



**Gaining A Strategic Grasp of Scripture**

# **The Pre-Prophecy Rapture of the Church, Part 2**

Sunday, March 16, 2025

Grace Life Bible Church

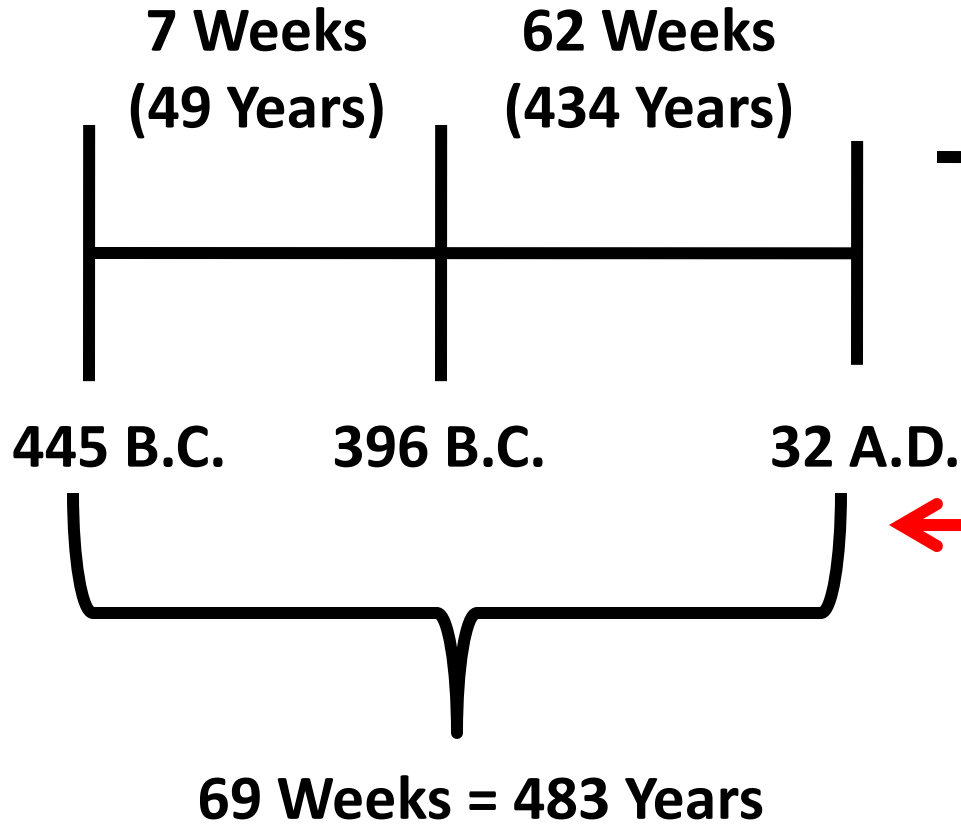
Grand Rapids, MI

Pastor Bryan C. Ross

# Review

- Last week we discussed the end of current dispensation.
- We saw that the entire dispensation of grace (“but now”) was an unsearchable mystery hid in God and complexly unknown to the Old Testament prophets. (I Cor. 2:7-8; Eph. 3:1-10; Col. 1:25-26)
- The entire dispensation of grace (“but now”) is a heretofore unknown parenthetical insertion into Daniel’s prophecy of the 70 weeks that was unknown to Daniel or anyone else before it was revealed to the Apostles Paul.

