

Christian Myth Busters Prophecy Corrections Part 1

Saturday night 1/13/24

Ten Prophecy Corrections

- #1 We were taught that the Rapture of the Church Begins the Great Tribulation**
- #2 We were taught that carnal Christians may not be raptured**
- #3 We were taught that the Holy Spirit is removed from the earth during The Tribulation**
- #4 We were taught that the two witnesses of Revelation 11:2-12 were probably Elijah and Moses or Elijah and Enoch**
- #5 We were taught that the final battle in the tribulation is called the Battle of Armageddon**
- #6 We were taught that the new heavens and new earth of Isaiah 65:17 are the new eternal order of Revelation 21 and 22**
- #7 We were taught that the mark of the beast would be tied to a new universal currency**
- #8 We were taught to not allow any identification chip or tattoo to be put on our hand for that could be the Mark of the Beast**
- #9 We were taught that the army of 200 million in Revelation 9:16 are the Chinese Army**
- #10 We are often taught that the worldwide events of today, especially about Israel are leading to the Rapture**

We will Examine 1-3 tonight Prophecy correction.....

#1 We were taught that the Rapture of the Church Begins the Great Tribulation

- We believe that is wrong!
- The events happening in the world at large are preparing a Christ rejecting world for Great Tribulation, -... which ends with the Second coming of Christ.
- Now the Rapture will occur sometime before the 7-year Tribulation
- But the events of the world are not preparing the Church for the Rapture,
- which is the removal of those in Christ from the earth prior to the Great Tribulation.
- What moves the true church closer to the rapture are the saving of souls,
- which will be culminate in the fulness of the gentiles, according to the Holy Spirit in

Romans 11:25-27

25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, [what mystery?] that blindness in part [not full blindness] has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

26 And so ALL Israel will be saved [living Jews at the end of the tribulation], as it is written: [in Ps. 14:7 and Is. 59:20] "The Deliverer will come out of [have His origins from] Zion , And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

**27 For this is My covenant with them,
When I take away their sins."**

- The deliverer will have His origins out of Zion, out of Israel, but He will come to Zion to deliver them.
- Coming from Bozrah where He descends to the earth to destroy the armies of the Antichrist.
- According to **Acts 15:14**, one of the key purposes of the Church Age...
- is to call out from among the Gentiles a people for His name.
- This calling out from among the Gentiles will continue until that full number of Gentiles is reached.

- At that time, the Church will be complete and will be removed from earth by the Rapture.
- Then God will deal with Israel as a nation again, rather than just with individual Jews.
- His dealing with Israel for seven more years will complete the 490 years determined for Daniel's people in **Daniel 9:24-27**

Some Background

- Daniel 9:1-23 provides the introduction to the Seventy Sevens prophecy found in verses 24-27.
- The background is given in verses 1-2, where Daniel states,
- that he had been studying the Book of Jeremiah, as well as some other prophets such as Isaiah.
- He knew from the study of these prophets that the Babylonian Captivity was to be seventy years.
- He also knew that the seventy years of captivity were almost over
- He was wondering if the return to Israel would signify the setting up of Messiah's Kingdom
- He also knew from these prophets that the prerequisite for the setting up of the Kingdom,
- would be Israel's confession of her sins, which he prayed for in verses 3-19,
- Assuming that the Babylonian Captivity would be immediately followed by the Messianic Kingdom,

Daniel 9:24 reads "Seventy weeks sevens are determined

- The word 'shabua' simply means "seven" not weeks and could refer to seven of anything, here it is years.
- If seventy weeks is intended then the word 'shauvoth' weeks would have to be added to give context.
- In this context, obviously, it must be a seven sevens of years,
- because Daniel has been dealing with years, especially with regards to the 70 years of captivity.
- In Gen. 26 Jacob served 1 seven each, same word as in Daniel 9, for both Leah and Rachel.
- In that same chapter we are literally told that the 1 week was 7 years.

Let's re-read Daniel 9:24 again according to correct interpretation

490 years are determined for your people [Israel] and for your holy city [Jerusalem],

- A very important thing that must be noted is that the program of the Seventy Sevens....
- has nothing to do with God's plan and program for the Church.

