

CHAPTER TWO

We hope that you have really done your home work on the previous chapter. Keep it in mind as you read and study this one.

In this chapter we will begin to give a verse by verse exposition of this great fulfilled prophecy beginning at Daniel 9:24:

Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people *of the house of Judah* and upon thy holy city *Jerusalem*, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

The Seventy weeks (490 years) as previously explained were determined upon the people of Daniel (who were the Jews in the Babylonian captivity at that time), their city (Jerusalem), and their Temple (sanctuary). Thus, this prophecy is only about God's dealings with the Jewish kingdom (nation), with the Jewish people, i.e. the house of Judah, their city, Jerusalem, and their Temple in a framework of 70 weeks (490 years). The Central figure, the One who is revealed and the only One, is Messiah, the ruler of Judah (Gen.49:10), Jesus of Nazareth:

25 Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be* seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

It is noted by verse 25, that the first 7 weeks (49 years) were spent in rebuilding Jerusalem and the Temple in very difficult times. This was accomplished under Zerubbabel, Joshua, Ezra and Nehemiah as recorded in the Books of Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai and Zechariah.

God's hand of providence moved marvelously in bringing about the fulfillment of this prophecy. God had given to the Prophets, Jeremiah and Isaiah, the exact length of time that the Jewish kingdom would stay in the Babylonian Captivity and when and by whom they would be released from that captivity. Daniel learned of these prophecies from his study of the Books. From Jeremiah (25:11-12), he learned that:

11 And this whole land shall be a desolation, *and* an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. 12 And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, *that* I will punish the king of Babylon,

and that nation, saith YHWH, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.

And from Isaiah, Daniel learned that:

26 (It is YHWH) That confirms the word of his servant, and performs the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof: 27 That saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers: 28 That saith of Cyrus, *He is my shepherd*, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

1. Thus saith YHWH to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; 2 I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: 3 And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou may know 3 that I, YHWH, which call *thee* by thy name, *am* the God of Israel. 4 For Jacob my servant's sake and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me. 5. I *am* YHWH, and *there is none else*, *there is no God beside me*: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: 6 That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that *there is none beside me*. I *am* YHWH, and *there is none else*. 7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I YHWH do all these *things* 8 Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I YHWH have created it. 9 Woe unto him that strive with his Maker! *Let* the potsherd *strive* with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashions it, what makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands? 10 Woe unto him that saith unto *his* father, What begets thou? or to the woman, What hast thou brought forth? 11 Thus saith YHWH, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me. 12 I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, *even* my hands, have stretched out the heavens and all their host have I commanded. 13 have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, neither for price nor reward, saith YHWH of hosts. (Isaiah 44:26-45:13)

The fulfillment of these prophecies is recorded in Ezra:

1:1. Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of YHWH by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, YHWH stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and [put it] also in writing, saying, 2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, YHWH God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which [is] in Judah. 3 Who *is there* among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which *is* in

Judah, and build the house of YHWH God of Israel, (he *is* the God,) which *is* in Jerusalem. 4 And whosoever remains in any place where he sojourns, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that *is* in Jerusalem.

6:1. Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the rolls, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon. 2 And there was found at Achmetha, in the palace that *is* in the province of the Medes, a roll, and therein was a record thus written: 3 In the first year of Cyrus the king *the same* Cyrus the king made a decree [concerning] the house of God at Jerusalem, Let the house be built, the place where they offered sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid; the height thereof threescore cubits, [and] the breadth thereof threescore cubits; 4 *With* three rows of great stones, and a row of new timber: and let the expenses be given out of the king's house: 5 And also let the golden and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took forth out of the temple which *is* at Jerusalem, and brought unto Babylon, be restored, and brought again unto the temple which *is* at Jerusalem, *every one* to his place, and place *them* in the house of God.

And in 2 Chronicles 36:

22. Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of YHWH *spoken* by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, YHWH stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and *put it* also in writing, saying, 23 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath YHWH God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah. Who *is there* among you of all his people? YHWH his God *be* with him, and let him go up.

It should be noted here that although Cyrus's decree, as recorded in II Chronicles and Ezra, opened the door and made it possible for the house of Judah (the Jewish people) to return to the land and rebuild the temple and the city, the actual countdown of Daniel's 70 weeks (490 years) did not begin at that time. The messenger speaking to Daniel stated that the time would be counted "from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto Messiah the Prince [v.25].

While the specific decree referenced in v.25 does not seem to be specifically recorded in Scripture, it is to be clearly understood from the information recorded in vs.26-27 (to be discussed later) that the phrase unto Messiah the Prince meant that the time count would run until Jerusalem and the temple had been made desolate, i.e. destroyed.

If one wishes to have a **PROPER UNDERSTANDING** of this prophecy, it is essential to know that the things of verses 24 & 27 were yet to be fulfilled when they were given to Daniel. However, from our time we have the wisdom of time and the Biblical and secular record of their fulfillment in the time [birth, life, ministry, death, burial, and resurrection, ascension, etc.] of Jesus the Christ and in His judgment upon national Judaism and the

destruction of Jerusalem and the temple by the Jews initially and finally and totally by the Roman army [Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith YHWH (Ro.12:19)...the minister of God, an avenger to **EXECUTE WRATH** upon them that doeth evil *abominations* [Romans 13:4] in 70AD.

