

Study #11ID1300

We've been going through the Book of Revelation for quite a few weeks now we are coming up to Chapter 6. Chapter 1, 2 and 3 we looked at John's vision of our Lord and then John was instructed there on the Island of Patmos where he had been exiled for his faith "to write" said the Lord "the things which are, the things which you have seen first, then the things that are then the things that shall be hereafter." So John wrote in Chapter 1 the vision that he had of Christ, in Chapter 2 and 3 the letters that Jesus sent to the church on how we should then live as we wait for His return and then in Chapter 4 verse 1 the rapture of the church, the taking away of the saints who we now see continually in heaven throughout the book. In Chapter 5 Jesus standing to take the scroll which we will get to next time, not this week. I'd like to give you a little overview this week if we could but I think that it is absolutely important that you can see or at least in your mind can understand the order of events that will take place in this great tribulation time, once the church has been removed, and it's important because you will find it a much easier time taking Old Testament prophecies especially and placing them in proper context where we might find them. So I want to be sure you have the big picture tonight or the grasp of it because the chapters in Revelation for the most part are chronological. There are a couple of chapters that we would call parenthetical in the sense that they will stop and either look back or they will look around, so they won't move the story forward. They will either look back and give you a greater detail of where you've just been or they will just kind of look around so you will get more detail as to where you are. But for the most part they are absolutely in order so that Chapter 6 takes place before Chapter 7, takes place before Chapter 8, and so forth. The 7 seals that we will uncover will lead to the 7 trumpets will lead to the 7 vials and the problem with taking them out of order is you lose the revelation as Jesus gives it to us and it also extremely complicates the matter of taking them prophetic words from Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah and others, and Daniel if you will, and being able to place them properly into the place that God has revealed them for.

So tonight we'd like to just give you a little overview we're going to read the first two verses just for context we're not going to study them much tonight, we're going to bounce around a little bit hopefully you can find the places quickly. We will look at the 4 horsemen of the apocalypse next time in verses 1 through 8. But tonight a little overview setting the chronological stage. Verse 1 says "Now I", John said, "saw that when the lamb opened one of the seals I heard one of the 4 living creatures saying with a voice like thunder 'come and see' and I looked and behold a white horse and he who sat on it had a bow and he had a crown that was given to him and he went out conquering and to conquer."

Now if you'll keep your finger here where we're at we'll be back after a while, flip backwards in your Bible with me if you would to the Book of Daniel Chapter 9. Three-quarters of the way maybe a little bit more into the Old Testament book of Daniel Chapter 9. Daniel was a man that was very interested in prophecy and he had been in captivity since he was a young boy of maybe 15 or 16 years old. He had been taken by Nebuchadnezzar in the first of 3 waves of raids if you will into Jerusalem, the third one

would eventually level the city altogether in 586 but in 606 they came just for the educated, wealthy, well refined men, young men, that they could train Nebuchadnezzar planning to bring all of Israel into Babylon in captivity but he wanted those that would be intermediaries and Daniel was chosen for that. By the time you get to Daniel Chapter 9 Daniel is in his mid-80's so 70 some years, if you will, have passed and when he began to read the plans of God and the future of the nation, especially in the books of Isaiah and Jeremiah this 80-something year old man said "Lord what do you have for me to do in this plan" and his concern for the future of the people was that he might somehow play a part even though he was an older gentleman and such and literally living there all of his life. In Isaiah Chapter 45 he had read of a man named Cyrus whom God had named several hundred years before he was born and he told us through Isaiah that this man would be the key and would be the one through whom the captivity of God's people in Babylon would be set free, they would be delivered. In Jeremiah Chapter 29 Daniel had understood that the captivity to the Babylonians would last 70 years and he had understood as he was reading that that 70 years was based upon their idolatry and their refusal to worship only one god and that the number 70 had been determined in part because they had been told years earlier back in Leviticus 25 that every 7 years the land should not be planted it should be left to rest. And since they had been in the land for 490 years they owed God 70 years of Sabbath rest. They hadn't taken one, in fact you can read in 2 Chronicles 36 that the Lord took them by the sword away to Babylon they became servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, that would be the kingdom that overthrew the Babylonians, to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah until the land had enjoyed her Sabbath as long as she lay desolate she kept her Sabbath to fulfill the 70 years. And so Daniel understanding all that and he was good, looked back and went "I was taken in 606 first raid it's 538 we're within 2 years now of being allowed to go home" and Daniel as he did the math and read the scriptures in his mind began to pray that God might use him.

