
THE SECOND COMING GENERATION SESSION 3: THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES — DANIEL'S 70TH WEEK & THE COMING ANTICHRIST

- I. Our goal is to present a deep dive into the Word of God so that can become confident in God's Plans and Purposes for the End of the Age. God wants us to be confident and secure in knowing Truth (like the good Bereans).
- II. The Second Coming Generation is profoundly responsible for handling and disseminating TRUTH. These are some significant signs to look for:
 - A. **Israel: Daniel's 70th Week**
Matthew 23:37-39 — "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'"
 - B. **Temple** Daniel's 70th week will not begin until a peace covenant is confirmed by the antichrist which enables resumption of animal sacrifice for the orthodox Jews.
 - C. **Antichrist comes to power – Daniel 7** Pitfalls of the pre-trib rapture theory
 - D. **Body of Christ Maturity**
Ephesians 5:27 — "That He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless."
 - E. **Abortion** The enemy tries to stop every prophetic generation.
 1. **Moses Generation**
Exodus 1:22 — "So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, 'Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive.'"
 2. **Matthew 2:16 — "Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men."**
 - F. **The Gospel being preached in every nation**

III. SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Many today neglect the subject of the biblical signs of the times despite many Scriptures that emphasize how important these signs are. Jesus, more than any of the apostles, emphasized the need to discern the times (**Mt. 16:1-4; 24:32-44; Lk. 19:41-44; 21:34-36**). He strongly rebuked those who did not pay attention to the prophetic signs that pointed to His first coming.

- A. **Matthew 16:1-4** — “Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said to them, “When it is evening you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red’; and in the morning, ‘It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.” And He left them and departed.”
- B. **Luke 19:41-44** — “Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”
- C. **Luke 21:34** — “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with Carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. 35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”
- D. “Never before in history have all factors been present for fulfillment of prophecy relating to end-time trends and events. Only in our generation have combined revival of Israel, formation of world church, increasing power of Muslim religion, rise of occult, worldwide spread of atheism as dramatic setting for fulfillment of prophecy. The road to Armageddon is prepared. The advent of globalism and technologies linking communications and cash systems, the growing spiritual apostasy worldwide, with longing for leader who can unite diverse religious

and political factions are setting stage for Antichrist one-world government.” — John Walvoord, *Israel in Prophecy* (p. 129)

E. THREE CATEGORIES OF SIGNS

Three main categories of the signs of the times—sign events, sign trends, and cosmic signs.

1. **Sign events:** These are actual events predicted in Scripture that alert us to the timing of Jesus' return. They include political, spiritual, economic, and religious events, such as the rebirth of the state of Israel, the future 10-nation confederation (empire), the abomination of desolation, the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem, etc. Sign events are the most faith- building.
2. **Sign trends:** Both positive and negative sign trends signal the generation of Jesus' return. Examples of positive trends are the gospel being preached in all nations, the global prayer movement, and the Church walking in power, purity, and unity, and standing with Israel even in persecution. Negative trends include an increase of escalating violence, famines, and persecution of the saints, and the falling away. Trends are not as overt or faith- building as sign events, because the way they occur is not as clearly defined as a dramatic event.
3. **Cosmic signs:** There will be dramatic signs in the heavens that will cause many to fear.
Luke 21:11 — “There will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.”

F. JESUS IDENTIFIED 12 NEGATIVE SIGN TRENDS

Jesus gave 12 negative sign trends that will bring distress to the nations and indicate the generation of His return (Mt. 24:4-14; Lk. 21:11, 25). Matthew described nine; Luke added three more. These trends include deception by false christs/prophets (Mt. 24:4-5, 11, 24), ethnic conflict (Mt. 24:7), economic warfare (Mt. 24:7), famines, pestilences, and earthquakes (Mt. 24:8), hatred of believers (Mt. 24:9), relational breakdown in society (Mt. 24:10), lawlessness, or an increase in sin and rebellion (Mt. 24:12), fearful sights (Lk. 21:11), great signs in the sky (affecting the sun, moon, and stars) and disturbances in the sea (Lk. 21:11, 25).

1. **Matthew 24:4-12 — “Many will come...saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many...For nation will rise against nation [Gk. ethnos, or ethnic conflict], and kingdom**

against kingdom [economic warfare]. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places...and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will...hate one another...And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold."

2. **Luke 21:11, 25 — "There will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven... in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring..."**

G. Some of these trends have always existed, but in the end times they will have a distinct intensity that will make global headline news; they will constitute a prophetic sign with a message from the Lord that can be discerned by the Body of Christ worldwide. Now, for the first time, most of these trends and the developments leading to all the sign events are happening on a global basis.

