***Prophecy Special - 9/11 - The Final Solution of God, No. 4

PS04***

We are studying the final solution of God, and this is segment number four. In our studies of the nation of Israel and its relationship to what is happening in the terrorist attacks in the world today, we have learned that the people of Israel were sent into Babylon as captives for a period of 70 years of discipline because of their rebellion against the Lord and their persistent rejection of the warnings of their prophets. This took place from 605 B.C. to 536 B.C. King Nebuchadnezzar of the Babylonian Empire finally brought an end to their rebellion. He, acting as a servant of God, in fact, destroyed the city of Jerusalem; broke down the walls; and, burned the temple. The Jews themselves were taken captives into Babylon.

Among these was a young man named Daniel who ended up in government service in Babylon. Near the end of the allotted 70 years of captivity, Daniel, in studying the book of Jeremiah, discovered that the period of discipline was specified for that 70 years, and adding up the time, he realized that they were a year or two from the end of that period. So he went to God, and he wanted to know, "Lord, when can we go back to our land? And when will all the covenants be fulfilled?" These covenants would eventuate in a kingdom with the Messiah Savior ruling from Jerusalem over all the nations of the world.

God's answer was delivered to Daniel by the angel Gabriel. In Daniel 9:20-23, Daniel was told that all the covenants and promises with Israel would be fulfilled in 70 years of weeks, which was 490 years (Daniel 9:24). There was never any "if" in this promise. These are unconditional covenants. Israel may rebel, and she will be disciplined. Israel may turn her back upon God, and she will be brought down, but He will preserve them. He will never permit the Jew to be destroyed. In a future session, you will see how magnificently that has been taking place in world history for the Jewish people.

I must stress to you that all of the falsehoods from the amillennialists and the postmillennialists are just more of Satan's delusion that there is no future for Israel. Satan's behind it. He is a big liar. God has said, "I will never leave you. I'll never forsake you. But I will discipline you." Daniel was told that all the covenants with Israel would be fulfilled in 490 years. A starting point for the counting of those years would be the decree of the Persian King Artaxerxes Longimanus issued on March 5th, 444 B.C. which authored the Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city, the walls, and the temple (Daniel 25). The end point of these 490 years would be the ascension of the Messiah Savior to the throne of the Kingdom of Israel as ruler over all nations from Jerusalem, the millennial kingdom of Jesus Christ on this earth as a result of the Second Coming of Christ.

The 490 years, furthermore, was divided into three parts, Daniel was told (Daniel 9:25-26). Part one was a period of 49 years, during which Jerusalem, the walls, and the temple would be rebuilt, and the worship ceremonies would all resume. Part two would be a period of 434 years during which the Jews would live a normal experience of daily life in their own land, the land of Israel. This 434-year period ended exactly on the day that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the colt (an animal that had never been ridden before), and presented Himself as per the prophecy of Zachariah that he would so identify himself. He came riding into Jerusalem to offer Himself now to be accepted as King of Kings and Lord of Lords of the Jewish nation. This was on Palm Sunday, March 30th, 33 A.D.

The Bible is always specific. The Bible is always exact. That's why we have told you that when Jesus said that He would be in the tomb for the period of time that Jonah was in the belly of the whale, it was exact. It was not approximate. It was not "about. It's only theologians that mess around with the exactness of Scripture. Jonah was in that whale 72 hours. That's why we know that Jesus Christ was in the tomb, the belly of the tomb, for 72 hours. That's how we know that he was crucified on Wednesday, not on Friday.

Nevertheless, part two ended. Jesus came into the city and the people received him. They welcomed him as the Messiah Savior by shouting "Hosanna," which is what Psalm 118:25 said they would do. They shouted, "Hosanna." That means, "Lord save us. We pray." Some people in Jerusalem, having gathered there from everywhere for the Passover festival, asked, "Who is this man riding on the donkey?" Others answered, "It is Jesus, the Prophet." "The prophet" is a technical term in Scripture to identify the Messiah Savior (Matthew 21:10-11).

We showed you that this title "the Prophet" comes from Deuteronomy 18:15 where God told Moses that He would in time send the nation "the Prophet" that would be like Moses and would be different in the fact that He would be a God man. He would be the Savior of Israel.