Please notice the word "determined" in verse 24. This is the English translation of the root verb chathak {khaw-thak'} which means: " 1) to divide, determine; 1a) (Niph) to be determined, be decreed, be settled, be marked out. The word "determined" in verse 27 is translated from the root verb charats {khaw-rats'}, which means: "1) to cut, sharpen, decide, decree, determine, maim, move, be decisive,...". Taken together, **these words demonstrate that God declared through a decisive decree** that there would be 70 weeks [490 years] in which these certain things would happen and then He moved mightily to make them happen.

Now let us begin to examine in detail the six (6) things listed in v.24.

TO FINISH THE TRANSGRESSION:

Who shall finish the transgression? How shall this be accomplished?

Transgression is translated from the word pasha` {peh'-shah} which means: "1) transgression, rebellion; 1a3) transgression (against God)," which includes, "1a4) guilt of transgression and 1a5) punishment for transgression." The proclamation to the house of Judah [Jews] of the guilt for and punishment of transgression had long been the edict of the prophet's of God:

YHWH God of gods, YHWH God of gods, he knows, and Israel he shall know; if *it be* in rebellion, or if ***in transgression against YHWH***, (save us not this day,) [Joshua 22:22]

Then will I visit their ***transgression*** with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. [Ps 89:32]

So all...*the people of* Judah were carried away to Babylon ***for their transgression***. [1Ch 9:1]

As can be seen from the verses above, it was "for their transgressions" that the house of Judah had gone into this captivity and their land made a desolation for 70 years. This was Daniel's burden "Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law...therefore the curse is poured upon us (the house of Judah)."[v.11]

Gabriel revealed to Daniel that the "full measure of Judah's transgression" was, at the appointed time, going to be completed and the consequence would be far greater desolation than that which had been wrought by Nebuchadnezzar. Scripture and history records that the finale of the "transgression" would be the betrayal and crucifixion of their

promised and long awaited Messiah, Jesus, Lord and Christ and the evil persecution of His followers.

As it is recorded:

32 Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers... 35 That upon you may come *judgment* for all the righteous blood shed upon the earth... 36 Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation" (the generation that lived in Jerusalem from 30 AD to 70 AD). 37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killed the prophets, and stoned them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, and ye would not *be gathered!* 38 Behold, your (Judah) house is left unto you desolate. (Meaning the house of Judah, Jerusalem and the Temple would be destroyed) [Matthew 23:32-38, emphasis added]

These words, spoken by the Lion of the tribe of Judah after His scathing denunciation against the Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes, etc. of the house of Judah because of their sins, provide clear declarative proof that the hour had come for them "to finish the transgression" and that the predicted desolations were to come as a judgment upon that very generation. The historical record verifies that is exactly what did happen.

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the age to his time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. [Matt. 24:21-22]

As scripture records there is nothing about Judah in history "nor ever shall be" again comparable to the judgments that were poured out upon Jerusalem at the time of its destruction in 70 A.D. Thus was finished the "transgression" and the great desolation of the house of Judah [Jewish nation] as "they were broken off" from the olive tree of Israel [Ro.11:17, 19, & 20]

That awful judgment and desolation that awaited them weighed so heavily upon the mind of Jesus that he cried out:

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, [thou] that killed the prophets, and stoned them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, and ye would not *be gathered!* Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. (i.e., the house of Judah, Jerusalem and the Temple) [Matt.23:37-38, emphasis added]

Even as our Lord Jesus Christ was on the way to the cross, He was thinking of the sufferings that would come upon that generation because they were about "to finish the transgression". Luke recorded His words of great compassion, love and mercy:

27 And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him. 28 But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. 29 For, behold, the days are coming, in which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. 30 Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us. 31 For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry? [Luke 23]

The phrase "a green tree" reminds us of an interesting name for the two houses of Jacob. For God in speaking about the two houses, the house of Israel and the house of Judah called them a "green olive tree":

YHWH called thy name, A green olive tree, fair, and of goodly fruit: with the noise of a great tumult he hath kindled fire upon it, and the branches of it are broken. [Jer 11:16]

And the question, "what shall be done in the dry?" gives us an incredible clue in reference to the "mystery of the olive tree". Unfortunately, we will have to deal with that clue at some other time.

Loved ones, are "the eyes of your understanding" beginning to open to see the majestic unfolding of this great prophecy and the awful judgment of which it speaks?

It is little wonder that the adversary works so hard to blind so many to the proper and true meaning of this prophecy which was given to Daniel over four centuries before it was to be fulfilled in all of its majestic goodness and incredible severity.

The house of Judah had abundant warning of the terrible severity of the judgment that would come upon them and leave their house desolate; for the essence of the prophecy was repeated by the Lion of Judah as recorded Matt.24, Mark 13, Luke 21, and in the Revelation of Jesus Christ as given to and by the Apostle John. Having been cut off from the "Water of Life", the house of Judah once a "green tree becomes a "dry tree". As our Lord Asked, "what shall be done in the dry" (Pharisaical [Rabbinic] Talmudic Judaistic) tree? Prophecy; in the form of a question, which has been noticed by very few.

The Apostle John spoke of this matter in the following words:

Whosoever transgresses, and abides not in the doctrine of Christ, **does not have God**. He that abides in the doctrine of Christ, he has both the Father and the Son. [2John 1:9, emphasis added]