IV. SIGN TRENDS RELATED TO THE NATIONS

- A. **Global government:** A Middle East/European superstate (revived Roman Empire) will emerge, with a 10-nation confederation under the Antichrist (**Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7, 20, 24; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12-13, 16**). The most challenging issues facing the nations are international in nature, including the global war on terror and the global financial crisis. The tension in the financial crisis is that we have global financial markets without global rule of law. The crisis will create an atmosphere in which "global governance" will be a more attractive option for finding solutions.
- B. **Globalization:** Financial institutions, commerce, communication, and geopolitics are shifting from being nation based to a globally unified expression (**Rev. 17-18**). There will be one-world political cooperation, technology, economics, etc. Government, commerce, and religions will pool resources.
- C. **Knowledge and travel:** Daniel prophesied a great increase of knowledge (communication) and travel (transportation) as many "run to and fro." It is estimated that global tourism will generate \$5 trillion annually by 2020. Currently, the total knowledge possessed by humans doubles annually.

Daniel 12:4 — “Seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro [unprecedented travel], and knowledge shall increase [information age].”

- D. Internet technology has allowed knowledge to greatly increase. The ability of the Antichrist's government to enforce the mark of the Beast system worldwide (Rev. 13:16-18) implies the existence of modern technology, a cashless society, and a one-world economic system.

Revelation 13:16-17 — “He causes all...to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast.”

V. POSITIVE SIGN TRENDS

- A. **Gospel preached to all nations:** Jesus connected the timing of His return to the preaching of the gospel to all nations (12,000 people groups). Leading mission leaders project that the gospel will be preached to every people group by 2020. The greatest harvest of souls in history is occurring now. The Bible has been translated into 2,000+ languages (used by 98% of the world's population).

Matthew 24:14 — “This gospel...will be preached...to all the nations [ethnos] and then the end will come.”

- B. **Bridal identity:** John connected Jesus' return to the Church understanding her bridal identity. This is occurring in a global way for the first time in history (Rev. 22:17; cf. Mt. 25:1-13).

Revelation 22:17 — “The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come!”

- C. **Global prayer and worship movement:** The Spirit is raising up a prayer and worship movement (Rev. 22:17; 8:4; cf. Lk. 18:7-8; Isa. 62:6-7; 24:14-16; 25:9; 26:8-9; 27:2-5, 13; 30:18-19; 42:10-13; 51:11; 52:8; Joel 2:12-17, 32; Mic. 5:3-4; Zeph. 2:1-3; Ps. 102:17-20; 122:6; Zech. 12:10). Isaiah prophesied 24/7 prayer ministries continuing until Jesus returns (Isa. 62:6-7). Only one generation will see the fulfillment of God's promise to “set” watchmen (intercessors) in place to cry out 24/7 until Jerusalem becomes a praise in the earth (which will occur when Jesus returns).

Isaiah 62:6-7 — “I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace [be silent, NASB] day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep

silent, and give Him no rest till He...makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth [at the second coming].”

- D. **Outpouring of the Spirit:** The Lord promised to pour out His Spirit on all believers (Acts 2:17-21). The increase of the number of believers with “charismatic” theology and experience has grown from one million (1920) to 60 million (1970) to over 600 million today—this is a sign of the times.

VI. NEGATIVE SIGN TRENDS

- A. **Harlot Babylon worldwide religion (Rev. 17:2-6):** The harlot Babylon religion of tolerance will be characterized by moral relativity without absolutes and religious pluralism with syncretism.
- B. **Lawlessness abounds:** Sin will reach its fullest expression (Mt. 24:12; Rev. 14:18; cf. Dan. 8:23).
- C. **Violence (days of Noah):** There are 50 million abortions worldwide each year (over 100,000 per day). The abortion pill will cause this number to increase greatly. There are 35 million slaves (human trafficking), and the number is growing by 5 million per year (Rev. 18:13).
- D. **Immorality (days of Lot):** Immorality will increase greatly in the end times (Rev. 9:21; 14:8; 17:1-4; 18:2-4, 9-10; 19:2). Over \$100 billion is spent each year on pornography worldwide, with nearly 5 million pornographic websites that consist of over 500 million pages. Holograms and virtual reality will enable people to experience even more sexual perversion. Paul prophesied that marriage would be forbidden, or outlawed, in some places.
- 1 Timothy 4:1-3 — “The Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits... forbidding to marry.”**

VII. SIGN EVENTS AND TRENDS RELATED TO ISRAEL

- A. The most striking events in biblical prophecy are the return of the Jews to their ancient homeland to reestablish the state of Israel and to gain control of Jerusalem (Ezek. 38:8; Joel 3:2, 12; Zech. 12:3, 6; 14:2; Lk. 21:24). Israel became a nation on May 14, 1948, and then gained control of Jerusalem in the Six-Day War (June 1967). No prophetic sign is more dramatic or

convincing. The Jews were scattered to the nations in AD 70. Now, 2,000 years later, they are back home.

