

THE PROPHETIC WORD TODAY

What Has 7 to do with 9-11?

Text: Daniel 9-12; Lev. 26:14-35, Ezk. 4:3-6; 38; 39

INTRODUCTION: **Today America remembers,
but does America understand?**

We all remember where we were when we first heard the news.
We remember the shock, the dismay, the anger, the grief.
Most of us in this room can say with our fellow Americans, "We will never forget."
But can we say, "We understand."

On this important day of remembrance, I want to ask you to join me in a search for understanding. We have been examining God's prophetic word for us today as we have studied the Book of Daniel.

The last two weeks we have focused on the revelation in God's Word that **God set a timetable for the history of the world to culminate in a final seven year period of tribulation and trial upon the world and then the return of the Lord Jesus to establish His Kingdom upon the earth.**

We saw last Sunday that Jesus told us how to know when we were getting close to the final seven years. He said in essence, watch what happens to Israel. **When God causes Israel to be born as a nation** after nearly 1900 years of non-existence, when God starts fulfilling the prophecy that He will re-gather the Jews to their homeland from where they have been scattered over the centuries around the globe, **know that the final 7 years is about to begin.**

Here is the question I want to ask today. Do we understand what this 7, the final 7, has to do with 9-11?

To answer that question, we must understand two things:

I. THE NEW BEGINNING FOR ISRAEL ON MAY 15, 1948, REALLY IS THE SIGN JESUS GAVE US THAT THE FINAL 7 YEARS WAS NEAR.

Now folks, we don't have time for me to re-teach what I showed you last week, but I am going to read again a portion of the Scripture that records these critical words of our Lord.

Speaking of the final seven years to come and His return following the Tribulation, Jesus said,

Matthew 24:32–34 “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near.
³³ So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!

We saw that whenever the fig tree is used figuratively in the Bible, it always refers to Israel.

- A. We saw that the return of the remnant after the Babylonian Captivity was not the new beginning of Israel Jesus was talking about.**
- B. Some may ask, how do we know that the May 15, 1948 rebirth of Israel is the right one.**
- C. Let me show you.**
- D. God showed Ezekiel the date of the rebirth of Israel!**

Ezekiel 4:4-6 ... I have laid on you the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days; so you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.⁶ And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. I have laid on you a day for each year.

In essence, **God told Ezekiel that Israel would have to endure 390 years of chastening for the sins of the northern kingdom and another 40 years for the sins of the southern kingdom.**

This is a total of 430 years. So what happened 430 years after the Babylonians attacked Jerusalem and took Daniel and company captive? Well, as far as we can tell, nothing!

But that is because of what God said in

Leviticus 26:14-35 ¹⁴ ‘But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, ¹⁵ and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, *but* break My covenant, ¹⁶ I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And

you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. ¹⁷ I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you. ¹⁸ ‘And after all this, if you do not obey Me, **then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.** ... ²¹ ‘Then, if you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you **seven times** more plagues, according to your sins. ... ²³ ‘And if by these things you are not reformed by Me, but walk contrary to Me, ²⁴ then I also will walk contrary to you, and I will punish you yet **seven times** for your sins. ... ²⁷ ‘And after all this, if you do not obey Me, but walk contrary to Me, ²⁸ then I also will walk contrary to you in fury; and I, even I, will **chastise you seven times** for your sins. ... ³³ I will scatter you among the nations and draw out a sword after you...

Do the math:

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|--|--------------------------------------|
| Chastisement for Israel Decreed | 430 years |
| Babylonian Captivity | <u>-70</u> |
| Chastisement remaining | 360 years |
| Most Jews refuse to return. Therefore God multiplies the chastisement by 7. | 360 <u>x 7</u> |
| Extended time of chastisement of Israel | 2,520 years |
| Each biblical year is 360 days. | <u>x 360</u> |
| | 907,200 days |
| Our calendar years are 365.25 days per year. | 907,200 days ÷ 365.25 |
| Number of calendar years remaining after return of remnant | 2,483 years, 284 days |
| Date of Return of the Remnant | 536 B.C. |
| Add 2,483 years, 284 days | <u>+2,483 years, 284 days</u> |
| Date chastisement ends | May 15, 1948 |
| The day Israel was reborn. | |

What the world witnessed and is still witnessing, the supernatural reestablishment of Israel as a nation is the sign Jesus described when He said, “When you see it, the final seven years is near.”

That is the first thing you have to know if you are going to understand how the final 7 relates to 9-11. The second thing that you have to understand is that

II. WAR IS COMING.

Not just any war, but

A. The war of Gog and Magog described in Ezekiel 38 & 39.

B. Israel will be attacked by a coalition of

Russia

Iran (modern day Persia)

Ethiopia

Libya

Turkey

Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan

Syria, Lebanon, Jordan

Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, and other Arab nations

Look at that list. What has happened to the relationship between the United States and most of the nations that make up this coalition God describes that is going to attack Israel both before and since the terrorist attacks of 9-11?

Deterioration, Deterioration, Deterioration!

And why do these nations hate us so badly?

Because we are allies of Israel!

C. 9-11 was the result of the progressing of these wicked alliances against Israel, carried out against Israel's more vulnerable ally, the United States.

D. So, what should we learn? What insight do we gain from this understanding?

1. Some would say, "We better not be such a good friend to Israel."

a. You better read to the end of chapter 39.

b. God intervenes on Israel's behalf and wins the war.

Ezk. 39:6-8 ⁶ "And I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in security in the coastlands. Then they shall know that I *am* the LORD. ⁷ So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not *let them* profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that *I am* the LORD, the Holy One in Israel. ⁸ Surely it is coming, and it shall be done," says the Lord GOD. "This *is* the day of which I have spoken.

God's promise to Abraham is still good.

Gen. 12:3a I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you;

2. What we should learn is this –

Everything in our world is moving rapidly toward God's appointed outcome.

The final 7 years of tribulation are near their beginning.

You and I live in the most challenging yet exciting days in history. We have unprecedented opportunity to be intentional in our lives in being a witness of the Lord Jesus wherever we are.

We have the opportunity, more than any who have lived before us, to travel anywhere on the globe and take the gospel to people who have not heard or who have not believed.

Listen, people from our church can take vacation and go into the African bush and help lead whole tribes to Christ. People from our church can take an 8 hour flight and go to a city in Brazil that has never been exposed to the gospel and win hundreds to Jesus and start churches. Parents can take their children to Mexico and the whole family can lead other families into eternal life for less than it costs to go to Disney World. You can go to India and help train pastors and other leaders to take the gospel to one of the world's most populous nations.

And what we should understand from 9-11 and the other things like it past and future is that the time of opportunity is now and is quickly passing away.

And if you say, "I'll go later," you may not get to go at all.

If you say, "I'll get things right with God later," you may never get right at all.

If you say, "I'll get saved later," you may never be saved at all.