

THE CORNERSTONE

August 2017

School Supplies"



Our Church will be collecting school supplies for the needy children in Fort Bend County. East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry will be handing out School Supplies August the 15th. Our Church has been asked to help out with Pre-Kindergarten Supplies—(Pre-K)

Thank you for your help. A Box will be in the foyer for your donations.

Pre-K School Supplies

Back Pack

1 Pk of #2 Pencils

24 count small crayons;

8 count washable marker broad;

4 large glue sticks;

Manila Drawing Paper

Colored Construction Paper

1 Bottle of Elmer's glue

1 Pack of Play Dough

2 Paper folders w/pockets

1 Pair of blunt-nose Metal Scissors

Men and
Youth boys
are invited to
attend!

Bring: Bibles

&

Appetites!

Men's Breakfast

Saturday

SEPTEMBER 9,
2017

8:00—9:30 AM



Speaker will be:

Brother Ron
Smith!

Topic:

"The
Triumphal
Entry"

Missions for the Month

JAMES F. MYERS MINISTRIES

Spring and Summer, 2017

Dear Friends,

We are almost finished with our spring semester. It has been a whirlwind of activity since the first of the year. I taught two courses at Word of God Bible College and two courses for the International Baptist Bible College. One course was in western Ukraine and the other in the far east of Ukraine. I also spent two weeks in Zambia and Malawi.



It was my first time to go to Malawi, a small country just to the east of Zambia. A couple of pastors had attended our conference in Lusaka, Zambia, last year and invited me to come to their country. I flew into Lilongwe and took a six hour bus ride to Blantyre, after waiting at the bus station for four hours. Needless to say, I was rather travel weary when I arrived. After a night's rest, I got up the next day and taught eight hours. The following day was a bit of a breather with only four hours of teaching. The response was really positive, and they clamored for more. I hope that I can return next year. In Zambia I did two week-long conferences, one in Livingstone and the other in Lusaka. I taught a survey of the Old Testament. Most of the people knew nothing about the Old Testament except for a few stories, such as the flood, David and Goliath, and Daniel in the lion's den. They were really excited to learn about Israel, the divided kingdom, the captivities, and the reason why the prophets wrote their books. They asked for a New Testament survey for next year. (Continued on Page 7)

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Scripture for the Month:

II Timothy 4:18 ESV

“The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into His kingdom. To Him be the glory forever.”

Please pray for the Missions to China Trip. The Team is currently in China. A pray calendar is on the Name Tag Table for your convenience.

The Cornerstone Newsletter deadline is the 19th of each month. If you have any announcements or News worthy articles please submit them to Patricia Chandler at earlbudc@att.net or to Carol at Carol@slbc.org.



Andy Woods—Pastor

DANIEL'S SEVENTY WEEKS, PART 10

In this series of articles, we are exploring a very important Bible prophecy, which is generally referred to as Daniel's Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks, found in Daniel 9:24-27. In the first installment, we explained the background of the giving of this prophecy. With this background information in mind, we then turned our attention to a textual analysis of Daniel 9:24-27. We began to break the prophecy down into ten manageable facts. As the reader tracks with me through the presentation of these ten facts, concepts, or ideas, he will develop a very clear understanding of the Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks. In turn, he will be rewarded by the Holy Spirit with greater confidence that the Bible is indeed God's Word, and he will also obtain a blueprint or timeline through which he can understand how all end time events predicted in the Bible will ultimately come to pass.

