***Prophecy Special - 9/11 - The Final Solution of God, No. 1

PS01-A***

**9/11**

We're going to begin to look at what I call the final solution of God. This concerns the terrorist events that occurred on 09/11/01 at the Twin Towers and the Pentagon, as well as what was foisted on the White House and possibly the Capitol. All of these events must be viewed upon a biblical frame of reference--the background of prophecy. You'll get a frame of reference here that you're not going to hear on television. We heard a little bit of it yesterday. We were surprised at how some people of the world can go below the surface and realize what's behind all this. It is a bigger plan and a greater hand that is moving.

The terrorists' successful attack on the New York City World Trade Center towers and on the Pentagon should be viewed in terms of Bible prophecy in order to be understood. Incidentally, if you haven't gotten the word, once this happened, our phones were ringing from morning until 10:00 P.M., and many people from afar were concerned knowing that our son-in-law, Lieutenant Colonel Craig Meredith, is in the Pentagon. The Pentagon, as you know, has five pie-shaped sections to it, and they have been renovating one of them. That's the one where Colonel Craig's office is. They had moved all the people in that section across the street to temporary office facilities until that renovation was completed. Well, it was completed a few weeks ago, and they had started moving people in. At the time of the attack, they had not yet moved Craig back. He was still across the street rather than in his office in that new section where he would have been when that terrorist plane hit that part of the Pentagon. So the grace of God has come in our behalf, and in case you didn't get the word, we are happy to report that the news was good in his behalf.

However, what happened there has to be viewed upon a broader scene. The Bible predicts that there will be in the future a union of nations and a world government just before the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is not going to be an easy thing to present. I will try to make it clear, and I hope I will bring all the pieces because there are so many factors that need to be brought in, and I will do my best. This is clear in Scripture, but pulling it all together is not quite so easy.

This world government of the future will be led by Satan's man that the Bible calls the antichrist. The devil will empower him with supernatural capacities. Yes, he will be nothing but a man, but he will have the power of the spirit world at his disposal, and the abilities of Satan himself. The world government will be welcomed by all of unsaved mankind in the hope of securing peace and security in a nightmare of terrorism which will be rising in intensity and which will be directed specifically against the nation of Israel and against the western Christian nations. That is what we saw happening on 9/11.

The nation of Israel today is reeling from regular acts of terrorism--sometimes, almost on a daily basis. It is motivated by the hatred from the Arab Muslim world for the Jews and for those who support Israel, including the United States of America. What we have here is the ultimate expression of the mistake that Abraham made. Remember that both Arab Muslims and Jews view Abraham as their founding father. Abraham decided to help God fulfill the promise of having an heir through which would be brought the Messiah. So he married the Egyptian handmaiden of his wife in order to get a son, and Ishmael was born. From Ishmael has descended, in large part, the Arab world which is now in conflict as it always was with the sons of Isaac.

The World Trade Center terrorism is a preview of the seven-year tribulation period when God finally judges rebellious humanity with earthly and heavenly calamities which will be horrible beyond comprehension--beyond anything that anybody has ever seen before. This we find spelled out in detail in the book of the Revelation in the seal judgments, the trumpet judgments, and the bowl judgments. I'm in great personal agony over the fact that the recordings on the study of Revelation are complete and we cannot get enough forward motion progress to get those to people. As I looked through some of those subjects that were dealt with, they were more pertinent today than they were when they were preached. So here's something for you to pray for--that we can get in high gear and get that series done and out to people. It is one of the most significant expressions of the Word of God in the ministry that the church could perform.

**The Rejection of Islam**

The New York attack on the United States is motivated by the fact that the United States, as a society, rejects Islam as the final truth of God. I heard Osama bin Laden again this morning on TV. This man that they suspect is behind the terrorist attack has repeatedly said (and he did again today) that the reason he opposes the United States; the reason that he is the enemy of the United States; and, the reason he brings terror to this country is because we reject Islam. What he is telling us is that the American people reject Islam as the one true religion, and they reject Muhammad as the final prophet of God. Did you notice in the prayer of one of those people at the day of prayer and remembrance at the National Cathedral that he spoke and he alluded to Abraham, Muhammad, and Jesus? Don't miss the order there folks. In Islam, there is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet. That is the mantra of Islam. That is what they repeat several times a day. There is no god but Allah and his prophet is Muhammad. Jesus Christ is low on the totem pole. Rightly, Abraham should be at the top for the Semitic people. Not through Muhammad, but through the Lord Jesus Christ will come the Savior and the salvation of all mankind.