We read in verse 1 here of Daniel 9 "In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus of the lineage of the Medes" that Darius was the Medo-Persian leader, Cyrus was the Persian leader, these 2 men joined together and became the kingdom of the Medo-Persian empire that overthrew the Babylonians. So "in the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus the lineage of Medes who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet that he would accomplish 70 years in the desolations of Jerusalem and so I set my face toward the Lord to make request by prayer and supplication and with fasting and with sackcloth and with ashes." So Daniel figures it out, hey it's coming pretty soon, I wonder what the Lord wants us to do and he sets about to pray for himself, for the nation, he confesses their sin that had brought them there and admits that they're still sinners who need God's help. But he basically in this prayer of repentance and then of intercession says to the Lord I want to be helpful, I want to be useful, I want to be available. And so Darius the Mede, Cyrus isn't named early on because he led the armies for the first couple of years and by 536 you will see it always either being Cyrus and Darius or just Cyrus he will kind of become that dominant leader even as the Lord had named him. Well from verse 4 here the first 19 Daniel prays he prays of confession of intercession,

God help us we're here because we deserve it, thank you for letting us come out or giving us a hope. He says in verse 15 "Now oh Lord our God who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, made yourself a name as it is this day, we've sinned done wickedly Lord and according to all of your righteousness I pray let your anger and your fury now be turned away from your city Jerusalem and the holy mountain because for our sins and the inequities of our fathers Jerusalem and your people are a reproach to all of those around us and therefore God hear the prayer of your servant in his supplications and for the Lord's sake cause your face to shine on your sanctuary which is desolate oh my God incline your ear, hear. Open your eyes and see our desolation and the city which is called by your name for we do not present our supplications before you because of our righteous needs but because of your great mercy Lord, hear Lord, forgive Lord, listen and act. Don't delay for your own sake – my God for your city and your people are called by your name."

And so Daniel prayed, confessed, excited acting on the word of God as he knew it. "Now while I was speaking" verse 20 "and praying and confessing my sin and the sins of my people Israel and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God, yes while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel whom I had seen in the visions at the beginning being caused to fly swiftly reached me about the time of the evening offering and he informed me and talked with me and said 'oh Daniel I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. And at the beginning of your supplication the command went out and I have come to tell you you are greatly beloved so I want you to consider the matter, I want you to understand the vision.'" Now Gabriel the angel arrives on the scene to give Daniel what he says here skill to understand because God greatly loved him. I love the little phrase "beloved of God" because you don't find it very often in the Old Testament you find it of Solomon you find of Daniel you'll find it of the Apostle John until you get to the church and then the Lord is constantly calling us his beloved. I mean because of Jesus we are now all now family, right? And so that term which was picked for these who had been so faithful now is applied to all of us, "to all of you who are in Rome" Paul wrote "beloved of God and called to be saints" to the Thessalonians "we are bound to give thanks to God always for you beloved of the Lord because from the beginning you have chosen salvation through sanctification by the spirit and belief in the truth." But in the Old Testament this is a very precious kind of a title you don't find it very often. Notice also that in verse 23 the angel tells him that the moment Daniel began to pray an order from heaven was given that he might come and deliver this matter and this vision and this insight and this understanding to Daniel. "At the beginning of your supplication", or literally in verse 3 the minute he set his face to the Lord to begin to make requests, God moved so he got 20 verses out before the angel showed up. I don't know if you can figure out how fast an angel flies you might be able to figure out how far heaven is away but he comes quickly.