So some people asked, "Who is this man writing on the colt?" The answer was, "It is the Prophet." The Jews knew their Scriptures. They said, "This is the one that Moses told us of." Satan has appropriated this identifying title for his false prophets such as Joseph Smith of the Mormons who is called the prophet. In most recent history now, Muhammad of Islam is also commonly referred to the prophet. When the religious leaders of Islam speak of the prophet, they always add, "Blessed be his name:" "The prophet Muhammad, blessed be his name." He is the prophet. The lie of Satan is in the mouths of these religious leaders. Muhammad and Joseph Smith are not "the prophet." Jesus Christ is the Prophet. But this clever satanic deception (this ruse) that Satan has pulled off has created counterfeit prophets who do not speak for the most holy creator God, but for Satan, the God of this world who does want to be worshipped.

Well, the Lord Jesus Christ, as you know, was rejected on that first Palm Sunday as the Messiah Savior by the religious leaders of Israel who turned the previously adoring and welcoming crowd against Jesus Christ, and had him crucified on Wednesday by the Romans.

So what we have consists of two segments that have been fulfilled of the 490 years: 49 years of restoring the city, the walls, and the temple; and, 434 years in which Israel progressed into the time when the Messiah arrived. So after 483 years (those two figures totaled), the time schedule for fulfilling Israel's covenants with God and making Israel the leading nation of the world with the Messiah Savior ruling as King of Kings and Lord of Lords over all nations was still seven years short. It was seven years short of the 490 years that Gabriel told Daniel that all prophecy promises (all covenant promises) would be fulfilled.

So now we come to Daniel 9:26: "Then after 62 weeks (434 years), the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing." At the end of the 62 weeks (434 years), the Messiah Savior did arrive. He had his three years of ministry. On that first Palm Sunday, 483 years to the date from the time that Artaxerxes had issued the decree to rebuild Jerusalem, He was cut off, which means He was rejected. The prophetic clock, ticking off on its way to the fulfillment of the covenants, stopped dead. The pendulum hasn't swung once since. So we have one week of seven years of these covenant promises that have not been fulfilled.

**The Church**

What has happened was that between the 69th and the 70th year to complete that period, there was a great interruption. Everything stopped when they rejected the Messiah Savior. The Jews have never put this together, so they're are still stumbling around trying to figure out these 490 years, thinking that it's already passed, which obviously it would be from Daniel's time. But between the 69th year and the 70th year, there was this break. Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer described his break with the word "intercalation." He said that he liked to use that word because it means inserting something between two things that has nothing to do with what comes before, and nothing to do with what comes after it. That's exactly what happened. In this entire intercalation came the age of the church. Here is this special thing that had never been revealed in the Old Testament. This was a special thing that God was going to create another people who, in fact, would be superior to the Jews. It would be made up of people of both Jews' and gentiles' background to form the body of Christ who would be related to the Lord Jesus Christ as His very bride. Israel was related to Jehovah God as His wife--His unfaithful wife. But the Lord Jesus Christ will have as His bride a spotless, clean, faithful church.

So we have seven years unaccounted for. The poor amillennialists would say that there is no earthly kingdom in Jesus Christ, and that there is only kingdom in heaven. The postmillennialists say that Christianity is going to bring eventually control of the whole world, and then Christ would come after that for 1,000 years. They have no explanation for this at all. The Protestant reformers blew this completely. They never got over the mistaken notion that the church had replaced Israel in the plan of God. Consequently, they didn't know what to do with this. The result is that they never got anywhere with understanding of the full grace truth of doctrine. They didn't understand the grace age and the power system of living through doctrine, and the power of the Holy Spirit enforcing the mind of God within a believer, enabling you to do what is right.

So you still walk into their churches and what do they have up front? They have an altar. The preacher is still up there going through all of his rituals and doing his liturgy and the vocalization. For what? An altar is for sacrifice, so that God is propitiated toward us. No, He *is* satisfied. It's an insult to have an altar in a church. He is already propitiated. God is satisfied. Sin is not a problem. It is your rejection of the covering for your sin in Jesus Christ. That's the problem. For that reason, the Lord Jesus Christ said, "No man comes unto the Father but by Me." And because Christ is the way, the truth and the life, this is why Jesus says the door to eternal life is small. The book of John says, "Jesus is the door into the sheepfold." The way has narrowed. Jesus says that He is the way.

