

Chapter 6

"The End of Days"

To close out this section, which focuses on the Jews, let's explore the idea of the "end of days" or "end times." Soon, a time will come when God will bring about a conclusion of His pre-arranged plan for His chosen people and the rest of the people of the earth, believers and unbelievers alike. What do we mean by "end times?" Earlier, we talked about God's ability to see the beginning and the end as the same. That idea is represented in [Genesis 1:1](#) and [John 1:1](#), which both open with "In the beginning." If there is a beginning, there must be an end. The Old Testament mentions this seven-year time period as the "days of wrath." [Job 21:30](#) "That the wicked are reserved for the day of destruction. They shall be brought forth to the Day of Wrath." [Isaiah 13:9](#) "Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it." [Isaiah 26:20-21 \(NKJV\)](#) "²⁰ Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, Until the indignation is past. ²¹ For behold, the LORD comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain." [Ezekiel 20:34 \(NIV\)](#) "I will bring you from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath." [Romans 2:5-12 \(NIV\)](#) "⁵ But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when His righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ God "will repay each person according to what they have done." ⁷ To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality, He will give eternal life. ⁸ But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. ⁹ There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; ¹⁰ but glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹¹ For God does not show favoritism. ¹² All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law." That day is also known by other expressions such as "in that day," "the day of the Lord," "latter days," "the wrath to come," "judgment day," "the end times," "the last days," "Tribulation (first half)," and "the great Tribulation (second half)," which is also known as "Jacob's trouble." In [Jeremiah 30:7](#) "Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it." This concept of end times is recorded as early as Jacob's Last Words to his Sons in [Genesis 49:1](#) "And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, "Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you which shall befall you in the last days." [Numbers 24:14 \(NKJV\)](#) "And now, indeed, I am going to My people. Come, I will advise you what these people will do to your people in the latter days." This seems to endorse the writer's belief that there would be a time when time as we perceive it would come to an end. We Gentiles may be more familiar with the term "Tribulation." [Matthew 24:21](#) "For then shall be great Tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."

Arguably the most important passage about the Jews and a seven-year period of judgment to come is found in [Daniel 9](#) and is known as the "70-week prophecy." In this prophecy, emphasis is placed on the Jews as what we call the "church" was not yet established when God spoke to Daniel. [Daniel 9:24-27 \(NASB\)](#) "²⁴ 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 holiest place. ²⁵ 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 (a total of 69, 1 week is to come); it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. ²⁶ Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off (Jesus' crucifixion) 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. ²⁷ Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He 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."

There are several points that need to be explained.

- Bible and Prophecy scholars teach that the word “week” referred to in vs 24 is a period of “years,” not a seven-day week as we understand it. Strong’s #H7620 lists the word for “week” is “*shabuwa`*,” which better translates to “year.” There are other phrases or idioms primarily for the second 3 1/2 years. [Daniel 7:25 \(NIV\)](#) “He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.” The word for “time” is Strong’s #H5732 “*iddan*” which translates to “year.” So, a time (1 year), times (2 years) and a half time (1/2 year). It is also referred to as 42 months and 1,260 days. A prophetic year is 360 days so if you work out the math they all confirm the length of 3 1/2 years.
- Vs. 25 and 26 mentions the beginning of this time period as “the issuing of a decree” or an edict. The natural question is “which decree?” Cyrus is credited with issuing a handful of decrees. There are more a than few who support the edict from Cyrus in 536 BCE, which allowed the Jews to return to their homeland, as the edict to which the text refers. [Ezra 1:1-2](#) “¹Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, ²Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, “The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.” The other common edict is the edict given to Ezra by Artaxerxes in 457 BCE that allowed worship in the temple. [Ezra 7:11-13](#) ¹¹ Now this is the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest, the scribe, even a scribe of the words of the commandments of the LORD, and of his statutes to Israel. ¹² Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect peace, and at such a time. ¹³ I make a decree, that all they of the people of Israel, and of his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee.”
- Additionally, vs 26 also clearly states that there are a total of 69 weeks/years. So, the math suggests $69 \times 7 = 483$. If you work back from the date of 30-33 AD when Christ was crucified fulfilling the “Messiah being cut off,” the previous decree dates above are too early. However, according to Sir Robert Anderson who published his book “The Coming Prince” in 1894, where he painstakingly converted the Jewish calendar to the Gregorian calendar. He calculated that the decree given to Nehemiah from Artaxerxes to rebuild Jerusalem’s walls corroborates with secular historians of 445 BCE. Not just from timing but also from the mention of “building with plaza and moat.” [Nehemiah 2:7-8](#) “⁷ Moreover I (Nehemiah) said unto the king (Artaxerxes), “If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah; ⁸ and a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city (Jerusalem), and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.”
- For particular note, this ties in with the 490 years Sabbath Year cycle. Remember, the Jews did not observe the Sabbath Year law and were exiled to Babylon for 70 years. The Jews must be in possession of the land, Jerusalem must be its capital, and the temple must be in operation for God’s clock to tick. That clock stopped when Jesus was crucified, leaving a balance of 7 years to take place. Two conditions happened, one in 1948 with the rebirth of the State of Israel reclaiming the land, and two Jerusalem was reclaimed is in the hands of the Jews in 1967. However, the clock could not start because the Jews were not in possession of the temple mount; it was in Arab control, and still is. The clock will not restart until the Antichrist

confirms his covenant at the beginning of the Tribulation. [Daniel 9:27a](#) “Then he (the Antichrist) shall confirm a covenant with many for one week.” We will explore this in detail when we look at the Tribulation after we look at Jesus and the ministries of Peter and Paul to the Gentiles.

