

Behold, I Come Quickly...

A Study of Revelation

PART 2 Revelation 4:1 - 11:19

TRIBULATION

LESSON 3 Revelation 6:1 - 6:2

Gog and a White Horse Rider

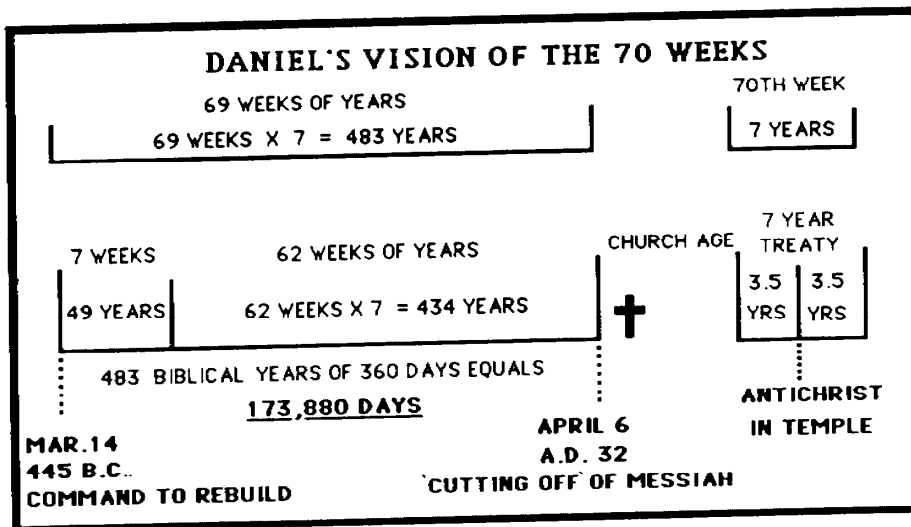
Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. (Revelation 22:7)

REV 6:1-2

The Time of Jacob's Trouble

The time has arrived for God's wrath to unfold on all unbelievers, both Jew and Gentile. This is Daniel's "seventieth week." It is a period of seven years duration preceded by a gap of undefined length representing the Church Age. Daniel's seventieth week is the remaining week following a prophecy of the time of the first coming of the Messiah, and as depicted in the following chart:

DANIEL'S VISION OF THE SEVENTY WEEKS¹



There is an alternate view, but the calculation and result is the same (see FIGURE 1 in ADDENDUM). The complete prophecy is as follows:

¹ Grant R. Jeffery, ARMAGEDDON - APPOINTMENT WITH DESTINY, Toronto, Ontario, CAN: Frontier Research Publications, 1988, p. 31.

DAN 9:24 Seventy weeks [of years, 490 years] 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 [445 BC] 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 [the rejection of Messiah as king occurred on Palm Sunday 32 AD], but not for himself: and the people [the Romans] of the prince that shall come [the "little Horn," the Antichrist] shall destroy the city and the sanctuary [this occurred in 70 AD]; and the end thereof 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 [this week of seven years has not yet been fulfilled]: and in the midst of the week [3-1/2 years, 1260 days] he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

God's Seventy-Week Plan²

1. **Finish the transgression** - Israel's transgression against the Law and the commandments of God. This will be completed when Christ returns to rule on the throne of David.
2. **Make an end of sin** - An end of sin takes place when the sinner accepts Christ as the one who died for sin. The full meaning is when Israel accepts Jesus Christ as their Messiah. Until that time Israel continues to sin.
3. **Make reconciliation for iniquity** - This will occur when Israel "looks upon Him whom they have pierced and mourns for Him even as an only Son." (Zechariah 12:10).
4. **Bring in everlasting righteousness** - No man has righteousness on his own. Righteousness in Israel will prevail when they accept Jesus Christ as their Messiah.
5. **Seal up the vision and prophecy** - Prophecy was sealed up until Israel would begin to return to the land. Until Israel actually obtained their land in 1948 the key to end-time prophecy was sealed.
6. **Anoint the most Holy** - This means the sanctification of the temple with the presence of Messiah. It may also mean the anointing of Jesus Christ as King of kings when He returns to reign on David's throne.

All six of these things will be fulfilled when Israel receives the Messiah.