Now when you get to Chapter 10 and we won't go there tonight, but in Chapter 10 in the third year of Cyrus you'll read the king of Persia in verse 1 because by then Cyrus is firmly in charge. Daniel again begins to pray and you read in verse 2 of Chapter 10 that Daniel spent 3 full weeks praying and by the time you get to verse 12 and the angel

came he said look from the first day you set your heart to understand and humble yourself, your words were heard I've come to bring you these words but the prince of the kingdom of Persia has withstood me and he talks about a battle with a demon and a demon that ran a country and how he interrupted the angel from coming to bring an answer to Daniel's prayer and so Daniel ended up 3 weeks praying before the Lord got that angel through, if you will, and Michael one of the chief princes had to come and stand with him and take care of business so that Gabriel could come and bring this message to Daniel. So you get a little insight into hindrances to prayer and sometimes the warfare around us but that's there in Chapter 10.

Here in Chapter 9 Daniel is immediately given an answer to his cries to the Lord as to what comes next for Israel and how can he be a part. And as he gets this message from the Lord we are given through this message one of the most amazing prophecies in the bible that give us both definitive time charts but understanding from now until the Lord returns of God's dealing with Israel as a nation. The final 7 years of His dealing being this great tribulation that we're about to start in Chapter 6 verse 1 and it begins after the rapture of the church and it precedes the second coming of Christ. Verse 24 this is the vision that God gave through Gabriel to Daniel who prayed about the people of God and the nation and Jerusalem and all and the Lord says this "70 weeks are determined for your people, for your holy city, to finish transgression to make an end to sin to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up the vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy." Now this prophecy I want you to be sure you see is solely for God's dealing with Israel. It isn't about you, it isn't about the church, it's solely about the work of God and what God still intends to do through Daniel's people for whom he had been praying as you read there in verse 20 "I was praying and confessing my sin and the sin of my people" so the Lord says "70 weeks are determined on your people and upon your holy city." Now the word for week is the Hebrew word **shabua**, and **shabua** is just a word that means 7 and depending on which context it is used it could mean 7 days, 7 weeks, 7 years but its term is 7 and we know from what we will read as we continue that this time it is used to speak of 7 years. You might remember when Jacob was with his uncle Laban and he fell in love with Rachel and how he made a deal that if he worked for 7 years he would get Rachel and so he worked and then you remember on the honeymoon night he met her not so good looking sister Leah and "oh what happened here, this isn't right" and he went back to Laban and said "you ripped me off" and he said "no no no that's the custom in our city this is what we do here you marry the older before the younger" but then he said "if you will fulfill her weeks" speaking of Rachel and he uses this word **shabua** "you will fulfill her 7 years, another 7 years, fulfill her week I will give you this one also for the service if you will serve me yet another 7 years" and then it said Jacob fulfilled her week. Same word Genesis I think it's 29.

So it is used in other places like that, it is certainly used that way here, we say the word decade and we always mean 10 years and so more often than not this word 7 is a word that means 7 years. Now seventy 7-year periods and the word **shabim** 70 and the word **shabua** 7, seventy 7-year periods are determined by God to deal with then these things that have to do with Israel and the city and God's people. National Israel and on the list

if you look in verse 26 you'll find there are 6 specific things. The first 3 were accomplished when Jesus died upon the cross. He finished transgression, he made an end of sin and reconciliation for iniquity, he brought us to the place where we could now be forgiven and washed and made clean and be reconciled to God from our sin but yet the last 3 have yet to come. Everlasting righteousness hasn't been brought in yet, the visions and the prophecies haven't been sealed up or finished if you will and the Lord who is coming to rule and reign has yet to be anointed as the Most Holy. Those will be coming at the end if you will of these 70 years.

Now Gabriel in verse 25 breaks down these seventy 7-year periods into definable sections giving Daniel a frame of reference as to when to start counting, when to stop counting, some landmarks along the way to show that he is on track so he says in verse 25 "I want you to know, and I want you to understand that from the going forth of the command to restore and to rebuild Jerusalem until the Messiah the prince shall be seven 7-year periods and sixty-two 7-year periods, the streets will be built again, and the wall even in troublesome times."

