

Scripture Standard

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- Daniel 9:20-27 - 70X7s - SUMMARISING -

As Daniel contemplates the **70 years** of his peoples' and Jerusalem's desolations¹ he has a revelation about the **70 times 7 years**² God had "**determined**"³ for his people and city (v.24).

This 490 years began in the seventh year of Artaxerxes reign, in the latter half of BC 458, when he decreed that Jerusalem was to be restored as their capital city from which God's law was to be administered (Ezra 7:25-26).⁴

483 years later, after two consecutive periods of 7x7s and 62x7s, a Messiah would appear (v.25). That had to be in the latter half of AD 26.

It was in the latter half of AD 26, in the 15th year of Tiberius, that Lord Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit at His baptism (Luke 3:1,21-23). Then John publicly declared Him to be the Lamb of God (John 1:29,36). Thus began the three and a half year series of events culminating in His execution in the spring of AD 30 (vv.25-26).

NOTES

¹ vv. 2 & 18 and Jeremiah 25:11, 29:10.

² Hebrew years were arranged in 7s. (Lev. 25:1-5).

In Daniel 10:2 "full weeks," the Hebrew is "sevens of days." So in chapter 9, 7s did not mean "weeks."

³ Strong's 2852 properly: cut off, i.e. in one piece.

SS v.79-2 p19 charts 1 to 4. ⁴ SS v.79-v.3 pp17-19.

The Church in Berea

Kim J Boland, Newport

When we read of the Christians in Berea, we learn:

"And these were more noble than those of Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind and searched the Scriptures daily to see if those things were so. Therefore many of them believed, and quite a few of honorable Greek women and men." Acts 17:11-12.

What is interesting is that we find no letter to the Bereans, but we do find two to those in Thessalonica. Why might that be? Paul's letters were normally to address an issue or problem the Church faced. Could it be, by studying the scriptures daily, the Bereans either had no problems, or more probably, that they were able to address them themselves.

Paul wrote to the Thessalonians:

9 regarding brotherly love, you do not need that I write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another. **10** And indeed you do it toward all the brothers who are in all Macedonia. But we beseech you, brothers, that you abound more and more, **11** and that you try earnestly to be quiet and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you."

1 Thess. 4:9-12

Later Paul exhorted them, despite their persecutions and trials:

11 Therefore comfort one another, and edify one another, even as you also do. **12** And, brothers, we

beseech you to know those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and who admonish you, **13** and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves. **14** Now we exhort you, brothers, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, support the weak, be patient toward all. **15** See that none gives evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue the good, both towards one another and towards all. **16** Rejoice evermore. **17** Pray without ceasing."

1 Thess 5:11-17

We are urged to pray and study consistently, as were the early Christians:

"Rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, earnestly continuing in prayer" Romans 12:12

"Take heed to yourself, and to the teaching. Continue in them, because in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you." 1 Timothy 4:16

The word of God is part of our armour, and we need to carry it, using it as trained workmen use their tools. We face different pressures than the early church. Television, film, sport and the internet has replaced Pagan religion. But its power is no less. The being behind it is the same, with the same objective, to take man way from a close relationship with God. We have been warned by Paul to "watch ourselves". Indeed whenever we partake of the Bread or Wine we are asked to "examine ourselves". We need not to fight battles with the world alone, but are given a tool box to use, as skilled craftsmen:

"13 Therefore take to yourselves the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. **14** Therefore stand, having your loins girded about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness **15** and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. **16** Above all, take the shield of faith, with which you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. **17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, **18** praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching to this very thing with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

Eph 6:11-18

May we be encouraged to gather together more and more to study God's word and pray together that we may thereby encourage one another.

What Are You Like?

James Neil. Skelmersdale.

Have you heard this question asked flippantly? it is another of those sayings which has sprung up fairly recently and has become a part of our vocabulary which gets used almost as a habit rather than a question requiring an answer ...and can be used in situations which vary from being used as a light hearted almost jocular situation to a situation of extreme frustration

What though if you or I are asked this question in a life or death context? what if our life depends on the answer not simply the answer we give but the real truth of the matter?