From Daniel 9:24 through 9:26 sixty-nine weeks, or 483 years have occurred. This remaining seventieth week is what Jeremiah called "the time of Jacob's trouble." The purpose of this week is for the salvation of the Jewish nation, during which the church is to play no part. It is "Jacob's trouble," not Peter's trouble or Paul's trouble. The church will be gone. Unbelieving Jews and Gentiles will remain. Many will accept Christ during this time, but at a high price.

JER 30:7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even **the time of Jacob's trouble**, but he shall be saved out of it.

For the unbelieving gentiles it is the time when "the indignation of the Lord is upon all nations."

ISA 34:2 For **the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations**, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter.

As mentioned, the purpose of the Tribulation, Daniel's 70th week, is twofold - to prepare the nation of Israel for her Messiah and to pour out judgment on unbelieving man and nations. Malachi prophesies that Elijah will come before the "great and terrible day of the Lord." (See FIGURE 2 in ADDENDUM).

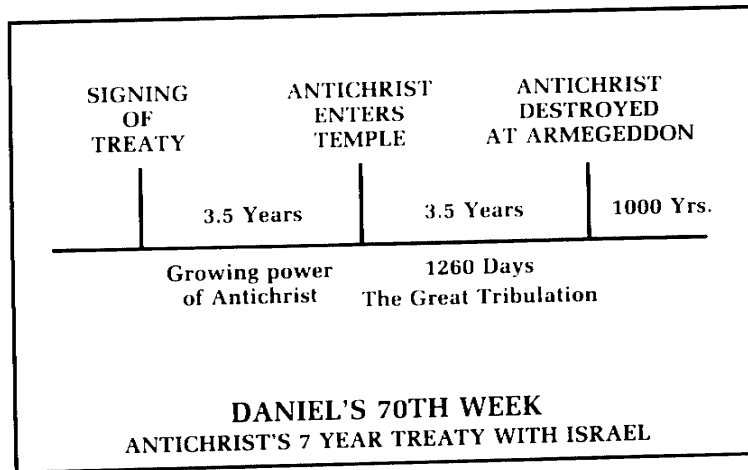
MAL 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the **prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD**: **6** And **he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers**, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

² Noah W. Hutchings, DANIEL THE PROPHET, Oklahoma City, OK: Hearthstone Publishing, Ltd., 1990, 1998, p. 233-236.

Then will be seen as recorded by Isaiah:

ISA 26:21 For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

The Seven Years³



The Seals - A World Ruined by Man

REV 6:1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

The Lamb now opens one of the seals and one of the four beasts says "come and see." This could just as well have been translated "go."⁴ The messengers of God's wrath are released. The horsemen begin their ominous ride.

As we will see, the Seal Judgments represent a world ruined by man, however they are no less the beginning of God's wrath. The breaking of the seals breaks the restraints on man, and the associated national and natural disasters will reach their full potential. It is Christ that breaks the seals; God is still in control.⁵ As we will soon see, the seal judgments parallel events described by Jesus in the Olivet Discourse of Matthew 24. The six seals are a succession of events seemingly unfolding in a chronological pattern beginning in the first half of the seven year tribulation. The Lamb opens the seals, angels sound the trumpets, and God pours out the vials (bowls). The seals comprehend the whole since the trumpets and the vials are contained within the seventh seal. Therefore the seven-sealed scroll, while representing the "title deed to the earth," also contains God's comprehensive plan of judgment leading to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.⁶ The events that will take place under the Seal Judgments are summarized as follows:

Events of Seal Judgments⁷

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

- Seal 1: Successful propaganda – Deception (Matthew 24:4, 5)
- Seal 2: Bloody Policies – War (Matthew 24:6, 7)
- Seal 3: Severe privations – Famine (Matthew 24:7)
- Seal 4: Spreading plagues -- Plague (Matthew 24:7)

³ Grant R. Jeffery, APOCALYPSE - THE COMING JUDGMENT OF NATIONS, Toronto, Ontario, CAN: Frontier Research Publications, 1988, p. 28.

⁴ Morris, THE REVELATION RECORD, p. 108.