Now the clock started the day that the commandment was given to go restore and rebuild Jerusalem. And if we find that point and then move forward we will find after sixty-nine 7-year periods that the Messiah should be there because that's what the promise of verse 25 is. It will be 7 weeks and 62 weeks or sixty-nine 7-year periods we should find the Messiah. Now in Nehemiah Chapter 2 we are told that Artaxerxes gave the commandment to Nehemiah to go back and to restore and to rebuild Jerusalem on the first day of **nisan** in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes' reign. So from Daniel's timeframe about 93 years into the future from this meeting that Daniel had with the angel Gabriel. In the Julian calendar it would be March 14, 445 BC. Now for the next 49 years from that time that Nehemiah was sent forward seven 7-years or seven 7-weeks of years, the City of Jerusalem would be rebuilt and restored though it would not be easy going. We know from Nehemiah that the walls of the city were built really fast, 52 days once they started building but then there were several delays politically and enemies roundabout and the city itself wasn't functioning, livable had streets if you will for the next 49 years and that's easily followed historically. From that time forward though verse 26 and after then 62 weeks more the 7 years and then 62 Messiah will be cut off but he will not be cut off for himself. Who will he be cut off with, he'll be cut off obviously for us so 49 years the city is rebuilt another sixty-two 7-year periods or another 434 years from that point forward and we should find the Messiah being cut off but not for himself. Now Daniel uses the Jewish calendar. The Jewish calendar much like many others only has 360 days a year. You will find that to be so throughout biblical prophecy in verse 27 for example we will read about the covenant of one week but in the middle of the week or literally after 3½ years. In Revelation Chapter 12 verse 14 these are broken up into the words "time" singular, "times" plural, and "half a time" and it equates to the same 3½ years. In Revelation 11 it talks about 42 months, 3½ years. In Revelation 11 it also talks about 1260 days—it all has the same reference, it's exactly 3½ years using 360 days a year that Daniel and everyone at the time used. Now we use a Julian calendar we throw that 5¼ day in there. But you have to use Daniel's references if you're going to work this out.

There is a fellow named Sir Robert Anderson who wrote a book years ago called "The Coming Prince" that did the calculations and he tells us that 434 years after those 49, or 483 years from the day that Artaxerxes said go back and rebuild Jerusalem as he went forward dropped him off on Passover week April 6, 32 AD. Which just happens to be Palm Sunday and the day that Jesus rode into town and presented himself to Israel, to Jerusalem as their king riding on a colt. And Zechariah I think it's Chapter 9 verse 9 "rejoice oh daughter of Zion, shout oh daughters of Jerusalem behold your king is coming; he is just, he has salvation, he is lowly, he is riding on a donkey a colt and the fowl of a donkey" and so exactly to the day from the giving of the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem until the coming Messiah his presentation if you will as king his formal presentation exactly to the day 483 years or sixty-nine 7-year periods. Now remember we started with seventy 7-year periods as determined on Israel but we have used 69 up in verse 25 and in verse 26 and yet verse 24 here says there is a 70th week. Now when you read through the gospels, and I know that you know the story already, but when Jesus went up to Jerusalem down from Bethany and he told the disciples to go into the village and get a colt and no one's ridden on it if they say why are you taking it just tell them the master has need of it and then Jesus went and he sat down on this donkey and they brought him forth and the people began to spread their clothes out on the road and as the descent from the Mount of Olives down into the Kidron Valley before it goes back up Jesus began to ride down the hill there and the people began to worship. In fact they began to sing the Hallel songs, Hosanna, save now, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, peace in heaven and glory to God in the highest. And the Pharisees were so angry and they said to Jesus do you realize that they're calling you God, you tell them to knock that off. Now Jesus had never allowed worship, His time had not come; they tried to worship Him He'd disappear, but not this time. He said to these Pharisees "if this time these don't sing the very rocks would cry out." And then the Lord got to the city and He began to weep and He said this "if you would have known in this your day the things that belong to your peace." The psalm as they were singing this is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it, and it all points to this day, this day that Daniel spoke about, exactly to the day, the time that would come, God's dealing with Israel as a nation and he would be cut off that very week, in fact that very next Friday, but not for himself. Powerful insight.