The purpose of this period of 7 weeks/years has two objectives. One is that the children of Israel will have their eyes opened to accepting Jesus as the Messiah. As we mentioned before, the religious leaders of the Jews at Jesus’ time had a preconceived idea of what the Messiah would be. They were looking for a military leader who would lead them to overthrow their occupiers, the Roman Empire. They were blinded to Jesus’ mission to change hearts and souls as described by [Ezekiel 36:26-27](#) “²⁶ A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.” His mission was to renew the original spirit of relationship by changing the hearts and minds of men from the inside rather than by force, which is what the leadership of the Jews was looking for. Jesus further explained the Jewish leadership’s blindness to Him as Messiah in [Matthew 13:13-15 \(NIV\)](#) “¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. ¹⁴ In them is fulfilled the prophecy of [Isaiah](#) (found in [Isaiah 6:9-10](#)). “You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.” ¹⁵ For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise, they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.” [Isaiah 29:18](#) “And in that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.” [Jeremiah 9:7](#) “Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: “Behold, I will melt them and try them; for how shall I do for the daughter of My people?” [Jeremiah 30:11 \(NIV\)](#) “I am with you and will save you,” declares the LORD. “Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will discipline you but only in due measure; I will not let you go entirely unpunished.” [Luke 21:9-19](#) “⁹ But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by. ¹⁰ Then said He unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: ¹¹ And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. ¹² But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. ¹³ And it shall turn to you for a testimony. ¹⁴ Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: ¹⁵ For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. ¹⁶ And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. ¹⁷ And ye shall be hated of all men for My name's sake. ¹⁸ But there shall not an hair of your head perish. ¹⁹ In your patience possess ye your souls.” All this is so the Jews will finally see, acknowledge, and accept Jesus as Messiah. Ironically though, there were times when Jesus interacted with demons and they had no trouble acknowledging Him as Messiah. The following passages and stories clearly show that the demons of hell know God is King above all. [Luke 4:41 \(NKJV\)](#) “And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, “You are the Christ, the Son of God!” And He, rebuking them, did not allow them to speak, for they knew that He was the Christ.” [James 2:19 \(NKJV\)](#) “You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe and tremble!” [Mark 1:23-27](#) “²³ Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴ saying, “Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!” ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!” ²⁶ And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. ²⁷ Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.”

Two, God must execute His righteous wrath and judgment on all rebellious nonbelievers, Jew and Gentile. In the beginning of this session, we acknowledged God's trait of patience and that it has a self-imposed limit. At some point, God will say enough is enough. [Psalm 110:5 \(NKJV\)](#) "The Lord is at Your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath." [Isaiah 13:9](#) "Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it." [Isaiah 34:1-5](#) "1 Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it. 2 For the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations, and His fury upon all their armies: He hath utterly destroyed them, He hath delivered them to the slaughter. 3 Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood. 4 And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree. 5 For My sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of My curse, to judgment." [Jeremiah 23:20 \(NKJV\)](#) "The anger of the LORD will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days, you will understand it perfectly." [Jeremiah 30:24](#) "The fierce anger of the LORD shall not return, until He hath done it, and until He have performed the intents of His heart. In the latter days ye shall consider it." [Joel 3:1-2](#) "1 For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, 2 I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for My people and for My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted My land." [Nahum 1:2-3 \(NIV\)](#) "2 The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The LORD takes vengeance on His foes and vents His wrath against His enemies. 3 The LORD is slow to anger but great in power; His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of His feet." [Daniel 11:35-36 \(NKJV\)](#) "35 And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time. 36 Then the King shall do according to His own will: He shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done." [John 3:36](#) "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." [1 John 5:11-12 \(NIV\)](#) "11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life." God's promise of living a righteous life that leads to eternal life would be meaningless if there were no alternative punishment to counterbalance it. [Jude verses 14-15](#) "14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, 15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." [2 Peter 3:7](#) "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word, are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." The result will be that all people Jews and Gentiles alike will know that Jesus Christ is Lord. [Revelation 1:7](#) "Behold, He is cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see Him, even they also which pierced Him. And all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen." We will go into more detail about how this will affect the Jews and those still alive and what this time will look like after we explore Peter and Paul's missions to the Gentiles.

There is one final sign to look for before the return of the King. Specifically, that the Spirit of the Lord will be poured out, as is mentioned by the prophet Joel and Peter in Acts. [Joel 2:28-29 \(NIV\)](#) "28 And afterward, I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. 29 Even on My servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those (last) days." [Acts 2:16-18](#) "16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall

see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: ¹⁸ And on My servants and on My hand maidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.” Even though there is data saying church attendance in traditional mainline America is on decline, there is also data confirming the spirit of the Lord rising worldwide as more and more people accept Christ.