⁵ Phillips, EXPLORING THE FUTURE, p. 74. Phillips, EXPLORING REVELATION, p. 95.

⁶ Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, p. 87. Walvoord, THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, pp. 123, 124.

⁷ Phillips, EXPLORING THE FUTURE, p. 75.

The Further Horrors of the Apocalypse

- **Seal 5: Immense persecution – Persecution (Matthew 24:9, 10)**
- **Seal 6: Impotent panic – Panic (Matthew 24:16-20)**
- **Seal 7: Imprecatory prayer -- Prayers of the saints for vengeance**

In contrast, compare the Seal Judgments with the Trumpet and Vial Judgments yet to unfold. In this and following chapters there are three series of judgments - the seal, trumpet, and vial judgments. Remember the following as each series unfolds:

The Three Series of Judgments⁸

- **Under the Seal Judgments - The world is ruined by man**
- **Under the Trumpet Judgments - The world is ruled by Satan**
- **Under the Vial Judgments - The world is rescued by God.**

It is Jesus that begins the series of judgments by breaking the seals. Man is now unrestrained to do as he will, since the restraining power of the Holy Spirit residing in each “born again” believer is no longer operating after the rapture of the Church. The Holy Spirit is still here since He is omnipresent, but the witness of the Church is gone.

2 Thess 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only **he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.** **8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed**, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Here is another bit of evidence for the pre-tribulation rapture – notice that the Holy Spirit is “taken out of the way,” and then the Antichrist is revealed.

Propaganda and Anti-God Theology

REV 6:2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

The White Horse Rider brings deception through propaganda and anti-god theology. George Orwell wrote the following as the Party slogan of the leader called Big Brother in his classic book of a future run amok, 1984:

**WAR IS PEACE
FREEDOM IS SLAVERY
IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH⁹**

In the same book we also read about mind games played on the masses:

At this moment, for example, in 1984 (if it was 1984), Oceania was at war with Eurasia and in alliance with Eastasia... it was only four years since Oceania had been at war with Eastasia and in alliance with Eurasia... "Who controls the past," ran the Party slogan, "controls the future: who controls the present controls the past." And yet the past, though of its nature alterable, never had been altered. Whatever was true now was true from everlasting to everlasting. It was quite simple. All that was needed was an unending series of victories over your own memory. "Reality control," they called it; in Newspeak, "doublethink."¹⁰

In BRAVE NEW WORLD REVISITED Aldous Huxley writes:

The victim of mind-manipulation does not know that he is a victim. To him, the walls of his prison are invisible, and he believes himself to be free.¹¹

⁸ Phillips, EXPLORING REVELATION, pp. 95, 96.

⁹ George Orwell, 1984, New York, NY: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1949, 1977, p. 17 - The three slogans of the Party of Big Brother.

¹⁰ Orwell, 1984, pp. 35, 36.

¹¹ Aldous Huxley, BRAVE NEW WORLD REVISITED, New York, NY: Perennial Library, Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., (combined edition: BRAVE NEW WORLD & BRAVE NEW WORLD REVISITED), 1932, 1946, 1958, 1960, 1965, p. 90.

At his trial after World War II, Hitler's Minister for Armament, Albert Speer, acknowledged:

Through technical devices like the radio and the loud-speaker, eighty million people were deprived of independent thought. It was thereby possible to subject them to the will of one man.¹²

In his non-fiction book, THE MEDUSA FILE, Craig Roberts reports:

It was codenamed MK/ULTRA. Its purpose was to determine what methods could be used to control personality behavior in human beings. It was the largest program of its kind ever attempted by an American intelligence agency. It may have been the only program.

In 1953, the Central Intelligence Agency, in coordination with Edgewood Arsenal and its German scientists, initiated experiments on human test subjects that included hypnosis, electroshock stimulus, extrasensory perception, sensory deprivation, subliminal suggestion, lobotomies, and various drugs...

Within the barred windowed rooms and isolation wards at Edgewood, American servicemen and civilian "volunteers" underwent terrifying experiments. And in most cases, the test subjects did not know what kind of a chamber of horrors they had entered.¹³

The rider on the white horse is the first personification of the Antichrist in the Book of Revelation. Having a bow without arrows suggests that he has already consolidated his power.¹⁴

Most people are unawares, but today the world is being arranged into ten economic regions as recommended by the Club of Rome.¹⁵ The following verses of Daniel show the formation of a European confederacy and the coming of the Antichrist:

DAN 2:41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. **42** 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.