Now the public declaration of Jesus on Palm Sunday, the official rejection as he is crucified for the sins of the world, and the 483 years and all pass by and God's dealing with Israel as a nation the clock stops because by the weekend the church age has begun and the disciples will be filled with the Holy Spirit and the sixty-nine 7-year periods will have been put on hold and inserted into the timetable of God's dealing with national Israel is this age of grace. You and I coming to know Him, following Him so that everyone, Jew and gentile, might be able to come to the Lord simply by faith. Paul said to the Romans in Chapter 11 verse 25 "look I don't want you to be ignorant brethren of the mystery and you should be wise in this that blindness in part has happened to the nation of Israel until the fullness of the gentiles has come in", in other words there's a stop mark here, 69 weeks have passed, the Lord has given His life, not for Himself but for us and there's this church age that's born. It has been going on for

quite some time, but the minute and the day that the Lord calls you and I as the church into glory will be the day that this last 7-year period will begin to tick. And it will be exactly 7 years and it will be exactly those amount of days, 360 days a year, for 7 years and that's it and on that last day Jesus will come again to rule and to reign. So pretty phenomenal, spectacular, if you will prophecy, but then this last 7-year period that is still awaiting the nation of Israel we know that once the church is removed that the 70th week of Daniel will take place, it starts in Chapter 6 verse 1 in Revelation it is called in some places the time of Jacob's trouble, it is a time where God no longer works through the church to reach the lost but He rules and reigns through Israel to reach the world. He will come to Israel, He will establish His throne there, all of the nations of the earth will eventually be gathered there, He will rule and reign from there. They will be the ones again in vogue even as they were prior to the birth of the church and the setting aside of the nation. God loves the Jews – the Jews can get saved, they should, everyone, but there's no special place for them as far as a nation at this time other than God's promise to fulfill in them all that He has done. That will take place in this final 7-year period, this 70th week, verse 24 here, of Daniel.

Now there's a couple more things, notice we read in verse 26 "and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary the end of it will be with a diaspora, a flood until the end of the war desolations are determined." Now after Jesus' death, in fact in 70 AD, the Romans under the leadership of Titus and the 10th legion of the Roman army absolutely wiped out Jerusalem, a lot of political reasons for it but suffice it to say they didn't leave one stone upon another and absolutely leveled the place and the result was that Israel was dispersed into all of the world, they lost their homeland. They ran for their lives into every part of the world and they would not have a homeland from 70 AD to 1948 when God would again bring them back together and through a bunch of miraculous things bring them home. Now notice "and the people of the prince who is to come", the prince is not Jesus. The prince is the antichrist, "the people of the prince who is to come" his descendancy will come from the same Roman Empire "shall destroy the city and the sanctuary until the end is with a flood" or with a dispersion if you will or a diaspora. If you don't have a copy of the works of Josephus and you're prone to reading and it's not easy reading but it's good, Josephus was a Jewish historian he lived from 37 AD to 100 AD. He wasn't a believer, but he was a pretty accurate recorder of history and he writes of the death of Jesus and the resurrection and the fall of the city and this overthrow by Titus and he writes much of Jewish history prior to that day. The reason we're all so excited in bible teachers about Israel being back in the land, and today more than half of the world's Jews live in Israel, is that the 70th week of Daniel in this tribulation requires Israel to be in their homeland. And so we're pretty excited that that took place and we know that being there they're not going to go anywhere and the bible tells us that Israel there will be a thorn in the sides of every nation upon the earth. It's an interesting thing that they would rub so many people the wrong way, they have no oil, well they just found some natural gas deposits and they look like they're going to be fine, but up until this time nobody's really wanted the land other than we want it because you have it. Why doesn't everybody just go take Saudi Arabia's land they got a lot of oil, "no we'd rather have Israel" it gets 2 inches of rain a year in the desert, hardy kind of existence, "we want the rocks" – really?

No this is a spiritual problem, alright so verse 26 and “the people of the prince who is to come” and then notice we jump all the way ahead to the 70th week then he, who’s he, he’s the prince of the people who is to come, the people of the prince who is to come, then he will confirm a covenant with many for one week or literally for 7 years, right? The 70th week of Daniel, but in the middle of the week at the 3½ year mark he shall bring an end to the sacrifices and the offerings and on the wings of abomination shall be one who will make desolate until the consummation which is determined and the pouring out of it is desolation. Now the “he” is a reference to the prince of the Romans, but it is a “he” 2000 years in the future. And this is a clear reference to the antichrist, in fact in verse 27 here Gabriel gives to Daniel the outline for the last 7-year period of God’s dealing with Israel and he delineates the beginning, the middle, and the end specifically the last 3½ years is that time of Jacob’s trouble. Notice he makes a deal, a covenant an agreement for 7 years, but in the middle of that 7-year period he breaks the covenant and he shows himself as to who he is by what Daniel in prophecy describes as on the wings of abominations that will make or bring desolation.