So who goes to heaven? How could Jesus say, with all the religion in the world, that few there be that find the road to heaven? That means that most of the billions of people that have lived will be in the lake of fire. Jews do not go to heaven because Jesus is the way, and they will not accept him. Those who do, they're saved. Gentiles do not go to heaven with all their religious systems because they do not accept Jesus Christ via free grace salvation. Some Christian groups speak of Christ as Savior, as Roman Catholicism does. They say that He has covered their original sin, but they must, by their works, also pay in time for their punishment. They have interjected works, and Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "Not by works." So no Roman Catholic goes to heaven who believes his churches basis of salvation. Certainly all the hocus pocus religions of the East: Hinduism; your self-godhood; nor, the New Age movement. None of those are focused upon Christ as the way.

So there is no hope. The result is that the blindness is compounded when you do not understand the revelation to Daniel and the time schedule. In this period, this intercalation between the 69h and the 70th week, a great and marvelous provision has been made--the church and the provision of the Savior. Israel, during the church age, has been temporarily set aside by God. The operative word there, folks, is "temporarily."

All the Protestant Reformation descendants are wrong about saying that there is no future for Israel. In Matthew, 24:42-43 Jesus says, "Therefore, be on the alert (speaking to Israel), for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this: that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into."

In Matthew 21:42-43, Jesus said to Israel's religious leaders, "Did you never read in the Scriptures, 'The stone which the builders rejected, this became the chief cornerstone; this came about from the Lord and it is marvelous in our eyes?'" Jesus Christ, of course, is that cornerstone.

Verse 43: Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation, producing the fruit of it." Yes, Israel is coming under divine discipline, and she will lose her absolute blessing.

What Jesus is doing here is He's quoting from Psalm 118:22-23: "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes." Jesus was simply quoting this passage from Psalm to identify who he is. He was applying this Scripture to Israel's religious leaders who would kill the Son of God, Jesus the Messiah. They understood what He was talking about, and they hated Him for it.

We need to do a little more extended reading of Matthew 21, beginning with verse 33: "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, and put a wall around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and rented it out to vine growers, and went on a journey. When the harvest time approached, he sent his slaves to the vine growers to receive the produce. And the vine growers took his slave, and beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Again, he sent another group of slaves larger than the first, and they did the same thing to them." These, by the way, are the prophets of Israel who kept coming with a message of God, and they kept throwing them out.

"But afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vine growers (Israel) saw the son (Jesus Christ), they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' They took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine growers? They said to him, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, and he will rent out the vineyard to other vine growers who will pay him the proceeds at the proper seasons." Do you have the picture? He says, "I'm going to jerk Israel out. They rejected my Son. I'm going to take them out of the vineyard of blessing, and I'm going to put gentiles in there." The church body would be a place of blessing, but not in place of Israel.

"Then Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures a stone which the builders rejected, this became the chief cornerstone, this came about from the Lord and it is marvelous in our eyes? Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and be given to a nation, producing the fruit of it. He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but on whomsoever it falls, it will scatter him like dust." So the picture there is very grim.

Verse 45 goes on and says, "When the chief priest and the Pharisees heard His parable, they understood that He was speaking about them. And when they sought to seize him, they feared the multitude because they held him to be the prophet." So Israel's leaders were blind, and the people were being led to their destruction by listening to them. Jesus was saying that Israel's leaders were leading them against their master, Jesus Christ. Consequently, they would lose kingdom blessings, and it would be given to others who accepted it.

After the church age, which ends with the catching up of believers into the air called the rapture, then the kingdom will be returned to Israel as a nation. Then the final seven years of Daniel's 490 years will be fulfilled. That seven years, however, is going to be a time of terror such as the Jews and the world have never known before.

And remember: what are we talking about? We're giving you the background of what happened in the terrorism of 9/11. The government has told us that they are 100 percent certain that there will be another terrorist attack in the country. So get ready for it. The malignancy is everywhere. It does make you want to wonder and think, doesn't it? The United States is never mentioned in prophetic Scriptures. Is this what happens? Does terrorism simply takes this nation down out of the picture completely so that it's not even there as a factor to deal with?