DAN 8:23 And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. **24** And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. **25** And through his 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.

That we refer to a European confederation is seen in the following reference to "the people of the prince that shall come" in Daniel 9:26:

DAN 9:26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and **the people [the Romans] of the prince that shall come [the Antichrist]** shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

The Romans were "the people" who history shows destroyed the city of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD. The next verse of Daniel shows a seven-year covenant arranged by the Antichrist. It is the covenant with Israel that begins the seven-year tribulation.¹⁶

DAN 9:27 And he [the Antichrist] shall confirm the covenant with many for one week...

¹² Huxley, BRAVE NEW WORLD REVISITED, p. 31.

¹³ Craig Roberts, THE MEDUSA FILE: SECRET CRIMES AND COVERUPS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, Tulsa, OK: Consolidated Press International, 1997, p. 67.

¹⁴ Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, p. 88.

¹⁵ Gary Kah, EN-ROUTE TO GLOBAL OCCUPATION, Lafayette, LA: Huntington House Publishers, 1992, pp. 40-44..

¹⁶ Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, p. 87.

This white horse rider has a bow, a symbol of military power, but no arrows are mentioned. Because of this it is believed that the Antichrist will appear as a man of peace.¹⁷ This horseman will wage war, a bloodless war. Propaganda will be his primary weapon.¹⁸ His lack of arrows may be because he has already conquered the minds of the people.¹⁹ Deception is his stock in trade.

MAT 24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Take heed that no man deceive you. 5 For many shall come in my name**, saying, I am Christ; **and shall deceive many....**

11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold....

24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, **if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.**

This horseman is given a crown. Since this crown is received as a gift, it is not earned or inherited.²⁰ The crown this rider wears is not the kingly crown "diadem," but his false crown is the victor's crown, the "stephanos." In contrast Jesus, the white horse rider of Revelation 19:12, wears "many crowns," or "diadems."²¹ This rider is a personification of the blasphemous philosophies of the last days, preparing man's minds for the "strong delusion."²²

2TH 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for **that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed**, the son of perdition; **4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God**, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God....

9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The propaganda unleashed will be devastating to the minds of the people. Already we see humanistic propaganda being promoted as the basis of our educational system, devastating the minds of our youth causing them to forsake their faith in God. This is purposeful propaganda of a secular religion similar to communism that creates strong delusions in the minds of our youth and bringing apostasy in our land and world. This philosophy is even formalized in the Humanist Manifestoes I and II, and signed by some of the most influential educators in our country.

Make no mistake, this is the basis of our public educational system, and is taught to our children by teachers, many of whom perceive themselves as missionaries (change agents) of the humanistic religion. Many other teachers have been propagandized and are part of the delusion.²³ According to John Phillips:

The [humanistic] creed pervades our government, our courts, our educational institutions, our media, and our liberal churches. It is a creed tailor-made for the coming Antichrist.²⁴

This is only the shadow of what is to come. When the first seal is broken these philosophies will circle the globe with unbelievable speed infecting the minds of the people with even stronger delusions.²⁵

Aldous Huxley writes:

The society described in Orwell's fable [1984] is a society permanently at war, and the aim of the rulers is, of course, to exercise power for its own delightful sake and, second, to keep their subjects in that state of constant tension which a state of constant war demands of those who wage it. By crusading against sexuality the bosses are able to maintain the required tension in their followers

¹⁷ Duck, Richards, REVELATION: GOD'S WORD FOR THE BIBLICALLY-INEPT, p. 88.

¹⁸ Phillips, EXPLORING THE FUTURE, p. 75.

¹⁹ Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, p.88.

²⁰ Duck, Richards, REVELATION: GOD'S WORD FOR THE BIBLICALLY-INEPT, p. 89.

²¹ David Jeremiah, C.C. Carlson, ESCAPE THE COMING NIGHT, Dallas, TX: Word Publishing, 1990, pp. 96, 97. Bullinger, THE COMPANION BIBLE, Notes to Revelation 19:12.