1. **Ezekiel 38:8** — “In the latter years you [Antichrist] will come into the land of those [Israel]...gathered from many people [nations] on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate.”
2. **Zechariah 12:6** — “In that day...Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place— Jerusalem.”

B. The rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, with sacrifices according to the OT law, is to be a sign (Mt. 24:15; Mk. 13:14; 2 Thes. 2:4; Rev. 11:1-2; 13:12-18; cf. Dan. 9:26-27; 11:31; 12:11). The temple was destroyed in AD 70. Orthodox Jews are leading a new, strong movement to rebuild the temple.

C. **Salvation of Israel:** Messianic Jewish congregations are seeing more Jewish people in Israel come to Jesus than at any time since the first century. There are 120+ Messianic congregations in Israel, totaling more than 12,000 believers. This is an increase of over 500% in the last 10 years.

Matthew 23:29 — “You shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

D. **Jerusalem as center of world politics and controversy:** The prophets foretold that Jerusalem would be the focus of the whole earth (Zech. 12:3; 14:1-3; cf. Joel 3:2, 12; Zeph. 3:8; Lk. 21:20-24).

Zechariah 14:2 — “I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken...Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant...shall not be cut off from the city.”

E. **Two conflicting trends:** anti-Semitism in the nations; love for Israel in the Body of Christ. Many Jews and Gentiles will go into prison camps under the Antichrist’s reign of terror. Jesus will deliver Israel and require the Church to stand with Israel in their time of trouble, like Corrie tenBoom’s family did during World War II. This is one way the Church will provoke Israel to jealousy.

1. **Luke 21:24** —“They [Israel] will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”
2. **Isaiah 42:6-7, 22** — “I will...give You [Jesus] as a covenant to the people [Israel]...7 to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house...
22But this [Israel] is a people robbed and plundered; all of them are snared in holes, and they are hidden in prison houses.”
3. **Romans 11:11** — “But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.”

VIII. DANIEL'S 70th WEEK (7 years): OVERVIEW OF DANIEL 9:24-27

Daniel's 70th week is the foundation for the last 7 years of this Age. Jesus referenced it when He point to the Abomination of Desolation. These last remaining years is a Biblical timeline establish by the angel Gabriel. The unfolding plan of God occurs within this reality. 7 years is a fixed time period and cannot be questioned. The only thing that we do not know is when this last 7 years begins.

- A. Daniel 9:24-27 is the only passage in the Bible that presents Jesus' first and second comings and death along with the restoration of Jerusalem and the temple and their destruction once again. It also describes what happens to the temple in the Tribulation with the Antichrist's abominations and the resulting desolations. It concludes with the final judgment on the Antichrist. It is the only place in the Bible that the whole story about the Messiah and the salvation of Israel is set forth.
 1. God's plan to restore Israel includes six great blessings (v. 24), 2. Jerusalem was restored, and Messiah came to Jerusalem (v. 25), 3. Jerusalem was destroyed after Messiah was killed in Jerusalem (v. 26) 4. The Antichrist will cause great desolations, and then he will be destroyed (v. 27) ‘
- B. The 70-weeks prophecy (9:24-27)
 1. Israel's salvation and restoration: six glorious promises (9:24)