So there it was. Osama bin Laden was making no bones about it--that it is the rejection of Islam that enrages him, and that is why he is our enemy. That should not surprise us. Through this study, you're going to be very much informed to understand what the Holy Jihad is all about. Muhammad stood in one of the great attacks in the conquest of the nations of the Middle East in the seventh century, and he told his followers that, "If you die in this battle, you will go to paradise." Thus came the established concept that to die in behalf of fighting for Allah will secure eternal life in paradise. Please remember that Allah is the moon god. He is the moon god that Muhammad found in the city in which he lived. There they had this black stone which they claimed Abraham used as an altar on which he was going to sacrifice his son. But in their theology, it was not Isaac--it was Ishmael. Muhammad decided this moon god should be their only god, so he threw out and broke up all the other idols that were in that Kabbalah sanctuary. He had one god, and don't forget that it is Allah.

I heard a Roman Catholic priest speaking to a group of Muslims, and everybody's theology goes haywire and wacko in a hurry when everybody wants to try to be nice--unless your plane is being hijacked. This Catholic priest said to the assembled Muslims before him, "Allah is my God, and I look forward to the time when I will rest with you in the arms of Allah." Well, unfortunately for the Catholic priest, if he believes Roman Catholic doctrine, which is justification not only with the death of Christ but by the substantial provision of your own suffering in good works and service, that Catholic priest is going to be in the arms of Allah. He can count on that, because that god is Satan himself, and that's exactly where he will end up--in the lake of fire with Satan and all of his angels.

So this is the background of the world conflict of the angelic warfare. Don't ever forget that that is what is behind everything which is done. It is God allowing evil to run its course. Don't be asking why God allows this and why God does that. There was a time when the Amorites would not take care of the Israelites and allow them to cross the territory safely when they were escaping from Egypt. God said, "You will be judged for this, but in the meantime, your evil will be permitted to run its course." And that's a chilling phrase. The iniquity of the Amorites is not fulfilled. But after evil has had its reign and demonstrated what it really is in contrast to the loving mercy and kindness of God, then God lowers the boom. This is what is happening in our world. Satan is a murderer from the beginning; he sheds blood; and, he did it on 9/11 with those three airplanes.

When you are Christians and you have a frame of reference of biblical instruction, particularly prophetic instruction in which the average church member is woefully ignorant, you know how to make the connections. I've been very pleased how very quickly people in our congregation were saying things and they saw the connection. They knew what the bigger picture was.

The world terrorism is a preview. The World Trade Center terrorism is a preview of the period of seven years when God finally judges all of rebellious humanity. He will bring down the Osama bin Ladens of the world. Throughout the ages, Satan has tried repeatedly to destroy every Jew from the line of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob so that there could be no human line through which Jesus Christ could be born. It was decreed by God that he had to come through the line of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. That's why, from the very first, Abel was killed by his brother Cain--to stop that line. That's why women were seduced to intermarry with demon beings in Genesis 6 until there was a whole race of hybrid half-demonic and half-human beings on the face of the earth. When the flood came, there were probably only eight souls--Noah and his family--who remained purely human. There had been one more man, Methuselah (the oldest man, who lived for 969 years), but he died the week before the rain started falling. And that's all. We suspect that that's how far Satan had gone. Now if he could kill off the eight members of Noah's family, there would be no line.

He did the same thing repeatedly in the nation of Israel to try to destroy every Jew. At one time, the time of Jezebel's mother, one little boy was all that was left in the line of King David--the royal line. Jesus Christ had to come through the descendants of that boy. The servant girl disobeyed Jezebel's mother, and refused to kill this boy, and she hid him. This was just as Moses' mother hid him, who would be such a powerful agent in bringing about the ultimate fulfillment of creating a nation of people through whom Christ would be born.

