

THE SEVENTY WEEKS PROPHECY

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We have been looking at who the main protagonists will be at the end time ... Rome and Europe or The Islamic Realm?

We should be familiar with the narrative of the scriptures. The interpretation might be more difficult. But ... use caution!!

Daniel 8:3-4 (NKJV)

3 Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and there, standing beside the river, was **a ram which had two horns**, and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last.

4 **I saw the ram pushing westward, northward, and southward, so that no animal could withstand him; nor was there any that could deliver from his hand, but he did according to his will and became great.**

The ram is Iran. This is a prophecy for today. Iran is going to go on the rampage ... West, North and South. It will endeavour to stamp its form of Islam on the Islamic world. After a time ... there is a counter-attack.

Daniel 8:5-8 (NKJV)

5 And as I was considering, **suddenly a male goat (Turkey) came from the west, across the surface of the whole earth, without touching the ground; and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.**

6 Then he came to the ram (Iran) that had two horns, which I had seen standing beside the river, and ran at him with furious power.

7 And **I saw him (Turkey) confronting the ram; he was moved with rage against him, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns.**

There was no power in the ram (Iran) to withstand him, but he cast

him down to the ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram (Iran) from his hand.

8 Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven.

Let's look at the horns. Horns tend to symbolise kings ... leaders. The ram (Iran) has 2 horns. Who is the first horn? Speculation: The Ayatollah Khomeini (the 19th most powerful person in the world according to Forbes magazine). In 1979 Iran became an Islamic Republic replacing the Shah of Persia. That's where the Ayatollah (supreme leader) came into being.

The second horn which comes up later ... but is bigger. Who is the second horn? Speculation ... probably the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Core ... IRGC ... created by the ayatollahs. They are in charge of security and military. It looks like they will be the dominant force.

And if you want to be more speculative ... Major General Soleimani ... he's the commander of the Quds force ... to carry Iran's plans out in foreign countries. The other person is Major General Ali Jafari ... he commands the other parts of the IRGC.

Turkey has an important history ... The Ottoman Empire ... which ruled from about 1300 to 1922. Its president today, Erdogan, has ambitions of restoring the Ottoman Empire. He would be a suitable candidate today for being the "notable horn" of the goat.

In the future it appears that Turkey will lead a confederation of 4 Islamic countries against Iran.

All of this will have a major economic impact on the world ... think about the oil from the Persian Gulf area! It will probably affect

stocks and shares, pensions, savings, transport, manufacturing ... you name it!!

Ow moving on to Daniel 9 ... Let's re-cap what we have already covered. Daniel is in captivity in Babylon but elevated in rank due to his wisdom. He noted in Jeremiah the mention of the 70 year prophecy. He prayed to God for understanding and for the restoration of his city and the temple ... which he suspected was imminent.

In Daniel 9 it appears that there will be an individual (the antichrist) who will enter a 7 year treaty with the Jews. About half way through ... he betrays the Jews and stops the sacrifices and installs the abomination of desolation and thereby triggers the three and a half years Great Tribulation.

Daniel 9:24-27 (NKJV)

24 "Seventy weeks (Shabua ... $70 \times 7 = 490$ years) are determined (not continuous ... Divided into 3 blocks ... Of 7, 62 and 1 ... 49 years, 434 years and a final 7 years)

For your people and for your holy city,

To finish the transgression,

To make an end of sins,

To make reconciliation for iniquity,

To bring in everlasting righteousness,

To seal up vision and prophecy,

And to anoint the Most Holy. (70 weeks to bring in The World Tomorrow?)

25 "Know therefore and understand,

That from the going forth of the command

To restore and build Jerusalem

Until Messiah the Prince,

There shall be seven weeks (7 years) and sixty-two weeks; (62 x7)

The street shall be built again, and the wall,

Even in troublesome times.(Jerusalem was rebuilt in 49 years ...)

