

## MIDDLE EAST PEACE – THE FULFILLMENT OF BIBLE PROPHECY (Part 1 of 9)

The majority of Evangelical Christians in America are believers in Bible prophecy. They haven't conveniently spiritualized those truths as irrelevant for today; nor have they embraced the contemporary heresy of Dominion Theology which emphasizes the need for the Church to usher in the Kingdom of God on earth, without the intervening return of Jesus Christ. I would still like to think that many adhere to the perspective that the Second Coming of Jesus Christ will be both Pre-Tribulational and Pre-Millennial. In other words, the return of our Savior will occur in two distinct phases. Phase One will consist of the Rapture of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Phase Two will take place seven years later, when Jesus physically returns to earth in order to establish His kingdom on earth.

At the same time, it does seem that one of the most important passages in all of Bible prophecy is being neglected, even ignored, and understandably so. It is a very brief prophetic passage, tucked away in the book of Daniel, exclusive to Israel and not the Church. Yet its significance is absolutely monumental, if we are to gain an accurate understanding of the prophetic events which are currently emerging in our world today; especially as it pertains to the need for peace in the Middle East. This is why our focus in this study will be upon Daniel 9:24-27 –

**“Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place. So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”**

This message was given to Daniel by the angel Gabriel in response to the sincere and earnest supplications of the prophet regarding his nation's captivity in Babylon. Gabriel tells Daniel that seventy weeks have been decreed for Israel in order for the fulfillment of the promises made to God's chosen people to take place; resulting in the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth. It is obvious from verse 24 that this fulfillment has not yet been completed, since God will bring an end to sin and replace it with a time of everlasting righteousness. As a result, this prophetic scenario, in its entirety, has experienced only a partial fulfillment, with some of its most dramatic aspects yet to occur. It has been the consensus of Evangelical Bible scholars for the past several decades that with the re-emergence of Israel as a nation in the Middle East in 1948, this long-awaited fulfillment is on the verge of happening. This is why I am convinced that we are living in the very last days of the Church Age, with the stage already being set for the events which the angel Gabriel describes for Daniel and all of us in the passage above.