So from the very beginning the devil has been a raging lion trying to kill every single Jew. In recent times, a prime example was Nazi Germany. Horrendous, brutal, unbelievable things were done to six million Jewish people in a systematic way. What was behind that? Yes, we know why Hitler was doing it. However, even Hitler didn't fully understand that he was motivated and controlled by Satan, and he was filling out Satan's desire to remove every Jew from the face of the earth.

**The Antichrist**

That is what the antichrist will do. The conditions of the world (and we saw part of a preview of that on 9/11) will be such that the antichrist will be welcomed with open arms. People will cry for peace and safety, and this man will even bring it to the Jewish people. He will tell the Jews, because he will be such a powerful man over the Western European nations of the revived Roman Empire, he will say, "I'll control the Jews. You just put yourself under my protective custody." The Jews will welcome him. He'll make a treaty for seven years with the Jewish people. The Antichrist will say, "Now go ahead and rebuild your temple. Restore the ancient sacrifices." And they will. But after three-and-a-half years, the Bible tells us, he will turn against them, and he will put on the greatest persecution that will make Hitler's persecution look like a Sunday school picnic gone awry.

It will be the greatest nightmare that the Jews have ever faced in a fulfillment of what they said to Pilate when he said, "What will I do with Jesus?" The people said, "Crucify Him." Pilate said, "Why? He hasn't done anything." They just said, "Crucify him." Pilate said, "I wash my hands of this incident. I'm free of the blood of this just man." And what did the Jewish people say? "His blood be upon us and our children." What a terrible thing that was. Up in heaven, God decreed, "So it would be."

And in that process has been Satan's attempt through violence and shedding of blood to destroy the Jewish people. So he has repeatedly tried to completely cut off the line of descendants from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob so that there could be no line of Jesus Christ in his humanity as a Jew, and so that He could qualify for the royal line of King David in order to rule the earth in the Jewish kingdom prophesied in the Old Testament, and for which Jesus was born. That's what He came for. He came to finally set up that that kingdom.

Now I'm going to take you through the timetable. We have to go back to the book of Daniel. We're going to walk through it and see how all this was put together. Then you will understand and have a new sense of awe and appreciation for the reality and the accuracy of the Word of God, and that it is indeed God who has spoken.

The New York terrorism is an act of Satan to prepare mankind for the acceptance of the antichrist who will make the final effort to destroy all Jews, but who will give people peace. Satan is by nature a murderer, and thus he sheds blood. That's what you saw at the Twin Tower tragedy and at the Pentagon. Jesus pointed this characteristic out about Satan in John 8:44. The Jews said that they were the children of Abraham. They said to Jesus, "Who are you that you should be teaching us?" In John 8:44, Jesus said, "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and he does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature. For he is a liar and the father of lies."

On the other hand, in verse 45, Jesus says, "Because I speak the truth, you do not believe me." Does that ring a bell with you folks? How often do you hear somebody speaking the truth from the Word of God, and you don't like it? It irritates you. It threatens your life situation. It threatens your lifestyle. It threatens what you want to do, and all of a sudden, you say, "I want to tell myself a lie. I want to tell myself why this is what is true for me--not what I'm hearing from the Word of God." But the devil is a liar. And the world accepts him because the world wants to lie to itself about spiritual realities.

Furthermore, regarding the World Trade Center, don't forget what was hit--those two twin towers. Do you realize how hard it is to take a large passenger plane which flies hundreds of miles an hour, and to be able to accurately pinpoint and direct it to a very specific spot? Undoubtedly, the men who knew how to fly those planes, who were trained here in Florida probably, knew to slow those planes down to 200 miles an hour, which is still pretty fast, so they could line up, and things would not happen too quickly. To be slightly off would have caused them to hit a wing and simply to spin in and not do too much damage.

So here was a very carefully prepared and efficiently calculated executed blow at these two twin towers. Why are they significant? Because they represent American corporate prosperity. That's what those buildings were all about. That's what was going on in those buildings. It represented the wealth. In some respects, wealth is what is the base of that confident arrogance that corrodes the hearts of Americans and even some Christian Americans. In the book of the Revelation, the old city of Babylon is going to become the commercial center of the world. Saddam Hussein spent billions of his oil money to rebuild the city of Babylon. He made great strides in making it a showplace. The book of the Revelation tells us that Babylon will become the political and economic center of the world.