The next 434 years (62 x7) takes us down to when Jesus arrived
and began His public ministry at aged 30)

26 "And after the sixty-two weeks

Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; (Jesus is crucified)

And the people of the prince who is to come (the antichrist)

Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. (About 70AD)

The end of it shall be with a flood,

And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

The after an interval of 2,000 years:

27 Then he (the antichrist ... Hebrew: Nagid) shall confirm a covenant with many (the Jews) for one week; (7 years)

But in the middle of the week

He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.

And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate,

Even until the consummation, which is determined,

Is poured out on the desolate (desolation)."

Daniel 9:27 (Voice)

27 And that prince will make a binding treaty with many people for a one-week period of time. In the middle of that one period he will put a stop to all sacrifices and offerings to the Lord. And at the height of his atrocities he will set up an abominable idol that desecrates the most holy place, until the desolation decreed is finally poured out on the defiler.

Daniel 9:27 (NIV)

27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

Daniel 9:27 (NLT)

27 The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him."

Is it permissible to "jump" 2,000 years? See the next verse.

Isaiah 61:1-2 (NKJV)

1 "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me,
Because the Lord has anointed Me
To preach good tidings to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, (Jesus said that
today this scripture is fulfilled in your ears ... between this verse
and the next part there is an interval of nearly 2,000 years)
And the day of vengeance of our God;
To comfort all who mourn,

NB Two key features relating to the antichrist: He (1)stops the sacrifices and (2) installs the abomination of desolation.

Daniel 11:31 (NKJV)

31 And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation.

Daniel 12:1 (NKJV)

1 "At that time Michael shall stand up,
The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people;

And there shall be a time of trouble,
Such as never was since there was a nation,
Even to that time.
And at that time your people shall be delivered,
Every one who is found written in the book.

Daniel 12:4 (NKJV)

4 "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

Daniel 12:9 (NKJV)

9 And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. (This is end time!)

Daniel 12:11-13 (NKJV)

11 "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days. (Nearly three and a half years ... With 30 days left over ... perhaps to flee?)

12 Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.

13 "But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days."

It is probably worth looking out for this 7 year treaty? Though we might not spot it if it is carried out "behind locked doors". Is this covenant referred to anywhere else? How about ...

Isaiah 28:5-6 (NKJV)

5 In that day the Lord of hosts will be
For a crown of glory and a diadem of beauty
To the remnant of His people,
6 For a spirit of justice to him who sits in judgment,

And for strength to those who turn back the battle at the gate.

Isaiah 28:14-15 (NKJV)

14 Therefore hear the word of the Lord, you scornful men,
Who rule this people who are in Jerusalem,

15 Because you have said, "**We have made a covenant with death,**

And with Sheol we are in agreement.

When the overflowing scourge (Tribulation) passes through,

It will not come to us,

For we have made lies our refuge,

And under falsehood we have hidden ourselves."

Isaiah 28:18-19 (NKJV). (God says)

18 **Your covenant with death will be annulled,**

And your agreement with Sheol will not stand;

When the overflowing scourge passes through,

Then you will be trampled down by it.

19 As often as it goes out it will take you;

For morning by morning it will pass over,

And by day and by night;

It will be a terror just to understand the report."

Then what happens?

Matthew 24:11-18 (NKJV)

11 Then **many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.**

12 And because **lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.**

13 But **he who endures to the end shall be saved.**

14 And **this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.**

15 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,'
(Greek: Abomolation: Bdelygma ... Desolation: Eremosis) spoken of

by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),

16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. (Get out of town!)

17 Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.

18 And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.
(This is urgent!! Get! Get! Get!)

Matthew 24:21-22 (NKJV)

21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. (The overflowing scourge of Isaiah 28)

We can absolutely tie in the reference by Jesus to the abomination of desolation because the two Greek words ... Bdelygma and Eremosis ... appear in the Greek version (Septuagint) used in Jesus day (in Daniel 12:11; 11:31 and 9:27).