²² Phillips, EXPLORING REVELATION, p. 96.

²³ Phillips, EXPLORING REVELATION, p. 98.

²⁴ Phillips, EXPLORING REVELATION, pp. 98.

²⁵ Phillips, EXPLORING REVELATION, p. 98.

*and at the same time can satisfy their lust for power in a most gratifying way. The society described in Brave New World is a world-state, in which war has been eliminated and where the first aim of the rulers is at all costs to keep their subjects from making trouble. This they achieve by (among other methods) legalizing a degree of sexual freedom (made possible by the abolition of the family) that practically guarantees the Brave New Worlders against any form of destructive (or creative) emotional tension. In 1984 the lust for power is satisfied by inflicting pain; in Brave New World, by inflicting a hardly less humiliating pleasure.*²⁶

The following is an outline of the humanistic philosophy as found in their bibles, HUMANIST MANIFESTOS I AND II.²⁷ For an enlightening exercise compare this humanist philosophy with the philosophy of Karl Marx as described in his THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO.²⁸ The philosophies are nearly the same.

Humanistic Philosophy²⁹

- **Evolution** - There is no real evidence that God exists. The universe is the result of chance. Life forms gradually emerged over millions of years.
- **Situation Ethics** - Man is the final authority for his own actions. There are no absolute rules.
- **Moral Freedom** - Everyone (including children of any age) should be exposed to all viewpoints that are "realistic," including profanity, immorality, and perversion -- all seen as acceptable methods of self expression. The Christian gospel is not realistic, so has no place in the system.
- **Self-Sufficiency** - Man is not accountable to any higher power. He is responsible to himself.
- **Sexual Permissiveness** - All forms of sexual expression are acceptable and should be taught in schools free from biblical bias.
- **Anti-religious Bias** - Religion is harmful. It is either meaningless or irrelevant to the question of the survival and fulfillment of the human race.
- **Socialism** - Government ownership or control of the economy should replace private enterprise and private ownership of property. There should be an all-pervasive welfare state.
- **One World Government** - "Global citizenship" should replace national self determination. There should be a system of world law, enforced by an international police force transcending national federal government.
- **Death Education** - There is no life beyond the grave. Euthanasia should be employed and suicide endorsed as acceptable ways to terminate life.
- **Human Destiny** - Man should take charge of his own future and realize that he has within himself the power to achieve the world of his dreams.

Even a casual reading of these codified beliefs that have been injected into our school system should leave not the slightest doubt as to why our young people and much of our present society have abandoned God for the pursuit of self-gratification.

At the appropriate time a charismatic leader will appear to have all the answers to the world's problems. The world will flock to this man promising peace, but ultimately, like a nightmare, he will bring death, slavery, misery, and for the compromiser - eternal damnation. He will eventually abandon his peace posture and go forth "conquering, and to conquer."³⁰

The Battle of Gog and Magog

The battle of Gog and Magog is a battle that many see taking place within the first 3-1/2 years of the seven-year tribulation. Others see this battle taking place at least 3-1/2 years before the start of the tribulation because after this battle the Bible says that Israel will burn the weapons for seven years. If this is so, and if Israel is to flee as predicted at midtribulation when they see the abomination of desolation, then they will be unable to complete the burning of the weapons as prophesied.

Ezek 39:9 And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and **shall set on fire and burn the weapons**, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and **they shall burn them with fire seven years:**

²⁶ Huxley, BRAVE NEW WORLD REVISITED, p. 21.

²⁷ Paul Kurtz (ed.), HUMANIST MANIFESTOS I AND II, Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 1973.

²⁸ Karl Marx, THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO, Appleton, WI: The John Birch Society, 1974.

²⁹ Phillips, EXPLORING REVELATION, pp. 97, 98.

³⁰ Duck, Richards, REVELATION: GOD'S WORD FOR THE BIBLICALLY-INEPT, p. 89.