So I want to read to you what happens when that economic citadel is brought down. What we saw on 9/11 represented by those two commercial centers of the Twin Towers was only a miniature version of what is to come on a large scale. In Revelation 18:9-19, John says under inspiration and vision of the Lord Jesus Christ, here's how it's going to end: "And the kings of the earth who committed acts of immorality and lived sensuously with her (religious Babylon) will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city Babylon, the strong city. For in one hour your judgment has come.'"

Now remember the basic principle for interpreting Scripture is literal interpretation unless it is obviously a symbol. If Jesus says, "I am the door into the sheepfold," He's not a slab of wood on hinges. We know that that is a symbol. If the Bible uses something as a symbol that you might have some question about, we also find that the Holy Spirit indicates whether it's a reality or a symbol. So when we read this, this is real. Now remember that the amillennialists have told us that this whole book of Revelation has already been fulfilled. They do not believe in an earthly kingdom over which Jesus Christ is going to rule for 1,000 years which was promised repeatedly through the Old Testament prophets. This is why Jesus came on that Palm Sunday--to set up that kingdom, but He was officially rejected. So this is going to be for real. They're going to be out, probably in the Gulf. They're going to be looking out across the waters toward the city of Babylon. This is what they're going to see. These are very rich men. These are powerful corporation men. These are men of the world. This is during the seven-year tribulation period, and these men have accepted the antichrist as their leader and, in fact, as their god.

Continuing with Revelation 18:10: "Standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city Babylon, the strong city. For in one hour your judgment has come." This will happen suddenly--just as suddenly as the people in the Twin Towers suddenly found themselves in eternity--in just a moment of time. "And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes anymore--cargoes of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and every kind of citron wood, every article of ivory, and every article made from very costly wood, and bronze, and iron, and marble, and cinnamon, and spice, and incense, and perfume, and frankincense, and wine, and olive oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and cattle, and sheep, and cargoes of horses, and chariots, and slaves, and human lives. And the fruit you long for has gone from you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you, and men will no longer find them."

These men are going to find that they had everything in this world in a material sense, and now it's not anything. This is one of the tragedies. But it points up to us something that we cannot ignore. At the event in New York, one of the firefighters who was killed had won $250,000 on a quiz program just recently before that. Now what does he have? Let us hope that he has eternal life with Christ in heaven.

Verse 15: "The merchants of these things who became rich from her will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment." It'll be devastation, probably of an atomic nature, that will bring down everything that Saddam Hussein had built. And the smoke is rising, and these men are in terror, and they're in ships off the water watching what is happening, weeping and mourning. Verse 16: "Saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city. She who was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold, and precious stones, and pearls.' For in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste. And every ship master, every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea stood at a distance and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What city is like the great city?' And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, "Woe, woe, the great city in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth. For in one hour she has been laid waste." Now I just read that to you as background to remind you that those towers were commercial centers. So that factor is not to be ignored--the symbolism there in the providence and the divine outworking of the hand of God.

**Jewish History**

So now let's go back into the Jewish history to get the frame of reference. The timetable of human events is in the book of Daniel. That's the only way we can understand what is happening in the predictions of the book of the Revelation. Regarding the judgment of God, the people of Israel have been taken into captivity in Babylon because of their sin. Israel repeatedly rejected and ignored God's warnings of impending judgment if they did not turn from their evil ways and their evil practices. While they're preaching prophets spoke the truth to them, they rejected these people.

Poor Jeremiah--they really socked it to him. They did not like what he saw, and finally they beat him up. It is not a safe business to be in the preaching business. If you get with the wrong crowd, it is very uncomfortable. They took poor Jeremiah and they threw him into a pit--a slimy hole that had once been a dried up well. This poor guy had told them, "You need to stop your ways; you need to get off your love for money and things; you need to start putting the things of God first; and, you need to put morality above everything else in your life. What we are to be as a nation is a beacon on a hill to all mankind concerning the true God and the true faith and truth that only we have. If you don't, He's going to take it all away from you--every bit of it. Worse than that, He's going to take your country away from you."

