of Babylon was the head of gold. God had given Nebuchadnezzar total authority over all the peoples, beasts of the field and fowls of the air. Nothing could happen unless the king authorized it.

Another kingdom would supplant Babylon which would be the Medo-Persian Empire. After that would come the Grecian Empire with Alexander the Great at its head.

The fourth empire has come and run its course in history but has split into two main parts, lying dormant, but already refueling the revived Roman Empire. This was prophesied in Daniel 2:40;

"...forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things; and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise."

Thus, the two legs of iron are fulfilled in the eastern and western Roman empires. The pieces that it has broken into are represented by the nation once in the empire. The Roman form of government is preserved in the eastern leg as Germany and in the western leg today in Russia. Rome would be revived through an organized European Union through which a world leader will emerge.

Daniel 2:42-43 says,

“and as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.. 43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men; but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.”

These pieces, or nations which have been broken apart, will never adhere together as one but continually split from each other and loosely form a kingdom at the end of the age. Today this is known as the European Union from which is yet to emerge the one world leader known as Antichrist. Man’s day, the Times of the Gentiles, in the form of world empires will end and the Lord’s day will reign.

The Babylonian Empire first removed the Jews from the land. This first primary remnant of Jews returned to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple led by Ezra and Nehemiah. It was the Roman empire that caused the Diaspora, the scattering of the Jews, starting in 70 AD.

The prophetic part of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream is yet to be fulfilled. Christ will come and set up an everlasting kingdom which will break all the other kingdoms into pieces and consume them.

Daniel 2:45 says:

“Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold;”

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That stone is the Lord Jesus Christ and He is yet to come to bring a close to the times of the Gentiles.

Seventy Weeks of Daniel – Daniel 9:24-27

Jerusalem is God's time clock for the end times and it is now in the hands of the Jews and we are still living in "the Times of the Gentiles." There will rise a world leader who will wrest control of the holy city away from them and that this wicked ruler will severely persecute God's people – the Jews. This last evil ruler is mentioned in Daniel 9:24-27.

"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy.

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

26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end there of shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abomination he shall make it desolate, even until the

consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.”

The prophecy in Daniel 9 tells us that the horn of David, Jesus Christ the King of Israel, would be cut off from His people until the abomination of the little horn, the Antichrist, is disposed of.

“And through his (Antichrist’s) policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand” (Daniel 8:25)

This prophecy given to Daniel has everything to do with Daniel’s people and Daniel’s city which would be the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem. Daniel was deported and in Babylonian captivity and was reading Jeremiah when he understood that the seventy years of servitude were nearly concluded. Therefore, he prayed for his people, the Israelites; that their bondage would end and they would be delivered.

They were being punished:

“And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years” (Jeremiah 25:11)

Now was the time for Israel’s return.

“For thus saith the Lord, that after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good work toward you, in causing you to return to this place.” (Jeremiah 29:10).

Thus, we have the prophecy given to Daniel who would then make his people understand: From

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Daniel 9:24 to Daniel 9:27, Verse 24 would be the outline of the entire prophecy; Verse 25 would explain 69 weeks; Verse 26 we find the gap of time between week 69 and 70; and Verse 27 we have the 70th week of Daniel.

Daniel's prophecy covered 70 weeks, or 70 weeks of 7 years, or 490 years. This is in accordance with the Hebrew accounting of time. This is first taught to us in Numbers 14:34.

"After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise."

"I have appointed thee each day for a year." (Ezekiel 4:66)

God told Israel to send spies to search out the land before the Israelites were to first occupy it. They took forty days and reported back with faithless forecasts of doom and defeat if they dared to attempt taking the land. So, God responded to their lack of faith by making them wander for forty years in the desert, one year for each day.

Thus, we are to look beyond the casual and superficial view of the word week, meaning only one thing, a period of seven days. Rather, seventy weeks must proceed to be translated from days into years. God makes known unto Daniel that by the space of the seventy weeks, or sevens of years, the total of prophecies in regards to His people Israel will be fulfilled.

The beginning of this seventy week prophecy has a definite fixed point; "from the going forth of the Commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem." (V 25). There is not total agreement

with Scripture as to which of the commandments (decrees) and their date would and should be used as the starting point. There were four decrees issued by Persian and Median kings that had something to do with the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the rebuilding of the Temple.

The first decree was written by Cyrus king of Persia in 536 B.C. This fulfilled Jeremiah's prophecy that the Jews would start to return to the land after seventy years of captivity in Babylon. It is mentioned in Ezra 1:1-4 and was about the rebuilding of the house of God which is the Temple. The 490 year prophecy could not begin without a decree given to rebuild Jerusalem, the city.

The second decree was given by Darius the Mede, the year, 519 B.C. Ezra 5:1-17 related the story that the building of the Temple was impeded by those who claimed there was no proper authority for such a project. Darius then searched the Treasure house in which was found the original parchment of the first decree of Cyrus, seventeen years previous. Darius then wrote a reaffirmation of the decree of Cyrus, thus it concerned only the rebuilding of the Temple.

In the third decree, that of Artaxerxes the king of Persia, was a letter taken by Ezra to Jerusalem. Written in 458 B.C. permission was given for the priests and Levites who were willing to return to Israel. It reinstated Temple services, authorized the collection of gold and silver to purchase animals for sacrifice, and also made available Persian Treasury funds for the project. What the money could buy and how much was available is found in Ezra 7:11-22. Nothing was