2. Events during the 69 weeks (9:25): Messiah came after Jerusalem was restored
 3. Events after the 69 weeks (9:26): Messiah was killed, and Jerusalem was destroyed
 4. Events during the 70th week (9:27): the Antichrist, his covenant, and the Great Tribulation
- C. Gabriel revealed that Israel would suffer oppression for 70 weeks inside the land (Dan. 9:24-27). Jeremiah's prophecy: Israel would suffer under the Gentiles for 70 years outside the land (9:2).
- D. Gabriel assured Daniel that complete forgiveness and restoration would come to Israel (v. 24), but only after Israel was disciplined and purified by fire (v. 25-27). Understanding Israel's glory in the Millennium (v. 24) helps us to understand the trouble that Israel experiences (v. 25-27).
- E. Gabriel revealed that God's answer included sending Messiah (v. 25) to personally establish what God promised Israel in Daniel 7. God will permanently restore Jerusalem and the temple in a way that is vastly superior to the restoration under Ezra and Nehemiah as set forth in verse 25.
- F. God's plan contained surprising developments — Messiah being killed, leading to Jerusalem and the temple being destroyed again (v. 26), like the destruction of Solomon's temple in 586 BC. The temple will be rebuilt in the end times, and again made desolate, by the Antichrist (v. 27).
- G. The end of Israel's 70 years of Babylonian captivity did not end her captivity to sin. Israel's captivity to sin and oppression would only truly end after 70 weeks (70 units of seven). Israel must first pass through 70 prophetic periods of seven years before the six glorious promises that Gabriel set forth in Daniel 9:24 are fully manifest in Israel's national experience.
- H. The 70 weeks (490 years) are divided into three parts: 7 weeks (49 years), 62 weeks (434 years), and the 70th week (final 7 years before Jesus' returns). There is an approximate 2,000-year gap after the 69 weeks, before the 70th week begins. After Jesus was killed in Jerusalem, God's "prophetic clock or calendar" paused for 2,000 years until Israel was back in their promised land.

- I. Messiah was to come after Jerusalem was restored (Daniel 9:25).
1. Messiah was to come only after Jerusalem was restored (9:25). Jerusalem was restored—including its streets and walls. That this process began with a command to restore Jerusalem. Verse 25 described events occurring before the 69 weeks (483 years) were complete.

Daniel 9:25 — “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince [Jesus], there shall be seven weeks [49 years] and sixty-two weeks [434 years]; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.”

2. **Know and understand:** Gabriel called Daniel to understand the details of this vision because it's meaning was not immediately obvious. Daniel was to seek to understand it (v. 23, 25).
3. **To restore Jerusalem:** Gabriel promised that Jerusalem would be restored and rebuilt. It had not fully functioned as a city since it was destroyed about 50 years previously, in 586 BC.
4. **The street and wall built:** Gabriel emphasized that the street and the wall would be built again. “The street” is the Hebrew word *rehab*, which can be translated as open square, broad place, or plaza. Mentioning “the street,” the city's main street, indicates that the city would function again.
5. **7 weeks and 62 weeks:** Gabriel distinguished the first “7 weeks of years” (49 years) from the following “62 weeks of years” (434 years). He introduced two periods of time—a 49-year period followed by a 434-year period. The two periods are distinguished by a significant event —the rebuilding of Jerusalem. Thus, 49 years after the command was given, the city of Jerusalem was rebuilt. The total “69 weeks of years” (7 weeks plus 62 weeks) equals 483 years.
6. **Troublesome times:** The blessing of the coming of Messiah and the restoration of Jerusalem occurred in the context of trouble and difficulty (Neh. 4:l-23; 9:36-37). We

sometimes assume that when God's prophetic purpose unfolds, it should "feel" powerful and happen without trouble.

7. **Until Messiah the Prince:** It is accepted by top scholars that Jesus' ministry started in 26/27 AD and that His crucifixion occurred in the spring of 29/30 AD. Here, Gabriel defined Messiah as the "Prince" (king of the nations) whom Daniel saw being commissioned in heaven (7:13-14).
8. **The command:** From the Persian king's command to restore Jerusalem until the coming of Jesus to begin in His ministry in 26/27 AD, there shall be 69 weeks, or 483 years (49 plus 434 years).
 - a) Gabriel made it clear that a Gentile king would give a decree to rebuild Jerusalem. This seemed impossible. Imagine the king of Persia (president of Iran) doing that today!
 - b) It was a significant prophetic sign for the generation in which Jesus came. God held Israel accountable for not recognizing the time of God's visitation in sending Messiah to them. Israel was disciplined by God in 70 AD for rejecting Jesus
Luke 19:41-44 — "For days will come upon you when your enemies will... level you, and your children within you, to the ground...because you did not know the time of your visitation."
 - c) 4 Persian (Modern day Iran) Commands Summary: Artaxerxes' decree to Ezra in 458 BC is the best date since Jesus' ministry probably began 483 years later in 26/27 AD and the initial restoration of Jerusalem was probably complete in 409 BC (49 years after 458 BC). There are no significant redemptive events that occurred 49 years (7 weeks) or 483 years (69 weeks) after the other decrees—in 489 BC and 55 BC (Cyrus'); in 396 BC and 38 AD (Artaxerxes' second decree); and 469 BC and 35 BC (Darius').