What is the purpose of the seventy sevens?

- To accomplish 6 things according to the rest of verse 24

#1-To finish [to forcefully deal with] the transgression [literally the rebellion of rejecting Messiah]

#2-To make an end of [to lock up] sins [of daily life]

- Sin will be in the Kingdom, but it will not be allowed to run loose, or go unchecked.

#3-To make reconciliation [or better, 'atonement'] for iniquity

- This is the means by which numbers 1 and 2 are accomplished.
- The word 'iniquity' refers to the sin nature.
- The purpose of the Seventy Sevens is a cleansing of Israel,
- that will include the atonement and removal of all three areas of sin:

First, the national sin of rejecting His Messiahship;

Secondly, for daily sins; and

Thirdly, dealing with the sin nature itself

#4-To bring in everlasting righteousness

- more literally, "to bring in an age of abiding righteousness," The Kingdom Age, The Millennium

#5-To seal up vision and prophecy

- “to cause a cessation,” or “to bring completely to fulfillment” all visions and their prophecies
- the program of the 490 years will contain the final fulfillment of all prophecies by Christ’s 2nd coming.

#6-And to anoint the Most Holy [place]

- The most holy place is the Temple, the fourth Temple built in the Kingdom Age
- It will be anointed as part of the program of Seventy Sevens.

Verses 25-27 tell us the milestone events of these 490 years

- We will concentrate on the last seven years,
- For they are pertinent to our discussion about when the Tribulation will start,
- But our breakdown of the other 483 sevens will be in my notes for those who want them.
- Let’s briefly give an expanded reading of these verses and spend time on the last set of 7 years

“Know therefore and understand,

That from the going forth of the command [from Cyrus]

To restore and build Jerusalem

Until Messiah the Prince [or King],

There shall be seven ~~weeks~~ sevens and sixty-two ~~weeks~~ sevens;

The street shall be built again, and the wall,

Even in troublesome times [during the seven, sevens or 49 years].

26 “And after the sixty-two ~~weeks~~ sevens

Messiah shall be cut off [executed], but not for Himself [but for others];

And the people of the prince who is to come [after Messiah is executed]

Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary [the Temple, in 70 AD].

The end of it shall be with a flood [a military invasion],

And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 Then he [the prince to come, the A.C.] shall confirm a covenant with many for one week seven;

But in the middle of the ~~week~~ seven

He [the prince to come, the AC] 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.”

The following in *italics* is for those who want them for further study on the other 483 years

25 “Know therefore and understand,

That from the going forth of the command

To restore and build Jerusalem

Until [the appearing of] Messiah the ~~Prince~~ King

There shall be seven ~~weeks~~ [sevens] and sixty-two ~~weeks~~ [sevens, = a total of 483 years];

-the decree of Cyrus that was passed in 538–537 B.C. It is found in 2 Chronicles 36:22–23; Ezra 1:1–4; and 6:1–5.

-Isaiah actually named Cyrus as the person who would issue this decree at least 150 years before it ever occurred.

-His prophecy is recorded in fulfillment four times: 2 Chronicles 36:22–23; Ezra 1:1–4; 6:1–5; and 6:6–12.

-This is clearly the decree that is emphasized in Scripture.

v.25 cont. .. The street shall be built again, and the wall,

Even in troublesome times.

-The program of the Seventy Sevens is then subdivided into three units:

- seven sevens,
- sixty-two sevens, and
- one seven.
- The first sixty-nine sevens is a combination of the first two subdivisions: the seven sevens and the sixty-two sevens.
- The first subdivision of the Seventy Sevens, then, is the seven sevens or forty-nine years
- during which time Jerusalem was rebuilt.
- Only after forty-nine years was the rebuilding process brought to completion.
- The second subdivision of the Seventy Sevens is threescore and two weeks or sixty-two sevens,
- comprising a total of 434 years.
- A total of 483 years will transpire from the time that the decree is issued until the coming of the Messiah, the King.
- Hence, the first 483 years of the 490-year period comes to an end with the First Coming of the Messiah.
- The expression: unto the Messiah, the King,....
- does not point towards a Triumphal Entry but only points toward His appearance.