Daniel 9:26, says, "After the 62 weeks, the Messiah will be cut off." That means that he'll be executed. This is a term for execution, and it refers to His crucifixion. "And after the 69th week (the 483rd year), He will be cut off, and He will have nothing. What will He not have? He will not have His rightful place as King of Kings over Israel. He will not receive the royal position in the line of David, in which line He was born. He will simply be completely rejected.

In John, 1:11, we're told, "Jesus came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him." Who were his own? The Jewish people. He gave to Israel, and they did not receive Him.

**The Antichrist**

So we have Daniel (with 483 before it happens). Daniel is being told this is this is going to be terrible. Daniel is told that He's going to be cut off. Then we're told, the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary." Who is the prince? The prince here is the final head of the restored Roman Empire in operation during these 7 years of the tribulation period. He is the antichrist. He is the one who is referred to by other titles. One of the titles he has is in Daniel 7:8. He is called "the little horn." Daniel 7:8: "While I was contemplating the horns (a confederacy of ten nations in Western Europe), another horn, a little horn came up among them. And three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it. Behold, this horn possessed eyes like that of a man, and a mouth uttering great boasts."

Well, as Scripture unfolds, we find that that's exactly what's going to happen. The antichrist is going to conquer three nations in the confederacy, and the other seven will say, "Who can make war with him? Let's join him." He becomes ruler of the western confederacy of ten nations where the old Roman Empire once reigned. This will begin the tribulation period. For three-and-a-half years, he'll be riding high while the sealed judgments are being poured out upon mankind. Then, in the middle of the tribulation, Russia makes her move with the Arab allies against Israel. God brings fiery destruction from heaven upon them. Only a sixth of the Russians get back to their country. At that time, the political vacuum is so great that the antichrist becomes the ruler of all the world.

This is what is being brought together. All of this terrorism and all this fear is ultimately going to say, "Give us a leader. Give us someone who will give us peace." And the Jews will rush into the arms of the Antichrist.

So, Daniel 9:26 says, "He'll have nothing. The people of the prince (the antichrist who is to come--that's the Romans--the Gentiles), will destroy the city of Jerusalem and the sanctuary. And its end will come." In 70 A.D., that's exactly what happened to the city of Jerusalem. The temple was destroyed by the Roman General Titus. 37 years after the death of Jesus Christ, this prediction was fulfilled.

Then it says, "The end is going to come like a flood." This very incident was discussed by the Lord Jesus Christ. For example, in Luke 21, we see the divine judgment, the terror judgment upon Israel. Luke 21:24 says, "And they (the Jewish people during the time of the Titus attack) will fall by the edge of the sword. They will be led captive into all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the gentiles until the times of the gentiles is fulfilled." We are now living in the times of the gentiles, and Israel is going to be trampled underfoot by the gentiles.

The prime minister of Israel made a bold statement that Israel is not going to lie down for terrorism; that Israel will defend itself; and, that Israel will not accept Islamic terror over them. That caused a fit in the White House. They got our Secretary of State on the phone, and he told the prime minister of Israel to knock it off and quiet down. That's the same thing that our government has been telling them: "Lie low. Take the blows. Take your deaths, instead of defending yourselves." If the United States doesn't stand by Israel, who is there that's going to do it? Who is able to do it? That's what was happening with the 9/11 terrorism. Even this nation now is fearful of what might happen all over this world if they get the Islamic world up in arms against us with their billion people. So Israel once more is left out in the cold.

When Titus came in, he killed a million Jews. The rest of them that were left in Jerusalem and survived, he scattered all over through other nations. Jerusalem and Israel were left as a wasteland. That was in 70 A.D., exactly as had been predicted to Daniel.

In Matthew 23:38, Jesus said, "Behold, your house is being left to you desolate." When did he say this? Well go back to verse 37. This is a short day or two after Palm Sunday when he was welcomed in Jerusalem as Messiah Savior. Now things are beginning to turn against Him. He is now facing the retaliation of the Jewish leaders. They have determined to kill Him, and they're going to arrest him. They've made the deal with Judas. The Lord Jesus Christ is sitting, perhaps on the Mount of Olives, looking down upon Jerusalem. In Matthew 23:37, He says, "O, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her. How often I wanted to gather your children together the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. Behold, your house is being left to you desolate."