Matt 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) **16** Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

The white horse rider going forth "conquering, and to conquer" seems to occur after a period of peace. Another scenario should be considered at this point, involving another leader called Gog. The unfulfilled Gog and Magog invasion also is said to take place when there is "peace in the land," and Israel is dwelling there.³¹

Today, Russia is strengthening her alliance with China and the Muslim nations north of Israel, particularly Iran. In 1888 Walter Scott wrote the following:

Russia has for ages meditated on the conquest of Asia, and India and China. Great Britain and the United States stand face to face with this Russian power; and these two sides will come into one final, awful struggle. We judge that the tide of Russian conquest will flow on to the frontiers of China. The ascendance (sic) of Russia in the East and the revival of the old Roman Empire in the West necessitates the meeting of these two dominating, opposing powers; and the great Jewish question must be settled at Jerusalem, the city of the Great King, leading to millennial triumph in Israel and her headship over the nations of the world.

*We believe from the place assigned to Russia in the Word of God that her legions will sweep over the plains and mountains of Asia, and become the dominant power over all the east until she falls forever on the mountains of Judah. Thus she will command for a time the powers north of Palestine and east of the Euphrates.*³²

Walter Scott wrote these words in 1888 before Israel was returned to her land as a nation. About 2500 years ago Ezekiel prophesied that Israel would be returned into the land after a time of scattering. Let's sample what Ezekiel had to say.

EZE 37:1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones....

4 Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. **5** Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, **I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live....**

11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, **these bones are the whole house of Israel....**

12 Therefore prophesy and say unto them... **I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.** **13** And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, **14** **And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land:** then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord....

21 ...Behold, **I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:**

Ezekiel continued the prophecy showing that a future attack would be made on Israel once she was back in her land as a single, rather than divided kingdom. This is a prophecy that has not been fulfilled and it is separate from the Battle of Armageddon. This battle is to be known as the Battle of Gog and Magog. It may occur at any moment either before or after the Rapture. Ezekiel continues:

EZE 38:1 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, **2** Son of man, set thy face against **Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal,** and prophesy against him,

There is a word that the King James Version translates as "chief" that is considered by some to be a proper noun and a direct reference to Russia. That word is "Rosh." The New American Standard Bible renders Ezekiel 38 verse 2 as:

EZE 38:2 Son of man, set thy face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of **Rosh,** Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,

³¹ Pentecost, *THINGS TO COME, A Study in Eschatology*, p. 350.

³² John Phillips, *EXPLORING THE FUTURE*, Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1983, 1992, p. 315.

"Meshech and Tubal" may be the modern names "Moscow and Tobolsk." The word "Rosh" ("Rhos" in the Septuagint) may also identify the river Araxes (modern Araks) which separates Armenia and Azerbaijan from Iran. "Rosh" may instead be a reference to the people identified as "Rus," who became Russia. Magog was identified by Josephus as Magogites, called Scythians by the Greeks, whose land lay in the Caucasus between Armenia and Media. Ezekiel continues the prophecy:

EZE 38:3 And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: **4** And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen....

5 Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: **6 Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.**

Other allies are to be with Russia. Besides Ethiopia, Libya, and Persia (Iran) there was Gomer and Togarmah, both located in modern Turkey. Gomer however may refer to the peoples of Eastern Europe and Germany, while Togarmah may be Armenia.³³ Interestingly, Syria is not mentioned. They may have been taken out by an attack on Iran by Israel prior to the Russian invasion (Isaiah 17:1).

What is clear is that there is to be a future attack on Israel by an alliance of nations, probably Muslim, allied with Russia. The attack will be at a time when Israel dwells in safety. Israel may feel safe if they have previously taken out Iran's nuclear capability and eliminated Damascus as a threat to their security.

Ezek 38:11 And thou [Gog] shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; **I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely**, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates, **12** To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the **desolate places that are now inhabited**, and **upon the people that are gathered out of the nations**, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land.

This peace may be a false peace possibly guaranteed by the seven-year covenant arranged by the Antichrist as described in Daniel 9:27. The temptation of easy spoil prods Gog to invade Israel. God provides the temptation by the "hook" in Gog's jaw (Eze 38:4). This invasion could be the catalyst for the Antichrist to terminate the covenant and move to occupy Israel, much as our United Nations Peacekeeping Forces today.³⁴

EZE 39:1 Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say... **2 ...I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel: 3** And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand. **4 Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel**, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.