Bearing this question in mind, please now read in your Bible:
2nd. Peter chapter 3

Why is Peter writing this second letter? It is of course, as he tells us himself "As a reminder" (Verse 1) "A reminder of what"?

A reminder of what the prophets had foretold ... and of the commands given through the apostles "of the Lord and Saviour "....

A reminder that there will be those who scoff at this idea and deny that Jesus will come again and they will walk after their own desires and lusts.....saying that because of the length of time which has passed that these things just won't happen.....

A reminder of the fact that time is of no consequence to God ...

A reminder of how when The Lord does come again it will be when he is least expected as a thief in the night

A reminder of what will happen to the world when he does come that it will be burned up

What was the question we started with?....
"WHAT ARE YOU LIKE?"

That is just what Peter asks in **verse 11** of our reading when, in the face of these events, he asks "**What manner of persons ought you to be?**" it puts the question in a different light wouldn't you say?....

What Peter describes sounds awesome and terrifying as for many it will be but it need not be not for those who are found to be as they ought to be found not for those who are ready for that day

Are you the kind of person who is ready or the kind who turns a blind eye and hopes for the best if you are hoping for the best then it won't happen

But why hope for the best when you can be certain?

We all need to keep in mind that The Lord will come again and to be continuously on our guard. What a pity if he comes and we are not ready

Please read what Paul says:

Romans ch. 8 vs. 1 – 16 Romans ch. 6 vs. 1 - 10

Matthew the Tax Collector

Jonathan Ashurst, Byron, GA.

People don't like to pay taxes, even to their own government. From ancient wars to modern political campaigns, taxes have caused a great deal of controversy. If people believe the taxes are unfair or excessive, they tend to complain even more or try to change the situation.

Imagine how the Jews felt in Jesus' day, when they were forced to pay taxes to the Romans. It was humiliating for the Jews to have to give up so much money to their conquerors. To make matters worse, the Romans would hire Jews to do the tax collecting. Most Jews considered these tax collectors to be traitors. Furthermore, the tax collectors made a handsome profit on the side, at their countrymen's expense.

These tax collectors could charge a higher tax than Rome required and then keep the extra for themselves. As a result, they were very rich but very unpopular. However, it was one of these tax collectors that Jesus approached one day. From the life of Matthew (also called Levi), we see Jesus' call to the sinner, his plea to the self-righteous, and his ability to reconcile former enemies.

Jesus' Call to the Sinner

"And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me. And he left all, rose up, and followed him."

Luke 5:27-28

Jesus called Matthew to follow him, and Matthew came. Though he had left behind a profitable business, Matthew had found a new type of treasure. He was so excited that he wanted all his friends to know about it.

As a tax collector, his only friends were the other rejects of society, like tax collectors. Ironically, they were more interested in Jesus' message than the religious people.

"And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them. But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners?"

Luke 5:29-30

Jesus' Plea to the Self-Righteous

"And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." – Luke 5:31-32

Jesus could not help the Pharisees until they acknowledged their need for his help. They thought they could please God on their own. Because Matthew's friends were aware of their need for a saviour, Jesus was able to help them.

When we see people with "alternative lifestyles," we should respond as Jesus did. He acknowledged that they

were living in sin. Jesus did not condone or accept their sin; in fact, he said they were "sick" and needed help. But he also reacted with compassion and offered them forgiveness, hope, and a better way to live. Most of the religious leaders rejected it; many of society's outcasts accepted it.

Jesus' Ability to Reconcile Former Enemies

It's amazing to think about the kind of men Jesus chose, and how they all got along in spite of their differences. A striking example would be that of Matthew and Simon the Zealot. One was a former tax collector, collaborating with the Romans, and the other was a former guerilla fighter trying to overthrow the Roman occupation. But when Jesus called them, they both left behind their former allegiances and followed him. Former enemies, they eventually became fellow workers sharing the good news of Jesus.

So the next time you pay your taxes, remember some of the lessons we can learn from the life of Matthew.