26 "And after the sixty-two ~~weeks~~ sevens

- When he says, "after the sixty-two sevens," he means after the conclusion of the second subdivision,
- of the Seventy Sevens and before the beginning of the third subdivision.
- This phrase clearly shows that a gap of time exists between the sixty-ninth seven and the seventieth seven.
- In this gap of time, three events are to occur....
- #1-Messiah shall be cut off** [literally, 'shall be killed'], **but not for Himself** [but for others];
- The first thing that is to happen in this gap of time between the sixty-ninth seven,
- and the seventieth seven is that the Messiah would be killed, not for Himself, but for others.

#2-And the people of the prince

Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.

- the people that the AntiChrist will come from **who is** [yet] **to come**
- the prince is still future, he was spoken of in chapters 7 & 8
- This occurred in A.D. 70, forty years after the death of the Messiah.
- It is known from history who the people are.
- The people who destroyed the city and the Temple in A.D. 70 were the Gentiles of Rome, the Romans.

The end of it [the city and the temple, the sanctuary] **shall be with a flood,**

- meaning that the end of Jerusalem and the Temple shall be the result of a flood.
- Whenever the figure of a flood is used symbolically, it always refers to a military invasion.
- Jerusalem was destroyed by a Roman military invasion, first under Vespasian and then under Titus.

And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

- For the remainder of the interval before the start of the seventieth seven,
- the Land will be characterized by war.
- This has certainly been true throughout the history of the Middle East.
- As a result of the wars, desolations are determined,
- Is a reference to the state of the Land as determined or decreed by God.

Jumping down to verse 27 of Daniel 9....

27 Then he [the prince] shall confirm a covenant with [the] many [the majority] for one week [7 years]

- The starting point of the seventieth seven is when he makes a firm covenant with Israel.
- The pronoun 'he' in verse 27 goes back to its nearest antecedent: 'the prince that shall come' in verse 26.
- The he who makes a covenant in verse 27 and the prince that shall come are one and the same person,...
- ... better known in the NT as the Antichrist, according to 1 John 4:3.
- The prince that shall come, the Antichrist, he will make a firm covenant with the many in Israel.
- Meaning he will make it firm; he will make it strong.

What does this have to do with the Rapture of the Church?

- At the signing of the treaty or covenant the seven-year Great Tribulation starts.
- It will not be the Rapture that will begin the Tribulation.
- The Rapture will come some time before the Tribulation starts.
- It may come just before it or it may come in a year or ten years or more, before the Tribulation starts.
- While the Bible teaches that the Rapture will precede the Tribulation,
- ...it does not say that the Rapture begins the Tribulation.
- The event that begins the Tribulation is the signing of the seven-year covenant....
- It will be a covenant between the prince, the AC and 'the many' or majority in Israel,
- ... represented by their government at the time.

v.27 cont. But in the middle of the week seven [years] He [the AC] shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.

- In the middle of the seventieth seven, he shall cause the sacrifice and offerings to cease.
- After the first 3½ years, the covenant will be broken; when it is broken all Temple sacrifices will cease
- This same point is made in **Revelation 11:1-2**.
- John in Revelation gives the exact number of months (42) and then he gives it in days (1,260) ...
- ... for the first 3.5 years and the last 3.5 yrs. Which equals 7 years.
- The fulcrum event of the 7 years is the 'abomination that makes desolate' at the midpoint of the 7 yrs.

v.27 cont.... and on the wing of [or at the pinnacle of the temple he will set up] abominations [idols or images] shall be one [the AC] who makes desolate [makes desolations to come upon the Jewish temple and the people]

- This specifically refers to the worship of the Antichrist when he declares himself to be the one true god,
- Per **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4**.
- The word abominations in Hebrew refers to "an image" or "idol"
- ... meaning that an image or idol of the Antichrist will be set up in the temple compound .
- The one that makes desolate is the Antichrist, who will cause desolations to fall upon the Jewish people.
- This is also spoken of in Daniel 12:11 and Matthew 24:15.
- The image itself is spoken of in **Revelation 13:14-15**.

v.27 cont. ... Even until the consummation [or end of the tribulation], which is determined [by YHWH],

- To the end, to the finish, to the completion of the seventieth seven these desolations are determined.
- As Isaiah spelled out in **Isaiah 10:32 and 28:22**
- The word determined means "to be decreed beforehand,"
- ... because the events spelled out in Daniel 9:27 were already prophesied and decreed,....
- ... long before the Tribulation.

v.27 cont. ... [whose wrath] is poured out on the desolate."