Jesus said, "I wanted to teach you the Word of the Lord, and I did teach it to you. I spent three years informing you, but you wouldn't listen to doctrine. You wouldn't listen to the truth. You would not subject yourself to the will of God and the authority of God as represented by Me. You should have come rushing to me like a little chick who wants to cuddle in the warmth and the care of her mother's wings."

Little chicks do that. One time we had a Sunday school teacher that got carried away on Easter Sunday and gave all the primary kids a little yellow chick to take home. We got one. I would take that little creature and put it on my desk while I was studying, and it would come there and sit under that warm light. Then when I put my hands in a covering fashion, he learned to come rushing under it, and I'd put my hands around it. It would be warm, and he would be there peeking his head up with his little yellow hair all over him. I was his mother, and my hands were his wings. That's a very tender picture--the security, under the wings of Jesus.

But the Jews in Jerusalem didn't want it. How many times have you absented yourself from church because you didn't want the security of the mind of Christ, of the Word of the Lord, because you had better things to do? Israel said, "We have a better future than to be under Your care." Jesus said, "Oh, Jerusalem, Jerusalem. What I could have done for you. What I could have taught you. What would have happened had you responded?"

So Jesus has warned that all of this is going to come down on them. Finally, in 70 A.D., it happened. Now the Jews are scattered all over the world. It wasn't until May of 1948, that they finally got part of a country back again. Daniel 9:26, furthermore says that to the end of the period of Israel's cutting off (during the church age when Israel was cut off), she will suffer wars and desolation: "The city and the sanctuary will be destroyed, and the end will come with a flood." In 70 A.D., it did. "Then even to the end, there will be war, and desolations are determined." Do I need to explain to you what the history of Israel has been since they rejected Jesus Christ as Savior?

The Jew has always been under desolation and under war. Some of you are old enough to have lived through the era of World War II, and the destruction of 6 million Jews, and a heartless treatment of the Jews even by the United States government. A whole boatload of them had real authority to land in New York who had come to this country hoping for a refuge, and President Roosevelt refused to let them land, and they were turned back to Israel. Many of them finally died under Hitler's attacks. The Jew has seen nothing but wars and desolation. They say, "Who can protect us? Who can protect us?" And it's going to be that way to the end. What's the end? The Second Coming of Jesus Christ, and specifically, of the future seven-year period.

So these events of Jesus of the Jews dispersion thus are not part of the 70 weeks. This dispersion happens between the 69th and the 70th weeks. But when the Jews get to the 70th week, then all hell breaks loose on them. That's when it really becomes horrendous.

So we read in verse 26 that desolations are determined. What follows is that a covenant is made by the antichrist with the Jews in Daniel 9:27. He shall make a firm covenant with many for one week.

**The Rapture of the Church**

This does not happen until something else happens--the next thing that is to happen in prophecy. That is in 1 Thessalonians 4. This the next thing that's going to happen at any moment. In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Jesus revealed through the apostle Paul that the church will be caught up to meet Christ in the air. That will end the era of the church age.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18: "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, and that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe (and we do--in the Greek text) that Jesus died and rose again, even so, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus (those who have died--Christians in the grave). For this we say to you, by the Word of the Lord, that we who are alive (Christians who are living on the earth at the time of the Lord's arrival), and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep." The Christians in the grave go first. Then we who are alive follow after them. "For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout (with the voice of the Archangel Gabriel's call, and with the trumpet blowing reveille), and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive (we Christians who are alive on the earth and who remain) shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air."

Did you get that, folks? Jesus Christ does not come down to the earth at this point. We meet Him in the air. The amillennialists blow it off. The people of the Reformation churches blow it off. Because they are not exact students, they do not respect the meaning of words in Scripture. This is the rapture, not the Second Coming. "So we meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, comfort one another with these words." Everything is okay with us, and the souls and spirits of the Christians who have already died, they know how okay everything is. They wouldn't give anything to be back here with us. They're happy to have been the advance party. So the rapture takes place. Now the antichrist can come on the scene. Until the rapture takes place, the Antichrist cannot come on the world scene.