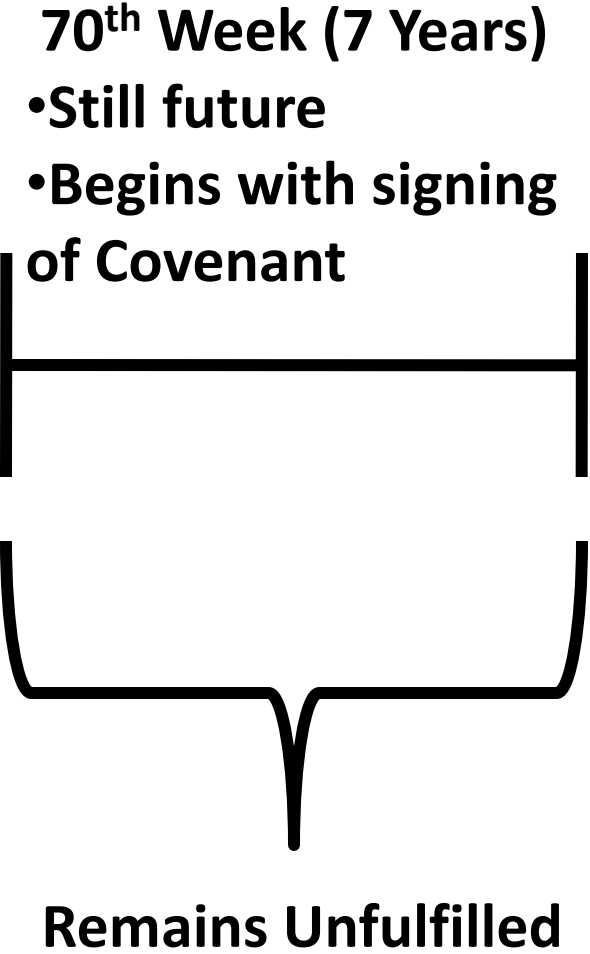
# Time Past



**But  
Now**

**Body of Christ**

# Ages to Come



**Prophetic  
Time Gap**

# Review

- The only fitting way for this dispensation to end is through an event that is just as much a mystery as the dispensation itself. (I Cor. 15:51-53)
- I Corinthians 15:51-52 establishes the following facts:
  - What Paul is about to say is part of the mystery.
  - Not every member of the body of Christ is going to die.
  - Every member of the body of Christ will be changed.
  - “. . .dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”
- I Thessalonians 4:13-18—adds more detail to what is discussed in I Cor. 15:51-53:
  - Departed believers God will “bring with him.” (v. 14)
  - Those who “are alive remain unto the coming of the Lord will not prevent them which are asleep.” (v. 15)
  - The Lord Jesus Christ will descend from heaven and the dead in Christ shall be raised first. (v. 16)
  - After the dead in Christ rise first (v. 16) those who are alive and remain will be caught up with them (“the dead in Christ”) to meet the Lord in the air. (v. 17)

# Review

- There a difference between the meeting of the Lord with his saints in the air after their catching up (I Thess. 4 & I Cor. 15) and his bodily return to earth the pour out his wrath upon his enemies.
  - Zechariah 14:1-4
  - Acts 1:9-12
  - Revelation 19:11-17
- The catching away of the church, i.e., the rapture is:
  - *Pre-prophetic*—occurs before God resumes his prophetic dealings with Israel.
  - *A-Prophetic*—cannot be found in the prophetic scriptures of “time past” it is part of the mystery.
  - *Pretribulational*—the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel 9 is determined upon Israel and the holy city of Jerusalem. The 70<sup>th</sup> week is the time of Jacob’s Trouble.

# Review

- In order for prophecy to be fulfilled once again God must change his dispensational dealings with mankind and resume his prophetic relationship with Israel as a nation.

## More Details on II Thessalonians 2

- II Thessalonians 2:1—Paul beseeches the Thessalonians based on the Catching Up that he has already taught them in I Thess. 4.
- II Thessalonians 2:2—someone had troubled the Thessalonians that the “day of Christ is at hand.”
  - Although when Paul uses the term “day of Christ” elsewhere it may refer to the Catching, it is clear that II Thess. 2:2 is not referring to the Catching when it uses the term “day of Christ.”
- II Thessalonians 2:3—there are certain events that must take place before the day of Christ can come:
  - Falling away first
  - Revelation of the man of sin



## More Details on II Thessalonians 2

- The falling away is exactly what is described in Romans 11.
- Romans 11:11-12—Israel falls, and diminishes, in the book of Acts.
- Romans 11:13—“I speak to you Gentiles.” Romans 11 addresses Gentiles as a group, not the body of Christ.
- Romans 11:20—Israel was broken off because of unbelief.
- Romans 11:20-22—warns Gentiles to continue to stand by faith or else they face being cut off. This is not God dealing harshly with the body of Christ but God cutting off the direct Gentile access to Christ that exists during the dispensation of grace.
- Romans 11:25—the dispensation of grace concludes when the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.
- In other words, the dispensation of grace ends when Gentiles refuse to continue in God’s goodness, i.e., they fall away. Since at that point the fullness of Gentiles has come in, it is appropriate for God to conclude the dispensation of grace.