In our second installment, we noted our *first* fact, which is the idea that the Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks concerns the nation of Israel in general and the City of Jerusalem in particular. As previously noted, this prophecy has nothing to do with the present age of the Church. In our third installment, we noted a *second* feature, which is the notion that the prophecy consists of a 490-year stop watch. In our fourth installment, we noted our *third* feature, which is the idea that each year of Daniel's 490-year stopwatch consists of 360 days. In our fifth installment, we noted our *fourth* feature, which is the idea that at the end of Daniel's 490-year period Israel will be politically and spiritually restored. In our sixth installment, we noted our *fifth* fact, which pertains to the notion that Daniel's 490-year stop watch began to run on March 5, 444 B.C. In our seventh and eighth installments, we presented our *sixth* fact. Exactly 483 years elapsed between the beginning of the prophecy (March 5, 444 B.C.) and when the Messiah formally presented His messianic credentials to the nation of Israel on Palm Sunday (March 30, A.D. 33). In other words, the first 69 weeks of the prophecy were fulfilled to the exact day. We are now prepared to offer our *seventh* fact. We began this discussion in our prior installment.

Fact # 7: A Gap of an Unspecified Interlude Exists Between the 69th and the 70th Weeks of the Prophecy (Dan 9:26)

According to fact number 7, although the prophecy ran consecutively for 490 years, a gap of an unspecified duration of time exists in between the end of year 483 and the beginning of the year 484 of Daniel's 490-year prophecy. Thus, there is an undisclosed gap of time between the first sixty-nine weeks and the seventieth week of the prophecy. Another way of saying this is that there exists a gap of time in between the first 483 years of the prophecy and the final seven years of the prophecy. In other words, once Palm Sunday happened God placed His finger on the prophetic pause button. God's finger has remained on that pause button ever since. The prophecy is simply waiting for God to place His finger back on the restart button. In our last installment, we noted that Christ during this gap is building His church (Matt. 16:18).

Many people question the idea that there could actually be a gap of time in Daniel's Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks. For example, Steve Wohlberg contends:

Much of the Christian world is now locked in a fierce debate about whether Jesus will return for His church before the seven years (the pre-tribulation view), in the midst of the seven years (the mid-tribulation view), or at the end of the seven years (the post-tribulation view). Yet by far the most explosive question, which few seem to be asking, should be "is an in time 'seven-year period of great

tribulation' really the correct interpretation of Daniel 9:27 in the first place?" Historically, protestant scholars have not applied Daniel 9:27 to a future period of tribulation at all! Neither have they applied the "he" to the antichrist! Rather, they applied it to Jesus Christ.

Thus, we need to ask the question, "is it exegetically defensible to contend that in between the end of verse 26 and the beginning of verse 27 there exists a gap spanning at least two-thousand years in duration with this period of time continuing right up until the rapture of the church?" There are at least *six* valid text-based reasons for contending that such a gap exists.

The first *two* of which we covered in our prior installment. According to Daniel 9:26, two events must transpire before the Seventieth Week can occur. These are the crucifixion and the events of A.D. 70. If the events of A.D. 70 had to take place before the final seven years of the prophecy could be fulfilled and if A.D. 70 took place almost forty years after Palm Sunday, then there must be an interlude in the prophecy. In the prior installment, we also noted that if the prophecy had run consecutively with no interruption then the kingdom promises (Dan. 9:24) would have been set up upon the earth through national Israel seven years after Palm Sunday (March 30, A.D. 33). Yet, this never happened.

Jesus Indicated a Gap Existed in the Prophecy

A *third* reason demonstrating the existence of the gap in Daniel's prophecy is in Matthew 24:15, Jesus quoted Daniel 9:27, the final seven years of the prophecy, in the context of future events. In so doing, Jesus Himself demonstrated that He believed that there was a gap in this prophecy. He says in Matthew 24:15, "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)." Jesus here in Matthew 24:15 is quoting the final seven years of this prophecy. Yet, in the context of Matthew 24, often referred to as the Olivet Discourse, Christ Himself places the fulfillment of the final seven years of Daniel's prophecy into the distant future. The surrounding context demonstrates that the bulk of Matthew 24 concerns events that have never taken place and in fact are yet to come. For example, just a few verses later, Matthew 24:21-22 says, "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 one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short." Christ here is talking about the events of the Great Tribulation period, which have never happened yet.

