

MIDDLE EAST PEACE – THE FULFILLMENT OF BIBLE PROPHECY (Part 3 of 9)

The personhood of Christ has always been a point of contention throughout Church history; producing a wide variety of falsehoods in regard to who Jesus Christ really is. The Biblical truth that has emerged and been maintained for the past two thousand years is that Jesus Christ is God incarnate. In other words, He is God in human flesh. The second person of the Triune God, God the Son, actually did become God the Man; or as He often called Himself “the Son of Man.” Even though, in His humanity, He was susceptible to temptation, He never once sinned (Hebrews 4:15). In His human sinless perfection, He became capable of fulfilling God’s redemptive purpose, as a substitutionary sacrifice for the sin of the entire human race, by means of His death on the Cross. But this also means that the sinless God-Man never once spoke a single falsehood, nor was He ever guilty of speaking in error. So, when it comes to our current topic at hand, there is no greater “expert” on Bible prophecy than our Savior and Lord. With that in mind, we need to seriously consider what He has to say to us in Matthew 24:15-25, where we read this –

“Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place’ (let the reader understand), ‘then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe him. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you in advance.”

Our Lord’s most important teaching on future events occurs throughout Matthew chapter 24, and is commonly known as the Olivet Discourse. In this portion of the chapter, beginning in v15, Jesus quotes from Daniel 9:27, adding to the significance of this prophecy given to Daniel by Gabriel. It will also help us in determining what God has in store for our lost and fallen world; especially as it pertains to the nation of Israel. This is a warning from our Savior Himself, about what will soon take place in these last days. He wants us to be prepared, and not be caught off guard; with the most critical factor of all involving the events occurring in the Middle East, as we enter into this time of prophetic fulfillment. Since the inception of Israel as a nation, there has been a continuing need for peace in this tumultuous region of our world. When that peace is finally accomplished, it will ironically set in motion a seven-year period of God’s judgment upon the earth, often referred to as the Tribulation. There are some who say this period of time has already taken place, with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Jewish temple by the Roman army in AD70; serving as the fulfillment of the Biblical Tribulation on earth. BUT THOSE INDIVIDUALS ARE WRONG! The Tribulation has not yet occurred. In next week’s segment, I will provide you with a proof positive statement from our Lord and Savior, confirming the Tribulation as a future event.