- In the last phrase, the word translated 'desolate' can also be translated as "a desolator."
- If taken to mean desolate, it refers to the Jewish people during the second half of the Tribulation, -..... when wrath is poured out upon 'the desolate' people.
- If it refers to a 'desolator', it refers to the Antichrist
- and to his destruction at the Second Coming on the very last day of the seventieth seven.

Conclusion

The rapture does not mark the beginning of the Tribulation, but the covenant or treaty between the AC and Israel does.

Prophecy correction.....

#2 We were taught that carnal Christians may not be raptured

- We believe that is wrong
- All who are baptized into Christ by the Holy Spirit are members of the true Church and will be raptured...
- Regardless of the degree of their moral-spiritual state on earth.

Where did this teaching come from, that those who were of a certain degree of carnality will go into the tribulation?

- it comes primarily from teachings in Revelation chapters 2 and 3, Jesus' letters to the seven churches.
- We read for example this in **Revelation 2:20-22**
- The letter starts out with these words of identification and location in v.18

18 "And to the angel [messenger] of the church in Thyatira write,

- We know from the Epistles that the true church is located 'in Christ', 'in Heavenly places'
- The phrase, 'in Christ' is used 87 times from Acts thru the Epistles.
- Here in chapter 2:18-29 of 'Heavy Revy' we read of one of the seven churches, the church in Thyatira.
- The church has a messenger, probably the Pastor and things are not right in this church.
- We ask, based on its content, is not this church also 'in Christ'?
- Some are and some are not! We read:

20 Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

21 And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

22 Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.

What are we reading in Chapters 2 and 3?

- What we have from Christ in chapters 2 & 3 of Revelation are report cards on Christendom on earth,
- Those that are in Christ and thus seated in Heavenly places are also in Christendom.
- But Christendom is much larger than the invisible Church that is, 'in Christ'.
- Jesus gives us a picture of Christendom in the Kingdom Parables of Matthew 13.
- In these parables we see unsaved Christian look alike called, 'tares',
- There are also false teachers,
- There is also leaven, the sins of false teaching in Christendom, the visible earthly church,
- Teachers that claims some parts of Jesus Christ's person or works, and or some parts or all the Bible.
- And there are true believers who not always fruitful on earth, but are seated and baptized into Christ,...
- By the Holy Spirit when they believed-NOT WHEN they were perfect!
- We read this in **1 Corinthians 12:13**

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

- This is not water baptism, but is one of seven baptisms in the NT
- All who baptized into His Body by the Spirit cannot be unbaptized, no matter how carnal they are
- The final judgment of their life on earth as a believer will come from Jesus at His judgment seat.
- Until then we are to judge the abiding fruit in each others lives if we claim to be in Christ.

All in Christ will go in the Rapture. Are you in Christ?

Prophecy correction.....

#3 We were taught that the Holy Spirit is removed from the earth during The Tribulation

- We believe that is wrong.
- Many expositors teach that the Holy Spirit will be removed from the earth during the seven-year tribulation.
- This teaching is due mainly to a misinterpretation of **2 Thessalonians 2:7** which reads,
“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 [from restraining evil]”.
- The phrase, ‘taken out of the way’ lends itself to visualizing a removal, like someone taken from a room.
- The context of the verse speaks of the Holy Spirit stepping back from restraining evil, ...
- not discontinuing all of His other works.
- Because He is omnipresent, He by the nature of who He is could not be removed.
- There are many people who are to be saved in the world, innumerable numbers in the Tribulation alone.
- He could not abandon His mission given to Him by Jesus in **John 16:8-11**.