Please notice Jeremiah 25:4-7 where Jeremiah says, "And the Lord has sent to you all His servants and the prophets, again and again, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear, saying, 'Turn now everyone from his evil way, and from the evil of your deeds, and dwell on the land which the Lord has given to you and your forebears forever and ever. And do not go after other gods to serve them, and to worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger with the work of your hands, and I will do you no harm. Yet, you have not listened to Me,' declares the Lord, 'in order that you might provoke me to anger with the works of your hands to your own harm.'"

The Jews are prospering; they're making idols for themselves; they're living lives of immorality; the poor among them are being abused; the widows are being ignored; the children are not being trained; and, parents are having a good time because they are too busy doing other things. Jeremiah said, "Bad times are coming if you do not change your ways." They did not, and finally God moved. God sent the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar from the north to destroy Jerusalem and the temple and to take the Jews into captivity to Babylon. Please notice Jeremiah 25:8-10: "Therefore, thus says the Lord of Hosts, 'Because you have not obeyed my words, behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,' declares the Lord, 'and I will send them to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this land, and against its inhabitants, and against all these nations round about, and I will utterly destroy them, and make them a horror, and a hissing, and an everlasting declaration. Moreover, I will take from them the voice of joy, the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstone, and the light of the lamp.'"

He said, "All the happy things in life; all the good food grinding at the millstone; all the light; and, all the comforts that they enjoy"--he said, "I'm going to take it all away from you. I'm going to bring Nebuchadnezzar whom God has appointed to be the king of the first of the four world empires from Daniel's day on." These empires have come in such precise progression and with such precise in-detail confirmation fulfillment that the liberals do not believe that Daniel wrote the book of Daniel. They said that nobody living hundreds of years before these events happened, and of these kingdoms that came on the scene, could know this in such detail. It was written by somebody after these world empires came, and therefore he made it up and pretended that it was written by Daniel. But remember that the Lord Jesus Christ said, "Daniel the prophet says," and we'll get to that a little later--about when the antichrist takes over and sets up his image at the mid-tribulation period to be the God of all the world that they should they should thereafter worship.

So, the Lord said, "I'm going to take all of you as captives, and take your nation away from you, and take you captive to Babylon. Because you don't want to be with Me, I'll let you be with the conqueror." But you notice that Nebuchadnezzar is called "my servant." This is the same man who believed that he was so great. He stood on the housetop and looked out across and said, "Look what a great country I've built. Look what great wealth I have. Look what great prestige I have." And God said, "I'm going to teach you a lesson, Nebuchadnezzar. Yes, you're everything you said, but you have lost your humility and forgotten that everything you are and all the good things you have is because of the humble grace of God coming to you. So for seven years, you're going to be like an animal."

And sure enough, they didn't know what to do with the king. He's out in the field. He's scratching in the ground. He's eating roots. He's going with the animals. His fingernails are becoming long like the claws of an animal. His hair is growing long that would've made a hippie proud. And here he is, walking around mad. And then at the end of seven years, he suddenly comes back to rationality. He looks at himself, and he says, "Now I know that the God of Israel, the God of creation--He is the true God, and I am His humble servant." You know what? You're going to enjoy talking to Nebuchadnezzar in heaven. You're going to really enjoy reviewing all these things that we have historically recorded when you get it right from the king's own mouth.

**The Sabbatical Year**

So Nebuchadnezzar moved by God moves in on Israel. God declares that the Jewish captives would be exiled to Babylon, and then He makes a time frame. He said that they would be there for 70 years, and sure enough they were, from 605 B.C. to 536 B.C.--exactly 70 years. The reason for this 70-year period is very explicit in the Word of God. In Leviticus 25, there's a rule for farmers that all Israel had to obey. Israel was an agricultural society, and in Leviticus 25:3-5, God told the Jewish farmers: "Six years you should sow your fields, and six years you shall prune your vineyards and gather in its crops. But during the seventh year, the land shall have a sabbath rest, a sabbath to the Lord. You shall not sow your field nor prune your vineyard. Your harvest after growth you shall not reap, and your grapes of untrimmed vines you shall not gather. The land shall have a sabbatical year."