He Never Authorized Instrumental Music

V.Sujatha. Stretford.

You must have noticed that in many churches, they use instruments while singing praises to God. Nowhere in New Testament is it said to use instruments during singing. The Bible specified singing only. The Bible says:

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| Sing praises | (Acts 16:25) |
| Sing with spirit and understanding | (1.Cor. 114:15) |
| Sing with grace in your heart to the Lord | (Col. 3:16) |
| Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing | (James 5:13) |

Making melody by instruments surely seems good to our ears but in Ephesians 5:19, it says we should be, "*singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord*". Not to our ears.

Worshipping God with instruments is not authorised under the New Covenant. Nowhere in the New Testament is use of instruments found. So that means it is not necessary. If one had to use it, God would have specified it, as He specified the rest of the things like the Gopher wood specified to Noah (Genesis 6:14), Lamb offering specified to Israelites, (Exodus 29:38) and many other such things. Use of instruments while singing was not necessary, so He did not specify them but He did specify singing.

In 2.Timothy 3:16,17 it says:

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

And since the New Testament nowhere authorizes instrumental music, it is not a good work. God has always given specific instructions on the things that He wants us to do.

"Whoever... does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son" 2.John 1:9

All authority is given to Christ (Matthew 28:18). To do something which is not authorized by Christ is to dishonour His authority.

Sister V. Sujatha has rightly pointed out that instrumental music is not authorised In the New Testament so we

should not use it in worship.

To justify their use of instrumental music many refer to its use in the Old Testament and confuse the Old Covenant with the New Covenant.

At the cross the Old Covenant was replaced by the New Covenant. The old should not be mixed in with the new (Hebrews 8:8- 9:15). Jesus explained to the Samaritan woman that there was going to be a total change:

"The woman says to him, Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain and you say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, **the hour comes, when you shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.** You do not know what you worship. We know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. **But the hour comes, and is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, because the Father seeks such to worship him. God is Spirit: and those who worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.**

(John 4:19-24)

We must worship God "in truth." because God wants the kind of worshippers who will worship Him "in truth."

Where then do we find the truth? In God's word. God's word is truth. (John 17:17) and under the New Covenant there is no authority for worshipping God with musical instruments.

[Editor]

The Beatitudes (3 of 3)
Derek L Daniell, Tunbridge Wells

**"Blessed are the peacemakers
for they shall be called the children of God"**

Matthew 5:9

These are not peace makers in the ordinary sense of mediating in human disputes, but in the ultimate sense of bringing to man the peace of Christ. Jesus said:

**"My peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives do I give to you, let not your
hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid"**

John 14:27.

The kingdom of heaven is built on our reconciliation with God. Being at peace with God the citizen of the kingdom can be at peace with their fellow man.

**"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we
have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ".**

Romans 5:1, compare Romans 12:18.

As children of God we are then able to preach the gospel of peace and reconciliation in the world, (Ephesians 2:13-17). When we are reconciled to God and the peace of Christ rules in our hearts, the spirit of compassion, meekness and forgiveness is produced in us, (Colossians 3:12-15). We become the true servants of peace in the world, a peace that transcends all understanding.

Philippians 4:7.

**"Blessed are those who are persecuted because
of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven"**

Matthew 5:10-11.

Here is a concluding surprise that these peacemakers become the persecuted. Jesus is now considering the attitude of the world to the citizen of the kingdom of heaven. One would have thought that such people that Jesus describes would have been received with great rejoicing by the world. Now to the contrary Jesus reveals that they will stir up the world to persecute them. Jesus never withheld the cost of being His disciple, Luke 14:25-33. Jesus also said:

"If they persecute me they will persecute you"

John 15:18-20

and we know He was persecuted, rejected and crucified. The apostle Paul reminded Timothy that:

"everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted"

2 Timothy 3:12.

Why will the citizen of the kingdom of heaven suffer persecution? Because says Jesus they have chosen to be righteous in an unrighteous world. John 3:19-21. Jesus concludes his beatitudes by stating the blessedness of being persecuted,

"Rejoice and be glad, because your reward is in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you"

Matthew 5:12.

