

# 4 WHEN WILL THE END BEGIN?

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**What?/** Part of the problem in studying the Last Days is the reality that we often are building on traditional teaching rather than on sound study of the Written Word. **Why?/** Because eschatology is such a complicated topic it is often easier to merely accept what others have taught us. However, we must, like the Bereans, check the Scriptures to see if these things are so. **How?/** We will begin by looking at Daniel 9 to see how this passage lays the foundation for the prophetic timetable of the New Testament.

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## 4.1 WHAT is the 70th Seven (Week) of Daniel and Why is it significant?

**Daniel 9:23-27** At the beginning of your requests a message went out, and I have come to convey it to you, for you are of great value in God's sight. *Therefore consider the message and understand the vision:*

24 "Seventy weeks have been determined concerning your people and your holy city

*to put an end to rebellion,  
to bring sin to completion,  
to atone for iniquity,  
to bring in perpetual righteousness,  
to seal up the prophetic vision, and  
to anoint a most holy place.*

25 So know and understand: From the issuing of the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until an anointed one, a prince arrives, there will be a period of seven weeks and sixty-two weeks. It will again be built, with plaza and moat, but in distressful times.

26 Now after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one will be cut off and have nothing. As for the city and the sanctuary, the people of the coming prince will destroy them. But his end will come speedily like a flood. Until the end of the war that has been decreed there will be destruction.

**27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one week. But in the middle of that week he will bring sacrifices and offerings to a halt.** On the wing of abominations will come one who destroys, until the decreed end is poured out on the one who destroys."

#### 4.1.1 How do we calculate the Seventy Sevens?

*“Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city...”*

*9:25a “Know then and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be a period of seven weeks and sixty two weeks...”*

*9:25b “... It will again be built, with plaza and moat, but in distressful times.*

*9:26a “Now after the sixty two weeks, an anointed one will be cut off and have nothing.*

*As for the city and the sanctuary, the people of the coming prince will destroy them. But his end will come speedily like a flood. Until the end of the war that has been decreed there will be destruction.*

*9:27 He (the prince to come, Antichrist) will confirm a covenant with many for one week. But in the middle of that week he will bring sacrifices and offerings to a halt. On the wing of abominations will come one who destroys, until the decreed end is poured out on the one who destroys.”*

Literally “Seventy sevens” that are meant as “weeks” of years:

1 week = 7 years

So, 70 weeks = 490 years

The word is taken as that of Artaxerxes in **458/457 BC**.

7 Sevens (49 years) + 62 Sevens (434 years) for a total of 69 Weeks or **483 years**

**483 years after 458/457 BC is 26/27 AD which is the time in which Jesus began His public ministry.**

This is probably the time signified by the first period of “sevens” – 7x7 or 49 years. This would be the time between 458/457 BC till 409/408 BC the times in which Ezra and Nehemiah were doing their work in troubled times

This comes after the total 483 years. Thus Jesus’ crucifixion (“being cut off”) took place about 3 years after the beginning of His ministry in AD 26/27

The later half of this verse probably speaks to the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem by Titus in AD 70.

The final period of **7 YEARS** (The Seventieth Seven) is taken to be the Tribulation referred to by Jesus (Matthew 24:15ff.) and foreseen in Revelation 6-19 since the historical events immediately after the life of Christ do not seem to fulfill what is revealed here.

**4.1.2 The Seventy Sevens (Weeks) of Daniel provide a prophetic “timetable” for some of the events of the Last Days.**

7 “SEVENS” (49 YEARS)	62 “SEVENS”	THE SEVENTIETH “SEVEN”
The time in which Ezra and Nehemiah restore Jerusalem	Add to the first 7 “sevens” brings us to the beginning of Christ’s ministry	The final “seven” is the End Times in which Antichrist comes to power.
(458/457 - 409/408 BC)	(409/408BC - AD 26/27)	(Yet Future)

**4.2 WHY is this important for understanding the events of the Last Days?**

**4.2.1 The beginning of the final period of seven years is marked by the signing of the covenant with the Prince who is to come (Antichrist).**

**4.2.2 At the mid-point of this seven year period the Prince will break the covenant.**

**4.2.3 Jesus and the New Testament writers seem to be building on this basic framework:**

**Matthew 24:15-22** “So when you see *the abomination of desolation* - spoken about by Daniel the prophet - standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), 16 then those in Judea must flee to the mountains. .... 21 *For then there will be great suffering* (tribulation) *unlike anything* that has happened from the beginning of the world until now, or ever will happen.