DAN 11:41 He [Antichrist] shall enter also into the glorious land [Israel], and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.

ISA 28:18 And **your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.**

Russia and her allies will utterly be defeated. For those that do not see Russia referenced in these verses, the invaders are still unavoidably identified as consisting of predominantly Muslim countries who will ultimately fail in their invasion attempt.

That the Gog and Magog invasion is an event that may follow the rapture (1Th 4:13-17) may be seen in the placement of the words "peace" and "safety" in the following verses:

1TH 5:3 For when they shall say, **Peace and safety; then sudden destruction** cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

³³ Phillips, EXPLORING THE FUTURE, pp. 315-320. Henry M. Morris, THE DEFENDERS STUDY BIBLE, Grand Rapids, MI: 1995, Notes on Ezekiel 38:2.

³⁴ Pentecost, THINGS TO COME, A Study in Eschatology, pp. 350-353.

EZE 38:14 Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely**, shalt thou not know it?

Then in the very next two verses we see the equivalent of the words "sudden destruction."

EZE 38:15 And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: **16** And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.

That the Gog and Magog invasion and Armageddon are two different events can be seen from the following chart:

Battles of Gog and Armageddon³⁵

Contrasts Between the Russian Invasion of Israel and Armageddon

	Key Events	Ezekiel 38,39 Gog/Magog	Revelation 19:11-21 16:12-16 Armageddon
1	Only certain nations are involved	●	
2	All nations are involved		●
3	Civil war breaks out in ranks of invading army	●	
4	Vultures bury the dead		●
5	The Jews bury the dead	●	
6	The beast and false prophet are taken		●
7	Satan is now imprisoned		●
8	The invasion is from the north	●	
9	The invasion is from the east		●
10	The invasion is stated to be incited by demons		●
11	The war is fought by the returning Christ		●
12	Israel is dwelling in safety	●	
13	The great tribulation is in progress		●
14	Israel has allies	●	

The actual timeframe of the Gog and Magog invasion is unknown, but may fit the events during the Seal Judgments. John Phillips sees the Gog and Magog invasion taking place during the time of the seven year pact with Israel, after the Rapture, after the rise of the Antichrist, and still at a time when Israel dwells in safety.³⁶ Arnold Fruchtenbaum sees the Gog and Magog invasion occurring at least 3-1/2 years before the beginning of the seven-year tribulation.³⁷

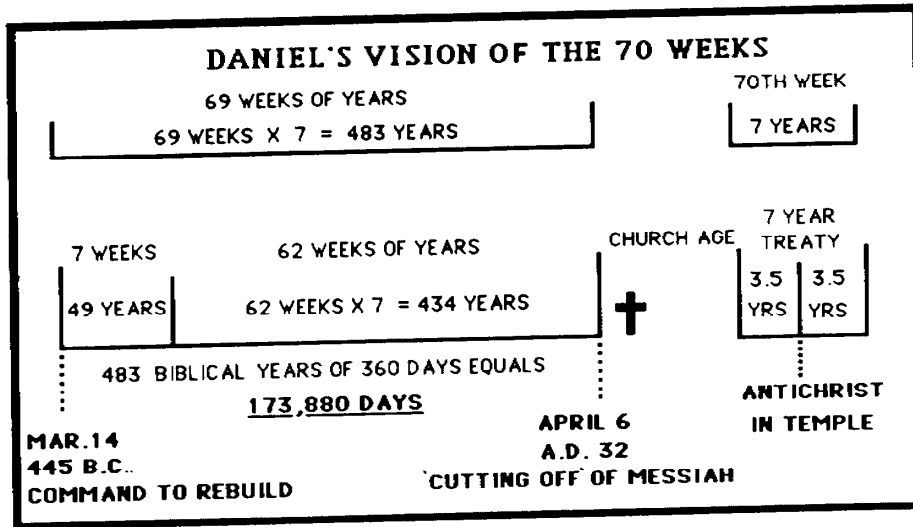
³⁵ Phillips, EXPLORING THE FUTURE, p. 359.

³⁶ Phillips, EXPLORING THE FUTURE, p. 361.