Now we know from verse 26 that the antichrist will come out of the nations that comprised the old Roman Empire and Daniel tells us lots about him in the prophecies and we’ll see a lot more as we go through revelation. Let me give you one real quick one, I think we have time in Daniel Chapter 2 so just flip back a couple of pages I realize you guys just always sit there and no bible turning at all, we’re going to do this every week from now on. If I’m turning you’re turning. Alright, Daniel 2 verse 39 and this is now in Daniel Chapter 2 Nebuchadnezzar has had a dream, he doesn’t understand it, in fact he didn’t remember it, Daniel finally gets involved and he gets to share what the dream is and what it means and God raised him up and he begins by telling them about this vision that he’s had and verse 39 “after you Nebuchadnezzar will rise another kingdom it will be inferior to yours and then there will come another one and a third kingdom of bronze which shall rule over the earth and then a fourth kingdom should be strong as iron and as much as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything and like iron that crushes, this kingdom will break in pieces and crush all others. But when you see the feet and toes made partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron that kingdom will be divided yet the strength of iron shall still be in it just as you saw the iron mixed with clay and as the toes of the feet were partly now of iron and partly of clay so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly fragile and as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay they will mingle with the seed of men but won’t adhere to one another just as iron doesn’t mix with clay and in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, it shall break in pieces and consume all of these kingdoms and it shall stand forever and inasmuch as you saw that stone that was cut out of the mountain without hands, that it broke in pieces, the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will come after this, the dream as certain the interpretation is sure.”

Now the Lord’s word to Nebuchadnezzar who really thought he should be the last kingdom was that he wasn’t. the Babylonians were a world kingdom after them came the Medo-Persians then came the Greeks then came the Romans and then there was

no more world empire and there has not been a world governing body or power since the day of the Roman Empire. We do know from Daniel there is one last final world empire coming. It will be the world empire of the antichrist who will seek to gather the world against God and against God's people. A fifth world empire where men will rule, it will be represented by these 10 toes and later the 10 horns, we will find them to be rulers and kings and kingdoms and alliances, but suffice it to say, it is during this fifth worldwide kingdom that Jesus will return to crush the rebellion that it is in this place that the stone made without hands, cut out of the mountain, if you will, will return and rule and reign. Now in Daniel Chapter 9 verse 27 where we were at we are told the antichrist will make a covenant with many, including Israel, for one half of that 7-year period. So for the first 3½ years of the great tribulation there will be much peace and hope. He will be allowing Israel to build their temple, he will bring solutions for peace to the Middle East, we will read over there as we read tonight in Revelation 6 that he will go forth with a bow but he has no arrows. He's very good at conquering with his mouth, and with his promises, he is received by literally everyone, in fact I think the Lord said there in the gospels in Chapter 5, "I come in my father's name you won't receive me but if another comes in his own name him you'll receive." And everyone will be drawn to this man and hang on to him and hope in him but the turning point will be at the half way mark. We read here "wings of desolation." Jesus describes the same activity of the antichrist who comes to the temple once it's rebuilt and being used and he stops the worship and he says from now on you'll worship me, you'll take my mark or you'll die, you won't be able to buy or eat without my authorization. I'm now God and you read there in Matthew Jesus saying "when you see the abomination that will bring desolation or make desolate – run" he says to Israel, run for your life, head for Petra where the bible teaches Israel will be hidden by the hand of God during that time from the wrath of the antichrist and the wrath of Satan. So in the middle of this 7-year period the antichrist will make himself known. I think we read in 1 Thessalonians is it or 2 Thessalonians Chapter 2 verse 4 but it talks about him who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped that he sits as God in the temple of God showing himself that he is God. So here's Satan at the middle of this what 7-year period, 70 weeks are determined upon my people, 69 have come and gone, a pause for the church age, Chapter 4 and 5 the church is taken out, Chapter 6 the beginning of this final 7-year period.