Similarly, Matthew 24:29-31 says:

But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Here, Christ is speaking of events that relate to His Second Advent that are yet future. These are events that we do not see today at all in our world. There has never been the time of distress that Jesus is speaking of here. Nor has the physical return of Christ, as described in these verses, ever taken place. My point is that when Jesus Himself in Matthew 24:15 quoted the final seven years of Daniel's prophecy (Dan. 9:27) in the Olivet Discourse (Matt. 24), He placed Daniel's final week in the context of future events. Jesus did not take a historical view of Daniel 9:27 but rather a futuristic one. Thus, Jesus Himself believed that a prophetic gap of some kind existed between the first 69 weeks and the 70th week of Daniel's prophecy.

This pattern is not just true of Christ. When other New Testament writers alluded to the 70th week of the prophecy, they also placed it into the context of the distant future. For example, when Paul

referred to the mid-point of Daniel's 70th week (2 Thess. 2:4), he connected it to Christ's Second Advent (2 Thess. 2:8). Moreover, when John referred to the two halves of Daniel's 70th week (Rev. 11:2-3), he connected it to the future manifestation of the two witnesses (Rev. 11: 3-13). These New Testament writers and figures therefore apparently interpreted Daniel's prophecy consistent with the gap principle.

Daniel 9:27 was Never Fulfilled in the First Century

The *fourth* reason for the existence of a gap is that Daniel 9:27 has never been fulfilled. If there is no gap in this prophecy placing it into the future, then we should be able to point to a specific time in history where Daniel 9:27 has already been fulfilled. I challenge anyone to locate a time in history where the specific details of Daniel 9:27 have been specifically fulfilled. Daniel 9:27 says, "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." Notice that Daniel 9:27 predicts a firm covenant that he will make with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week He will put an end to sacrifice and offering. Some contend that this must be a covenant that Jesus entered into with the Jewish people. But this begs the question, "when did Jesus ever enter into a covenant with the Jewish people and then break it forty-two months or three and a half years later?"

Daniel 9:27 also predicts the termination of sacrifice and offering. Many try to argue that Christ did put an end to sacrifices and offering as indicated in Daniel 9:27 since Christ's death made sacrifices unneeded (Heb. 10:18). However, such an interpretation is to spiritualize, symbolize, or allegorize a very literal prophecy. The allegorical approach should not be our guide toward interpreting Daniel's prophecy of the Seventy Weeks. As indicated earlier when we were discussing our *sixth* fact, if the first sixty-nine weeks of the prophecy were fulfilled literally, then the seventieth week of the prophecy will be fulfilled literally as well. Christ never literally put an end to sacrifice and offering at His First Coming. In fact, the temple and sacrificial system continued to function right up to A.D. 70, which was nearly forty years after Christ's sacrificial death. In other words, the Jews continued to offer up sacrifices in that temple for nearly four full decades until the events of A.D. 70. Therefore, Christ did not put an end to sacrifices in the manner that is demanded in Daniel 9:27.

Daniel 9:27 speaks of the desolator in the temple. Many argue that this desolator of the temple was Titus of Rome in the events surrounding the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. However, notice that the language of Daniel 9:27 predicts how the end or destruction will be poured out on the desolator. When we study Titus of Rome historically we learn that the end was never poured out on him as demanded by the specific details of the prophecy. In fact, Josephus, the first-century Jewish historian, tells us that Titus of Rome, after he sacked Jerusalem in A.D. 70, went back to Rome and lived the rest of his life in splendor and prosperity. Obviously then, the desolator mentioned in Daniel 9:27 could not be Titus of Rome. My point is that an intellectually honest scrutiny of the details of Daniel 9:27 indicate that they have never been fulfilled in the past. If they have never been fulfilled in the manner demanded by the prophecy, they must await a future fulfillment. God cannot lie (Num. 23:19; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18). Thus, another reason for believing in the existence of a gap is that Daniel 9:27 has never historically been fulfilled. Yet, if there is no gap in Daniel's prophecy, we should be able to locate exactly where back in the first century this prophecy has been fulfilled.

