

“Palm Sunday – Fact, Faith & the Future”

Matthew Ch. 21:1-11; Luke 19:28-44

I) THE **FACT OF CHRIST FIRST COMING!**

- Turn to Daniel 9:20 - **SEVENTY WEEKS** - “Weeks” in Hebrew “*shabua*” – which speaks specifically of **years**, 1 week = 7 years (ref.- Gen. 29:26-28); **70 weeks = 490 years are determined**. This prophecy is for Daniel’s people, “*your people*” (Israel); “*your holy city*” (Jerusalem). In Daniel 9:25-26 - “*Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. And after the sixty-two weeks (that is the 7 + 62 = 69 weeks; one week equals 7 years, so we have 69 x 7 = 483 years) Messiah shall be cut off (that is, Jesus crucified), but not for Himself (for all who will believe in Him for salvation); and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary (in 70A.D. General Titus and the Roman army slaughtered over a million Jews, destroyed the city, the temple and dispersed the Jewish people throughout the world; Jesus prophetically spoke of this event in Matthew 24:1,2; Luke 21:5-6.). The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations (Heb. – shamem - to stun, grow numb, devastate) are determined.*

When was “**the COMMAND**” given to restore and rebuild Jerusalem? In other words **when does the clock start ticking until “Messiah the Prince” appears?** Nehemiah 2:1-8 reveals the COMMAND given to Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem from Babylon to rebuild and restore Jerusalem, the date is March 14, 445B.C. We discover Jesus (*Messiah the Prince*) riding into Jerusalem on April 6th, 32A.D. on the foal of a donkey fulfilling the prophecy of the Jewish prophet Zechariah 9:9, this was spoken 450 to 500 years before Christ’s birth. The people hail Him as King (*Messiah the Prince*), and then just a few days later they crucify Him (*cut off*).

Here’s a FACT FORMULA for our FAITH: From March 14th, 445B.C. to April 6th, 32A.D. it is exactly 483 years, in fact it is to the day according to the Babylonian Calendar, which Daniel was using, 483 years equals 173,880 days.

Dr. Alva J. McClain writes the following regarding this amazing fulfillment of Bible prophecy, “Thus the 173,880 days of the first Sixty-nine Weeks ran their course to the very day – deep and abiding encouragement to all who love the Lord and His precious Word of Prophecy. And I close this discussion with but one remark: The exact fulfillment of this prophecy is sufficient to demonstrate the accuracy of Daniel and also by implication the inspiration of the Bible and the truth of Christianity. Only God can “*declare the end from the beginning*” and forecast to the very day “*things that are not yet done*” (Isa. 46:10)

II) OUR **FAITH IS BUILT UPON FACTS!**

Remember Daniel 9:24, “**70 weeks**” (490 years) were *determined upon Israel* according to Daniel chapter 9:25; “**69 weeks**” (483 years) have been fulfilled by the first coming of Christ (Palm Sunday and the crucifixion), now one 7 year period is left for Israel. But wait, there’s more! The nation Israel and Jerusalem have not been in Jewish existence or control since 70A.D., however, by God’s providential hand Israel became a nation once again on May 14th, 1948. Israel gained control of Jerusalem in 1967 (in the six day war). **(Listen to God’s prophets regarding Israel’s re-gathering.)**

- Turn to **Matthew 24:32-35**, we are called to “**LEARN**” the parable of the fig tree (Israel is the fig tree, ref. Hosea 9:10; Jer. Ch. 24). Jesus speaks of returning in **one generation**, a Bible generation is estimated to be 40 or possibly 70 years, we’re not positive, but we know Christ’s return is soon! The last seven-year period will take place after the “**rapture of the church**” (1 Thess. 4:13-17; Rev. 3:10), and is known as the “**time of Jacob’s (Israel) trouble**” (Jer. 30:7), commonly called “**the tribulation, inclusive of the Great Tribulation**” (Mt. 24:15-31; Rev. Ch. 6 – 19, this time period equals 7 years).

III) THE **FUTURE OF THE SAVED AND UNSAVED!**

Let’s keep reading **Matthew 24:36-51**. The future immoral condition will be like the “days of Noah,” like today, “*one will be TAKEN the other left,*” this speaks of the rapture; the word **taken** in Greek is *paralambano*, which means to *receive near, associate with oneself (in any familiar or intimate act or relation)*; by analogy, to *assume an office*; figuratively, to *learn*. In this definition we see the *bride of Christ* (intimate act); Christians will be *kings and priests* (Rev. 1:6) in His Millennial Kingdom on earth (assume an office); we are *His disciples* (to learn). **ARE YOU READY?**