## More Details on II Thessalonians 2

- II Thessalonians 2:4—this is the abomination of desolation spoken of in Daniel 9:27. This event occurs in the middle of the 70<sup>th</sup> week.
- II Thessalonians 2:5—Paul had already taught these things to the Thessalonians.
- II Thessalonians 2:6—there is something that is withholding the revelation of the man of sin.
- II Thessalonians 2:7—Notice that the mystery of iniquity was already working in Paul's day. Satan is preparing the world stage for the deception that will take place during the tribulation.
  - Ephesians 2:1-3—the world is following the course that Satan has charted. The completion of Satan's program culminates in the son of perdition.

## More Details on II Thessalonians 2

- The “what withholdeth” in v. 6 is the same as the “he who letteth” in v. 7. These phrases are based on the same underlying Greek word, “katekho.”
- This person will continue to “let” until he be taken out of the way. Once the restrainer is removed, the mystery of iniquity is given free course, and the man of sin will be revealed.
- The most obvious candidate for that which withholds is the body of Christ / dispensation of grace, since it is the body of Christ / dispensation of grace that put the prophetic program on hold after Acts 7:55-56 (Acts 2:34-35, Col. 3:1).
- It also makes sense to refer to the BOC as “he” who letteth since the BOC is the one new man (Eph. 2:15).