**The Antichrist**

So Daniel 9:27 says, "And he will make a firm covenant. Who is he? Well, "he" refers back to verse 26. That's the nearest antecedent. He is the prince, the one who is to come. That is the antichrist. He'll make a firm deal, a covenant with the Jewish nation. He is in charge now of the ten-nation confederacy. He is the little horn of Daniel 7:8 as we showed you. He will make a covenant with the many. "The many" refers to the people of Israel, the Jewish people, who will be living in their land now during the tribulation era. A peace covenant is made with the antichrist, who promises political and religious security for Israel in the face of all the antisemitism that is being pressed against them by the Arab world. He will do what the United States has been doing. He will now protect the Jews, and they will receive him gladly. At the beginning of the tribulation, the antichrist will be posing as a prince of peace because he wants to imitate Jesus Christ. He is Satan's false counterfeit Christ. Israel will accept his protective care.

This enables the Jews now to rebuild their temple and to resume their ceremonial sacrifices and worship rituals. As you may know, the Jews are already to begin this. They've got the utensils, they've got the people gathered that they can identify as much as they can who are of the line of Aaron with names like Cohen, which is the Hebrew word for "priest," and they are ready to go. They've studied how the rituals are performed. They're ready to start the sacrifices. As soon as we're out of here with the church, they will move into our building here; take this over as one of their synagogues; use our new P.A. system; take over my overhead projector, and they'll be off and running with the sacrifices.

So this looks pretty good. However, Daniel 9:27 says, "In the middle of the week, he (the Antichrist) will put a stop to the sacrifices and the grain offerings." After three-and-a-half years of the tribulation period, he double-crosses the Jews. This is history, folks. You and I are not going to be here. Satan's man, at the midpoint, now becomes a world ruler. He is finally what Satan always wanted--to produce a world ruler in place of Jesus Christ. He offered the deal to Jesus, you know. Satan offered this temptation to Jesus in the wilderness place. He said, "I'll give you the nations of all world if you bow down and worship me." Jesus didn't take the deal. The antichrist will.

The Antichrist will be indwelt by Satan. He will have full demonic powers. At this point, he will move his headquarters from Babylon (which is rebuilt now), which will be the commercial and religious center of the world during the tribulation. In the mid-tribulation, he'll move his headquarters to the land of Israel. Daniel 11:45 points that out to us: "And he will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas (between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean) and the beautiful Holy Mountain (Jerusalem), and he will come to his end, and no one will help him."

So now the antichrist believes that he is God. He has everything going for him. He has thrown out the Jews. He has turned against them, and they are fleeing for their lives. The Levitical system of worship and sacrifice is again stopped. A number of the Jews, I suspect, are going to go to Petra, outside of the territory. The Bible tells us, interesting enough, that this southern part is not controlled by the antichrist. It has a very narrow entrance for people to enter--sometimes it is only as wide as putting your two arms apart. That's why in Roman times it was always an enormously defensive position. They will go back to Petra.

Why is this? What does the devil want to do? What was he doing on 9/11? Terrorism has one objective--so that there's not a single Jew alive on the face of the earth. That's it. He started it when he tried to kill all the children two years old and younger when Jesus was born, hoping that he could kill Jesus then. He was hoping there would be no Messiah and no millennial kingdom on this earth. If there were no Jews to go into the millennial kingdom alive, then God cannot fulfill his promise to Israel to make them the leading nation of the world with their kingdom upon his earth.

So the antichrist is the political power over this restored Roman Empire. The antichrist now has a false prophet who, incidentally, is the third member of a false trinity: Satan; the antichrist; and, the false prophet. In this false trinity, Satan is representing God the Father; the antichrist representing Jesus Christ; and, the false prophet representing the Holy Spirit. What they do is they establish the universal religion, the ecumenical religion of the world, undoubtedly based upon (I suspect) Roman Catholicism. This is what 2 Thessalonians 2 is talking about.