**4.3 WHAT more do we need to know about Antichrist?**

The Antichrist is given many different titles and descriptions in the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures: the **Little Horn** (Daniel 7:8), the **King of Bold Face** (Daniel 8:23), the **Coming Prince** (Daniel 9:26), the **one who makes desolate** (Daniel 9:27), the **Willful King** (Daniel 11:36), the **Man of Sin** (2 Thessalonians 2:3), the **Son of Destruction/Perdition** (2 Thessalonians 2:3), the **Lawless One** (2 Thessalonians 2:8), the **Antichrist** (1 John 2:22), and the **Beast** (Revelation 11:7). We can summarize the character and work of the Antichrist with the following points:

**4.3.1 The Antichrist will be a gentile from the people of the Old Roman Empire (cf. Daniel 9:26-27; Revelation 17:8ff).**

**Revelation 17:8-12** The beast you saw was, and is not, but is about to come up from the abyss and then go to destruction.... 9 ...The seven heads are seven mountains the woman sits on. They are also seven kings: 10 five have fallen; one is, and the other has not yet come, but whenever he does come, he must remain for only a brief time. 11 ***The beast that was, and is not, is himself an eighth king and yet is one of the seven, and is going to destruction.*** 12 The ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but will receive ruling authority as kings with the beast for one hour.

**4.3.2 The Antichrist/"the coming Prince" will make a covenant with Israel which will mark the beginning of Daniel's Seventieth Seven/Week (cf. Daniel 9:27)**

**4.3.3 In the middle of the Seventieth Seven/Week, the Antichrist will break the covenant and commit the "abomination that brings desolation" (cf. Daniel 9:27, 11:31, 12:11; Matthew 24:15)**

**4.3.4 The Antichrist will probably be killed and brought back to life (cf. Daniel 11:45b; Revelation 13:3)**

**Revelation 13:3** One of the beast's heads appeared to have been killed, *but the lethal wound had been healed.* And the whole world followed the beast in amazement;...

**Revelation 13:12** He [the Second Beast - False Prophet] exercised all the ruling authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and those who inhabit it worship the first beast, *the one whose lethal wound had been healed.*

**4.3.5 The Antichrist/Beast will claim to be god (cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 13:6)**

**4.3.6 The Antichrist will come to power with the empowerment of Satan (cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10)**

#### **4.3.7 The Antichrist/Beast will rule for 42 months (1,260 days, time, times and half a time, 3 1/2 years) (cf. Revelation 13:5).**

**Revelation 13:5** The beast was given a mouth speaking proud words and blasphemies, and he was permitted to exercise ruling authority for forty-two months.

**Daniel 7:25** He will speak words against the Most High.  
He will harass the holy ones of the Most High continually.  
His intention will be to change times established by law.  
They will be delivered into his hand  
For a time, times, and half a time.

**Daniel 12:5-7** I, Daniel, watched as two others stood there, one on each side of the river. 6 One said to the man clothed in linen who was above the waters of the river, "When will the end of these wondrous events occur?" 7 Then I heard the man clothed in linen who was over the waters of the river as he raised both his right and left hands to the sky and made an oath by the one who lives forever: *"It is for a time, times, and half a time. Then, when the power of the one who shatters the holy people has been exhausted, all these things will be finished."*

#### **4.3.8 The Antichrist/Beast will conquer the Saints and be given dominion over this World for a short time (cf. Revelation 13:7)**

**Revelation 13:7-8** The beast was permitted to go to war against the saints and conquer them. He was given ruling authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation, 8 and all those who live on the earth will worship the beast, everyone whose name has not been written since the foundation of the world in the book of life belonging to the Lamb who was killed.

#### **4.3.9 The Antichrist/Beast will be assisted by a Second Beast/the False Prophet who will perform "miraculous" feats with the authority of Satan and the Beast (cf. Revelation 13:11ff.)**

#### **4.3.10 The Antichrist will be destroyed by Jesus at His glorious return (cf. Daniel 9:27; 2 Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 19:20).**

**Revelation 19:20** Now the beast was seized, and along with him the false prophet who had performed the signs on his behalf -- signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. Both of them were thrown alive into the

lake of fire burning with sulfur.