God said, "Every seventh year, you will not grow crops. You will not put in seed. If anything grows from the previous year, you will not gather it in. You will not prune your vines the seventh year, and if something develops on them, you will not eat of it. Everything will go to a rest." Well, this is why farmers, who understand this principle today, rotate their fields--so that the fields can rejuvenate their nutrients. Well, in Israel's time, God did that by seeing that every seventh year the whole land of Israel was seedless. There was no seed planted. They would plow the field, and then they would let it lay there fallow. They would not gather anything, and they would not sow anything.

Naturally, the question comes up, "How will we live then for this period?" The answer is in Leviticus 25:20-22. What I want you to notice is what a magnificent lifestyle God had for these people, and they don't have anything like what He has for us. And look what a bunch of crummy bums many Christians can be. Even on material things, they cannot rise to the magnificence of the provision and the grace of God. Leviticus 25:20-22: "But if you say, 'What are we going to eat on the seventh year if we do not sow or gather in our crops?' Then I will so order my blessing for you in the sixth year, that it will bring forth a crop for three years." Do you understand that? "Every sixth year you'll have a bumper crop that amounts to three years of any previous individual year before that." Verse 22: "When you are sowing the eighth year, you can still eat all things from the crop, eating the old until the ninth year when the new crop comes in."

Now what should you do with that kind of a setup? They had an annual vacation. The sixth year, they had to hustle and work and put all the kids out there in the field. And they harvested three times what they harvested the previous year. So you stored it. The barns were full to the limit. You had enough food until you replanted in the eighth year, and that crop came in. You had enough to last you. Wouldn't you like to live like that? Wouldn't you like to not work for one year while your salary continued to come in? Think that over very carefully, would you? What on earth would you do? Go to the beach. Go to the mall. Just wander around. You have enough money. You have everything you need. Go visit the relatives. You have a whole year to wander around and do what you'd like to do.

Freedom like that--that's what God gave them. What did they do with it? "I'll bless you with a bumper crop for three years to carry over till the first harvest. But you let that field lay fallow in the seventh year. Plow it, and leave it. If something grows, you don't take it. If something grows on a vine, you don't prune it. You don't touch it." Now what is God hitting there? Greed. Wow, is that a human problem. Could their greed keep them from saying, "Wow. It's the sixth year, and look at this triple crop." And sure enough, those greedy little minds say, "What could we do if we hit the seventh year too? We could really become rich. Here's another wheeler dealer project we can get into."

However, God warned Israel that if the nation did not let the fields lay fallow every seventh year that He would remove them from the land, and He would give the fields of Israel their allotted Sabbath rest. He did that in Leviticus 26:33-35: "I will scatter you among the nations, and will draw out a sword after you, as your land becomes desolate and your cities become waste. Then the land will enjoy its sabbaths, all the days of the desolation, while you are in your enemies' land; then the land will enjoy its sabbaths. And all the days of its desolation, it will observe the rest which it did not observe on your sabbaths while you were living on it."

What God was predicting was that he would exile the Jews to a foreign land for 70 years as discipline for refusing to obey the commandment to let the fields rest every seventh year. And that's exactly what happened. Jeremiah 25:11-12: "This whole land shall be a desolation and horror, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon 70 years." This is a very important figure. Daniel is reading this later, and that's what triggers where we're going eventually in the timetable. But I have to give you the background of how they got into Babylon and what the situation was. God said, "I'm going to send you into captivity for exactly a period of 70 years. Verse 12 says, "'Then it will be when 70 years are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon and their nation,' declares the Lord, 'for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and I'll make it an everlasting desolation.'"

By the time that the 70 years were up, Nebuchadnezzar, the godly man, is gone, and his descendants were a bunch of bums again. And God said, "I'm going to destroy the Babylonian Empire. But for 70 years, you're going to be captives in Babylon because you would not stop planting the crops on the seventh year." For 490 years, Israel kept cheating on God. They planted the seventh year. Now God says, "Fine, I've added it all up. The land deserves 70 years of rest, and it's going to get it. I'm going to take you off of it, and you're going to be captives and servants in a foreign country to Babylon."