That's why it made me a little bit uneasy to see that ecumenical religious service that the president had. It was understandably a prayer and remembrance service in behalf of the victims of 9/11. However, the Muslim religious leader was there speaking about Abraham, Muhammad, and Jesus. Jesus was the low man on the totem pole because they believe that He's not God. The Muslims say He is just a man. He is a respected prophet of God, but Muhammad is the last prophet. That eventuates under the terror of the antichrist. Here you have this conglomerate that you had at that prayer and remembrance service: a Roman Catholic prelate who doesn't believe that you can get to heaven by the grace of God, so he's not going to heaven; and, the Muslim who believes that it is his good works and the power of Muhammad to bring him there, so he's not going to heaven.

In 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 the apostle Paul says, "Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction." Paul is talking about the Day of the Lord. It's not going to come until the church is out of here, folks. That's the first thing he says. The Day of the Lord has two phases: the phase of judgment--the tribulation; and, the phase of blessing--the millennial kingdom.

"Let no one deceive you, for it (the Day of the Lord, from verse 2) will not come unless apostasy comes first (the total falling away of Christendom from the truth), and the son of lawlessness (another name for the antichrist) is revealed, the son of destruction (another name for the antichrist), who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called God or object of worship. He takes a seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God."

What Daniel and Paul are telling us is that the sacrifices are stopped, and then the antichrist has an image of himself placed in the Jewish temple that he has helped them to rebuild, and that his image will be there to declare that he is God, and they are now to worship him in that image. That's when the Jews wake up, and they flee. "Who opposes and exalts himself above every God or object of worship. He takes a seat in the Jewish temple (rebuilt in Jerusalem during the tribulation), displaying himself as being God. Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?"

Some of these Christians in Thessalonica said, "We thought we were all going to go up to meet the Lord in the air. My mother has died. My children have died. My father has died. They're going to miss the rapture."

Paul had spent six weeks (that's all) teaching in Thessalonica. We have 1 and 2 Thessalonians following up that teaching--both books on prophecy. So some of these idiots who don't think you should pay attention to prophecy don't know what is going on in the plan of God. Thus, they don't know what is going on in history. Paul said, "Don't you remember I told you these things?" And you know what restrains him now (holds back the appearance of the antichrist, and holds back the arrival of this evil), so that in his time, he may be revealed. What holds back evil now? What holds back the appearance of the antichrist? The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwells all the believers. When the Spirit goes, then all hell can break loose on this earth.

"For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only He who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way." There he is--God, the Holy Spirit. He restrains how bad society can be. "Then the lawless one will be revealed." This is another name for the antichrist. "Whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth, and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming. That is, the one whose company is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all the power and signs and false wonders." Hey, charismatics, did you read that? Satan is going to have even more power than he has now to perform miracles and signs and wonders. These are things that the charismatics blubber over today because they're emotionally oriented and not doctrinally oriented.

"And with all the deception of wickedness, for those who perish (and get this), because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved." They didn't love the truth of the gospel of the grace of God, so they were not saved. Some people today won't receive doctrinal truth. They're not instructed. They listen to it and they rebel against it, even though they are shown in Scripture that this is what God says. Do you know what the result is? Here's what it will be for them. It's a principle that applies to you and me.

"For this reason, God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false." So if you want to get your life messed up, just stay at home and avoid doctrinal teaching. If you want to get your life deluded, just be resistant and rebellious against the instruction of the Word of God. Just find all the ways that you can to get out of serving the Lord; out of being His steward; and, out of investing your life in eternal things. Just find all the ways you can to trivialize any moment with your focus upon this earth and things instead of the eternity above and ahead.

So God says, "If you will not accept the truth, then I will give you a deluding influence so that you'll believe what is a lie." The people who are in Islam are not stupid. People who are in Mormonism are not stupid. They just won't accept the truth. So God says, "Fine, I'll give you a delusion. Do you want that?" The people who don't believe in security of salvation are not stupid. They just won't accept the truth of God's revelation.

Verse 12: "In order that they may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness." You did not appreciate what God had for you. The result is that God takes it away from you, and you can go ahead and enjoy the wickedness that you choose.

This terrorism in our society is preparing for the final terrorism of the tribulation. It is happening at Mach speed now--more than we ever thought in our lifetime that we would see it. If most of you get to heaven through death, I'll be one surprised person. Most of you are going up in the rapture. The Second Coming conditions are all there in line, so the rapture is going to occur at any moment. The return of the Lord is at least seven years from this day.

Dr. John E. Danish, 2002

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