#### 4.4 WHY is this important?

- » *The last seven years of human history will be marked by the signing of the covenant between Antichrist and the “many” (most likely Israel and her enemies).*
- » *Both Jesus and Paul emphasize the “abomination of desolation” which occurs in the middle of the seven year period as a key sign of the end times that must precede the Day of the Lord and the Return of Jesus.*
- » *There is the possibility that those who see the rise of Antichrist may also face his persecution.*

#### 4.5 HOW should we respond?

- » *Much of what we are discussing is “sealed” until the times of the End; When the time is right, the Lord will bring understanding.*

**Daniel 12:8-13** I heard, but I did not understand. So I said, “Sir, what will happen after these things?” 9 He said, “Go, Daniel. **For these matters are closed and sealed until the time of the end.** 10 Many will be purified, made clean, and refined, but the wicked will go on being wicked. **None of the wicked will understand, though the wise will understand.** 11 From the time that the daily sacrifice is removed and the abomination that causes desolation is set in place, there are 1,290 days. 12 Blessed is the one who waits and attains to the 1,335 days. 13 But you should go your way until the end. You will rest and then at the end of the days you will arise to receive what you have been allotted.”

- » *Our Hope is set in Jesus and Him alone.*

**Titus 2:11-14** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 *waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,* 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

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## Preparing for Next Week:

Read and think about 1 Corinthians 15:50-58, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 in context. Listed on the following pages are all the passages from the New Testament which use the term “parousia” which is translated as “arrival, coming, presence.” Read through these passages and see if you can draw some conclusions about the “arrival” of our Lord Jesus.

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**Matt. 24:3** As he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, his disciples came to him privately and said, “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

**Matt. 24:27** For just like the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so the coming of the Son of Man will be.

**Matt. 24:37** For just like the days of Noah were, so the coming of the Son of Man will be.

**Matt. 24:39** And they knew nothing until the flood came and took them all away. It will be the same at the coming of the Son of Man.

**1Cor. 15:23** But each in his own order: Christ, the firstfruits; then when Christ comes, those who belong to him.

**1Cor. 16:17** I was glad about the arrival of Stephanus, Fortunatus, and Achaicus because they have supplied the fellowship with you that I lacked.

**2Cor. 7:6** But God, who encourages the downhearted, encouraged us by the arrival of Titus.

**2Cor. 7:7** We were encouraged not only by his arrival, but also by the encouragement you gave him, as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your deep concern for me, so that I rejoiced more than ever.

**2Cor. 10:10** because some say, “His letters are weighty and forceful, but his physical presence is weak and his speech is of no account.”

**Phil. 1:26** so that what you can be proud of may increase because of me in Christ Jesus, when I come back to you.

**Phil. 2:12** ¶ So then, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence but even more in my absence, continue working out your salvation with awe and reverence,

**1Th. 2:19** For who is our hope or joy or crown to boast of before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not of course you?

**1Th. 3:13** so that your hearts are strengthened in holiness to be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

**1Th. 4:15** For we tell you this by the word of the Lord, that we who are

alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not go ahead of those who have fallen asleep.

**1Th. 5:23** ¶ Now may the God of peace himself make you completely holy and may your spirit and soul and body be kept entirely blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**2Th. 2:1** ¶ Now regarding the arrival of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to be with him, we ask you, brothers and sisters,

**2Th. 2:8** and then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will destroy by the breath of his mouth and wipe out by the manifestation of his arrival.

**2Th. 2:9** The arrival of the lawless one will be by Satan's working with all kinds of miracles and signs and false wonders,

**James 5:7** ¶ So be patient, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's return. Think of how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the ground and is patient for it until it receives the early and late rains.

**James 5:8** You also be patient and strengthen your hearts, for the Lord's return is near.

**2Pet. 1:16** ¶ For we did not follow cleverly concocted fables when we made known to you the power and return of our Lord Jesus Christ; no, we were eyewitnesses of his grandeur.

**2Pet. 3:4** and saying, "Where is his promised return? For ever since our ancestors died, all things have continued as they were from the beginning of creation."