(To Be Continued...)

Steve Wohlberg, *Exploding the Israel Deception: A Jewish Believer Exposes False Prophecies About Israel, the Temple, and Armageddon* (Roseville, CA: Amazing Facts, 1998), 43.



Hello from the Library!

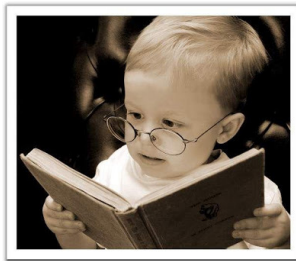


Summer is almost gone and it soon will be time for kids to return to school. Something to fill that remaining time would be to visit our Library and check out some books for those hot summer days. If you are a homeschool family, we have some new books in the Pre-teen section written by John Erickson. They are fun to read singularly or as a family. They are called the adventures of Hank the Cowboy.

There are also some new books in the adult section of the Library. One in particular is "The Coming Apocalypse" by Dr. Renauld Showers. It is a study of Replacement Theology vs God's Faithfulness in the End Times".

See you in the Library!

Marilyn Graper



Capturing Poland for Christ **Excerpt taken from Piotr Wiazowski's** **Newsletter April – June 2017**

Grazyna and I made a trip to Texas in April. On Sunday, April 23th, Sugar Land Bible Church, our mother church, invited us to the morning service and gave me time to speak and to have a slide presentation at the Mission Moment during the service. After the service, the Mission Committee with their Chairman Harold and Betty Cook prepared lunch at their church facility and we shared more about us and our ministry in Poland and Lithuania. We are blessed to have such a church who is praying for us and supporting the ministry God has granted to us. Then we had meaningful visits with our board members and dear friends Victor and Sylvia Kohanski and Rev. Bucky Faggard. We thank God for their faithfulness and continuing support of our ministry. While in Sugar Land we enjoyed visits and meetings with friends who invited us to their homes or restaurants to visit with them and to share the ministry and family events.

I just returned from my trip to Lysychansk in eastern Ukraine. This is one of the cities where there was fighting with Russian-backed separatists a couple of years ago when Russia took control of the Crimea and invaded eastern Ukraine. The Ukrainians



have control of the city now, but it is only about 10 miles from occupied territory. There were numerous military check points along the road, and my train was two hours late getting in because we had to wait on sidings a couple of times due to military trains taking precedence on the railway.

In Lysychansk I taught eight hours a day for three days in a row and finished up with four hours on Saturday. That is a bit of a challenge, but I was so pleased with the students who endured to the end. The response was enthusiastic, and they want to know when I can come again.

Phyllis and I will fly to the U.S. and start our summer schedule. This year we will be visiting churches in the western part of the US, going to churches in Texas, New Mexico, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, and Oklahoma. We are going to squeeze in a short vacation and see our children and grandchildren along the way.

Below is our summer itinerary and the churches we will visit. You can also find this on our website. <http://jfmministries.org>

We praise the Lord for His mercy and grace that allows us to serve Him. We have been blessed with the health and strength to carry on. We are so grateful to all of you, for your prayers, encouragement, and support. Thank you!

By grace alone,

Jim & Phyllis

Second Mile Ministries

We need your help this summer to keep serving children and families facing hunger and other traumatic experiences.

Current amount needed to meet summer needs: \$42,580

Will you make a donation to help fill this gap?

Donate online or mail a check to Second Mile at 1135 Highway

Join Us...

SLBC

Ladies' Retreat

Oct 13-15, 2017

@ Camp Tejas



"Set Your Mind on the Things Above" Col 3:2

--Speaker Betty Cooke

Registration Open!



See foyer table for details.