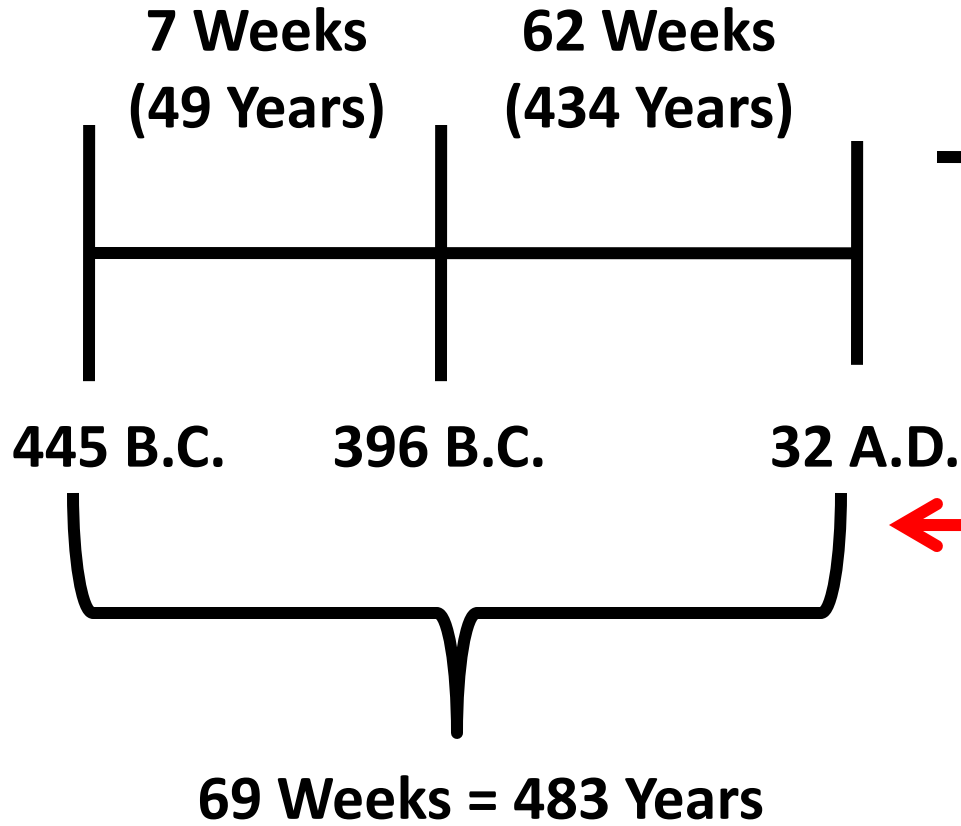
## More Details on II Thessalonians 2

- Paul says there is going to be a time when the restraining force will be “taken out of the way.”
  - Job 24:24—taken out of the way = cut off
- Romans 11:22—Gentiles will be “cut off” for failing to stand by faith. The body of Christ / the dispensation of grace will be taken out of the way at the time of the Catching.
- II Thessalonians 2:8— “Then” the Wicked one shall be revealed after the body of Christ is taken out of the way. Thus, the son of perdition will not be revealed until that time.
- Therefore, trying to identify the son of perdition today is a waste of time. He hasn't even been revealed yet.

# The Prophetic Gap

- Every Christian movie and/or novel that I have ever watched or read depicts the rapture followed by the immediate onset of the tribulation and identification of the anti-Christ.
- Remember that there is a gap in Daniel's prophecy of the 70 weeks between the ending of the 69<sup>th</sup> week and the beginning of the 70<sup>th</sup> week. Jesus Christ was crucified within this space of time.
- Remember that Israel's 1 year extension of mercy in early acts was inserted into this space of time.
- Remember that the entire dispensation of grace ("but now") was an unknown parenthetical insertion into this space of time.

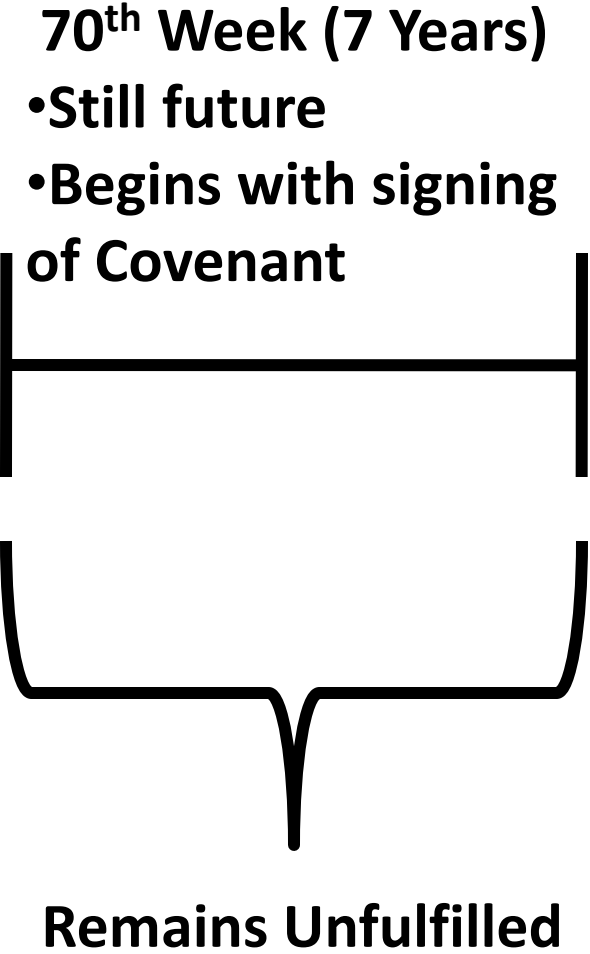
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# The Prophetic Gap

- When the church is caught up and taken out of the way where are we going to be on the chart with respect to Daniel's 70 weeks?
- In the gap between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> weeks.
- Daniel 9:27—the counting of the 70<sup>th</sup> week, i.e., the final 7 years does not commence until the signing of the covenant between Israel and the man of sin.
- The commencement of the 70<sup>th</sup> week (Tribulation Period or Time of Jacob's Trouble) probably does not break forth the nanosecond the body of Christ is taken out of the way.
- In short, a space of time between the Rapture and the signing of the covenant beginning the Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week seems fitting and proper.

## Works Cited

Jordan, Richard. *Through The Bible In Seven Hours: A Strategic Grasp of the Bible*. Grace Impact Ministries, 2011.