Please notice 2 Chronicles 36:20-21 just to compare with this: "And those who have escaped the sword, he carried away to Babylon, and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the Word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths. All the days of its desolation it kept sabbath until 70 years were complete." 2 Chronicles records Israel being taken into its final captivity in Babylon. At the end of the 70-year exile in Babylon, God said "I will cause Babylon to be defeated as an empire, and bring in the Medo-Persian empire, and they will allow the Jews to return to the Land of Israel.

Jeremiah 30:10: "'And fear not, O Jacob my servant,' declares the Lord, 'and do not be dismayed, O Israel. For, behold, I will save you from afar (from Babylon), and your offspring from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, shall be quiet and at ease, and no one will make him afraid.'" The Jews had been warned, "Correct your ways. Stop your sinning ways. Stop your moral corruption." They would not listen to their prophets, so they ended up indeed with that captivity. Do you know what their religious leaders said? "Don't listen to that hard-headed Jeremiah. Don't listen to him. Yes, we're going into captivity, but it's only going to be a short time." They're telling people it's going to be a short time. Those who wanted to follow Satan the liar--they believed it. In Jeremiah 29:4-9, God said, "Don't listen to them." He prepared them for that.

Jeremiah 29:4-9: "Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I've sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon, 'Build houses; live in them; gather gardens; eat their produce; take wives; and become the fathers of sons and daughters; take wives for your sons; give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there; and, do not decrease. And seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you and into it where I've sent you into exile (Babylon), and pray to the Lord on its behalf. For in its welfare, you will have welfare.' For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; 'Do not let your prophets who are in your midst and your diviners deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams which they dream. For they prophesy falsely to you in My name. I have not sent them,' declares the Lord."

These people were telling them it's not going to be that bad. God said that it is. He tells them not to think that in a few years that they're going to go back to Jerusalem. He said that they would be there for 70 years. He tells them to settle down; have a family life; and, become part of that society, and that's exactly what happened. Something like 67 or 68 years went by, and Daniel the prophet suddenly stumbled across this Jeremiah prophecy. For some reason, it had previously passed him by. So he starts calculating, and he says, "That period is almost over. And God has promised we're out of here." That set in motion a special prayer. Daniel went to God and said, "Father God of the universe. You have promised in Your covenants (the Abrahamic Covenant, the Palestinian Covenant--on the land, the Davidic Covenant--the royal line, and the New Covenant--the spiritual life). You've promised these unconditional covenants that You would make Israel the leading nation of the world, and have a kingdom in which the Messiah would be reigning over all the earth. That's the promise. When is it going to happen?"

God sent the archangel Gabriel, and boy, did Daniel get information. He was told things that just really blew his mind. God answered the question, and he gave him an exact time schedule. And at the end of that schedule, He applies what happened in New York City and in Washington D.C on 9/11. Because it ends up in a holocaust of terror. That time schedule has to be understood. Then you can read the book of the Revelation, and we're going to walk through the pertinent terrible parts of that. And you will see that there is a God in heaven; He speaks the truth; and, He carries out His Word.

You're not going to live forever folks. Get yourself ready to want to come into His presence and stand at that Judgment Seat of Christ without any tears and any regrets. Get with the capacities you have. Do not wait for another day. Time moves on, and your opportunities go by. Not the least of which, you better look at your kids, and we will get into more of that in the near future. And you better add a few short years to their age, and see that they're almost gone now. You may not know it. Now is the time to start living with them. Now is this time to start getting on the track. The Jews never could get that, but boy could they make the money. And the result was they lost it all. What the future held was ultimately magnificent because God does not lie. When the Jew returned to Him, all the good things came. 70 years of misery in a foreign land just because you wouldn't take a sabbatical holiday. That's dumb. What about you? Is your IQ a little low spiritually? Don't presume that you're OK. I don't trust myself, and I know that you should not either.

Dr. John E. Danish, 1971

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