Now the world will see him for who he is it will be too late yet initially everyone will be fooled by him and the antichrist will win Israel's approval. I suspect that he will broker a deal with the Arabs on how to build the temple. There is a great portion of scripture that will give you some food for thought in Revelation Chapter 11 where the Lord gives direction that the outer courts of this new temple should be given over to the gentiles or be counted unclean. In other words the temple as it was before was very large but if you get rid of the outer courts the temple becomes extremely small by comparison. And there is a fellow named Asher Kaufman who works at Mt. Scopus University who is convinced that the building of the temple will be on the temple mount, but it will be in a place where there is a little cupola today called the Dome of the Spirits, we usually take our groups to Israel there, and he has a lot of good arguments for it not the least of which is the temple has to be in direct line with the east gate, directly. Where the

mosque is standing now you have to go this way but if you stand at the Dome of the Spirits you can look right out the eastern gate, and it would fit there without messing with the dome of the rock which is the third holiest site for the Muslims. I think all hell would break loose to try and tear that down. But if you could squeeze it in and so that's the logic but however the antichrist enamors himself to the people, that 3½ years will certainly be a time of him winning the people without a war, if you will, until he stops the sacrifices as we read here he demands worship and then this final movement of God will begin this last 7-year period.

In fact in Chapter 12 of Daniel you read the Lord saying to Daniel "at that time Michael will stand up the great prince who watches over the sons of your people and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation even to this time and to that time your people will be delivered everyone found written in the book and many of those who sleep in the dust will awake some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt." So 1260 days, 3½ years from the time that the antichrist demands worship to the very day Jesus will return.

Now let's go back to Revelation 6, I won't make you bounce around anymore with me I'll do that on my own. Notice in verse 1 of Chapter 6 "now I saw when the lamb opened the first seal that one of the 4 living creatures said 'come and see' and I looked", verse 2, "and I beheld a white horse, he who sat on it he had a bow and a crown was given to him and he went out conquering, to conquer," he went out with a bow and yet without any arrows. Some people see this verse and say "well this is Jesus" no this is not Jesus – Jesus will ride a white horse but when he comes things happen quite differently and when we read that you'll be riding with him. This is the introduction of the antichrist to the world like a good guy riding on a white horse with a 10-gallon hat, the crown of rulership is handed over to him, it's handed to him by the people, but it's also given to him by the Lord. This is the time of God's judgment. He has a heart to conquer, he looks much like the vision of Jesus who will return, but don't be deceived and with the rapture of the church the 7-year period begins with the introduction of the antichrist into the society and it will end with the second coming of Jesus and his saints and then there'll be that 1000 years of his rule upon the earth. So pretty quiet during the first 3½ years.

Now the church is never found in the first 69 weeks of Daniel's prophecy, the church is not found in the 70th week of Daniel's prophecy, and the reason is those are prophecies of God's dealing with Israel as a nation, so whenever somebody wants to put you in the tribulation just go "hey I'm not in 70th week of Daniel, I'm in heaven worshipping the Lord" God is speaking now through his people, the 144,000 are JWs, Jewish witnesses. Right? Unless you know what tribe you're from and we'll talk about them guys, but all of this is God's wrath against those who refuse to believe in him there at the cross. Now let me just give you one other thought to think about that I think will be helpful the only thing that we know, and before we do this, I really believe that the first 3½ years of tribulation are covered in these 2 verses, because starting in verse 3 the consequence of Satan's taking over of this antichrist and his revealing of who he truly is, the abomination that makes desolate, begins in earnest in verse 3. I think the only