So what is meant by Paul when he says, ‘He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way’.

- He is stepping back from restraining evil and His restraint will lessen to the point where He will, ...
- allow the AC to manifest himself on the world scene.
- By stepping back from restraining evil He permits the Antichrist to reveal himself. ...
- As verses 8 reveals:
8 And then [when the Spirit stops restraining evil] the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume [conquer, bring to an end] with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.
- Evil will be unrestrained, though not unpunished, especially during the seven years of the tribulation.
- The Holy Spirit will still be here working salvation into those who believe in Christ crucified,
- even in The Tribulation.

Before the tribulation the church will have been raptured

- Today in the Church Age those who believe are placed into the church, the Body of Christ.
- During the Tribulation and there will be no universal Church on earth,
- They will lose the strength, comfort and safety of the literal Body of Christ.
- They may gather and assemble, but they will not be the church.
- We call them tribulation saints.

In the Church Age the church is the chief physical restraining agent of the Holy Spirit on earth (Matt. 5:13-14, 16:18)

- and it will be raptured or taken from the earth when the Holy Spirit’s restraining work is lifted.
- The churches removal coupled with the Holy Spirit stepping back from restraining evil,
- will allow the antichrist to be manifested to the world.
- His manifestation comes before the Tribulation which begins when he signs a 7 year treaty with Israel.

- That will allow the peaceful rebuilding of the third Jewish temple.
 - Even though the individual members of the church will be removed at the rapture,
 - it does not mean that the Holy Spirit will cease to work on earth.
- The Great Tribulation** is first and foremost about judgment from God on a Christ rejecting world,
- ... And turning the Nation of Israel from rejecting Messiah to repenting of their transgression and ...
 - Receiving Him, which they will do at the very end of the Tribulation.
 - His worldwide witnesses will be 144,000 Apostle Paul like Jews, sealed and protected by the Holy Spirit..
 - ... and His two witnesses in Jerusalem, who are also bullet proof for the first half of the Tribulation.

In the church Age in which we live, God's emphasis is holding back judgment...

- ... through forbearance and long suffering according to Romans 2:4, amongst other passages.
- Love and grace and forgiveness are driving His program of forbearance and longsuffering with mankind.
- He is drawing all of mankind to Christ Crucified through the Holy Spirit according to Jn. 12:32.
- This drawing of all mankind will continue in the 7-year tribulation....
- While catastrophic but measured judgments are being poured out on all people on earth.
- An innumerable host of people all over the world will be saved, but most will die for their faith in Jesus Christ (Rev. 7:9).
- Jesus died for all sins and for all sinners (Heb. 7:27, 9:12, 10:10),
- And therefore the benefits of the cross through the Holy Spirit are the same,...
- whether in the Church Age or the Tribulation....
- whether they believed while in the Church Age or in the Seven Year Tribulation,
- or during the Millennial Kingdom.
- After the cross all believers are indwelt by the Spirit, whether in the Church Age or in the Tribulation,
- the Spirit will indwell those who believe in Christ and reject Antichrist.
- The Spirit will empower Tribulation Saints and use them in special service.
- We see this special service being performed by the 144,000 and the two witnesses in Jerusalem
- It appears that the great majority of the Tribulation Saints will die for their faith.

Tomorrow at 9 AM we will look at numbers 4-6

#4 We were taught that the two witnesses of Revelation 11:3-12 were Elijah and Moses or Elijah and Enoch

#5 We were taught that the final battle in the tribulation is called the Battle of Armageddon

#6 We were taught that the new heavens and earth of Isaiah 65:17 are the new eternal order of Revelation 21 and 22

At 11 am we will look at 7-10

#7 We were taught that the mark of the beast would be tied to a new universal currency

#8 We were taught to not allow any identification chip or tattoo to be put on our hand for that could be the Mark of the Beast

#9 We were taught that the army of 200 million coming out of the Euphrates river in Revelation 9:14 are the Chinese Army

#10 We are often taught that the worldwide events of today, especially about Israel are leading to the Rapture

Let us pray and take communion together