James wrote:

"consider it joy my brethren, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops steadfastness ..."

James 1:2-3.

"Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love him" James 1:12-13.

No temporal threat can intimidate the one whose true treasure is secured in heaven:

"Therefore we do not lose heart, though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things that are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal"

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Is your citizenship in heaven as you wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ to transform you to glory with Him?

Philippians 3:20-21

(Concluded)

The One Baptism of the New Covenant

J. Lee Roberts, Lubbock, Texas.

The One Baptism valid today

AFTER PENTECOST, after the New Covenant had been established, the apostle Paul wrote; "There is ... one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5). From Hebrews 5:11 to 6:2, it is clear that the mature believer should have a good understanding of the various washings or baptisms [baptismoi] practised under different covenants.

UNDER THE LAW OF MOSES, an Old Testament priest

had to complete the instructions for his consecration, including washing in water, before he could begin service in the sanctuary -- failure on penalty of death. Naaman the leper was instructed to dip seven times in the river Jordan to be cured of his leprosy.

(Exodus 29:4; 30:17-21; 2 Kings 5:10; Luke 4:27)

JESUS AND JOHN THE BAPTIST came preaching repentance and practising immersion in water for the remission of sins (Mark 1:4,5; Luke 3:3; John 4:1). Would anyone say these God ordained baptisms were 'water salvation'? Or rather should we not admit that these gave access to God's blessings?

OTHER BAPTISMS are mentioned in scripture, but the question before us is: **What has the Lord commanded for us today who serve Him under the new covenant?**

A NEW COVENANT with new promises was promised by Old Testament prophets. It would bring remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. It would be an eternal covenant, but would not be valid until Jesus was dead and glorified.

(Jeremiah 31: 31-34; 32:39,40; Joel 2:28; Ezekiel 39:29; Hebrews 9:15-17; John 7:39; 16:7).

THE ONE BAPTISM valid today was given after Christ's resurrection and preached for the first time on Pentecost by Peter. It is the one today that offers remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. In our baptism we too follow in a likeness of His death to be raised to walk in the newness of life.

(Mark 16:9 -19; Romans 6:1 -11; Acts 2:38; 5:29-32; 19:1-5)

Devout women - able to teach good things.

[Editor]

Older women are encouraged to be good examples and "teachers of good things" so that they might be able to guide the young women to be good wives and mothers. (Titus 2:3-5). Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him the word of God from infancy (2 Timothy 3:14-15). Their devoutness had a lot to do with Timothy becoming a remarkably faithful man of God (2 Timothy 1:5). Priscilla was also a woman whose devoutness gained respectful hearing when she assisted her husband in expounding the way of the Lord (Acts 18:24-25). Paul resided with Philip, remarkable for having daughters who prophesied (Acts 21:8-9). I would like to have heard what they were inspired to say.

However we can be grateful for the Biblically sound articles that devout sisters submit for publication.

I personally have benefited a lot from them.

Ghana Fund

The Church of Christ at Dennyloanhead thank all the brothers, sisters and churches who contribute to the Ghana Fund which supports the work of the Lord in Ghana. Over the last three years £19,000 has been sent to help with medical bills, the repair and completion of buildings, preachers' conferences and loud speaker systems to help the brothers spread the Word of the Lord throughout Ghana. The administration of the fund in Ghana is supported by Bro Wisdom Kpehor.

Christine Wood.

NEWS and INFORMATION

HEATHER BRAE, Earlestown, Merseyside, WA12 9DR
7.30 pm. Friday 7th December 2012. "In The Beginning God"

Scientist: John Lennox. Video on Genesis chapter one.

Contact: Sister Shirley Jarvis. Tel. 01942-206 735

EASTWOOD, Nottinghamshire.

Seymour Road, NG9 7EB

Saturday February 9th.

6.00 pm Refreshments

7.00 pm Message

Contact:

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March 23rd.

September 21st.

October 19th.

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Brother Frank Worgan is happy to
receive Bible questions requiring
urgent answers by telephone,
letter or e-mail.

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