**2Pet. 3:12** while waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God? Because of this day, the heavens will be burned up and dissolve, and the celestial bodies will melt away in a blaze!

**1John 2:28** ¶ And now, little children, remain in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink away from him in shame when he comes back.

## Sideline: The Timing of **The Day of the LORD**

1. The Day of the Lord has its origin in the OT prophets.

**I**n the Hebrew Scriptures the Day of the LORD (יִוֵּם יְהוָה - *yom yhwah*) refers in judgment contexts to days in which God would bring calamity upon the oppressive gentile nations and even upon Israel herself for her idolatry. The Day also looks forward to the final, climactic Day when God will judge all who live on the Earth:

**Zephaniah 1:18** Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD's angry judgment.

The whole earth will be consumed by his fiery wrath.

**Indeed, he will bring terrifying destruction  
on all who live on the earth."**

**Joel 1:15** How awful that day will be  
For the day of the LORD is near;  
it will come as destruction *from the Divine Destroyer.*

2. There will be signs which **precede** the coming of the Day.

**Acts 2:19-21** And I will perform wonders in the sky above  
and miraculous signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and clouds of smoke.

20 The **sun** will be changed to darkness  
and the **moon** to blood  
**before** the great and glorious day of the Lord comes.

21 *And then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'*

**P**eter quotes from Joel 2 in the passage above. Notice first of all that the Day of the Lord is preceded by a couple of key signs: the sun going dark and the moon turning the color of blood. If we correlate this with Revelation, we can see that these event will happen with the opening of the Sixth Seal:

**Revelation 6:12-13** Then I looked when the Lamb opened the sixth seal, and a huge earthquake took place; ***the sun became as black as sackcloth made of hair, and the full moon became blood red;*** 13 and the stars in the sky fell to the earth like a fig tree dropping its unripe figs when shaken by a fierce wind...

This seal also reveals the appearance of the God and the Lamb in their wrath. Jesus also speaks about these signs and says that they will take place *after the Great Tribulation but before His appearing*:

**Matthew 24:29-30** ***"Immediately after the suffering of those days,*** the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven will be shaken. 30 ***Then*** the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man arriving on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

From these texts, it seems clear that there are cosmic signs that come *before* the Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord then seems to begin with the Arrival of Jesus *after* or *at the end* of the Tribulation when He comes in judgment.

3. Peter also links the future Day of the Lord with the end of the Millennium and the destruction of this present creation:

**2 Peter 3:10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief; when it comes, the heavens will disappear with a horrific noise, and the celestial bodies will melt away in a blaze, and the earth and every deed done on it will be laid bare.... Because of this day, the heavens will be burned up and dissolve, and the celestial bodies will melt away in a blaze! 13 But, according to his promise, we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness truly resides.

Some have used the passage above to argue that there will be no 1000 year, historical reign of Jesus on the Earth. This passage, however, does not demand such an interpretation. In the Prophets the arrival of Messiah was generally presented as one event. However, we know now that Messiah's work is divided into two stages. Just as the OT prophets, Peter is probably "compacting" the events of the end together into one "big picture" without showing the interval of time that will exist between the beginning of the fulfillment and its full-fulfillment (end).

4. It seems important to notice that Joel links the "deliverance" of Israel with the coming of the Day of the Lord:

**Joel 2:31-32** The sunlight will be turned to darkness  
and the moon to the color of blood,  
**before** the day of the LORD comes --  
that great and terrible day!

**32 It will so happen that everyone who calls  
on the name of the LORD will be delivered.**

For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be those  
who survive, just as the LORD has promised;  
**the remnant will be those whom the LORD will call.**

Paul seems to confirm that it will be the appearance of Jesus (the Deliver) that will cause the redemption of all Israel in the Last Days:

**Romans 11:26** And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

***"The Deliverer will come out of Zion;  
He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.***

What can we conclude about the timing of the Day of the Lord then? It seems that the Day will be preceded by the cosmic signs that Joel, Jesus, Peter and John all mention: the Sun being darkened, the Moon turning blood red, the shaking of the powers in the Heavens. The Day of the Lord will then begin with the appearance of Jesus and His return to Earth in devastating Divine judgment.