³⁷ Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH, The Study of the Sequence of Prophetic Events, Tustin, CA: Ariel Ministries, 2003, 2004, pp. 116-122.

ADDENDUM:

FIGURE 1 – THE SEVENTY SEVENS



The Biblical year is the lunar year of 360 days. Biblical prophecy must be understood in light of a Biblical year. To see clearly that this is so we refer to the book of Revelation where 3-1/2 years is described as 42 months and also 1260 days. 1260 days divided by 360 days is 3-1/2 years exactly.³⁸

The commandment to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem was issued by the Persian King Artaxerxes Longimanus on the 1st of Nisan in the 20th year of his reign.

NEH 2:1 And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him: and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king. Now I had not been beforetime sad in his presence.

This date computes to 14 March 445 BC.³⁹ "Three score and two weeks" (62 weeks) plus seven weeks (69 weeks) will occur from 14 March 445 BC until Messiah is "cut off." This computes to 60 + 2 + 7 = 69 weeks of years, or 483 Biblical years.

483 years X 360 days per year = 173,880 days.

Jesus was "cut off" on the 10th day of Nisan, 6 April 32 AD, Palm Sunday. He entered Jerusalem and was rejected. The Jews failed to recognize "the time of their visitation."

LUK 19:38 Saying, **Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.** **39** And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. **40** And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out. **41** **And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,** **42** Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. **43** For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, **44** And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; **because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.**

³⁸ Jeffery, *Armageddon - Appointment with Destiny*, pp. 27, 28.

³⁹ Jeffery, *Armageddon - Appointment with Destiny*, p. 28.

The Time of the Visitation

This was the time of the “visitation.”

14 March 445 BC to 14 March 32 AD = 476 years of 365 days =	173,740 days
14 March 32 AD until 6 April 32 AD (Palm Sunday) =	24 days
Add 116 Leap Days =	<u>116 days</u>
	<u>173,880 days</u>

This is Daniel’s 69 “weeks” of years exactly.⁴⁰

Some scholars believe that the decree of Artaxerxes occurred in 444BC rather than 445 BC, and these same scholars believe that the crucifixion took place in 33 AD, based on recent scholarship. The calculation result is exactly the same. The calculation is the same whether the Jewish calendar of 360 days or the Gregorian calendar of 365 days is used.

The 483 Years in the Jewish and Gregorian Calendars⁴¹

Jewish Calendar (360 days per year)	Gregorian Calendar (365 days per year)
(7 X 7) + (62 X 7) years = 483 years	444 BC to 33 AD = 476 years
483 years <u>X 360 days</u> 173,880 days	476 years <u>X 365 days</u> 173,740 days + 116 days in leap years + <u>24 days (March 5 - March 30)</u> 173,880 days

←

FIGURE 2 – THE RETURN OF ELIJAH

- The return of Elijah is also prophesied to occur **before** the Tribulation begins. Malachi 4:5, 6.
- John the Baptist was the messenger of Christ’s First Coming. Malachi 3:1.
- John the Baptist was also prophesied by Isaiah. Isaiah 40:3-5.
- John the Baptist fulfilled Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3-5. Matthew 3:3-6; 11:7-10; John 1:23.
- Even though John fulfilled these Scriptures, he was not Elijah who is to come, and John the Baptist acknowledges this. John 1:19-23.
- We see something else in Matthew 17:9-13 that seems to say that John is Elijah. Matthew 17:9-13.
- Jesus said that Elijah must come, but alludes to the fact that, in a sense, John the Baptist is Elijah. The explanation is found in Matthew 11:11-14.
- However, **Israel didn’t receive it**. Israel rejected the Messiah and the offered Kingdom, therefore Elijah is still yet to come to fulfill Malachi 4:5, 6. Luke 1:13-17 also says that John the Baptist was to come “in the spirit and power of Elijah.” If Israel had accepted the message, then John the Baptist would have fulfilled Malachi 4:5, 6. Elijah is yet to come, **before** the Tribulation.

⁴⁰ Jeffery, *Armageddon - Appointment with Destiny*, pp. 28-31.

⁴¹ Walvoord, *The Prophecy Knowledge Handbook*, p. 254.