So Daniel 9 and the 70 weeks prophecy provides key understanding to the end-time and when the Tribulation starts. There will be a 7 year treaty entered into by an Islamic antichrist.

But of course there are a couple of challenges to this understanding! So let's review these.

Daniel 9:26-27 (NKJV)

26 "And after the sixty-two weeks

Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;

And the people of the prince who is to come
Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.

The end of it shall be with a flood,

And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 **Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;**

(Many churches teach this is Jesus ... but ... it is not!! Contextually ... it wouldn't make sense! This "he" is the antichrist)

But in the middle of the week

He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.

And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate,

Even until the consummation, which is determined,

Is poured out on the desolate."

Notice again in verse 27... someone makes a covenant with many for one week. Some say this was Jesus confirming His Covenant of Salvation.

However, this does not read naturally in sequence. Notice two things clearly happen after the Covenant ... sacrifices are stopped and abomination erected. This is clearly the antichrist ... Not Jesus. And remember the context ... having the antichrist here ties in perfectly with similar passages in Daniel 11:31; Daniel 12:11 and implied in Matthew 24:15.

Also ... Swapping the "he" from antichrist to Jesus probably violates the rules of grammar. The subject of a pronoun normally follows its immediate antecedent (in this case ... antichrist).

Other reasons. If Jesus is confirming a covenant for 7 years ... of which he has carried out only three and a half years before being "cut off" ... **then He has three and a half years still to come to confirm.** When might this happen?? Various speculative (and weird) ideas:

1. Perhaps the disciples preaches a further three and a half years to the Jews in Jerusalem till Stephen's martyrdom?
2. Perhaps three and a half years in the Place of Safety?

3. Is it the first three and a half years at the beginning of the Millennium?

In any event, who said that Jesus ministry was three and a half years duration? Some scholars show strong evidence that His ministry could have been just over 1 year up to around 2 years? The three and a half years is a popular tradition but may not be accurate.

So ... it is very possible that Jesus didn't fulfil any three and a half years at His first coming so trying to divide the 7 year period of Daniel into two x three and a half year periods for Jesus certainly won't work if that's the case.

Again ... remember the 70 weeks prophecy is complete units of 7, 62 and 1. There is a final unit of 1×7 years. It is not 7, 62, a half, a half. It is one final continuous period of 7 ... not a half in 30AD and another half 2,000 years later.

Therefore the consistent contextual view is this "He" is the end-time Islamic antichrist entering the 7 year treaty ... betraying half way through.

My belief is that Mr Herbert Armstrong avoided preaching on this passage ... because he was uncertain about its meaning. Some articles occasionally mention Jesus being the "He" of Daniel 9:27. This appears completely wrong.

But ... here's a further challenge. Doesn't Daniel 9:26-27 reveal a Roman/European antichrist? Weren't the people who destroyed the city and the sanctuary Romans under General Titus? So ... won't the "Prince to Come" also be a Roman? (European). Well ... No! Certainly Titus was a Roman general. He was supported by 4 Roman legions who laid siege to Jerusalem. They were Legio V Macedonia. Legio XII Fulminata. Legio XV Appollinaris. Legio X who was stationed on the Mount of Olives. These were "Roman" soldiers in so far as they

were in the Roman army. But Rome always conscripted locals for their remote armies. They didn't use Italian soldiers often. We know from history that the four legions above contained soldiers from Bulgaria, Serbia, Egypt, Syria. Their were no Italians from Rome. Josephus added there were Arabians and Syrians. These all hated the Jews (and still do today). That's why they were so destructive having a lust for blood and the gold within the temple. History shows that Titus the Roman tried to preserve the temple and drag his men away but by then they were out of control.

So ... when Daniel 9:26 talks of "the people of the Prince who is to come" ... the people are Islamic ... such as the Arabs and Syrians and the prince will come from that territory. He will be an Islamic antichrist.