information we have of the first 3½ years is in these 2 verses and in some of the sideline or ancillary prophetic verses that speak of the time of the tribulation. So only verse 1 and 2 cover 3½ years, everything else covers the next 3½. It is the judgment that God focuses on. The only other activity that I am aware of biblically that we should put into the time of the first 3½ years of tribulation is found in the books of Ezekiel, especially in Chapter 36 through Chapter 39 and it documents for us an action on God's behalf in removing a threat to Israel and not only a threat to Israel, but it seems a threat to the rulership of the antichrist. This old Roman Empire, this European world power. If you go back sometime and read Ezekiel Chapter 36 you will read of the restoration of Israel to the land and the restoration of the land by the Lord, He speaks to the trees, He speaks to the mountains of His restoring power. In Chapter 37 of Ezekiel you will see this vision Ezekiel gets of dry bones and they are a picture of God's people scattered and the Lord says to Ezekiel "do you think these bones could have life" and Ezekiel goes "I don't know, Lord you know." And the Lord said "watch" and they came together and flesh was put on them and they began to form and then you get to chapter 38 after Israel has been reestablished and you read the Lord saying "son of man set your face against Gog of the land of Magog and the prince of Rosh and Meshech and Tubal prophesy against them sayeth the Lord God, I am against you, I'm going to turn you around put a hook in your jaw, lead you out with your armies and horses and horseman and splendidly clothed company with bucklers and shields and handling swords you prepare yourself for battle and you're going to be visited" and the Lord begins to name some of them but he speaks in Chapter 38 of the fact that there comes this time when God will take these land masses or these nations, if you will, that consist of what used to be Russia that are now north of Israel and he will bring them down by his own force so he might destroy them. We do know that Gog is a person, he is the prince of Magog, which most historians as well as bible scholars associate with the Crimean area of the caucuses by the Caspian Sea. Meshech is always Moscow, Tubal is always associated with the capital of Serbia and then some of the outlies that are there in verse 5 Persia and Ethiopia and Libya with them with shield and helmet and Gomer and his troops and Tagarma from the far north and they're all coming and he drags them to this conflict. We do know that Persia is modern-day Iran which I think is basically Shia fundamentalist Islamics. Ethiopia is a very strong Muslim country, Libya is in upheaval today but its 97% I think Sunni Muslim. Gomer and Tagarma are the north Turkish area that is about 100% at least nominal Muslim, 80% of them are Sunni, 20% are Shia, as far as food for thought some of the people who aren't brought down by the Lord which you might suspect are people like Syria and Iraq and Egypt and all, they don't seem to be ones finding judgment from God in this matter, so that will be interesting to watch.

But then in Chapter 39 as the Lord talks about bringing them down, he says "you son of man prophesy against Gog thus sayeth the Lord I am against you and the prince of Rosh and Meshech and Tubal I will turn you around and lead you on and bring you up from the far north and against the mountains of Israel and I will knock the bow out of your left hand and cause the arrows to fall out of your right hand and you shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and your troops and your people and I will give you as birds of prey of every sort to the beasts of the field, you shall fall on the open field I have spoken sayeth the Lord and I will send fire upon Magog and those who live in the

security and the coastlands and they'll know that I am the Lord." So in Chapter 39 we watch God's involvement in taking out these many nations north of Israel. In fact 5/6th of the invading army according to Ezekiel 39 is destroyed. And from what we are given as the results of the war it would seem to suggest there is a nuclear confrontation. The bodies are left in place for 7 months and they are just marked but not moved. It takes 7 years to burn the artifacts of the war that was left behind. God promises Israel from this day forward never to leave them again and it may very well be the battle with the former soviet republics that set the stage for the rapture or it may take place immediately upon us being removed, but this power vacuum is obviously something God is going to accomplish so that He might be able to introduce if you will the antichrist to the world scene and early on in the first part of those last 7 years and then he will be accepted by all.

So all that to say verse 1 and 2 is all we have of the first 3½ years. Verse 3 is the consequence, the introduction to the antichrist his ability to conquer and overthrow and to get a crown and to take power and to fool everyone. Verse 1 and 2, especially verse 2, but verse 3 destruction that comes, peace taken from the earth, people killing one another, a great sword is the consequence of realizing who he is and by the time we get to the 4th seal, one quarter of those living upon the earth will have been killed. Now the time frame we learn from the word is vital because next time we'd like to go through verses 1 through 8 and the 4 horsemen of the apocalypse and what they will bring to a world ripe for judgment as we sit before the Lord worshipping, so you don't want to miss that, but get it in your mind right. This is the 70th week of Daniel, this is the week of Jacob's trouble and it's broken into 2 parts, it's centered in the middle with the abomination of desolation that antichrist coming saying hey I was just kidding about being your friend, now you worship or you die, and then everyone runs and no one wants to deal with him unless you're crooked and wicked. Most people are going to run and that's when the judgment begins and so next time we'll pick up and hopefully you'll remember what I said.